

DAVIDSONVILLE UMC  
**LAMPLIGHTER**

MAY/JUNE 2024

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

**It's A Trust Fall Baby**

The title song from Pink's new album has a catchy refrain. Maybe you've heard it on the radio. She sings,

*Close your eyes and leave it all behind.*

*Go where love is on our side.*

*It's a trust-fall, baby. It's a trust-fall, baby.*

A trust-fall is when someone deliberately falls backwards and trusts someone else to catch them. It is a popular team-building exercise in the corporate world.

Pink suggests that all of life is like a trust-fall. Trust is required even as we get out of bed, drop the kids off at school, and head to work. We all experience feelings of uncertainty as if we are falling backwards and we don't know where the ground is. "Y'know, that unsettling feeling when you don't know when to brace?" she says. At the same time there is freedom in falling, letting go and trusting you will be caught. Pink talks about faith in the universe and the beautiful people in our lives. My faith is in the Lord.

For me, deciding to retire is a trust-fall. I have saved, planned, and discerned that now is the time, and yet I feel unsettled and uncertain. For the past eight years I have felt blessed by God's calling to serve with people of Davidsonville UMC. I have found the work fulfilling. I can see the impact that we have had with individuals and the community as a whole. I have known great joy. And now my next calling is unclear. It's a trust-fall baby!

One of the scripture passages I hold onto is Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." Peace comes from knowing that God, our refuge and strength, is near by in times of trouble. Many of you have assured me that retirement is wonderful and not a "time of trouble." The truth is that God walks with us through life's joys and troubles and everything in else along the way. Blessed is the person who trusts in the Lord. (Proverbs 16:20)

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**Our Purpose:**

**Knowing,  
Loving, &  
Serving God  
and Others In  
Unity**



While I don't know what I will be doing long term, the first few weeks of retirement I will be serving at West River UMC Camp. I am the director of Grandparent & Me Camp the first week of July, and then I move to Discovery Camp (Gr 3-5), Ultimate Middle School, and back to Discover Camp. Lives are changed when kids and adults connect to God through nature.

I am grateful the Rev. Dr. Kyle Durban as been appointed by the Bishop to be DUMC's next pastor. I know he has the faith and fire to serve you well. I trust that the key ministries like CrossRoads, Tongues of Fire, and GriefShare will continue. And I am interested in what new ministries might develop!

Our new address will be: 23245 Dillow Ct., Lexington Park, MD 20653. I trust that you are learning the process of pastoral transitions. When pastors leave a congregation they can't provide care to members for one year unless specifically invited to do so by the new pastor. Rev. Kyle is prepared to shepherd the DUMC flock beginning July 1, so not reaching out to me for counseling, baptisms, funerals, or administration is going to be fine. It's a trust-fall baby! AND "The Lord gives perfect Peace to those whose faith is firm. So always trust the Lord because he is forever our mighty rock." (Isaiah 26:3-4)

Thank you for working with me over the past years to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. Or as we claim - to help others come to know, love and serve God and others in unity. I love all of you and will miss you.

Your sister in Christ - Wendy van Vliet - aka Pastor Wendy

**Psalm 13:5**

*But I trust in your faithful love. My heart is filled with joy because you will save me.*



**Romans 12:2**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**HAPPY Retirement!**



Pastor Wendy is retiring at the end of June 2024, and will preach her last sermon on Sunday, June 30. DUMC is going to come together to give her a great celebration of 8 years of inspired and dedicated service by having a **dinner at the church at 5:30 PM on Saturday, June 29**. Please save the date. The church will be supplying the main course, and we will be looking for contributions for sides and desserts. Please think of stories that you would like to share with Pastor Wendy and the congregation. More details will be supplied as the date draws nearer.





Mark Cable - Great Night Out



Senior Luncheon



11 AM Chancel Choir



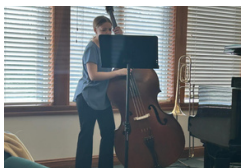
Bells!



Easter



Guest speaker Sara Gonzalez-Rothi







It is hard to believe that we are halfway through spring already! Our DUMC Kids and Youth started the season with yoga , a Palm Sunday parade, and an egg-citing Easter Egg Hunt. We have continued to grow in praise and worship and even led the congregation in singing “Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord” during service in Fellowship Hall. We are now gearing up for our Youth Sports Night on May 4th. This will be a fun opportunity for our youth to deepen their bonds through sportsmanship and teamwork! On May 18th, you can find us at the Strawberry Festival where we will be serving ice-cream by the bounce house. Summer will be here before we know it and Vacation Bible School will be June 18 - 21. Mark your calendars and please stay tuned for more details!







