



# THE OPEN DOOR

*A FREDERICKSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE*

## *WORSHIP*

Saturdays at 5:00 pm in the  
Sanctuary

Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00  
am in the Sanctuary

Sundays at 9:45 am in  
Kobler hall

## *SUNDAY SCHOOL*

9:45 Adult classes

11:00 Adult class

Children and Youth  
Sunday school classes  
have taken the summer  
off.

## *CHURCH OFFICE*

Open daily

Monday—Friday  
9:00 am — 4:00 pm.

(540) 373-9021

[Www.fumcva.org](http://www.fumcva.org)



Social media: @fumcva

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We welcome you to the second volume of our 2019 Open Door Newsletter. Our focus continues to be on sharing the blessings of what has occurred amongst us and our community. As we See All The People this year, we have much to celebrate and share. We hope that you see God in

the stories of this newsletter and that you find ways to connect in the opportunities that abound. Then, let us know what you think. What inspired you?

If there is a story you want to share, please email us at [newsletter@fumcva.org](mailto:newsletter@fumcva.org). This is a quarterly publication, so our next deadline is September 15th with a publication date of October 1.

Dear Church:

It is hard for us to believe that we have been serving with you all for one year! Time flies when we are all doing God's work and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Ephesians 1:16 says "I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." We continue to thank God for all of you and hold you in prayer as we remember our time together. God is good!

As we look back on the year we have all shared together, we are drawn to the moments of celebration. New members have been welcomed, believers have been baptized, youth have been confirmed, and babies born. Meals have been shared with one another and our neighbors, furniture has been transported to turn houses into homes, clothing has been given to those in need.

We also reflect on the more solemn days of this past year. We mourn the loss of all those who have passed and joined the great crowd of witnesses. We have sat with you in your homes and in the hospital, have been ears to listen and shoulders to cry on.

In the highs, the lows, and all the days in between, we are grateful for the time we have spent with you all and are looking forward to the year ahead! The Holy Spirit continues to move through and guide the church towards God's vision for the people at FUMC. Let us move together into this 2nd year!

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Gina and Pastor Josh*



**FROM OUR  
PASTORS**

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Presence

Our current sermon series is from the book of James. James 5:14-15 is one of its best known passages

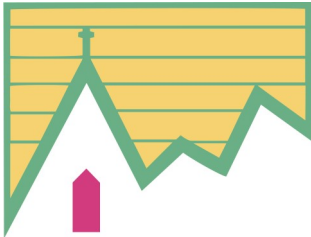
"14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. "

This passage speaks about the power of prayer in caring for those among us who are sick or suffering. I certainly do not want to minimize the importance of this, but one of the key themes in the book of James is an emphasis on how we interact with each other. With that in mind I think the passage illustrates for us something very important as we minister to one another as members of Christ's body. A chaplaincy mentor taught me that much of pastoral care came down to something relatively simple, being the visible presence of an invisible God in the life of another. And I think here James calls us to do just that. Some of us look at this passage and say I am not an elder, or I am not eloquent in praying, but we all have the ability to be present to someone suffering. And in that simple presence we bring comfort to the afflicted and often get the opportunity to watch God work miracles in the life of another.

*Grace and Peace, Pastor Jim*

## Fredericksburg USMC Historic Half Marathon

At 6:30 AM on May 19, 2019 volunteers from Fredericksburg United Methodist Church met to get organized for the event and to receive their USMC Historic Half Marathon t-shirts. Then Doug McDonald, John and Kitt Mann, Bob and Chris Slikensen, Lynn Gambell, Mike Cotter, Jayne Manger, John Blosser and Bob Pickett went to check in to the USMC controller for Food Station Number 1. Here the team members were verified their registration as volunteers, received their arm band and were assigned to a food or water distribution point at the corner of Caroline Street and Charlotte Street. They passed out packets of jellybeans and cups of water to the runners as they neared the half-point of the race. Through serving and cheering, the team provided encouragement to members of our congregation and community lifting everyone up in the race they were running. The team did this until about 9:40 AM when the last runner passed them. The team dispersed at that point to go back to the church to go to church or Sunday School. All had fun serving our Fredericksburg Community.



