



THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2022

“Lent - The Dark Night of the Soul”

When I started seminary, I read *The Dark Night of the Soul* by John of the Cross (1542-1591). I was young and did not understand his writings fully. However, as I grow older, I appreciate more of St. John's interpretation of life's suffering, hate, pain, disappointment, and tribulations as a Christian.

John was a 16th century Spanish priest and mystic. He wrote *The Dark Night of the Soul* during his imprisonment in a Carmelite house in Toledo in 1577. In his poetic language, St. John of the Cross explains that our life is a journey to union with God, and we must go through dark nights to complete the union. Father Benedict Zimmerman, who wrote an introduction to the book, *The Dark Night of the Soul*, reminds us of the nature of human beings by saying, "Many praise and bless Jesus as long as they receive some consolation from Him, but if He hides Himself and leaves them for a little while, they fall either into complaining or into excessive dejection." According to St. John of the Cross, the soul, while plunged into the dark night, must leave the generous and intelligent spirit of God free to act within us.

Dark nights are described as the state of life that calls for contemplative life. Acknowledgment of dark nights of the soul answers 'why' questions we have in life. When we feel no consolation, cannot continue prayer, sense inner emptiness, and feel abandonment from God's love, St. John of the Cross encourages us to take courage, be patient and persevere in prayer. It means that God is ever closer to us when we go through dark nights of the soul by proclaiming, "I have chosen you and not cast you off; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." (Isaiah 41: 9-10)

Indeed, Jesus was in a dark night when he said, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me," knowing he had to face betrayal, arrest, and death on the cross. So, we participate in Jesus' dark nights during Lent since "the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

Sometimes, we find no words for facing tremendous pressure in life and witnessing cruel realities in the world. When we abandon words, silence directs us to attentiveness to God, who creates inner space where God's penetrating light shines upon our deepest faults and miseries. St. John of the Cross said, "Silence is God's first language." Silence invites divine intervention that breaks fresh ground, transforming our soul. Christians are encouraged to give up something during Lent, and we may consider giving up words so that we may find God within ourselves. The power of listening to God's language in silence may lead us to exercise more faith, hope, peace, and charity.

I pray that you will allow God to work in the interior of your soul during this Lent. Life happens, and we experience the weaknesses and shortcomings of human nature all the time. We pose and ask 'why.' The moment you ask the question, I pray that you may realize that God is unfolding the powers of the Holy Spirit within you to release a new capacity for love.

May this Lent you experience the overflowing river of God's grace when you meet God in the dark night of your soul.

Rev. HiRho

WORSHIP



Mozart's Requiem

The BUMC Sanctuary Choir has a long history of excellence dating back to the start of our church. Part of this legacy has been the performance of major choral works for the enjoyment and spiritual fulfillment of our congregation. On **Sunday March 20th** during the **11:00 am** worship service, the choir will continue this tradition with a special performance of Mozart's Requiem. This masterful setting of the Requiem text is one of Mozart's finest works and perhaps the last music he wrote before he died at the young age of 35. In fact, Mozart did not actually complete this work. This fact has inspired our performance of the work where we will only be performing the movements Mozart composed, ending with Mozart's stunning "Ave Verum Corpus." You may even recognize the tunes from the classic movie "Amadeus."

The Sanctuary Choir has remained vibrant throughout the pandemic and this return to singing a major work in worship is an exciting step forward for this choir. This would be the perfect Sunday to invite your music-loving friends and family to worship. You won't want to miss this performance!



Praying Together

There are two opportunities during the week to join with others from our church in prayer. You're invited to stop by the church on **Wednesdays at noon** and be part of a **Taizé Prayer Service**. This time of worship includes communion and will be led by *Rev. HiRho* and/or *Rev. Scott*. Then, on **Thursdays at noon**, you are invited to be part of an online prayer time with *Shaw Brewer* and others from our congregation. Email Shaw for the Zoom link.

Online Prayer Requests

BUMC has a new tool to make it easier to share your prayer requests. We invite you to complete our *Online Prayer Request Form* (washmorefeet.org/pray) and let us know the people and situations that are on your heart. You can ask to have a name added to our prayer list, which is printed and available to members of our faith community, or to keep your request private within our prayer team. And of course, you are always welcome to email [Rev. HiRho](mailto:HiRho) or [Rev. Scott](mailto:Scott) directly. Please know that our prayer team will be praying for you and your loved ones throughout the week.

Sunday Worship

Starting on **March 6th** (and running through Palm Sunday), BUMC will offer two worship services on Sundays. Our **11:00 am Blended Service** regularly features music from our Sanctuary Choir, Praise Band, and Bethesda Bells. You are invited to gather with us in -person or online (washmorefeet.org/livestream). We also are offering a Sunday evening service, **Evensong at 7:00 pm** during Lent. All are welcome to join us for this reflective service that includes communion and acoustic-type music.



