



OPEN DOOR

A FREDERICKSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



Saturdays
5:00 PM

Sundays
8:30 AM
9:45 AM
11:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children & Youth

Off for the Summer

Adults

9:45 AM
11:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE

Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

540-373-9021

www.fumcva.org



Look for us on Facebook

WELCOME

Making the Church Vision – Our Vision

Seek others in our community, **Serve** their needs
Grow the love of Christ, **Connect** with each other

An Advent Greeting from our Senior Pastor

When I was a young child, I witnessed things that I have never forgotten. For example, I vividly remember the first funeral I attended and the weight of sadness in the room from my community as one of my first-grade friends passed away with childhood illness. I also still can hear the cars from a NASCAR race my Dad took me to at Bristol Speedway, for the roar of the engines ripped through my body. And, I remember the feel and the smell of the ocean the first time I saw it (which was a big deal being from the mountains). In witnessing things unfold before us, either good or bad, like or not, we are shaped by the moment.

Our Advent/Christmas theme that will shape our worship and devotional time this season is “I Witness – Living Inside the Story of Christmas.” As a pastor, I must say that I have grown to worry that Christmas flows over and past us in the present age. In doing so, we often fail to witness God’s plan and promises unfolding right before us.

My family saw the new Grinch movie recently with a family friend. I was reminded of the great saying from Dr. Seuss, “Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store.” As the season is upon us, and we will witness both the good and the bad parts of it, the ultimate question is: How can we all plan to witness and share the witness of God’s love coming near in Jesus once more? That witness is not bought. It is freely given and also meant to be freely shared.

This Christmas my prayer is that we witness the goodness of God and our place in the story of the gift of Jesus Christ. For our church, I pray that we each commit to share Christ, in our giving, in our celebrations and our invitations. There is so much opportunity to bear witness to something far greater than materialism or rampant consumerism this Christmas. The world needs your witness and mine.

Continued - page. 2

SEEK is always looking for new and creative ways to reach out to those who have not been a part of the many opportunities that FUMC holds.

If you are someone who would like to be involved in outreach activities that SEEK has planned in the coming months, stay tuned to this section of the Newsletter for details. Most projects require just a few hours of your time and it's a great way to meet some folks you might not know yet.

It Stinks to work on Christmas Eve!!



A little kindness
from us to you!



Last year, we delivered almost 30 trays of yummy cookies to folks in our neighborhoods who had to be at work on Christmas Eve. We will once again be sharing our sweet messages of love through another cookie Outreach.

If you would like to bake cookies, assemble trays or deliver cookies on Christmas Eve, please let Denise Gates know. Use the online form at www.fumcva.org/seek-ministries or email her directly at dgparishnurse@hotmail.com.

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I offer this prayer for our season together:

Dear God,
As we witness your love made flesh again,
may your Spirit guide our hearts and bend our knees in Bethlehem.
Move us to be fearless like Mary, rejoicing like Zechariah and bold like Joseph.
Help us also to wait for love to birth the greatest of plans.
Remind us that our celebrations are not wrong, unless they do not bear witness to your love.
Make us faithful to speak of what we have witnessed in you, now and always.
In the name of the babe who came to give us life, Jesus, we pray. Amen!

May God bear witness in your life and in the lives of those around you this Season! I look forward to our journey as a community of faith together in this holy time!

*Grace and peace in Christ,
Pastor Gina*

Thank you from Pastor
Gina and Her Family



*Dear Friends,
Words cannot express our heartfelt appreciation for your prayers, support and understanding during my mom's recent breast cancer diagnosis and surgery. I know I am still "new" here, but I truly felt the warm, loving embrace of family as you reached out to us and took care of things for the church in my absence. Thank you for the bottom of our hearts!*

In Christ's Love, Pastor Gina and Family



Are you ready for Christmas? This is a common question we ask one another as December rolls through at what usually seems a quickened pace. Are you ready this year? What does ready mean to you?

Part of being ready for experiencing “The Reason for the Season” is the ability to re-enter the greatest story of all, the story of God’s love coming near to us in the birth of Jesus Christ. To help in the journey this Advent, we will follow the story of Christmas through the Gospels and the characters of

Christmas in a series entitled: “*I Witness: Living Inside the Story of Christmas.*”

So often there are barriers in our celebrations of Christmas that keep us focused on everything but the true heart of the Season. This series will ask that we open wide our hearts and minds to “witness” the story through the eyes of key witnesses held in our Gospels’ telling of the story. There is a difference between hearing the story of Christmas and entering the story to find your own place in the miracle of God’s love made known in the birth of Jesus Christ. Our hope is that you will witness The Story this Season in ways that birth the goodness of God in your life and in the world through you. As we enter the story more deeply, we will marvel in the majesty of the babe born in a manger as Christ our King in ways that help us bear witness to Jesus in the Season and throughout our lives.

