



Friends,

One of the things I love about the new year is the opportunity to explore some interesting ideas in worship. I think we're doing that right now and in what's coming in the next several weeks. Right now, in "Hope Over Fear," we're looking at some of the most prominent fears of our day, things like the unknown, change, others, and failure, and discovering how God invites us into spaces of trust and faith that overcome even the deepest fears of this life. Later this month, we'll shift into a series called "This I Promise You" looking at our shared commitments in Christian community. We'll consider ideas like prayer, showing up, giving, serving, and witnessing as actions we each commit to on our own AND as a whole, believing that we can accomplish far more together than we can on our own.

I love this season in our church and am hoping that you will be plugged into worship in the coming weeks! This is a time to be flexible -- a lot is changing day by day -- but it's also a time to be engaged and hopeful for what God might be up to in our midst. I'm grateful to be your pastor and am looking forward to all that is coming in worship and in life together!

Blessings,

Contact Pastor Jonathan jonathan@herndonumc.org, or through the church office, 703-707-6271

Reflecting on Advent and Christmas

Emmanuel! God is with us! Flexibility became essential as we finished 2021 with a large spike in COVID transmissions and cases in our community. Through it all, God was and is with us, and our church family shared God's love in a number of inspiring ways.

A Community Coming Together

We saw our entire Herndon community come together for 44 neighbors displaced by fire just before Christmas. Our church family gave \$4,750 to support housing, clothing and feeding these families.

Helping Make Christmas Real for Others



Herndon UMC again hosted the **LINK Toy Distribution**, and the Herndon UMC family contributed gifts through our **Angel Tree**. (Thanks, youth, for helping with the angels!) This year's distribution stretched out over a month, with three distributions manned by caring volunteers handing out thousands of toys to area families in need.

Celebrating the Season through Music



What a joy to share special music opportunities with local students and musicians of all ages!

The **Madrigals Concert**, shown above, gave our community a very special opportunity to connect with some talented vocalists from Herndon High. The group not only shared their wonderful music, but shared a little about their joys, challenges and aspirations.

The **Christmas Orchestra** included twenty-five musicians and provided special music in worship on the Sunday before Christmas. If you missed it, you can go back and watch it on YouTube. Look for the [December 19 Worship](#).

Gifts of Love



Each December **Mary Martha Circle** creates fresh arrangements of Christmas greens. After two days filled with music, laughter, and fellowship; the greens are given away or sold. Gifts share God's love with church family and staff. All proceeds go to support missions and ministries. Thanks to all who helped this year!

The **Morning Glory Circle** meets monthly to prepare cards to be mailed to those in need of support. In December, they held an ornament exchange where members shared the special meanings of their selected ornaments.

The **Herndon UMC Preschool** held their annual Christmas sing-along outside to allow the families to share in the Christmas spirit while keeping the preschoolers safe.



HUMC KIDS wished everyone a Merry Christmas as they shared their annual **Christmas Pageant**. The KIDS had some help from the Ukulele group and youth in preparing the backdrops. Thanks to Tammy Lemmons and Lisa Olsen for volunteering time to help to direct these groups.

Blue Christmas



A special service was held on Monday, December 20 to offer hope and light. The service is still available on [YouTube](#).

Christmas Eve Worship

Each of the three Christmas Eve services was special in it's own way.



The 5 pm **Children and Family** service outside had worshipers chewing, mooing and cooing along with the “pop-up” pageant story. It was a beautiful night to worship outside.



The 9 pm **Traditional** service in Doe Fellowship Hall was full of music and Spirit. You can still go and catch this piece of Christmas magic on [YouTube](#).



The 11 pm **Relaxed** service in the Sanctuary offered a more intimate feel and was blessed with beautiful music led by Melissa Chavez and Shannon Wise.

Welcome, Scott and Melissa!



Herndon UMC is delighted to welcome two new staff members! **Scott Bach-Hansen** is joining us as the new Director of Congregational Care and Discipleship. **Dr. Melissa Chavez** joins us as the new Director of Worship and Music.

Learn more about Scott and Melissa through their video interviews available on YouTube.

- [See Scott's video](#)
- [See Melissa's video](#)

All are invited to “**Meet Melissa**” over Zoom on Monday 1/10 at 6 pm, Thursday 1/13 at 9 am, and Sunday 1/16 at 12:30 pm. Contact the office, office@herndonumc.org, for link information.

Reminder: (More info at herndonumc.org/hct.)