Re-Entry Update

In response to the good news of the receding surge of the omicron variant and the lifting of the indoor mask mandate by Montgomery County, the Re-Entry Team has taken two significant actions. The first is rescinding the request for persons not fully vaccinated to refrain from gathering in person. The second is to resume our step-wise process for returning to full activity that was paused last August.

Beginning in March you may see small changes during worship and activities, such as more "worship leaders" – the people in the chancel area during worship – unmasked, in addition to speakers at the lectern, and the opportunity to more actively greet others during the sharing of the peace. **If things continue to go well with the virus, we are planning for a full return to "normal" on Palm Sunday, April 10th.**

We recognize that the pandemic is not over. It is important that anyone who feels unwell, with any covid symptoms (that often mimic a cold or flu) stay home and join us virtually. Also, when the requirement to wear a mask to worship or gatherings is lifted it is important to remember that anyone is still welcome to wear a mask if they feel more comfortable doing so. As United Methodists we are called to allow for differences in unessential matters, such as comfort level for gathering unmasked or degree of physical interaction during sharing the peace or other times.

The past two years have put a strain on connections with each other and with the church community. With God's grace we can continue to grow and strengthen our bonds of fellowship and love for each other as we move into what comes next.

God's peace, *Jack Fisher*, Re-Entry Team Chair

LENT



Ash Wednesday

We enter into the season of Lent with *Ash Wednesday* on **March 2nd**. There will be three opportunities for you to join us on Ash Wednesday to receive the imposition of ashes:

- **ABC's of Lent (Ashes, Bagels & Coffee)**
Stop by any time from **7:00-8:00 am** for an informal time of breakfast and conversation and also to receive ashes
- **Prayer Service at noon** (in-person only)
Join us in the Sanctuary for ashes and communion at our weekly prayer service.
- **Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 pm**
The Sanctuary Choir will be offering music at this service that will include ashes and communion. The service will be livestreamed for those not able to be with us in-person (washmorefeet.org/ashwednesday)

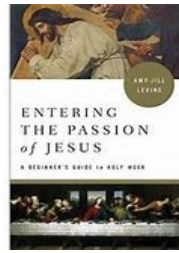
Evensong

Our Sunday evening *Evensong* worship service is back for Lent! Join us for six Sundays starting on **March 6th** (and running through Palm Sunday) at **7:00 pm** as we gather for this reflective service featuring acoustic-style music and communion. All are welcome.



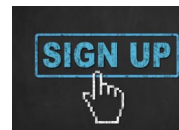
Shrove Tuesday

Thank you to everyone who supported our youth Shrove Tuesday fundraiser! While we will miss gathering together for our annual Pancake Supper, we hope you and your family will still have fun making and eating pancakes on **Shrove Tuesday, March 1st**. Even if you missed out on ordering a kit, you can still support our youth summer Faith in Action trips. If you'd like to donate, go to washmorefeet.org/give and select "Shrove Tuesday Youth Ministry Fundraiser." Flipping some pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? Be sure to take some pictures of you and your family feasting and send them to [Kara Peace](mailto:Kara.Peace).



Entering the Passion of Jesus

This year, we are planning to journey through Lent together using the book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. Our journey will challenge us to consider what kinds of risks we, as Christians, are willing to take for the sake of others? We will study Jesus' final days and the risks He took to save humanity. The author will lead us to ask ethical and spiritual questions and challenge us to take risks as faithful disciples of Christ. Each Sunday in worship, Rev. HiRho and Rev. Scott will help us explore various themes including: risking reputation, righteous anger, challenge, rejection, the loss of friends, and temptation.



Lenten Small Groups

Want to dig into our Lenten theme a little deeper? Our *Lenten Small Groups* start on **March 3rd** and we'd love to have you join us! Each week, we'll watch a video by the author and then have a guided discussion. We encourage you to purchase the book to have as an added resource on this journey, but it's not required.

We have groups that will be meeting on weeknights and also some on the weekend. Some will be in-person (COVID permitting) and others will be online, so you can choose the mode that is most comfortable for you. Check out the schedule below and sign up (washmorefeet.org/lentensmallgroups) for the group of your choice.