Join us as we witness love born anew this Christmas! We hope you will share an invite with others, too, for there is much to witness in the goodness of our God this Season and always!

Devotional Study Available that Parallels our Worship Series

Our pastors invite you to join them in your personal or group devotional study this season using *I Witness: Living Inside the Stories of Advent & Christmas* by Kate Moorehead available from Forward Movement Press (2017) from Amazon and other booksellers. This devotional provides daily reflections from the Gospels that help in truly witnessing the birth of Jesus in the here and now.

Join them for Christmas Tea Time with the Pastors on Wednesdays at 10:00 am on Facebook Live—or on demand when you have time to sit down and watch!

Upcoming Sermon Series

MUSIC Notes

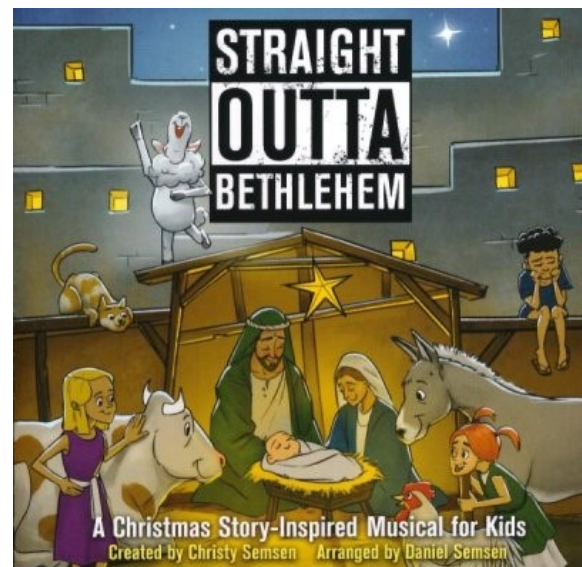


We are super excited to announce FUMC Christmas Musical “Straight Outta Bethlehem!”

The kids have been hard at work singing, memorizing, and preparing to present our FIRST EVER CHRISTMAS MUSICAL! Mark your calendars. It’ll be a MOO-ving experience!

WHEN: Sunday, December 16, 2018 - 9:45am

WHERE: Kobler Hall



SERVE

Do you have a heart for Service?

There are countless ways to serve our church, children, families and our community for you and your family. Join us at our SERVE meeting!

2nd Tuesday of each month - 7:00 p.m.



HERITAGE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

The management and residents at Heritage Park are very excited about the grand opening of their new community center, expected any day now! They hope to have a Holiday Party the week

before Christmas and have reached out to us to see if there are any small groups, service groups, or any others that might like to join in the festivities or support the activities in any way possible. They would love to continue to build relationships with members of our congregation and have invited us to fellowship through a Holiday Family Game Night or Holiday Family Craft Night. If any of you have a group in mind that would like to talk about that, please contact me or forward my email to discuss details and dates. As they open the Community Center, they will be in need of many consumable items and would also like to stock the shelves with small games and supplies for activities. There is a Mission Control Bin for the Heritage Park "Housewarming." New boxes of Markers, Crayons, colored pencils, pens, pencils, loose leaf paper, printer paper, construction paper, student-size safety scissors, glue sticks, tape, coloring books, etc. Family-Oriented Games, Decks of cards, Dominoes, etc. Anything is appreciated! Contact Fanya Morton for more information:

fanyamorton1@gmail.com

HOMEWORK HELPERS

Homework Helpers is a ministry helping children at Hugh Mercer Elementary. These are children who speak English, but whose families are not always able to help with reading and homework. The commitment is for only one day after school starting in February. If you are interested, please contact Sandy Howson at sandrashowson@gmail.com or (540) 845-3894.



COMMUNITY DINNER

Our Community Dinner team is always looking for people to participate — the second Saturday of each month.

www.fumcva.org/serve-his-people
to register or get more information.

SPOTLIGHT



Christmas in Bethlehem: An Eyewitness Account with Janet Lahr Lewis ~ 6:00 PM Wednesday, Dec. 19 in Rm 236



Janet is a recently retired missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church (GBGM). She lived in the Middle East from 1994 to 2014 during which time she served as Methodist Liaison in Palestine and Israel for the global Methodist Church, working to establish the

Methodist Liaison Office-Jerusalem, a partnership between GBGM, the Methodist Church of Britain, and the World Methodist Council. After her return to the US in 2014 she served as Advocacy Coordinator for the Middle East working with the General Board of Church and Society in Washington, DC. until her retirement in March 2018. After living in Bethlehem for 15 years Janet is now a member of FUMC.