## **We need a new directory!**

On Sundays until mid-late May, you will be able to update your contact information and family photo. It will be as simple as jotting down info updates and stepping in front of a computer for a quick pic.

Volunteers from the Social Needs and Outreach team will help. If you can't make it to church one of those Sundays, you can call or email the office with your updated information and send us a photo. Our new directory is really going to help us keep in touch and build friendships!



On **Mother's Day** bring warm women's socks for the backpacks made by volunteers for Linda's Legacy! Also, please bring hand sanitizer for our toiletry kits we will put together in November.

On **Father's Day** bring warm men's socks for the backpacks! Also, please bring deodorant for our toiletry kits we will put together in November. There will be a basket at the back of the church for these items! Thank you!



Though we deliver toiletry kits for the homeless in December, it is actually an ongoing project! There is a container in the Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, and one on the office porch. When you go to the dentist, you can ask for extra items! When you visit hotels, collect toiletries! We also collect ChapStick, small combs, small deodorant, and hand sanitizers. Please donate what you can!

# Dear Ones,

Not long ago I was gifted something on Facebook, of all places, that was really worthwhile! Not only was it worthwhile because it was, but because I actually got to see it. Who has time for all this nonsense anyway?? The caption was: A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4-8 year-olds, "What does love mean?" One 6-year old answered, "If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend you hate." WOW



So, what is love? Is there only one kind of love? Or are there many kinds of love, felt in various ways at various times for various reasons and for various people? That's what the Greeks thought, and they had different words for each. Some think one has to experiment before coming full circle to the understanding that there really is only one kind of love.

But, when Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, he's not talking about grand passions but about being willing to work toward your neighbor's wellbeing, sometimes even at your own expense and, yes, sometimes even those you hate. I don't care for the word, hate. It's so unforgiving. I am amazed and awed that a 6-year old could even use the two words in the same sentence! I suspect that hate is as all-absorbing and irrational as love but where hate drains you, love enriches you.

Which brings us to forgiveness. A word equally at home with love and hate. Forgiveness is not conditional. It's a give and take kinda thing. When someone forgives you, the forgiver's pride is diminished. When you forgive, you might find your own pride diminished. In other words, the pride which keeps us from forgiving is the same pride which keeps us from accepting forgiveness; but, fear not, in both instances the pride is replaced by peace. In really extreme cases, perhaps you think the pain is so deep that forgiveness is impossible. You may get to a point where you can pray that God forgive them because you can't, and that's a good thing! Pray about it!

*Wishing you all good things, peace, prayer,  
love and forgiveness - Connie*

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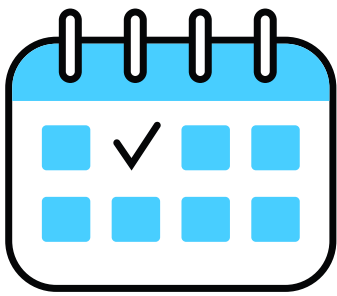
Spring has sprung! CrossRoads is in full swing. Teacher appreciation week is just around the corner and we will

THANK our teachers for all their hard work.

WE APPRECIATE YOU! We will be celebrating Mother's Day with muffins with Mom and we plan to have a Field Day in June. We are also in the process of rejuvenating the playgrounds with more dirt and mulch.

As always, thank you for your support of CCDC.





# Church Calendar

Our early service will move outdoors to the Green Cathedral on Sunday, June 9!  
This service will be at 8:30 AM for the summer!



The next DUMC Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday, June 15 from 10 AM - 3 PM. Register online at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)!

The next DUMC Spring Cleaning Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 15!



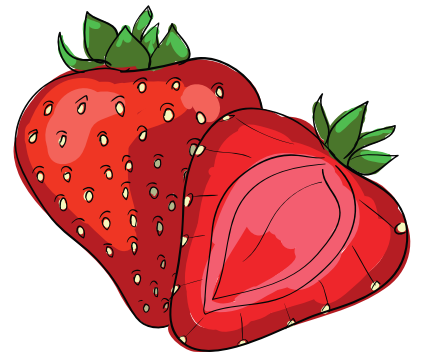
**FREE ENTRY**  
**FREE ENTRY**  
**FREE ENTRY**

Davidsonville UMC presents

## 2024 Strawberry Festival

Get strawberry pies and jam, listen to live music and explore vendors, play games with the kids, feast on some BBQ from Tongues of Fire, and enjoy a time of fellowship!