Mondays at 11:00 am (in-person or online)

Facilitator: *Rebecca Conley*

Mondays at 7:00 pm (online)

Facilitator: *Rev. HiRho*

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm (in-person)

Facilitator: *Neil Gregory*

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm (online)

Facilitator: *Beth Reilly*

Thursdays at 7:30 pm (in-person)

Facilitator: *Rev. Scott*

Thursdays at 7:30 pm (Youth only)

Facilitators: *Kara Peace & Callie Burd*

Fridays at 7:00 pm (online)

Facilitator: *Shaw Brewer*

Sundays at 10:00 am (in-person)

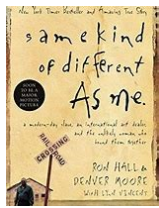
Facilitator: *Shaw Brewer*

CONNECT

Young Adult Group

Happy March everyone! Thanks to everyone who came out for our Brunch on the Last Sunday of February! It was great to gather with you all again for fellowship and to share a meal. This month, we're excited to gather again for *Brunch* on **March 13th**, back to our second Sunday routine. We'll meet at **12:30 pm** at Silver in Bethesda. Please email or text [Rev. Scott](#) if you plan to join us. We also encourage you all to join a Lenten *Small Group*, as journey through the season of Lent together. For more information and to sign up, please visit washmorefeet.org/lentensmallgroups. Lastly, we are looking to do a service project together on the last Sunday of the month. Stay tuned for more information about that in the coming week. May you have a blessed March and start to Lent.

*Rev. Scott and the Young Adult Council
(Matthew, Robert, and Joanna)*



Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group is gathering on **Wednesday, March 30th, 7:30 pm**, to discuss *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall (note this is a change from our original March selection). This book tells a true story that includes compassion, social justice issues and some lesser-known aspects of American history. You can either join us in-person in the Fellowship Hall at BUMC or via Zoom. For more info, contact *Dawn Lowrie* (ddlownie@icloud.com).

Men's Group

We'll start off March with the *ABC's of Lent*, as Ash Wednesday falls on our regular breakfast gathering day. Please join us anytime between **7:00 - 8:00 am on Wednesday, March 2nd** for Ashes, Bagels, and Coffee. We'll have a time of fellowship in the Narthex, and you can come into the Sanctuary to receive ashes during a brief service and time of reflection. This event is open to everyone, so invite your spouse, partner, family and friends to join us.

In lieu of our monthly "Off the Record" this month, we encourage you all to join a *Lenten Small Group*, as we consider the risks Jesus took during Holy Week, and the risks that we as Christians are called to take in our lives. For more info and to sign up, please visit washmorefeet.org/lentensmallgroups. We look forward to seeing you all this month. If you have any questions, please contact [Rev. Scott](#).



BUMC Wants Your Input!

Last month you received an online survey to identify what BUMC ministry communications you would like to receive, as well as how you prefer to receive different types of information from BUMC. Through your responses to the survey we hope to improve our messaging to you and to improve our communications strategies so you are informed about what is happening within the BUMC congregation and your opportunities to serve. If you haven't had a chance to respond to this survey, please take a few minutes now to complete it (Washmorefeet.org/survey).

In March, you will also have an opportunity to respond to a second survey to help our Church Council identify how BUMC can better serve our congregation. During their upcoming retreat, the Church Council will discuss the responses to both surveys and see what changes or improvements we can make and the ways in which we grow disciples within our church and how those disciples can serve our community and our world. *Printed copies of both surveys will also be available from the ushers on Sundays.*

Any questions? Please contact:

Mary Ann Toomey matoomey@outlook.com or
Debra Gillette debandbob2@verizon.net

GROW

Sunday School for Adults

Join us in-person or online:

❖ **PTR: 9:45 am, Room 209.**

Topic: American Pragmatism. Email *Don Ross* (donandpatty1@verizon.net) for the Zoom link.

❖ **Faith-Filled Parenting: 10:00 am, Room 207**

Join with other parents as we explore together how to help our children grow in faith. Email [Beth Reilly](#).

March 6: The Prayer of St. Francis (*Dennis Williams*)

March 13: Finding Sacred Space (*Mary Clayton Carr*)

March 20: Parent-Child Negotiations (*Jan Kang*)

March 27: Getting to Know Kara Peace (*Sue Owen*)

❖ **Beyond: 10:00 am in Room 205**

The Beyond class will be meeting as one of our Lenten Small Groups during Lent. Sign up at Washmorefeet.org/lentensmallgroups.

YOUTH

Dear Students and Parents of BUMC, February was such a great month as we rolled out our new monthly Connect, Serve, Grow rotation! If you missed it, each month we will be participating in one connect event(gathering for a fun event), one serve event (gathering for a service project), and one grow event (gathering to grow in our faith together). In February we connected through our Ice Skating outing at Cabin John, we served by providing food for the Souper Bowl of Caring and putting together our Shrove Tuesday fundraiser pancake kits, and we grew together by hosting a worship feast led by Common Ground! Please see the calendar below for all of our March events! We hope to see you soon!

Kara Peace (Kpeace@washmorefeet.org)
& the Youth Ministry Committee (Callie, Caroline, Holly, J.D., Alex, Gunnar & Dave)

Youth Lenten Small Group

Our Youth Lenten Small Group, led by *Kara Peace* and *Callie Burd*, will be meeting every **Thursday night at 7:30 pm** via zoom for 6 weeks from **March 3rd to April 7th**. Join us as we challenge ourselves to consider what kinds of risks we, as Christians, are willing to take for the sake of others. We'll be using the book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine as our guide. Each week, we'll watch a video by the author and then have a guided discussion. You can purchase the book to have as an added resource on this journey (recommended!). Sign up today at washmorefeet.org/lentensmallgroups.

