



Friends,

As we journey to and beyond Easter, I am excited for all that God is doing in and through the Herndon UMC community. A couple of weeks ago, on back to back days I was able to sit with two great leaders from our community: Dr. Liz Noto, Principal of Herndon High School and Del. Irene Shin, Delegate for the 86th District of Virginia. With Dr. Noto, I was able to share information about our strategic pursuits related to intergenerational ministry, resilience education, and music outreach. With Del. Shin, I was able to share about the missional drive of our community to ensure that God's love is for everyone.

What I took away from these conversations is that **the mission of Herndon UMC matters beyond the walls of our church**. The partnership we have with Herndon High School is an impactful one that is already changing lives of people in our church alongside the students, faculty, and staff of the school. But this has the capacity to grow exponentially in the coming weeks and months! As we are open to investing our resources in that partnership, I believe God will be growing opportunities to be a beacon of light for those who most desperately need it in that space.

But the good news of God's love isn't limited only to that important relational space. I think in the coming weeks and months we will continue to have the chance to be a presence in the greater Herndon community, offering equity and support for those closest to the margins while also discovering that we have the capacity to change and be changed.

As Easter people, we proclaim the goodness of God's life that is present in our lives in tangible and intangible ways. Often on or around Easter, we sing the hymn "He Lives". In that hymn, there is this loving refrain that gets repeated throughout the verses: "You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart."

God's love lives in your hearts my friends. May we live into God's call to share that loving heart in our every encounter and every word this Easter season!

Blessings,

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

Reflections

Lent and Holy Week

In our Lenten series, [God and the Good Life](#), we explored how God has created people to live well, even in the greatest spaces of challenge this creation has to offer. Lenten worship was filled with inspiring messages and music. There were additional devotions from outside voices in the [Psalms that Jesus Said](#), to help us learn to live the teachings of Jesus. And Holy Week itself offered a number of different opportunities to experience the drama of Jesus' journey to the cross—Palm Sunday worship, the Way of the Cross walkthrough devotional, [Good Friday Tenebrae Service](#)*, a new Easter Vigil service, and of course Easter itself.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



Thank you to our United Methodist Women for organizing the Flower Cross this year.

Upward Basketball | 2022 Season

Upward basketball was a big part of our Lenten season. What a fun and exciting way to connect 140 kids and their families, 28 coaches and referees, and numerous other volunteers! It really does take a village to make this ministry thrive, and it has been a huge blessing to see all of the contributions of so

many folks from across our ministries helping to make this a wonderful season!



Upward is not just about playing basketball, it's also about learning how to be a good sport and play on a team for our players. It's about equipping and empowering our students and adults to have leadership opportunities like coaching teams and refereeing games. It's about providing a failure-friendly space where everyone can grow their skills and learn from each other.

As we look ahead to next season, it is exciting to realize just how well Upward can help us live into our two of our three strategic pursuits of intergenerational ministry and resilience education, and how our whole church community can play a role in helping Upward be successful! Registration for the 2023 season will open on October 1, and we look forward to welcoming even more families!

Hypothermia Dinners

March marked the end of the Hypothermia Dinner season. With your help, the North County Hypothermia Prevention Program provided over 3,000 hot, healthy meals to over 150 individuals who spent nights in the hypothermia room throughout the season. Herndon has already signed up for nine dinners for the next season, which starts in December.

Building Relationships with Herndon High



On February 28, a teacher workday, Herndon UMC provided a delicious breakfast of coffee, bagels and pastries, and a variety of fruits for the staff and teachers at Herndon High School. Thank you to all the individuals and groups that helped out: the Mary Martha Circle, United Methodist Men, Jim and Marcia Henderson. This is a great way to lift up some of our neighbors and build meaningful relationships with the high school faculty and staff.

As noted in Pastor Jonathan's letter, we are excited about the new energy in our partnership and how that will help us pursue our vision.

Journey with Jesus

On March 19, the Herndon United Methodist Women (UMW) held a one day spring retreat "Journey with Jesus" via Zoom led by Rev. Robin BeMiller. The 34 attendees included women from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the Arlington/Alexandria District UMW officers. In keeping with the UMW focus on mission, the attendees also made a donation of more than \$500 to LINK Against Hunger to help provide highly needed items.

Behind the Sermon

Scott Bach-Hansen and Jonathan Page introduced a new weekly podcast in March.

Listen in each week to learn more about how the sermon was made and why the particular topic was selected. You may also learn about other aspects of the scripture or stories included that were left on the cutting room floor. New episodes post each Monday, and can be found on [SoundCloud](#), Spotify, and in the Herndon UMC app.

United Women in Faith Rebranding

United Methodist Women has a new name, United Women in Faith, a new website (<https://uwfaith.org/>), and so much more. The new motto is "Faith, Action, Sisterhood", and the mission statement is:

"United Women in faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities".