**Saturday, May 18, 2024 | 11 AM - 2 PM**





**From April 23-May 3**, we experienced both history in the making and time travel. That's right! United Methodists from around the world gathered in Charlotte, North Carolina, to conduct the 2020 General Conference which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our church Discipline makes no provision for skipping one of the quadrennial legislative meetings, so we went back in time, sort of, to complete the 2020 conference. This General Conference also had historic implications, as we've moved through a period of disaffiliation in The United Methodist Church. This process was painful as well as stressful for local churches and annual conferences across the church. This General Conference session was a time for our whole denomination to come together and set our sights on the future, on what God is calling The United Methodist Church to be in the years ahead.

The three big issues resolved during this General Conference - the 3 big R's are Regionalization, Reduced Budget, and the Revised Social Principals.

### **Regionalization**

Organizing the denomination into 8 Regional Conferences creates more equality and efficiency. In the past we have operated in a US centric manner, treating the countries in Africa, Europe and South Asia as little sisters. Each of the 8 Regions will have equal duties and powers. Each will have authority to maximize the effectiveness of their mission and ministry by adapting portions of The Book of Discipline that deal with the organization and administration of the church. The way we treat our main tenets of Methodism including: Our Constitution, Doctrinal Standards, Our Theological Task, The Ministry of All Christians, and The Social Principles will remain the same. These can only be revised by the General Conference.

### **Reduced General Church Budget**

"Thinking about mission and ministry while trying to ensure stewardship for years to come is a delicate balance," said the Rev. Moses Kumar, top executive of the denomination's General Council on Finance and Administration.

The proposed 2025-2028 budget of approximately \$346.7 million is a reduction of nearly 43% from the last budget passed in 2016. The main driver of this reduction is high number of closures of US churches. The US has lost 32% of the local churches, due to disaffiliations and discontinuations for financial reasons. Apportionments from American churches are the major source of support for 5 of our 7 denominational funds. This is the lowest budget proposed since 1984.

SO - How will these reductions affect the church? Each general agency and ministry funded through the denominational budget is actively planning how to diversify revenue streams, realign and refocus its core work, and determine what it will no longer do during the coming quadrennium. Agencies are sharing resources such as administrative services for websites and databases. A couple of the agencies are experimenting with sharing a single general secretary. The number of Bishops serving the US will be reduced from 39 to 32 while the number serving in the African region, which is growing, will increase by 2.

While general agency finances will be far tighter, the mood among denominational leaders is generally upbeat. They see the innovation and revisioning this new situation will require - as a challenge that can be met when United Methodists are focused on what it takes to accomplish our common mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



## Revised Social Principals

The United Methodist Board of Church and Society brought legislation for a full revision of the Social Principles—the first such overhaul in nearly 50 years. The goal is for the statements that guide United Methodist public witness to be more succinct, more theologically grounded and more globally relevant. The proposed changes are more than eight years in coming.

Church and Society held listening sessions around the globe to learn from United Methodists what they thought of the social teachings and how they might be improved. Six international writing teams, assigned to the six sections of the Social Principles, worked on an original draft, which Church and Society then made available to the church for comment. The version submitted reflects the work of both the writing teams and the international feedback received. You can download the revised Social Principals here:

<https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>

These are the 3 R's, the three top issues, that the General Conference is facing. They also did great deal of other work before departing on May 3rd. They discussed how to deal with further disaffiliations, issues rising from ministering with our LGBTQ siblings, ecumenical relationships with other denominations, Young People's ministries, Older Adult concerns, and Clergy Retirement plans.

While we don't know our future for certain, we know who holds our future, God - our refuge and strength. General Conference site:

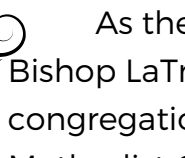
<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>



Beginning July 1, 2024, Reverend Dr. Kyle Durbin will be the new pastor of Davidsonville UMC!

Let us welcome him and his family with open arms!

See the next page for a letter from our SPRC Chair.



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As the chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, I announced this past Sunday that Bishop LaTrelle Easterling has appointed Reverend Doctor Kyle Durbin as the new pastor of our congregation. Pastor Kyle will begin his new responsibilities on July 1 of this year. As a United Methodist Church we are a part of an appointment system. Our congregation's staff parish relations committee has met with the district superintendent to identify our congregation's needs and the needed skills in a pastor. We have met with Pastor Kyle to get to know him and to ask questions. I have included a summary of the information he shared with us here.

Pastor Kyle grew up in Davidsonville UMC as the son of Bob and Pam Durbin. At DUMC, Pastor Kyle served as Assistant Pastor, Youth Pastor, Crossroads CDC Chaplain, and Director of Cornerstone Theatre. After graduating from Seminary, Pastor Kyle began his work as a local pastor at Centenary United Methodist Church in Shadyside, MD. He is now ordained as a full-member elder in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church and serves as the Senior Pastor of Frostburg United Methodist Church.