We have some new ministry areas to share with you:

1) **Caroline Detention Facility (CDF):** Requested donations for immigrant detainees include Christmas cards/writing paper, envelopes/stamps, and soccer balls/volleyballs/basketballs. There is a CDF bin in Mission Control for any donations you care to give. Contact Sue Botts at 540-376-2219 or botts2@verizon.net for further details.

2) **Medicaid expansion:** Enroll in Virginia's health insurance. Navigators will offer free enrollment services for expanded Medicaid at (1) FUMC's 12/8/18 Community Dinner (3pm-6pm) and (2) the 12/11 & 13/18 Community Cafe (10 am-2pm). 60% of the area's homeless should qualify. Contact Navigator Bill Botts at 540-656-0843 or botts2@verizon.net for further details.

MISSION KIDS



Here is the lovely Sienkowski family, ringing the Salvation Army bell on a beautiful sunny day!

FUMC families were out in full force on November 17th, ringing the bell for Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. Thanks to all of the volunteers who came out on a brisk Saturday to raise money for folks in need during this holiday season.



Kids with Purpose will begin on January 9th at 6:30 p.m. Kids ages Kindergarten - 5th are welcome to attend. This eight week mission-based program is a wonderful hands-on opportunity for kids to serve others in the community.

MISSION YOUTH



Thank you to all who donated and supported the Youth Concession stand at the Fredericksburg Christmas Parade! We hope you had a great time! We appreciate you!

MISSION



Thank you to **ALL** our church members for helping to provide **354+ families** with a Thanksgiving Meal through our **FOOD POUNDING** initiative. Whether you filled church bags with food, donated money for the gift cards or helped serve the Tuesday dinner at Hazel Hill, the grace and love of FUMC was abundantly clear and evident. We also appreciate the music of organist Robert Baird, Trainham's Tents and the small army of volunteers who delivered bags and made the dinners such a rich experience as well. If you have ideas to enhance this experience for 2019, please contact Mike Cotter at

mvcotter@comcast.net



SCOUTING FOR FOOD COLLECTION RESULTS

This year's annual Scouting For Food Collection was completed the first two Saturdays in November, the 3rd and 10th. Both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from our church units, Pack 170 and Troop 170 respectively, participated in the annual food drive along with another local Pack, Pack 802. A total of 2,082 pounds of food was collected and taken to the FUMC Food Pantry.

MISSION ADULTS

LETS GET BUSY

We serve our community, our children, our families and within our church. Please consider just some of the ways below where we can use a hand.

Congregational Care. There are many ways of caring through visitation, calls, home communion service, Stephen Ministers, hospitality, and prayer shawls for our church members and our home-bound members.

Worship services require volunteers to help as ushers, communion servers, scripture readers, communion preparers, technology/sound volunteers and greeters.

Food Pantry which provides nourishing food and encouragement to over 4,500 people annually. Generous donations and staffing from our members and other sources make this endeavor possible.

Teach our children. We are always in need of adult teachers or helpers for our children's Sunday school classes and Wednesday night programs.

Church Bazaar. We meet every other year to create items to sell at a bazaar in November of that year. We welcome all interested crafters and seamstresses to our workshops—come get your craft on!

Bus and Van Drivers The church "has left the building" as we shuttle our members and community members around in the name of Jesus.

Church Office. We serve our church in administration to keep things running smoothly. Volunteers can serve on committees, in communications, reception, or in the finance area.

Photography. We would like to build a team of photographers to take pictures of events and special occasions.

Technology. Those who have an affinity for technology serve as sound board operators, run worship presentations and help with computers, networks and databases.

Contact us at serve@fumcva.org or call (540) 373-9021, ext. 105. We would love to use your energy and talents in your house.

MISSION CHURCH



Micah Ministries Cold Weather Shelter opened on November 15. FUMC provides coverage for the shelter on the third, fourth and fifth Saturday nights from November through March. The Christian Living Class takes care of the third Saturday night but we are always in need of additional helpers for the fourth and fifth Saturdays.

We are currently looking for folks to cover December 22, December 29, January 26 and February 23. The timeframe is about 5:30pm to 7:00 pm. If you are interested in finding out more or signing up for a night, contact Diane Cotter at dianecotter@comcast.net



MICAH NEEDS FOR THE WINTER MONTHS:

White Crew Socks (men's and women's), Disposable Razors, and Thermals (tops and bottoms—M, L, or XL).

All Donations may be left in the Micah box in Mission Control. Thank you for helping make winter a little more bearable for our community members in need.