Summer is finally here!! And with this great weather – I bring the news of a great financial milestone and steady, on-budget giving...

- Your faithful 20/20 giving and our continued monthly mortgage payment has brought the principal balance on Kobler Hall below 1 million dollars to \$955,641.14!!!

### Church FINANCES

Your tithes and offerings have contributed to a second quarter income of \$280,146.67\*, which is approximately \$36K less than our budgeted second quarter income of \$316,599.28. \*Note: second quarter income does not include the last Sunday of June.

- Our year-to-date income stands at \$650,694.55\*, which is only about \$4K less than our mid-year budgeted target value of \$654,079.16. \*Again, this does not include the last Sunday of June.
- All apportionments (\$86,557.50) have been paid to date.

Thank you for your continued financial support of Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. Our Church and all our ministries are in continuous motion because of your generosity.

Regards,

David Bertauski, Finance Committee Chairman



## United Methodist Women Updates

The United Methodist Women continue to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the women's organization that has ensured that Methodist women hold a significant role in the life of the church and its mission in the United States and abroad.

In April, the UMW of FUMC held its annual Spiritual Growth Retreat in Kobler Hall. The guest speaker was Kathleen Wilson, Director of Mary's Shelter, which provides safe housing and a Christ-centered haven for women facing crisis during pregnancy. In addition, the District UMW held its mission Event at Peace UMC which was attended by some of the FUMC UMW members.

May circle meetings tended to focus on health and well-being with FUMC's Mary Pasternak providing leadership with programs entitled "An Attitude of Gratitude" highlighting the importance of recognizing and focusing on the blessings in our lives and how that can change our overall health, and another discussion on "Abuse in Today's Society" highlighting different forms of abuse, how to recognize it, and what to do about it. The Virginia Conference UMW held its Spiritual Life Retreat in Lynchburg with the theme "Having Tea with Jesus" led by the Rev. Dawn Marie Singleton.

June 1 was UMW Day at Ferrum College. Women of all ages from around the state participated in this all day event looking toward future events such as Mission Encounter in July and the Annual Meeting in October where the UMW General Secretary will be the guest speaker.

Despite the summer-like weather UMW circle meetings at FUMC continued. The Wesley Circle held its annual luncheon social while the Gladys Cocke Circle hosted speaker Libby Wasem who lead a program called "Feed my Sheep." The ACTS Circle held a hands-on Mission activity making "cheer bags" for the children at Hope House.

In addition to their usual activities the UMW donated items for Hope House, Mary's Shelter, Rappahannock United Way, and UMCOR kits which were taken to Annual Conference. June 21 was the UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference in Roanoke.

Upcoming summer events include the Conference Mission Encounter at Smith Mountain Lake and the Summer Social hosted by the Gladys Cocke Circle.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME! COME JOIN THE FUN AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY.





FUMC Preschool celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week during the first week of May, and we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love from FUMC Preschool families! Our classroom doors were decorated by parents, and our teachers were

showered with gifts, flowers, food, and candy! We are so appreciative of the support we have received throughout our school year. Our 2018-2019 preschool year ended in May with wonderful end-of-year programs, family picnics, and graduations followed by cookie receptions! Then in June, we enjoyed two weeks of fun camps including Camp Out, Let's Get Dirty, Exploring Great Artists, Ultimate PE, and Around the World!