High School News

High school youth are invited to join us once a month for a **Sunday Morning Social** during the 10:00 am Sunday School hour. This month, we'll meet on **March 27th**. The other three Sundays of the month, high school youth are encouraged to either attend the Beyond Adult Sunday school class or help lead our Children's Ministry (contact [Beth Reilly](#) for more info).



High School Mission Trip

For our summer 2022 high school *Faith In Action* trip, we'll be heading to the Great Lakes region on **July 10th - 16th** to serve the community of Erie, PA through home improvement and repair. Typical projects include interior/exterior painting, building decks, and adding wheelchair ramps to make homes accessible for residents. This trip is open to all high school youth, including next fall's rising 9th graders through recent high school graduates up to 20 years of age. Friends are welcome, too! **Deposits (\$50) are due March 14th**, so we encourage those interested in participating to register soon. For more information please visit: <https://groupmissiontrips.com/trip-types/home-repair/erie-pennsylvania>.

Middle School Mission Trip

For our summer 2022 middle school *Faith In Action* trip, we'll be heading to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on **July 24th - 29th** to participate in a 'week of hope' community service mission trip. On this trip, students work with seasoned local ministries and nonprofits to make a lasting difference through meaningful community service. The community service mission trips are smaller-sized gatherings (less than 100 participants). Projects might include providing meals to the homeless, tutoring struggling children from low-income families, helping to lead a day camp for kids, working with disabled children, or sharing stories with a lonely elderly person in an assisted-living facility. This trip is open to all middle school students including next fall's rising 6th graders. **Deposits (\$50) are due March 14th**, so sign up soon if you'd like to come. Friends are welcome, too! For more information, please visit: <https://groupmissiontrips.com/trip-types/community-service/pittsburgh>

UMYF March Schedule

Tuesday, March 1st: Shrove Tuesday, Make pancakes at home and take pictures!
Saturday, March 5th, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm: Confirmation (WAVE) Retreat in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 6th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm: (GROW) Gun Violence Prevention with Susan Bender in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 13th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm: (Serve) College Student Care Packages
Sunday, March 20th, 5:30-7:00 pm: (Connect) Outdoor Game Night
Sunday, March 27th, 10:00 am: Sunday Morning Social in the youth room (No evening UMYF)

CHILDREN



VBS This Summer: Food Truck Party!

Mark your calendars and plan to join us **June 20th - June 24th** from **9:00 am - 12:00 pm** as we celebrate a *Food Truck Party* where we will be *On a Roll with God* at Vacation Bible School! We are excited to announce that this year we will be partnering with *North Bethesda UMC* (all activities will take place here at BUMC). Our Food Truck Party will include exciting new music and dancing, amazing science and crafts, fun recreation and memorable Bible stories that will encourage children to turn to God for all they need and join God in providing for the needs of others.

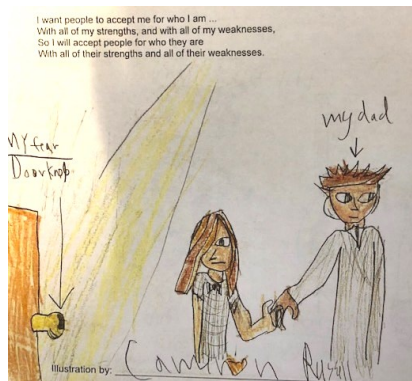
Volunteer Meeting: Youth and adult volunteers, join us on **Tuesday, March 8th at 7:30 pm** for a *Volunteer Informational Meeting* and find out ways you can be a part of our VBS Team! Volunteers must be entering into the sixth grade and older.

Registration: VBS is open to all children ages 4 through rising 5th graders. Registration runs from **March 14th - 27th**. On March 28th, we open registration to the community and any remaining slots could fill up quickly. We will be accepting 100 little chefs to our party, so that we can have plenty of room to spread out and the capability to move stations outdoors if needed for health and safety reasons.

Worship News

BUMC kids, thank you for your participation in worship! We appreciate your participation ... acolyting, reading Scripture (even in Spanish!) and creating artwork for our Children's Message, "This Is My Story." Email Beth@washmorefeet.org if there are ways your child and/or family would like to lead in worship in the coming months.

**Artwork by
Cameron
Russell**

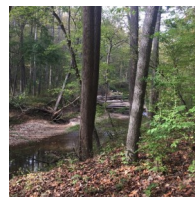


Children's Sunday School

We invite children to join us in the following classrooms for Sunday School starting on **Sunday, March 6th**:

Room 102 PreK - Grade 2
Fellowship Hall Grades 3, 4 and 5

Virtual Sunday School and Hybrid Sunday School will continue to take place on alternating weeks, so that children also have the option of being a part of Sunday School virtually. Lessons will continue to revolve around the life and ministry of Jesus as we move closer to Palm Sunday and Easter.