The **Furniture Bank** team would love to have you join them the second Saturday each month—picking up and delivery furniture is a great way to help others in the community!



www.fumcva.org/serve-his-people/

December Menus

December 5: Orange Chicken, Fried Rice, Stir-Fry Vegetables, Egg Rolls, Orange Slices, Almond Cookies

December 12: No Dinner, Children's Musical Rehearsal

December 19: Baked Ham, Carrot Soufflé, Roasted Baby Potatoes, Tossed Green Salad, Fruit, Birthday Dessert

December 26: No Dinner



Time: 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 3-12, under 3 is free; Families: \$25.00

Reserve your spot: www.fumcva.org/Wednesday-night-dinner/

We are again offering the Wednesday dinner time to church groups who would like to host a dinner as a fund raiser for their group. Also, it gives the dinner team a night off. Let Don Becker (our own 'Chef Don') know if you would like to host a dinner (phone: 540-371-2155 or email: beckerdl@aol.com).

Coffee Hour

December Coffee Hour Schedule: January Coffee Hour Schedule

Sign up to host a Coffee Hour TODAY!

December 2: Don Walker
December 9: Wayfarers
December 16: Wesley Forum
December 23: Gracious Volunteers Needed

January 6: Awesome Volunteers Needed
January 13: Wayfarers
January 20: Christian Life
January 27: YOUR NAME HERE!

Email Marcia Dishman, marciadishman@me.com, to volunteer to host an upcoming coffee hour. Families and groups are welcome to host! Thank you for your prayerful consideration to volunteer your time to support this weekly ministry!



Help Wanted

Fredericksburg UMC is host to a Micah breakfast each Tuesday of the month all through the year. Periodically on Saturdays we serve at the Presbyterian Church.

Tuesdays work for you? Right now we need extra people to help with the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays. Servers arrive at 7am and are finished by 9am. We really need help. This winter we could be serving as many as 80 people. Contact Kitti Mann at kittimann5@gmail.com.

Saturdays better? We have a Breakfast On some Saturdays and we need your help! Contact Diane Cotter to Volunteer (dianecotter@comcast.net). Sign Up to donate food and bring the whole Family.



In December, our preschool students will be focusing on the Christmas season and the real meaning behind our celebrations! Our bible story of the month is the birth of Jesus, and we look forward to attending chapel services with Pastor Gina and Pastor Josh. Did you know that each month, when our preschoolers attend chapel, they bring non-perishable food items to give as an offering? These food donations are then given to the church food pantry to distribute to those in need in our community. We will also visit the food pantry so the children can see how the food is stored and distributed.

The church sanctuary will be filled with Christmas songs as our preschoolers present their Christmas programs on December 19 and December 20 under the direction of our preschool music teacher, Allison Xanthopoulos. Everyone is invited to hear their sweet voices at 9:30am on both days.

Believe it or not, registration for next school year begins in January! If you are interested in learning more about FUMC Preschool, tours are available by emailing preschool@fumcva.org or calling the preschool office at 540-899-3172. Registration dates for the 2019-2020 school year are:

January 22: registration begins via email for current students

January 28: registration begins via email for church members, siblings of our current students, and alumni families returning with a younger sibling

Feb 3 (SUNDAY) : registration opens to the public, 2:00-3:00pm in person at the Preschool Office, and then ongoing during regular preschool hours.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff, students, and families of FUMC Preschool!

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."



Luke 2:11-14 (NIV)

Quarter One of our new Dig In curriculum will conclude on December 2nd. We have been on a journey through the Old Testament, beginning with Genesis and working our way through Samuel. The kids are loving the new format, as it incorporates different games, object lessons, crafts and videos each week. We look forward to beginning Quarter Two in January 2019! We are actively seeking new teachers for the winter quarter. Please consider giving your time and energy into this amazing program. You will be having fun and learning right along side the kids! Email Jillian Murray if you are interested in volunteering.

Important schedule announcements: There will be no Sunday School on December 16th (due to Christmas musical) and December 23rd. Please worship with your family. Sunday School will still be in session on December 9th and 30th, with a modified program and games.

Thank you to Pastor Josh, who has led us in Holy Communion during Chapel time. All children are invited to partake in Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month during our 9:45 Sunday School hour. This is a great way for the kids to learn about the sacrament and what it means to partake in communion as a Christian.



Advent Adventure will be held on December 5th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. This year's theme is: "The Symbols of Christmas." Bells, candy canes, trees, and stars. We see them everywhere during Christmastime, but what do they mean? Come learn and explore during this fun Wednesday night workshop. This program is open to kids of all ages, and family participation is encouraged. No cost and no registration required!

— Welcoming —

Guests on Christmas Eve



As we prepare for visitors on Christmas Eve, here are some ideas that might make it easier for you to welcome others to our church. Feel free to come up with other ideas or adapt these on your own. These are just to get you thinking about welcoming as a personal ministry, right there in the pew, and a lifestyle for our church.