At FUMC, Pastor Kyle has built what was a relatively small church into a vibrant, active church of people of all ages and stages. He has initiated several strong community outreach services, such as a personalized meal delivery service, in partnership with the local Elementary school, providing a week's worth of food and groceries for over half a dozen different families every week. The food deliveries are personalized to the needs of each family.

Pastor Kyle has organized a network of churches and community organizations to serve the Frostburg Community in both spiritual and social ways, including serving on the Frostburg First board of directors, which manages the Historic Arts District and Main Street status of Frostburg, MD, as well as serving as the chair of United Campus Ministry at Frostburg State University, which has helped to break down traditional barriers between the university and the town, and amongst the town people themselves. The relationship between Main Street, Frostburg and the student population of Frostburg State University was also the mission of the Catalyst Initiative he helped spearhead at Frostburg UMC last year.

In addition to his work at FUMC, Pastor Kyle is very active in the Baltimore Washington Conference, and serves as the Worship Chair for our Annual Conference. He also serves on the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, again as the chair of Worship, and also on the New Faith Expressions board for the conference.

On a personal note, Pastor Kyle is married to Joanna Durbin. Pastor Kyle and Joanna met at DUMC, where Joanna served for almost ten years as the Director of the Crossroads Childhood Development Center. They were married at DUMC, and they have two children: a 13 year old son, Harrison, and a 9 year old daughter, Penelope.

Pastor Kyle holds a degree in theatre from the University of Maryland, College Park. He also has a Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary, where he also earned his Doctor of Ministry degree in arts and theology. Some of his passions include preaching, teaching, writing, reading, and especially music and theatre.

We are looking forward to working with Pastor Kyle in the years to come!

Liz Morrissey, SPRC Chairperson

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3 Ways  
to Give:



Giving Envelopes



Online Giving at  
dumc.net



Automatic withdrawal (ETF)



## May

- 3 - Nelson Outten
- 5 - Jeanne Bowser
- 5 - Howard Hardesty
- 7 - Frank van Vliet
- 8 - Emery Bisci
- 10 - Tim McArdle
- 10 - Pat Wood
- 11 - Charlotte Maslar
- 13 - Carter Clurman
- 14 - Bob Ingram
- 15 - Sara Gonzalez-Rothi
- 18 - Bruce Angevine
- 19 - Rebecca Hollamon
- 19 - Charles Hollamon
- 19 - Anna Klein
- 19 - Raye Long
- 19 - Joseph Maslar
- 23 - Elisa Jillson Stanek
- 25 - Mary Conklin
- 26 - Harlow Manahan
- 28 - Kevin Wright
- 29 - Rusty Lamar
- 30 - Noah Doney
- 30 - Noel Doney
- 30 - Susan Lamar
- 31 - Dane Hall

## June

- 4 - Adam Burgess
- 5 - Hailey Potts
- 5 - Tyler Potts
- 5 - Don Simpson
- 6 - Delores Bowling
- 6 - Daniel Wallander
- 7 - Eileen Smith
- 8 - Maggie Fitzsimmons
- 10 - Evelyn O'Neill
- 11 - John Graves
- 11 - Elizabeth Kurban O'Neill
- 13 - John Cain
- 15 - Florence Ingram
- 16 - Kellie Baur
- 16 - Dusty Egbert
- 16 - Tricia Moeslein
- 16 - Liz Morrissey
- 21 - Trent Fiesler
- 21 - Rick Kurtinitis
- 22 - Jean Smith
- 24 - Bob Wilson
- 26 - Jerry Fiesler
- 28 - Claire Stanek
- 30 - Jacob Burgess

**Submit a joy or  
concern online:  
[www.dumc.net/prayer](http://www.dumc.net/prayer)**

*~HAPPY~  
Anniversary*

- 5/4 - Kaitlyn &\* Adam Burgess
- 5/23 - Ed & Lynda Hall
- 5/25 - Bruce & Deb Angevine
- 5/25 - Herb & Mary Wilson
  
- 6/2 - John & Barbara Cohen
- 6/9 - Dan & Barbara Colacicco
- 6/11 - Dan & Sarah Simpson
- 6/13 - Debby & Gene Wasson
- 6/14 - Lee & Pam Matousek
- 6/21 - Steve & Jessica Klein

### ***Proverbs 3:5-6***

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.*

**Davidsonville United Methodist Church**

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*\*Submission of material for the Lamplighter does not guarantee publication and is subject to editing.*

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