FOR HIGH COVID TRANSMISSION RATES

<p>PLEASE WEAR A MASK</p> <p>at all times, regardless of immunization status</p> 	<p>IN-PERSON INSIDE OR OUT</p> <p>maintain social distances</p> <p>observe length of gathering restrictions</p> <p>inside, observe room capacity limitations</p>
<p>DRINKING</p> <p>bring your own drink</p> <p>stay masked between drinks</p> 	<p>NO EATING IS ALLOWED</p> <p>inside the building</p> 

AT HERNDON UMC

Serving and Sharing God's Love

See all current needs and sign up at bit.ly/HerndonUMCNeeds

If you sign up online, you will receive a confirmation email (to make sure that it is not a bot signing up). Please follow the instructions in the email to confirm your sign up to complete it.

Or, sign up in the Herndon UMC App. Go to **Love > Sign up to serve!** Choose where you want to help!

If you don't like either of these options, look for the clipboards on the **Connection Corners** or call the office, 703-707-6271.

Upward Basketball Season

It was exciting to welcome 140 kids and their families to Herndon UMC in early December for Upward Evaluations! The energy was palpable and we are excited for the season coming up!

Check the website, herndonumc.org/upward, for key dates and updates for the season. The league is currently at capacity, but there is a waitlist for those who would like to be contacted if space becomes available.



This ministry offers many opportunities to serve and share God's love with area families. No basketball skill is required. If you are interested in helping, contact JoAnn Batteiger at upward@herndonumc.org.

Partnering to Feed People

While small groups from Herndon UMC have signed up to cover some of the **Hypothermia Dinners**. There will be at least one dinner per month (through February and March) looking for assistance. These dinners are offered in partnership with the North County Hypothermia Prevention Program.

Additionally, our food deliveries to **Afghan refugees** will continue at least through February. The sign up for February is already active. This mission is in partnership with other area United Methodist churches and the Western Fairfax Christian Ministries.

Winter Worship

In response to the very high transmission and infection rates of COVID in our area currently, we are making temporary changes to worship. For two weeks (01/09 and 01/16), we will be having **one 10 am worship service** with both traditional and modern elements in Doe Fellowship Hall. To minimize the aerosol concentrations, the service will be slightly shorter and the congregational singing will be focused towards the end of the service. This service will be live-streamed on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) to allow people to join in worship wherever and whenever they desire. The Herndon UMC staff is committed to providing options for worship and doing so in ways that help keep our community healthy. We hope transmission rates reduce in the coming weeks so that we can resume a regular worship schedule soon!

9:30 am Traditional & Live-streamed Worship*

11:00 am Modern Worship

5:00 pm Relaxed Traditional Worship

Help Wanted! There are many ways to help make worship happen for our church family. Right now, we especially need to grow our tech team to be able to expand our digital offerings to include both traditional and modern worship. If you are interested in joining the tech team, please contact office@herndonumc.org. No experience necessary.

Look for the * to indicates **digital/hybrid opportunities!**
Alternative modes of gathering (i.e. outdoors, expanded digital offerings) continue to be offered.

Winter Discipleship Opportunities



New! Real Talk*

New on Herndon UMC's YouTube channel, join Scott Bach-Hansen for "Real Talk." Each week on Wednesday, Scott will offer a 10-minute (on average) video sharing how God's love is real and active in our lives.

Ongoing Discipleship Opportunities for Adults include: Monday Morning Men*, Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study*, Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study*, and the Esther Women's Bible Study* (Wednesdays at 1 pm, all digital). To get connected contact the office, office@herndonumc.org or 703-707-6271.

Youth Group (grades 7-12) continues to meet on Sunday afternoons to gather in community, have fun, and learn about God. This winter the youth can look forward to a variety of other ways to connect through **Coffee & Convo** at Weird Brothers ([321 Sunset Park Dr, Herndon](https://www.facebook.com/weirdbrothers)), mission projects, and other fun activities!

KIDS CLUB (Preschool - grade 6) is flexing with the times to create choices for families looking to participate. The Children's Ministry Team's goal is to meet KIDS and families where they are, so they can get their hands-on Bible learning in a way they are comfortable with! Join the [HUMC KIDS Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/HUMCkids) to stay up on the latest shifts and to get all the links.

Java JAM is a time for KIDS and families to grab some complimentary hot chocolate or coffee, play games, and connect during the colder months! You're invited to swing by Ridgetop Coffee and Tea ([21631 Ridgetop Cir, Sterling](https://www.ridgetopcoffee.com)) Thursdays, 1/13 and 1/27, from 5-6:30 pm and enjoy the warm company with folks around the community!