Circle of 10: Greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within ten feet of you. Make a special effort to greet the people you don't already know within your Circle of 10.

Rule of 3: Please do not talk to other members for the first three minutes after the service. Talk only to those you don't know or people you know are guests. It takes guests about three minutes to exit the church after worship and we need to make sure someone has made contact with them before they leave.

Don't know what to say to a guest?

Here are a few conversation starters:

1. Offer a handshake and say, "Hello. My name is _____, and you are ...?"
2. Wait for a response and repeat the person's name so you make sure that you get it right and so you can more easily remember it.
3. If you think you know the face but can't recall the name, try this approach: "Hello, I'm _____. I believe I've seen you here before but I don't know that we've had the opportunity to meet. What is your name?"
4. Don't be embarrassed if you're greeting a member and don't know that person's name—or be offended if someone doesn't remember yours.

We need to offer grace to one another, just as we would to new people. Don't forget to use our invites to invite someone to a Christmas Eve Service, or if you would like us to mail an invite, please let us know by email carolknott@fumcva.org.



We invite all women of FUMC to join us in carrying forward a 150 year long tradition of being in mission with women, children, and youth here and around the world.

December 6, 6:30 p.m., UMW-UMM Covered Dish Dinner, Kobler Hall

December 6, 7:30 p.m., Presentation of Special Mission Recognition Honors Program:
One Note Stand Singers from University of Mary Washington

December 13, 7:00 p.m. UMW Mission Team Meeting, Room 208

Circle meetings will resume in January. For information, contact Janine Kutty at 540-898-0256 or janinekutty@yahoo.com.



The FUMC United Methodist Men hold their **monthly Breakfast meetings** on the second Saturday of each month. The December meeting will be held on December 8 at 8:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH

We have transitioned to a new email system. If you have not been receiving emails, please drop a note to Amy Dotto at amydotto@fumcva.org. We want to make sure you are getting all the latest news!

Youth Group will meet on December 2 and 9 this month. There will be a **Christmas Party and Caroling** on December 15.

ADULTS

The **Christianity and Current Events Round Table**, designed to help members relate our faith to daily living, selects a current topic in the news and seeks to answer: "What is 'the', or sometimes 'a' Christian resolution to this issue? Church Parlor on Sundays at 9:45 AM.

The **Adventurers Class** meets in Room 201 on Sundays at 9:45 AM.

The **Faith and Fellowship** Sunday School class meets every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in room 202. We use a variety of books which stimulate discussion, and leadership is shared by class members. We also participate in church-wide Lenten and Advent studies. Our class serves breakfast to the Micah community once a month in the FUMC lower kitchen. We keep in touch with active members and several alumni through our weekly prayer list via e-mail. Visitors are welcome any time. Contact is Jean Himmel, 540-368-9541, jhimmel41@gmail.com

Christian Life Class Is studying David right now and we will also be starting the church's Living Generously. We also SERVE Micah breakfasts quarterly. Stop by anytime in Room 210 at 9:45 AM.

The **Wayfarers Sunday School Class** is studying the "Adult Bible Studies" series (Spring 2018 edition) entitled "Acknowledging God" in the downstairs Fellowship Hall on Sundays at 9:45 AM.

The **Girlfriends Sunday School Class** This class is a supportive group of women of any age who come together each Sunday, *September through May*, to share about our lives, pray for each other, and study. We meet periodically during the summer months and also do service work together. We alternate between inspirational material and biblical studies. We welcome honest thoughts and questions and welcome visitors to our group. The class meets Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in room 208. For more information contact Rona Costello, 540-373-1296.

The **Wesley Forum Sunday School** class meets in Room 209 on Sundays at 9:45 AM.

The **Contemporaries Sunday School Group** meets in Room 210 on Sundays at 11:00 AM.

SMALL GROUPS



Join Pastors Gina and Josh for a weekly devotional time on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am on Facebook live. They will use the daily devotional book *I Witness: Living Inside the Story of Christmas* by Kate Moorehead.

Monday Morning Bible Study

The Monday Morning Bible Study group will meet on December 3 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in Room 210. We will continue our study of *Magnificent Grace* by Margaret Feinberg as we discuss "Grace Extended" (Chapter 8). Everyone is welcome to join us. Each session is self-contained. For information, contact Carol Kutty at 540-898-0256 or janinekutty@yahoo.com.

Note: Because of the many activities leading up to Christmas, we will meet only once in December.