We are excited to announce that FUMC Preschool has won the Fredericksburg Family and Parent magazine FredFamily Favorite Preschool for the third year in a row! We are honored to be recognized in the community as the top preschool in Fredericksburg, and we are thankful for all the parts of the church that contribute to our success. We extend our gratitude to the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church congregation for supporting our preschool, to Pastor Gina and Pastor Josh for leading preschool chapel each month, to our Facilities Manager and custodial staff for ensuring our building is clean, safe, and secure, to the dedicated preschool teaching staff, to the families who share their children with us, and of course to our students

**WINNER**



## Confirmation Class of 2019

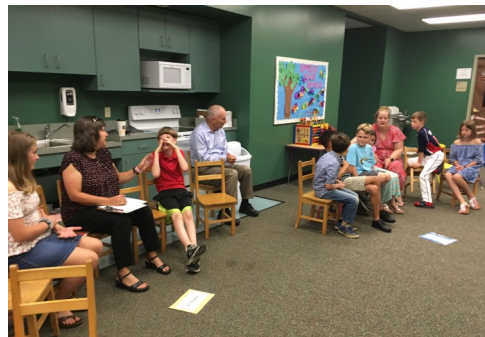
We celebrated Confirmation Sunday on June 9th! Twenty-two youth began this confirmation journey back in January and spent five months together learning about what it means for God to be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; the history of the church from the very first Pentecost to today; and what being a faithful follower of Christ looks like in the 21st century. The confirmands and their mentors did

service projects for our neighbors, fellowshiped with some of the older youth, and committed to a Covenant for how they will live as members of Christ's Universal Church, as well as Fredericksburg UMC. Nineteen youth were confirmed, and four were also baptized!

These youth are something special! I hope you all get a chance to meet them and welcome them as fellow members of the church!

## Children's Ministry had an amazing spring!

**Easter**, FUMC was fortunate to have an opportunity to connect with our friends at **Heritage Park**. Several adult and youth volunteers brought 750 eggs to their community center, where we hosted an egg hunt and after-party for the residents. We had cake, colored and decorated eggs. It was a simple, easy project, but one that meant so much to all involved.



The **Great Train Race** was held on May 5th on the streets of downtown Fredericksburg. Members of our FUMC Run Club competed in this one-mile race, ages preschool all the way through high school! Even on a rainy Sunday morning, there was a lot of FUMC cheer support on the sidelines. Our Run Club met each week in April to prepare for the race by completing training runs, but also learned the importance of staying focused on God's promise of an eternal crown, not one that is temporary. (1 Corinthians 24-25).

**Children's Sunday School** finished it's first year of new curriculum on May 19th, with our annual Trivia Day! . The kids quizzed each other on the stories and concepts that they learned each week. For the 2nd year in a row, the 5th graders reigned supreme!

We were blessed to have energetic and loving Sunday School teachers who committed their time and effort each week to teach the kids about the Heart of God and how to become disciples of Jesus - just by being themselves!

To end the year on a bang, we hosted our first ever **"Field Day"** on May 26th on the Methodist Green. We took the games that the kids know and love from school and brought it to FUMC! Lots of smiles and laughs, plus a TON of water balloons. Can't beat it!



Why I run"  
featuring Lily  
Knerr: "I want  
to run

because it is good for your body, and it  
gets your blood moving really good,  
and it is a really good exercise to  
do." (Lily ran the 1/2 mile George



Dashington race on May 5th)



## Better Health

Ahhh Summertime!! Time to get outside and enjoy a little slower pace and summer activities! (Remember your Sunscreen!) Better Health had an exciting last quarter on Wednesday nights, with impressive speakers, discussing all aspects of health. Health Topics will return in the Fall following the Wednesday night dinners with equally outstanding speakers and programs!

**During the summer Better Health will host a game night after the potluck dinner on July 31.**

### *Better Health Class testimonial:*

"We have thoroughly enjoyed the Better Health Ministry meetings on Wednesday nights. We look forward each week to hearing another interesting, diverse speaker. Each talk is focused on a specific health care or life area, many of which were new to us. The speakers are well prepared, informative and personable. The talks have been enlightening and provided a great deal of useful information. Kudos to this ministry for helping us be informed about our health and how to improve it.