Nature Center Family Outing

It was wonderful to see so many families last month at *Cocoa in the Park*, even on a cold, wintry day! Let's get together again in March. Come celebrate the first day of spring by joining us at the *Sycamore Fire Pit* at the *Locust Grove Nature Center* (7777 Democracy Blvd, Bethesda) on **Sunday, March 20th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm**. Enjoy some time hiking, playing, visiting, and eating hot dogs and s'mores with other BUMC families. There are benches, but feel free to bring portable chairs. Please bring your own drinks and snacks (hot dogs & s'mores fixings provided) and feel free to bring frisbees, soccer balls, and other outdoor toys. We are asking for a donation of \$5 - \$10 per family to help cover the cost of the permit and food.

For additional information about the facilities at Locust Grove, click [here](#). Please RSVP to *Beth Reilly* (beth@washmorefeet.org) if you plan to come, so we can send out additional information and weather-related updates!



Rolling Into Easter!

Our Easter Egg Hunt in the park is back this year after a two year hiatus! Starting in mid-March, empty plastic Easter eggs will be available in the Narthex for you to take home and fill with stickers, small toys and/or wrapped candy (no nuts please). And don't forget to mark your calendar for the big hunt on **Easter Sunday, April 17th, 10:00 am**, in Greenwich Park. We are so excited to bring back this beloved tradition!

SERVE

If interested in learning more about the ways that BUMC serves our community and beyond, please contact *Shannon Snyppl* (shannonsnyppl@yahoo.com) or *Susan Bender* (susanbender@comcast.net).



Forty Days of Action Calendar

Throughout the season of Lent, we welcome all to join *Outreach, Advocacy, and Action* in committing to participate in service and outreach opportunities. We invite you to follow along with our Lenten Calendar, "**A Servant Heart: 40 Days of Action**," that highlights various organizations and service efforts aligned with our ministries. The calendar is available online and also as a printout at church. We hope that you will find an opportunity to support some of these important efforts in Lent and beyond.

Park Clean-up

Our MLK Day *Park Clean-Up* event has been rescheduled for **Sunday, April 10th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm**, at *Candy Cane Park* picnic shelter (8000 Meadowbrook Lane, Chevy Chase). Come learn about ways we can take care of our planet and bring trash bags and some old gloves for a fun time outdoors as we clean up the park. Adults, youth, children ... all are welcome! RSVP to Beth@washmorefeet.org if you plan to attend and if you want to receive weather-related updates.



Mission Monday

Stop by the Huntington Pkwy lot on **Monday, March 7th, 8:30-10:00 am**, with donations of food for our neighbors in need.

① Bethesda Help Food Drive

We are collecting donations of canned and other non-perishable food for *Bethesda Help*. For info about what items are especially needed, click [here](#). *PS, if you're planning to be at church on March 6th, feel free to bring your donations with you then.*

② McKenna's Wagon

Baggies of trail mix and individually wrapped sandwiches of all types are needed. Place your items in a paper or plastic bag or box, labeled with the type and quantity. Questions? Contact [Nancy](#) or [Bruce Smith](#).

Racial Justice Witness

Sundays in March, noon-1:00 pm

Join us immediately following worship as we stand together along Old Georgetown Rd to lift up all people of color and marginalized communities in our nation.

Update on Afghan Refugee Family

BUMC and Congregation Beth El are working together to provide support to a family of five who arrived in the DC area several months ago as refugees from Afghanistan. We're happy to report that the Maruf-Sadat family is doing well! Here's a quick update from Beth El on the family and a few ways you can help.

The mom has a part-time, temporary contract position with USAID, working in her area of expertise – maternal and child health in Afghanistan. We are hopeful that her current job will be a stepping stone to a more permanent position. Dad is immersed in English-language learning. As his language skills emerge, his goal of securing a job in an allied-health field becomes more attainable. The three kids are doing well and continuing to adjust to their schools.

At this time, we are seeking community support for the family in a few different areas:

- The family needs to apply for asylum by August. We are looking for an immigration attorney who has experience handling asylum cases and would be willing to support them through this process. If you have any leads, please contact *Lisa Sorkin* at lisasorkin@gmail.com
- Dad is ready to begin his job search. Although he was a practicing internist in Afghanistan, he is not licensed to practice medicine in the US, nor does he currently have any US health-related certifications. Ideally, he would find a job working in a pharmacy, private doctor's office, clinic, hospital, laboratory, or home healthcare setting. The job must be accessible by public transportation. Contact *Sharon Fine* at sharonfinekatz@aol.com
- We are seeking a volunteer to educate the family on the public bus system. If you are familiar with the public bus system and could provide a brief orientation to the family, contact *Sharon Fine*
- Montgomery County Public Schools currently uses a math curriculum called Eureka. We are looking for a volunteer who is experienced with Eureka to tutor (via zoom) the 5th grade daughter, ideally on weekday afternoons between 4:30 - 5:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact *Gail Fribush* at gfrubush@gmail.com