Join Tim Gates and Clay Murray as we work through Dave Ramsey's 9-week Financial Peace University! Beginning on 1/9/19, classes will be held each Wednesday evening from 6:30—8:00 pm in Room 210. Nursery Care is provided, please just let Clay know if you plan to use it. Register Online at: <https://fpu.com/1072317/>

United Methodist Day at the General Assembly
Thursday, January 31, 2019 ~ 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
at Bon Air United Methodist Church
1645 Buford Rd. , North Chesterfield, Virginia

REGISTER NOW

Ever wanted to know how to create real change in our state government? Ever wanted to know more about real issues facing our legislature? United Methodist Day at the General Assembly is the place for you! This is our opportunity to help faith communities become empowered to serve as missionaries of justice, as well as the more traditional missionaries of mercy. We will make appointments for that morning with Senators for whom we have registrations. We encourage you to make an appointment with your Representative after you register.

JOIN US for the BRIEFING

Wednesday, January 30

7:30 p.m. - Briefing at Bon Air UMC, 1645 Buford Rd, North Chesterfield, VA 23235-4274

Hotel Reservations

Rooms for the night of January 30, are available at the Hyatt Place, 201 Arboretum Place, Richmond, 23236, near Bon Air UMC. Call (804) 560-1566 to make your reservation and mention "Virginia United Methodist Conference" to receive a special room rate of \$109/night (single or double). Hotel reservation deadline is December 31, 2018.

Registration Now Open

Register online at <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/umday2019> or www.vaumc.org from the calendar. Credit Card preferred at time of registration. To register by phone, contact *Mary Kaye Cochran* at 1-800-768-6040, or 804-521-1100, ext. 155.

Register by December 28 and pay **\$30 early registration**. After December 28, pay **\$40 until January 11 when registration closes**. Registration includes information packet with reusable bag, hot breakfast, box lunch (sandwich or salad), parking, transportation to the Capitol grounds, and afternoon program. All other registration materials, maps, information on advocacy and other important documents will be sent to you by email. Busses will load at the top of Capitol Hill again. No refunds will be available.

Questions may be directed to the Rev. Barbara Lewis at BarbaraLewis@vaumc.org or (434) 594-6241.

Presented by the Board of Church & Society and The United Methodist Women of the Virginia Conference.

Average Attendance - November

Saturday 5:00 PM—	17
Sunday 8:30 AM—	146
Sunday 9:45 AM—	146
<u>Sunday 11:00 AM—</u>	<u>147</u>
Total	456

CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

2019 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 Flower Calendar is on the wall outside of the Sacristy (Room 116). Please fill in on the calendar the date you would like to donate flowers, and fill out the information form with your contact and bulletin message. Leave the completed form in the slot provided.

Greeters needed for the 9:45 service

If you are already coming to the 9:45 service, please consider joining our greeter team. Each month you would only need to sign up for one Sunday. All you would have to do is arrive 15 minutes early at least once a month, bring a smile and a welcoming voice, and a little muscle to open the door. Contact Tina: tinarenninger@gmail.com for more information.

Longest Night Service

December 21,
7:00 pm



Christmas is a time of great joy, peace, love, and hope for most people. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ by our worship, singing carols, sharing gifts, and being in Christmas fellowship. However, the Christmas season can be a difficult time for some people because they, or someone they care about, could be experiencing a situation that prevents them from having a joyful season. In the midst of the holiday joy and happiness found in parties, gift buying, cooking, decorating, music and seasonal-hype, we find that there are those who are not so joyful. This may be a Christmas without a loved one—a family member, or friend has died or is nearing death. There may be a loss of a relationship, illness, financial stress, job uncertainty, troubled past, divorce/separation, someone far away in the military. Come and join in the singing, prayers, scripture, music, and presence of the Spirit that brings forth the light of Jesus Christ to bring us encouragement and strength to live more fully and joyfully in the days ahead.

COMMITTEE NEWS

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Thank you to the 182 persons/families that made pledges as part of our 2019 Living Generously campaign. Pledges total to \$791,070.00. For our 20/20 Vision 2019, we have 103 folks pledging \$109,338.00. This is an excellent start as we build the 2019 budget; if you have not yet made your pledge, it's not too late!

Pledge cards may be found in the Extended Narthex, Gathering Space or Charlotte Street entrance. You may also pledge online or through our Simple Church app. For help with any of this, you may contact techsupport@fumcva.org or email Michelle Cooper at michellecooper@fumcva.org.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2019 offering envelopes are available for pick up. Those who attend the traditional services should find their envelopes in the Extended Narthex. Those who attend the contemporary service should find their envelopes in the Gathering Space.

If you do not find your envelopes, please let Michelle Cooper know (michellecooper@fumcva.org or 540-373-9021, x 103). The envelopes have been arranged in alphabetical order.



Rev. Dr. Mochel Morris will conduct the second of two sessions of the same workshop to allow for us to better understand "The Way Forward" on December 16th.