Growing Spirit-filled Relationships

In addition to worship, serving, and discipleship growth, there are opportunities within the life of Herndon UMC to be connected with people, to grow in faith, and to discover God's love in the midst of us all.

Some of our musical groups are on a short hiatus. Look for information to come about new opportunities for kids, youth, and adults as Lent approaches.



Sing! Wesley Choir welcomes newcomers!

If you sing in the choir, to the radio, in the shower, or just like to hear others sing, come be a part of the Wesley Choir on Wednesdays at 7 pm. These Zoom rehearsals will combine opening activities (warm ups, games, etc) led by Melissa Chavez, and a vocal rehearsal led by Shannon Wise. The rehearsal will focus on the special anthem by Mark Patterson in memory of the Engdahls. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect for all who love music.

Monthly opportunities abound. Here are some more that are continuing:

- **Top of the Hill** retirees (1st Thursday)
Contact office@herndonumc.org.
- **United Methodist Men*** breakfast (1st Saturday at Virginia Kitchen or on Zoom) and other evening opportunities. Contact men@herndonumc.org for information.
- Four **United Methodist Women** (UMW) circles. Times, places, and missions vary by group. For information, contact women@herndonumc.org.

Have an interest that you like to share?

There are other groups for a number of interests--history, book clubs, knitting, crafts, and just being together. If you need help identifying opportunities fitting you at Herndon UMC, please ask a staff member or email welcome@herndonumc.org.

Mid-Year Financial Report

In 2021, Herndon UMC switched from a calendar fiscal year to a July-June fiscal year. This aligns better with programming offered by ministry areas, and allows us to make a mid-year assessment following November and December which historically have the highest income. So, where are we?

As of the end of 2021, there are some challenges ahead. Looking at the budget, expenses have slightly outpaced income (\$398K vs. \$395K in income). There are some big ticket maintenance issues on the horizon and we will refinance the mortgage this September. And with many of our older members retiring and moving away, we are also seeing a reduction in regular income.

There are also many reasons to celebrate. The mortgage principal is now less than \$1.5M. Funds are still available from the capital campaign to help address the big ticket maintenance issues and the church has some other funds in reserve. The Endowment fund is close to approaching \$200K. We have four months experience offering live-streamed worship and making hybrid gatherings available in our facility. And, the big thing to celebrate as we start 2022 is the generous and deeply faithful Herndon UMC church family.

More detail for this mid-year update will be provided with 2021 giving statements. If you ever have questions about Herndon UMC finances, please contact Julie Albanus, julie@herndonumc.org.

On Community Care

In the scripture entitled as “God’s most important command,” we are taught the importance of loving our neighbor. (If you are not familiar with it, read [Mark 12:28-31](#).) So, caring for our church family is a part of living the teachings of Jesus. For Scott Bach-Hansen, our new Director of Congregational Care and Discipleship, it is clearly part of the job description, but it’s not all on him. Yes, he will be offering care, but he is also a resource and mentor for our church family to care for one another and for our neighbors in need.

Effective Care Teams

After researching what other churches are doing. Scott has noted a few common themes:

1. Strong teams have leaders that are willing to create a structure that allows for success in providing help to those in need.
2. Team membership that spans throughout the community increases the team’s ability to learn who needs help and to find helpers.
3. A strong communication platform enables the team to share and meet the needs from their community.

Community Care Needs

To help you think through the ways people may become involved in care of our community, let’s break it into two categories:

- **Emergency** – an entirely unplanned, unexpected situation (e.g. an accident or a sudden death)
- **Support and Encouragement** – situations you can plan for (e.g. visiting shut-ins, providing financial help, counseling, weddings, prayer, or births.)

Herndon UMC Resources

The following ministries and missions provide care for the Herndon UMC community:

- Prayer Chain (Send prayers to prayerchain@herndonumc.org; Sign-up for prayer emails, bit.ly/HerndonEmails)
- Morning Glory Circle’s card ministry. (Want info? women@herndonumc.org)
- Yarn & Thread prayer shawl ministry (Want info? office@herndonumc.org)

Other Common Care Areas

- Providing meals or transportation
- Reaching out to check in with members by a call or email
- Other labor and errands (i.e. cut grass, shovel walks, get medications)
- Wedding & funeral support (i.e. usher, manage traffic, provide meals, etc...)

Team Members Wanted

Scott is already at work on strengthening our care ministries at Herndon UMC. That gives us a leader to provide the structure and resources for success in this aspect of sharing God’s love in community. Herndon UMC also has a strong communication platform that works with our church app to support the effort.