Gun Violence Prevention

Our friends at *Temple Sinai* and *Marylanders to Prevent Gun*

Violence invite us to a virtual panel discussion about current bills before the state legislature including ghost guns and safe storage. The webinar takes place on **Thursday, March 10th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.**

[Register online](#) or contact *Susan Bender* (susanbender@comcast.net) for more info:

The following piece was written by *Rev. Rachel Cornwell*, pastor of Dumbarton UMC in Washington, DC and is reprinted with her permission. Rev. Rachel is a former Associate Pastor of BUMC and frequently advocates for local and national gun violence prevention measures.



A Reflection from Rev. Rachel Cornwell

Last night I was the moderator for a panel discussion entitled "*How to Stop the Shooting on Our Streets and Take Back our Neighborhoods*" organized by the social action team on gun violence prevention of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. One of the panelists, Greg Jackson, the Executive Director of the Community Justice Action Fund, made the comment that there is no such thing as a "violent" community—that gun violence can happen everywhere and is usually tied to a very small number of people in that community. Gun violence can often spill over from one area, like Washington, DC, into surrounding communities.

Then, just this morning, my neighbor's babysitter's car was stolen from in front of their house at 7:00am. I saw the car racing up the street in front of our house minutes after Nora [Rev. Rachel's daughter] left to walk to the bus stop. The car thieves crashed into a car parked on the street, shot out a window on another car, and when a neighbor came out to see what was going on, they pulled two guns on him. Thankfully everyone was OK, and hopefully these car thieves will be caught and prosecuted, but I am here to tell you that gun violence can, indeed, happen anywhere.

I am pretty shaken and angry, but also aware of how many people live with this kind of violence on a daily basis. So, I would like to invite you to join me in the actions that were shared on the webinar last night:

1. If you live in Maryland, you can **call or email your legislators and urge them to support the bill banning "ghost guns" SB 387/HB 425.** Ghost guns are built from parts bought online or made with 3D printers and are often untraceable and bought by people with a criminal record because they do not require a background check. Making it clear in the law that ghost guns are, in fact, guns and should be regulated as such will help close this loophole.

2. The **Federal Build Back Better Act** will provide a targeted investment of \$5 billion in the communities most impacted by gun violence through community-based programs to address the root causes of violence, such as poverty and unemployment, and help survivors heal from trauma. These types of programs have the potential to reduce gun violence in communities by 60%. **Call or email your US Representative today to urge them to support this critically needed funding.**

<https://act.everytown.org/sign/House BBB 2021/>

Let's all work together to end gun violence in our community and every community. We don't have to live like this.

Rev. Rachel Cornwell



BUMC Acts Fund

As we approach the one year anniversary of the **BUMC Acts Fund**, we are soliciting proposals for service or outreach efforts from ALL church members and will select several winners to provide grants and help make these proposals a reality. Recipients will be announced during our *Peace and Justice Sunday* service on **June 12th**. Do you have an idea for a service project that you'd love to see come to fruition? OAA is welcoming proposals that encourage service or support to initiatives covered by our ministries: Racial Justice, Foster Care, Gun Violence Prevention, and Creation Care. We look forward to hearing from you about what you're passionate about! Details:

❖ BUMC's OAA is accepting proposals for the *Acts Fund* **February 1st - May 1st**.

❖ Your proposal should include what you would like to see happen with a grant, how the grant will help you accomplish your goal, and the amount that you are seeking.

❖ If you have any questions or to submit a proposal, email [Shannon Snypp](#) and [Susan Bender](#).

❖ We will award several grants. One grant will be dedicated to a proposal from BUMC's youth.

FOOTWASHER OF THE MONTH: MaryAnn Toomey

BUMC is a community of footwashers and this monthly feature highlights people in our church family who are serving in a variety of ministries, either here at BUMC or out in the community. This month we hear from MaryAnn Toomey, a long-time member of BUMC, who coordinates the BUMC Connects ministry and often shares her musical talents in worship.



How long have you been a member of BUMC? What would you tell someone who is looking for a home for their faith about our church?

MaryAnn: I have been a member of BUMC for almost 40 years. BUMC has a wonderful congregation; kind, caring, welcoming, and active. BUMC helps me to channel my inner better self. There are many opportunities to serve with in the community or workplace – all of which I can easily pass by. However, when someone from the congregation personally presents opportunities to serve, they are quite a bit more difficult to pass up. I would suggest that anyone considering worshiping at BUMC read the welcoming statement, come to a service, and listen to the music. It is all there.