The purpose of these sessions is educational in nature so that we can discern alongside other United Methodists at this juncture and seek God's Spirit as we move forward.

Information about the sessions is provided on our website at www.fumcva.org/the-way-forward/, as well as links to understand the proposals related to the General Conference. One important point to remember is that no one is certain what will happen with this coming General Conference, and if action is taken, it will be a long process toward implementation of any changes.

With all this in mind, Pastor Gina asks that you please join her in prayer for the UMC that we remain focused on our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Workshop information:

December 16th (Sunday) from 2:00—4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Child care is available, please email nursery@fumcva.org to reserve a spot for your child(ren).





5th Sunday Connect for December has been cancelled.

Enjoy this time with family and we will see you in 2019!



Better Health topics in December include:

Dec 5: Integrative and Holistic Medicine with Dr. Yvonne Villareal.

Dec 12: Marie Johnson: Body Talk

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in Room 236. We look forward to seeing you there!

In Mary's Sandals, is a walking devotional with wellness information. It will be a daily download during advent. Walking 90 miles in about 19 - 20 days. That's about 4.5 miles per day, about the recommended 10,000 steps per day. Walk with friends or download the devotional and reflection for some quiet time of contemplation. Choose a healthy habit that can carry you through to your New Year's resolutions.

Speaking of New Year's resolutions – stay tuned!!



NATIVITY DISPLAY

Stop by the gathering space and enjoy the large nativity on display. Mike and Joanne Wilson have put a lot of love and effort in setting up this lovely display again this year for all to enjoy..

Crèche \kresh : representation of the nativity scene

"The creche you see at FUMC comes from a long tradition in the Wilson family. Our mother loved Christmas, and for us it always started with putting up the creche. From a very simple scene when we were very young, as we grew the creche grew with us. One year our Uncle brought our mother a new set, with large beautiful figures. It had three kings, but no camels. One shepherd and two sheep. We found camel figurines, and painted them to match the set. We also found sheep at some point, and painted those too.. and so a tradition

was born: every year we would add something we had made to the creche. We made angels, waterfalls, mountains, caves... whatever we could dream up.

Four years ago our brother, Mike Wilson, got permission to put up our mothers creche at FUMC. When we heard about it, both sisters wanted to join in.. and we brought along a nephew to provide expertise. That was the only year we displayed the original figurines. Amazingly, soon after, our niece (Mike's daughter) one day saw a set of figurines just like the originals but painted in colors. Since then we have gathered each year to put up this creche at FUMC. We do it for love, in memory of our mother and of our traditions. We hope you enjoy it."



PRAYER REQUESTS

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO: Theresa and Robert Pugh on the death of her father, Clayton Tillapaugh; Brenda and Glenn Goodpasture on the death of her brother; Rev. Dr. Mochel Morris on the death of her uncle, Barney Davis.

HEALTH CONCERNS-GENERAL: Drug and alcohol addicted individuals, those with mental illnesses, all who are ill physically and mentally; those struggling with dementia and all who battle cancer.

HEALTH CONCERNS—INDIVIDUAL NAMES

Jan Anderson	Nancy Hewettson Cooke	August and Kay Hedge	Margaret
Joy Artis	Fred Coppell	Alberta Hickman	Tonya Nelson
Betty Lou Bailey	Cora	Dan Himmel	Rebecca and Mike
Ben and Family	Mae Donahoe	Charles Jones	Candace and Toby Pickett
Zachary Belcher	Devin Drendall	Wallace Jones	Scott
Sherry Bevins	Pat Dyhrman	Joy	Sue Sherman
Anne Blosser	Barbara Gallahan	Camille Joyce	Suzanne
Ann Braz	Revs. Clara and Doug Gestwick	Jeffrey Kirkner	Joan Sully
Brendan	Virginia Gough	Leony and family	Cayden Taylor
Gus Baumgartel	Wanda Harvey	Cary Loesing	Wanda
Sandy Collier		Jayne Manger	9-month-old baby—heart surgery

LIFE EVENETS, GENERAL AND UNSPECIFIED PRAYERS

Adam	Family and friends of Bill O'Quinn	Church and nation	Family/friends of Gloria Renaldu
Bill	Those killed in Pittsburgh syna-	Lori on death of father-in-law	Girl Scouts killed in Wisconsin
Sarah Clark	gogue	Mark C.	Immigrants
Victims of California wildfires	Jeremy	"strangers" in our community	
Phil Chavez	Lashay		

MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH:

Church and Nation	Our new pastors as they transition into ministry here
Connect, Grow, Serve, Seek Teams	Connect, Grow, Serve and Seek Teams
Sunday School and other Small Groups at FUMC	Visitation Ministry and Congregational Care Ministries
Mary Pasternak's ministry	Saturday Service
FUMC's missions—may they grow in 2018	Missional response to recent natural disasters