Bill and Barbara Simpson"

## OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE NOW!!!!!!

Identifying Your Strengths

linking to Ministry areas

Finding your place

Living into the Best Version of Yourself

Throughout the Bible we learn that while God has created us in His own image, we are as unique as snowflakes. We are equipped differently, and He has a plan for each one of us. Everyone has talents, that are expressed in the genius that is you! Over 2 billion people have been surveyed and 34 talents have been clearly identified. BUT, only 1 out of 33.4 million people will have your top 5 talents in the same order that you do and only 1 in 447 trillion will have your top 10 in order. Incredible! When you discover your talents and link those to your passion, there is no telling what God will accomplish through your life!

Learning your top 5 will help you understand how to bring out your best self that is uniquely you. Investing time into your talents turns them into strengths! Strengths is about being who you were created to be, not who you are trying to be. God has placed within each of us a calling and our unique combination of talents determine how to live into our best selves and advance the Kingdom for Him.

E-mail [Betterhealth@fumcva.org](mailto:Betterhealth@fumcva.org) for your e-mail invitation to StrengthFinders.

## Face to Face—An experience in the Emmaus Tradition

If you are 60 years or older, desire a deeper more meaningful walk with the risen Christ, hope for Christ's love to be real in every relationship you have, and wish to make a deeper impact on the world and your community of faith by living a life centered on Jesus, then FACE TO FACE is for you!

Dates: July 16, 17, 23, and 24

Time: 9:00—3:30

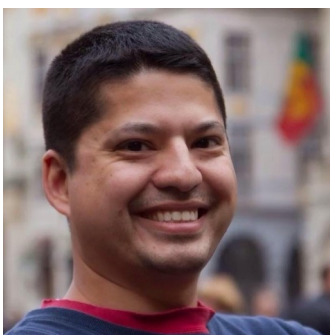
Place: Fredericksburg UMC

For information, please contact Lynda Swanlund at [lswanlund@cox.net](mailto:lswanlund@cox.net) or (540) 621-5137.



## Staff Parrish Relations Committee (SPRC)

The SPRC was saddened to say goodbye to Amy Dotto as Youth Director after years of service to our church and youth. With her departure, they are happy to announce that David Carryer has taken the position, after a period of transition working alongside Amy. Below is a brief introduction to him. Please pray for him in his time of transition and welcome him when you see him around the church.



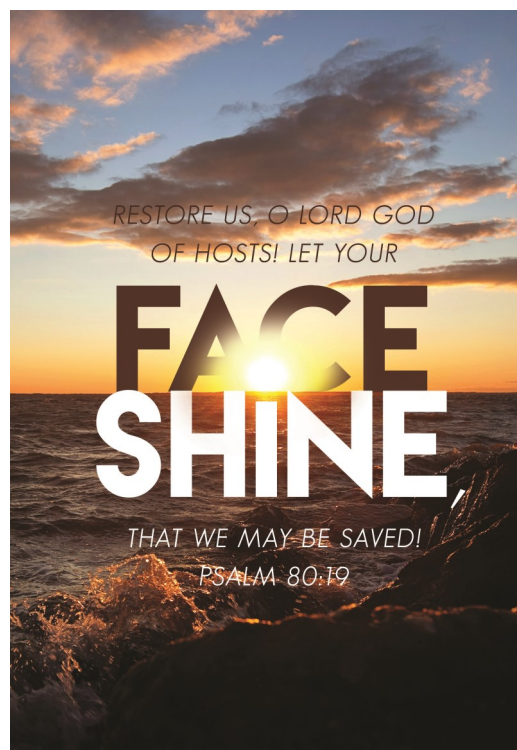
David Carryer has lived in the Fredericksburg Area since 1995. David first met his wife, Kim Carryer, at the Campus Christian Community (CCC) at Mary Washington College. David and Kim have been married for 19 years and have three children, Jacob (16), Grace (14), and Samuel (11). David holds a Bachelors Degree in Computer Information Systems (CIS) and Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Strayer University. David is employed as a Civilian Marine (NH-IV) working at Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Virginia as an Information Technology Specialist / Joint Command & Control Engineer.

