



OUR CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Oxon Hill United Methodist Church
mid July 2018 | Volume 1, Issue 1

FROM THE PASTOR... GREETINGS!

Time flies when we're having fun. Here we are beginning year four together. We have come a long way, celebrated many milestones and are on the brink of leaping into new territory. There's an old adage which says "Look before you leap" and beloved this is our season of looking. We will be looking at what we've done in the past; looking at what we are currently doing; and looking ahead to what we would like to do.

The world, our community and our neighborhood are changing. We want to be relevant and vital to the community which is more about "being" than "doing". We'll engage in focused conversations and hear from as many voices as are willing to share. This is deeply spiritual work because we are looking for God and how God is calling us to live as a body of faithful believers. So I pray when you are invited that you say yes, and come look with us!

BIBLE STUDIES

Pastor - July 24th, 31st - 6:30 pm Sanctuary

Pastor - July 19th, 26th - 11 am Social Hall

Ms. Sandy - Fridays 10-noon Room 303

No Pastor's Bible Studies in August!

Children's Art Ministry

Tuesday July 31, Aug 7, 14, 21, 28

Put on your creative hat and come give it a try!

The County Fair is waiting for YOUR art work!

Call Ms. Sandy to register 301-448-5327

GREAT TIME AT VBS!

At week's end, worship celebrated all the participants, kids and adults, and volunteers and some highlights of the week. "What Would Jesus Do" (WWJD) was our guide as we explored Bible stories and character traits that would help us follow in Christ's footsteps and accept one another as God accepts and loves each of us.

This year the classes were by age level: PreK/K, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Grades 6-8, and an adult class. Enrollment was pretty evenly split among all the classes with a total of 43 registered students. Each night began with dinner and closed with worship which featured a short drama.



It was a great opportunity for fun and fellowship and some really significant discussions. We were blessed with so many talented folks.

Thanks to everyone who came together to make it happen. Can I hear a rousing encore of "Father Abraham?"



Pictures (thanks to Russ Snyder): Top: Dinner time! From left: craft prayer bottles, teen recreation team, awesome drama group

If you haven't purchased and/or read *Canoeing the Mountain*...you still have time! We will discuss this book on September 9th at our Church Council meeting. The discussion will be open to all!

"Your giving statement from Oxon Hill UMC" arrived via email on July 13th from Realm software. It covered January - June and can be downloaded. Don't have it? Check your junk mail. Don't do email? Please request a paper copy!

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See us at:
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ON A MISSION OR TWO OR THREE OR ???!

Joyful Noise offering: What a wonderful sound of all those coins jingling around! Our sister church in Puerto Rico will receive \$312.80 (as of 7/16) for use in their summer camp program. Puerto Rico continues to be challenged with power supply and other issues following hurricane Maria last fall.

Pantry Food Collection: A large bin full of canned goods, cereal and other food items was delivered to Oxon Hill Pantry last week. Thanks for your contributions. Next collections will be July 29th and August 26. A gentle reminder that hunger does not take a summer vacation!

5th Sunday Mission offering: We are approaching a busy "mission" time of year - School Supply drive, holiday baskets and Warm Nights. We look forward to your support.

School Supply Drive: The sales have already begun! Scoop up a few supplies to donate or help by contributing \$\$s on the 5th Sunday - July 29th. The students thank you!

CLEANUP, CLEANUP, EVERYBODY CLEANUP!

"Clean Sweep" will be underway July 23-29th! Take on something big or small, at your own pace or with a friend/team. Signup sheets available Sun., July 22. We will be joined in the effort by the Seventh Day Adventist church as we spruce up our home. Fellowship time on Sunday July 29 to celebrate all the good efforts and a clean church!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - Tues., Aug. 7, 2018!

We encourage you to visit a site in your neighborhood and join the celebration!

THIS FALL!

Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 beginning/returning September 16th. **Worship** will return to the Sanctuary on September 2nd.

Church Council Meeting - Sun., September 9, 2018

Mini Flea Market - front parking lot - tentative 10/6

Pinwheels for Peace - spinning our thoughts and visions for peace out into the community. Multi opportunity to participate sometime around Peace Day September 21. More information to come.

Join a choir- Handbells 🎵 Thursdays 6 pm
- Sanctuary Choir (adult) Thursdays 7 pm

Intercessory prayer group will be led by Pastor Pat. More details to follow!

Thanks for taking the time to read "Our Church Family News!" We would like to know your thoughts on the effort. We would appreciate your taking a very short survey - [click here](#).

THE COMMISSION ON THE WAY FORWARD

On Sunday July 15, 2018 after service there was a viewing of part of the Annual Conference video presentation on the Commission on the Way Forward (CWF). Creation of CWF was facilitated by the Council of Bishops in response to the denomination's 2016 General Conference seeking "a way forward" after more than forty years of wrestling with the language in the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality. The restrictive language currently forbids the ordination of self avowed practicing homosexuals.

The video presenter was Rev. Tom Berlin, Pastor of Floris UMC and CWF member. We viewed the part of the video which explained the One Church Plan. You can search youtube.com for "Rev. Tom Berlin Annual Conference Presentation." You will want the 2018 version.

Following the video segment, we engaged in a time of questions. The second part of the video will be shown on Sunday August 19, 2018. There will also be a conference wide event around this subject on Saturday September 15, 2018 (more information forthcoming). Why should you care about this? Because if the One Church Plan is adopted by the denomination at the February 2019 special session of the General Conference, then we as a church will have to make a decision about how we as a congregation move forward as well.

I encourage you to download the video from YouTube; go to the bwcumc.org website and under resources select The Commission on the Way Forward for more information.

**August 18 - School of Congregational Life:
Designing Corporate Worship**

Livestream: Gethsemane UMC in Capitol Heights MD
11:30-4:30, \$29 (includes lunch). To register:

<http://www.onlineteachingevent.org/>



July 1st Lita McHugh

July 9th Larry Davis & Shirley Baker

July 15th Sean Bright & Gabriel Bisrat

July 17th Joanna Orallo

July 18th Cheryl Nageotte-Woods

July 22nd Nancy Legaspi

July 24th Vincent Johnson & Konjit Yirgashewa

July 30th Billie Ann Perry

July 31st Lois Sievers & Patty Schnirel

Aug 2nd Ivy Cobleigh, Dottie Snyder &
Christopher Townsend

Aug 3rd Josie Orallo

Aug 4th Marie Silver & Billy Bounds

Aug 7th Joyce Towner

Aug 8th Juanita Caldwell & Ebony Bounds

Aug 9th Olivia Schwartz & Nadra Dunbar

Aug 12th Bisrat Siyoum

Aug 13th Mary Berkley

Aug 14th John Scroggins

Aug 15th Macy West & Mary Clark

Aug 25th Sally Hoffman

Aug 27th Sharon Ferguson

Aug 28th Linda Martin

Aug 29th Annanuel Bisrat