PRAISE

Lead 4:12 participants	Family relationships	Family and health	Daughter's wedding
God's mercies and grace	Davis—receiving BSN	Heidi Pickett's birth on 10/31/18	

LONG-TERM CONCERNS

Brian Alexander	Luella Everitt (Diane Isenberg's mom)	Lois Huffman	Mary Katherine Resio
Vy Bass	Gladys Faust	Wayne Jackson and Patti	Holley Ryan
Shannon Berry – pancreatic cancer	Doug Green	Charles Jones	Tina Sheffield
Lisa Foeman Boatwright	Linda Haynes—Cardinal Village	Rebecca Knerr	Joyce Suttle
Helen Boswell	Wayne Hedge – cancer in lung	Bob LaChance	Jeff Temples
Alma Bradley	Alberta Hickman	Jim Mann	Tricia
Joan Buchan	Bobby Hill—spina bifida (GA)	Rylee Maslock	Julie Tubbs
Connie – terminal cancer	(Lydia O'Neil's grandson)	Ruth McGhee	Tabitha Van Doren
Michelle Cooper	Dan Himmel	Carol Pancake	Cindy Wilson – broken neck
Ellen Coppell	Mark and Alice Hoover	Helene Patterson (Poet's Walk – aunt of Amy Zurasky)	Amy Young and Family
			Pete Zarembo

NATION & MILITARY/PUBLIC SERVANTS

Healing divided nation	Airman Adam DeWitte, USAF	Sgt John Phin	Kyle Shiner
Nation and Leaders	Riley Nefferendorf	William Rowe—Navy	2nd Lt Ted Steber, USMC
All Military and Law Enforcement	Pvt Winter Ewer	Sgt J Seaux	Drew Wilson—Afghanistan
First Responders	Walt Kuck, USS Lassen, USN		



If you have musical or technical gifts and are interested in joining our contemporary worship or AV team, please contact Jennifer Leja at jenniferleja@fumcva.org



POINSETTIAS

If you would like to donate flowers in honor/memory of a loved one, please fill out the Poinsettia Envelope (found in the pews, Charlotte Street entrance, and Gathering Space of Kobler Hall). Requested donation is \$15.00. If you wish to take your flower home, please pick it up after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Deadline to order is December 9.

Stretch, Strength & Calm

YOGA



Mornings this fall

Contact Libby Wasem at (540) 735-5555 lwase749@verizon.net for information. The Morning Yoga classes are for all levels. All are welcome. The benefits of Yoga are increased strength, flexibility, and a calmer mind. The intent is to provide an experience of wellness for our congregation. Child care is provided on Tuesdays with a weeks scheduling in advance with Jillian Murray. The class will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11 AM starting October 2 into May. We follow the Pre-School calendar.

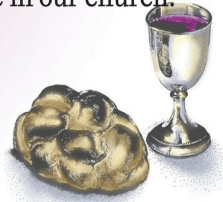
There are still Angels on the Angel tree! Please come by and pick one up. There are many children still hoping to have a Christmas and we can help. Wrapped gifts are due by December 9th in the Browning Room (Room 112). Also, please pray for your angel children and their families.



Communion represents God's greatest expression of love for us and it's a reminder that He provides all we need.

Serving communion is a wonderful way to connect with God and those in our church.

If you are interested in serving, please contact:
8:30: Adam Sutton @ hoosvshokies95@aol.com
9:45: Cyndi DeWitte @ mrsdewitte@yahoo.com
11:00: Hank McCaslin @ henrymccaslin@yahoo.com



The Chamber Chorale of Fredericksburg

Presents

A Winter Fantasy

Featuring

Christmas Day

a Choral Fantasy by Gustav Holst

Saturday, December 8th

7:30 pm

Sunday, December 9th

3:00 pm

Fredericksburg United Methodist Church

TICKETS: Adults \$15 | Students \$5

Available online and at the door

ccfbg.org | 540-898-0458

CONTACTS

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Rappahannock River District of the UMC Superintendent: Ted Smith

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Church/Membership & Stewardship Secretary: Ext. 103, michellecooper@fumcva.org



Christmas Eve Services

December 24

4 PM - Children's Service
6 PM - Traditional Service
6 PM - Contemporary Service
8 PM - Contemporary Service
11 PM - Traditional Service

Visit ChristmasInTheBurg.com

308 Hanover Street Fredericksburg, Virginia

Christmas Events

December 5

Family Advent Adventure
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

December 16

Christmas Cantata
8:30 AM and 11:00 AM
Children's Musical
9:45 AM

December 21

Longest Night Service
7:00 PM

December 22

Saturday Night Service
5:00 PM