Raised with a Buddhist Mother and a non-active Christian Father, David didn't start developing his personal relationship with Christ until his early 20's when he met his wife in college. David has been a member of the United Methodist Church since he was baptized at the age of 26 with his then infant son Jacob. Since then, David has actively supported

many facets of children and youth spiritual development to include: working the nursery, assisting with Children's Ministry, teaching Sunday School, leading Bible Studies, and directing Youth Group activities. Although not actively involved today, David has been a commissioned Stephen's Minister for more than 10 years.

David is extremely excited about the future of the Youth Program at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. Although he's not a new face, he does bring a renewal of energy and ideas, to help grow the ministry. David is passionate about building relationships between Youth and Christ. He believes it's through personal relationships that a spark of interest can ignite into a inferno of life long service. David wants the youth of this church to live their faith and really challenge their notions of what it means to be a young Christian today.

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## Graduation Sunday

Graduation Sunday was a wonderful celebration of the accomplishments of our High School, Undergraduate and Graduate School graduations. We are proud of the many accomplishments of our young people! We ask that you continue to pray for them as they transition to the next phase of their lives.

## Scholarships Awards to High School Graduates

We would like to congratulate the following High School Graduates who received scholarships from FUMC. We are so proud of each graduate and celebrate alongside you at this most special time of life.

Olivia Brooks: Virginia Thompson Scholarship

Henry Counsell: FUMC Youth Scholarship

Holly Haus: FUMC Youth Scholarship

Chaney Knott: FUMC Youth Scholarship

Bethany Newton: FUMC Foundation scholarship

## Rebuilding Together

I would like to thank everyone on behalf of FUMC for coming out and putting in a long day on the Lanza project. Special thanks to the following people who happily and willingly accomplished various projects.

- Tyler Newton and Doug Boggs for inside electrical boxes and drywall repairs.
- Bill Botts for leading the group that did the insulation under the trailer.
- Richard Clark for decking the front porch, stairs and railing repairs.
- Doug Boggs for communicating to everyone all the schedules and dead lines.
- Gil Seaux for overseeing and accomplishing the repairs on the rear deck and being there for the many “before and after” jobs that needed to be done.

Thank you again,

Charlie Vernon, Rebuild Together



## **PASSING OF THE TORCH.**

The first time I met Amy I had no idea who she was. I went down to the youth room, spent some time talking to a friendly person, and said "By the way... I'm looking for someone named Amy. Any idea who she is?" I received a smiley reply, "That's me!" That's where our friendship began.

Soon after I started volunteering for Amy in any capacity she needed. If she needed an extra body I was there. If she needed me to lead something I was there. If she needed a teacher, I offered to teach. If she needed a chaperone, I volunteered to drive. Amy made it easy for me to serve, and during that season in my life I really desperately needed someplace to serve. I needed to reconnect with God and Amy helped me do just that.



I have this memory of Amy and I in Lynchburg, Virginia at the Eagle Eyrie Junior High Retreat. If you've never been there before, it's located on the side of a mountain, and there is a giant hill that the cafeteria sits on top of. At the bottom of the hill is a great big field. There is absolutely no understating just how big this hill is. We're on a mountain! Anyways, the hill is as steep as it is long, and covered in beautiful green grass. After we had lunch, our group of kids headed outside to kill some time, and they all made a bee line straight for that hill. With little concern for personal safety the kids did what kids do and ran down the hill at full speed. Laughing and smiling, some fell tumbling over endlessly, and others made it to the bottom with ease. All the while smiling and laughing and just enjoying giant green gift.

I remember sitting at the top of the hill with Amy thinking, God it's good to be young. Look at them go. They look so happy. Thank God it's not me, imagine walking back up that thing!