What the new **Community Care Team** at Herndon UMC needs is representatives from across our Herndon UMC small groups, ministries, and missions. The team needs members with a heart for this type of service. If you are interested in joining our **Community Care Team** please email Scott at scott@herndonumc.org and please let Scott know if there is one or more areas that you feel especially called to join or lead.

2022 Church Leadership

While we continue to face unpredictable challenges, we have also been blessed by very positive changes. Through collaboration between the staff and community members, we have shown amazing resilience and are prepared for even greater discipleship in the year ahead.

Part of the preparation for 2022 has been an adjustment to our church leadership structure. At this point, it is a work-in-progress and will continue to evolve over the next six months, but those on the 2021 Church Council believe it offers a promise of new opportunities to spread God's love throughout the greater Herndon community.

The new structure will provide a wealth of opportunities for service action teams to expand the impact of our church. Decentralized outreach and service will allow us to touch people where they are. To enable those ministries and support the action teams, we will have three focused groups:

- a team focused on collaboration between all **Mission and Ministry** areas, continuing our legacy of service and discipleship while initiating opportunities for integration and new pursuits in the community;
- a team of **Trustees** who will continue to serve our church as they have in the past, managing our facilities as well as our legal obligations; and
- a smaller, more efficient and effective council, a **Leadership Team**, that will bring together a wide range of perspectives including Trustees, Missions and Ministries, and other church leadership. Collectively, this team will address the management of church resources and will serve as the Finance and SPR Committees.

At this time, membership of the Leadership Team will include: Team Chair, Lay Leader, Trustees lead, Strategic Planning lead, Finance lead, Church Treasurer, Staff Parish Relations lead, Representative to Virginia Conference, Senior Pastor, Director of Business and Communications, and a representative of the community we serve.

This new organizational alignment is launching now and all involved in leadership will continue to assess the benefits and challenges through the budget development process in late spring. Major decisions, including continuation of this structure, will continue to reside with the church membership through the Charge Conference.

Thank You, Leaders!

To all who have served in church leadership in 2021, thank you for blessing our church family with your service. Please take a moment to say thank you to these heroes stepping back from leadership: Melissa Billman (Trustee Co-chair), Karen Craley (Trustee), Barry Clendenin (SPR), Brianna Hitchcock (SPR), Cara Meilus (SPR), Scott Pafumi (SPR), Jim Henderson (Finance), Jeanne Leonard (UMW), Nina Orsini (UMW), and Cathy Foster (UMW). Look for more to come on the 2022 church leadership!

In Pursuit of Our Vision

The vision of Herndon UMC is **to live the teachings of Jesus so that everyone may know God's love and grow in Spirit-filled relationships.**

It's a new year with a focused leadership structure that includes representation supporting the three pursuits that help us work towards our vision– *Intergenerational Ministry, Resilience Education, and Music Outreach.*

We hope to see these pursuits take off over the coming months. They are already a part of who we are, just look back over these pages. Upward brings the mentoring that supports resilience. Community music has been highlighted over Christmas and Advent. Intergenerational ministry opportunities are growing. There is more to come. Contact spt@herndonumc.org to get more involved.

Winter Weather Policy

Herndon UMC wants everyone to be safe if weather conditions make travel questionable.

Check the [website](#) or call the church office, 703-707-6271, to determine whether the church building is open or closed.

Determinations are based on the weather and the condition of the church parking lot and sidewalks.



There are many ways to know what's going on. Visit herndonumc.org, or check the **Herndon UMC app**. Follow or subscribe on social media. (To get it, text "herndonumc app" to (833)-841-6111.)

Herndon UMC's Staff

Pastor

Jonathan Page jonathan@herndonumc.org

Congregational Care & Discipleship

Scott Bach-Hansen scott@herndonumc.org

Student Ministry & Upward

JoAnn Batteiger joann@herndonumc.org

Children's Ministry

Mallory Hopper mallory@herndonumc.org

Preschool

Anna Schlegel herndonumcpreschool@gmail.com

Worship & Music

Melissa Chavez melissa@herndonumc.org

Traditional Music

Shannon Wise shannon@herndonumc.org

Children's Music

Margaret Tobat margaret@herndonumc.org

Organist

Luis Gonzalez luis@herndonumc.org

Business & Communications

Julie Albanus julie@herndonumc.org

Office Manager

Jen Score office@herndonumc.org



701 Bennett Street
Herndon, VA 20170
(703) 707-6271