Can you share a little about your personal faith journey? Are there any ways that your faith informed your career over the years?

MaryAnn: Like most everyone, my faith journey has been a circuitous path but I think I have finally reached a good place; although probably less than conventional. I am a nurse and my career spanned 40+ years, beginning in the ICU and ending in oncology. Having a strong faith was essential to helping me maintain perspective and be an effective support to my patients and staff.

What are some of the ways you have served here at BUMC? Any favorite memories of experiences that you felt were especially impactful?

MaryAnn: My first volunteer activity was teaching Sunday School during the 11:00 am service. There were a variety of ages and just about all had been to Sunday school during the 9:30 am service (the “old days”); no one was interested in more Sunday school. About half way through the year, we changed directions and started *Kids in Christian Fellowship* (KCF) which has now morphed into *Kids with Purpose*. In subsequent years I taught Sunday school for various combinations of grades 1-3. At the time, we were raising 3 girls; during this Sunday school journey I had a cadre of very active boys, it was an eye opening experience to say the least! (All of them have grown into delightful adults.) As my daughters grew up, I volunteered with the youth, started *Loaves & Fishes* [a ministry to Walter Reed NMMC], participated in *Stephen Ministry*, and later, participated in wild and crazy VBS with my grandkids.

Your newest venture is BUMC Connects. What is this ministry and why do you think it’s important? How can members of our faith community get involved?

MaryAnn: I strongly believe that God placed us on this earth to serve and care for one another. When I retired, I wanted to devise a means of making it possible for anyone with a few spare moments to have the opportunity to volunteer in small ways that would accommodate their busy schedule. I shared this with Rev. Jenny and we created *BUMC Connects*. The idea was, and is, to connect those with a bit of time to serve and care, with members of our church community who have various needs. Over the years I have found that when people are given the opportunity to serve in small discrete ways they are happy to do so. Providing six meals for a family over 2 weeks is a daunting task for one person to take on; signing up to provide one meal is often quite manageable. During the initial phase of Covid, about 25 individuals provided about 72 meals to the families of the many “Covid babies.” As my mother always said, “many hands make light work.” This same approach has allowed many individuals to help with memorial and church wide receptions, to provide rides to members on the congregation in need of transportation to a medical appointment or church activity, and to send cards and visit with members of the community who are unable to get out and about.

BUMC connects maintains email lists of those willing to serve in each area (many serve in more than one area). When a need is identified by one of the pastors, an email is sent to those who have signed up for that area (e.g., a request for meals for a family of a new baby would be sent to those who signed up for “meals”). There are no requirements to respond to any specific *BUMC Connects* requests. Emails are sent to members of the team as a need arises. Those who have time to volunteer for that particular request (e.g., provide a ride home from church on a particular Sunday) can

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



Deaths

We extend our love and prayers to:

† **Cathy Anderson** (9411 Quarry Dr, Naples, Florida 34120) in the death of her brother, **Dan Hanson**, on February 12th.

† **Ruth Houghton** (6402 Stoneham Rd, Bethesda, MD 20817) in the recent death of her daughter, *Debbie*.

Baptism

Love and blessings to **Kendyl June Pulse** who was baptized on February 13th. Kendyl is the daughter of **Emily & Michael Pulse**.



March Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

- 1st Audrey Miller, Mark Moyer
- 2nd Alison Chacon
- 3rd Reider McFeely, Seth Weaver
- 4th Gibson Greene
- 5th Joe Anderson
- 7th Grace O'Hanlon, Rachel Ortiz, Rian Russell
- 8th Carlee Hallman, Cindy Osnos
- 10th Daisy Lewis, Van Yeutter
- 12th Riley Lewis, Will Quam
- 13th Kelly Diamond, Louis Wilkins
- 15th Grace DeBernadis, Alex Sincevich
- 16th Lauren Reilly
- 18th Gail Williams
- 19th Rachelle Cummins, Esther Gatuma
- 20th Salone Singh
- 21st Matthew Lowrie, Katherine Rogstad
- 22nd Bob Browning, Kim Kaiser
- 23rd Dana Sippel, Arlene Turner
- 24th Alejandro Mancilla
- 25th Brady Murphy
- 26th Callie Burd, Henry Burd, JD Weaver
- 27th Emilie Banyas, Nancy Gauthier
- 29th Kelsey Murphy, Caroline Torgeson, Logan Tu
- 30th Susie Sabatano
- 31st Will Butera, Thomas Mitchell

Anniversaries

Happy anniversary to:

	<u>Date</u>	<u># of years</u>
Stephanie & Lloyd Brown	13 th	29
Janet & Jae Edmonds	28 th	35



Financial Update

Thank you for your pledges and gifts to BUMC. They are critical to the financial health of our church and are the foundation of our budget process. After careful review and reflection the Council was able to pass a balanced budget at our February meeting. A budget that covers our basic expenses is a wonderful outcome, and I appreciate all the work to get us to this point. Even though we have a budget, we know we have many expenses coming, and it is not too late to submit your pledge cards if you haven't already done so (washmorefeet.org/pledge2022). Your pledges help us plan and sustain the church. Thank you for your generous gifts and work to keep our church finances strong!