That's when Amy said, "I'm going!" What!?! You're doing what? Then she takes off and runs down that hill like she was 13 years old again. The kids were screaming, "Go Mrs. Amy!" and laughing as she less than gracefully made it most of the way down. "Oh God help me", I said. I guess I'm doing this and made my best attempt at not looking like an idiot. I went straight down that hill. I failed. I failed in a glorious ball of stupidity and it was wonderful. What an awesome moment in time.

You see, that's Amy. She makes you feel young. She makes you want to engage, and laugh, and really enjoy the moment. She has a mother's watchful eye and a deep desire to share special moments with the youth. She often says "why not" instead of "I don't think we can." She pours every ounce of herself into her love for the ministry. She gives 100%... exactly the way God expects of us.

I worked with Amy the better part of a year. We worked side by side planning, leading, and executing a vision of building relationships with each youth. We worked well together. Really well. So well that I didn't want it to end, but like most things... God had a different plan. Amy's season with the youth was coming to an end and God called me to begin mine.

Amy, thank you for your time and sacrifices. Thank you for the gift of knowledge and compassion and thirst for staying young. Whatever happens in this ministry from this point forward, know that it started with your hands planting those first seeds. You will always be a part of this ministry and I know I will always be grateful. Thank you for being you and for being my youth partner and friend. Good luck on your next adventures, call me if I can help.

Forever Grateful, David

## FUMC Run Club

By: Lori Govar

FUMC's children (and youth and parents!) joined together for 4 Wednesdays to run, learn about God and prepare for the Great Train Race. This great community event is an awesome time to show our kiddos what it means to have a church family supporting them AND a great opportunity to reach out to our neighbors as well. Below is an interview with Ethan Govar (11), Nicholas Govar (9) and Sophie Govar (6) who have participated in the program for several years.

Q: What is your favorite part of run club?

Running! I like running. (Ethan)

It was good practice. (Nicholas)

Running together with friends. (Sophie)

Q: What did you do other than run?

Learned about God; Ate popsicles; Got a shoe token; and We drew a picture about how we felt when we win and when we lose.

Q: What was the shoe token for?

To remind us that God was with us when we were running

Q: What verse did you learn about this year?

We run for the crown that lasts forever, not for the crown that gets forgotten.

(The actual verse was from Corinthians 9:24b-25: Run in such a way as to get the prize.

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. )

Q: What does this mean to you?

To run your best that way you win even if you lose (Sophie)

Run for things that last forever, like for God. (Nicholas)



Q: Nicholas, now do you run for God?

Do your best

Don't run for glory for a few weeks. Believe in God and you'll have glory forever. (Ethan)

Q: To run well, what do you need to do?

Try hard; Train; Come to practice; Have faith in yourself and God.

Q: Our verse talks about strict training. How does that apply to your life (beyond sports)?

Pray; Read the bible; Go to church; Be friendly, loving and forgiving.

Q: Can you think of a time when you used what we learned in run club in your life?

When I was running the race this year, I thought to myself "even if I don't win this race, it doesn't matter because I'm trying my best." (Nicholas)

The first year I did run club, I was really nervous about the race. I prayed to God to help me to do my best before the race. It helped me feel better and I did run my best time. (Ethan)

Q: Do you still do that today?

Yes, for running and for my SOLs.

We hope you're finding the **Generosity Moments** in the worship services helpful and encouraging. The Generosity Committee, based on feedback after the fall stewardship campaign, felt it was important for all of us to understand the various ministries our church supports. In a large church, there are a lot of ministries! You can expect to hear different messages each week throughout this year. And if you have feedback about these moments or requests for topics, we'd love to hear from you! We appreciate the support and feedback we have gotten on this addition to the worship services.

THANK YOU for your gifts to Fredericksburg United Methodist Church!



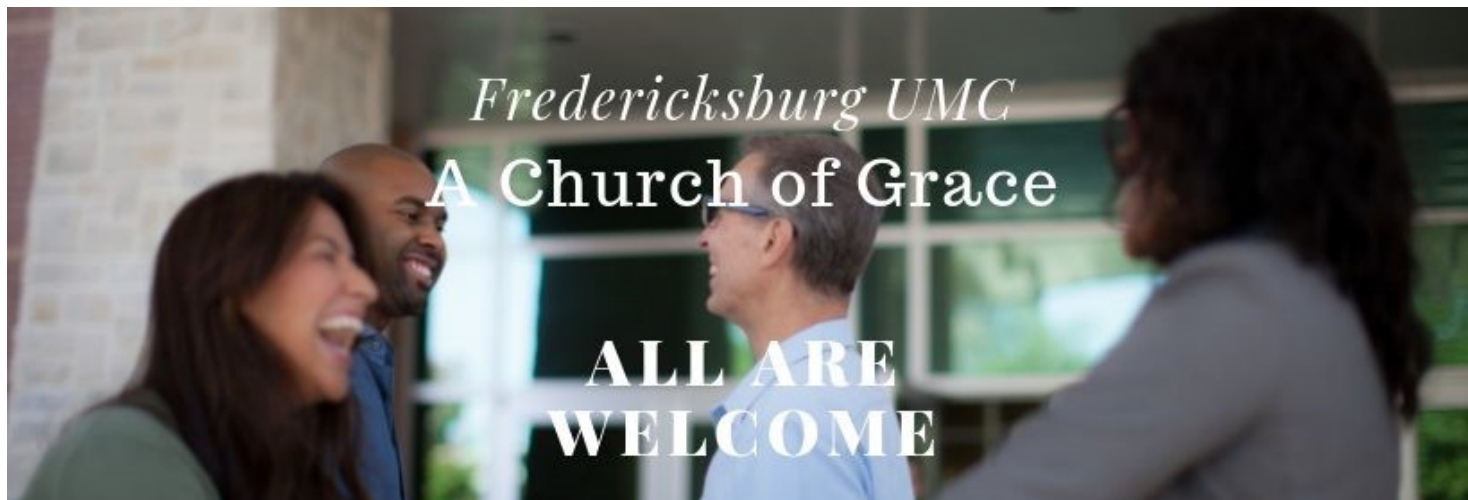
**Children and Youth ministry will kickoff their fall Sunday School classes, choir and activities on August 18th this year.** All area schools start an earlier academic schedule with the first day of school on August 12th. The ministry kickoff date will align with that.

*Watch the Children's and Youth Facebook pages for summer activities and more details on what is to come.*

**Blessing of the Backpacks will be held on August 11th** for the first day of school the next day. Children are encouraged to bring their backpacks to church that day.



Jennifer Leja will be starting up **Children's and Youth choirs** in line with the children and youth ministry kickoff on **August 18th**. If you have children or youth who love to sing, contact Jennifer about the exciting ideas she has for this year's singing groups. [jenniferleja@fumcva.org](mailto:jenniferleja@fumcva.org)



Following decisions made at the 2019 General Conference and the final summary by the Judicial Committee in April 2019, the FUMC Council continues to highlight that we are a church of Grace. “We recognize and love all our neighbors and welcome them to worship and their involvement in our church activities.” Our church has introduced a logo with the core message of this response throughout their communications (website, Facebook and news and notes).



# Summer Potluck Dinner Series

July 10 - August 7  
5:30-7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Bring a Side Dish or Dessert to share

|          | MENU              | THEME         |
|----------|-------------------|---------------|
| JULY 10  | BBO, COLE SLAW    | SERVE         |
| JULY 17  | SPAGHETTI W/SAUCE | CHILDREN      |
| JULY 24  | TACOS (HAMBURGER) | MUSIC         |
| JULY 31  | CHICKEN PARMESAN  | BETTER HEALTH |
| AUGUST 7 | BURGERS AND DOGS  | YOUTH         |