Warrenetta Baker, Finance Chair

Footwasher of the Month

(continued from p. 9)

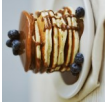
do so, those who are busy can pass – guilt free. Although the needs can be sporadic, when they arise, numerous individuals may be needed (e.g., helping with reception following a memorial service) and thus, *BUMC Connects* is always in need of volunteers (back to what my mother said...).

Some of the questions in the recent survey sent to all church members were specifically for the purpose of updating the list of those interested in volunteering with *BUMC Connects* (the current list is 5 years old and quite out of date). If anyone is interested in being a part of *BUMC Connects* and hasn't completed the survey, it is not too late: [BUMC Connects with You Survey](#).

You are a talented musician and are actively involved in several of our musical groups. Can you tell us a little about that and also about the role that music plays in your life?

MaryAnn: Music is transcendent – it speaks to all of us – in many forms, from hip hop to country to jazz to renaissance music. It crosses all divides: political, racial, ethnic, and everything in between. It is a gift that allows us to speak to each other free of any animosity or agenda. I have been singing in the choir for many years, I substitute as needed for Bethesda Bells, and play the cello occasionally during the service. I have recently taken up the tenor Viola da Gamba, an early renaissance instrument. Music nourishes my soul.

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Shrove Tuesday 	2 Ash Wednesday 7:00 am ABC's of Lent 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	3 12:00 pm Prayer Call 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp (Adult Grp & Youth Grp) 8:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	4 7:00 pm Lenten Small Group	5 9:00 am Confirmation WAVE Retreat
6 First Sunday of Lent 9:45 am PTR Class 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Lenten Small Group 11:00 am Blended Worship 12:00 pm Racial Justice Witness 5:30 pm UMYF 7:00 pm Evensong Worship	7 8:30 am Mission Monday Food Collection 11:00 am Lenten Small Group 7:00 pm Lenten Small Grp 7:30 pm Bethesda Bells	8 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp 7:30 pm VBS Volunteer Meeting	9 12:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service 7:30 pm Church Council 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp	10 12:00 pm Prayer Call 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp (Adult Grp & Youth Grp) 8:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	11 7:00 pm Lenten Small Group	12
13 Second Sunday of Lent 9:45 am PTR Class 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Lenten Small Group 11:00 am Blended Worship 12:00 pm Racial Justice Witness 12:30 pm Young Adult Brunch 5:30 pm UMYF 7:00 pm Evensong Worship	14 11:00 am Lenten Small Group 7:00 pm Lenten Small Grp 7:30 pm Bethesda Bells <i>VBS Registration Opens For BUMC & NBUMC families</i>	15 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp	16 12:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp	17 12:00 pm Prayer Call 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp (Adult Grp & Youth Grp) 8:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	18 7:00 pm Lenten Small Group	19
20 Third Sunday of Lent 9:45 am PTR Class 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Lenten Small Group 11:00 am Blended Worship: Sanctuary Choir Presents <i>Mozart's Requiem</i> 12:00 pm Racial Justice Witness 4:30 pm Family Nature Center Trip 5:30 pm UMYF 7:00 pm Evensong Worship	21 11:00 am Lenten Small Group 7:00 pm Lenten Small Grp 7:30 pm Bethesda Bells	22 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp	23 12:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp	24 12:00 pm Prayer Call 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp (Adult Grp & Youth Grp) 8:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	25 7:00 pm Lenten Small Group	26
27 Fourth Sunday of Lent 9:45 am PTR Class 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am High School Social Time 10:00 am Lenten Small Group 11:00 am Blended Worship: 12:30 pm Young Adult Brunch 12:00 pm Racial Justice Witness 7:00 pm Evensong Worship	28 11:00 am Lenten Small Group 7:00 pm Lenten Small Grp 7:30 pm Bethesda Bells	29 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp	30 12:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service 7:30 pm Women's Book Group 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp	31 12:00 pm Prayer Call 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Lenten Small Grp (Adult Grp & Youth Grp) 8:00 pm Sanctuary Choir		



THE MESSENGER

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Administrative Assistant

Kris Hoxha: kris@washmorefeet.org

March Highlights

Wednesday, March 2nd
Ash Wednesday

*Join us to receive the
imposition of ashes*

+ 7:00 - 8:00 am:

ABC's of Lent

+ Noon: Ash Wednesday Prayer Service

+ 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Lenten Small Groups

Group start meeting on March 3rd

Evensong Worship

Sundays at 7:00 pm (March 6th - April 10th)

VBS Registration

for BUMC and NBUMC families begins March 14th