The new logo features "a Christian cross in muted yellow, blue, orange, and green to reflect our forward-looking faith and the diversity of the organization and God's world."

2022 will be a year of change for UWinFaith as we grow into this new identity, but one thing has not changed—the UWinFaith are still focused on serving women, youth and children throughout the world! Interested in learning more? Contact Debbie at women@herndonumc.org.

Confirmation Learning Community

This year's Confirmation Learning Community has been busy learning a lot! The confirmation students—Corbett Howell, Kaylien Cooper, Maggie Growney, Owen Smith, Colby Smith, and Madeline Hunt—along with their mentors—Scott Bach-Hansen, Melissa Chavez, Brianna Hitchcock, Larry Greenfield, and Andrew Bowers—have been journeying together since March to learn about the life of faith, the history, structure, and beliefs of the United Methodist Church, and to think through what it means to be confirmed and an active member of this faith community. This community is looking forward to time away in May on the Confirmation Retreat, and to Pentecost Sunday (June 5), when our students will be confirmed!

LINK Expansion

Another partnership with exciting opportunities for growth is [LINK Against Hunger](#). Herndon UMC supports LINK 24/7 in many ways, to include hosting the LINK pantry on site.



You may be aware that LINK has seen a significant increase in demand for its services since March 2020. There is a need to expand the pantry space to better serve the community. Fortunately, there is an additional about 300 square foot space in the building

that has been used for other storage. To support the expansion, LINK will help Herndon UMC improve our storage shed to allow us to free up the building storage space for LINK. In the coming weeks you may see PODS and work going on by the shed and LINK building which is important to helping LINK make the necessary expansion.

This will mean that Herndon UMC ministries using the shed and Boy Scout Troop 157 are losing storage space, so it is extra important that we all work together to clear out no longer needed items to make sure the shed is able to support the needed storage. The current plan is for Troop 157 to have half of the shed and part of the attached lean to, and for the church to use the remaining space for items needing storage.

Serving and Sharing God's Love

After Easter, the Herndon UMC family will take a week to focus on missional opportunities.

Rise Against Hunger

On the Saturday after Easter (April 23), Herndon UMC is hosting a **Rise Against Hunger** event with our partner, Herndon High School. The entire community is invited to participate in this global mission opportunity. All ages and abilities are able to help measure, pack, and label meals that will feed the hungry overseas. Our goal is to pack over 20,000 meals and we need over 100 volunteers. Please invite all your friends and neighbors to help fight global hunger. Learn more at herndonumc.org/rise-against-hunger.

Sign up to help at events.riseagainsthunger.org/herndonumc.

#HerndonServes Week

- Apr 23 **Rise Against Hunger
at Herndon High School**
- Apr 24 **Worship Without Walls**
W&OD Water Station, Prayer Walk,
Harbor House Helping Hands,
Backpack Foods for DES,
Feed First Responders, and more
- Apr 25 **LINK/The Closet**
- Apr 26 **LINK/The Closet**
- Apr 27 **Herndon Senior Center Music
LINK/The Closet**
- Apr 28 **LINK/The Closet**
- Apr 29 **Herndon UMC Preschool
LINK/The Closet**
- Apr 30 **National Rebuilding Day (NRD)**

Details at herndonumc.org/herndonserves
Sign up at bit.ly/HerndonUMCNeeds

Backpack Foods for Dranesville ES

Backpack foods provide meals over the weekend for kids on free and reduced lunches. Donations are being accepted of foods, drinks, and snacks for the bags, please see the specified list and sign up. There will also be an opportunity to pack the bags at the 5pm Worship Without Walls.

LINK and The Closet

Our partners [LINK Against Hunger](#) and [The Closet of Greater Herndon](#) have opportunities to serve year round. For this week, we direct you to unfilled needs in their regular sign ups. LINK needs help with deliveries, in the pantry, and with the Wawa Harvest program. The Closet needs help processing the donations and running the store.

National Rebuilding Day

On April 30, volunteers 14 and up are invited to come do work on a house in Reston needing repairs. Each year we partner with Rebuilding Together to provide a neighbor in need with a variety of critical, safe and healthy home repairs. These repairs are provided at zero cost to the residents, who are often faced with diminishing resources and must choose food and medicine over critical home repairs.

100 Health Kits for UMCOR

Another annual mission of our Herndon UMC family, Naomi Ruth Circle (of UWinFaith) has set a goal to make 100 [health care kits](#) to be distributed to those in crisis through [United Methodist Council on Relief \(UMCOR\)](#). There will be opportunities to make donations in late April/early May. For more information contact Jennifer at umwbookclub@herndonumc.org

Herndon Harbor House Helping Hands

This new opportunity has long-term possibilities for extending help to the residents at Herndon Harbor House (a senior living community). They are signing up for help with everyday tasks and if you are fully immunized, and willing to wear a mask and help them out after worship on Sunday, April 24.

Rise Up! Music Concert
Saturday, May 7 at 7 pm



The Herndon UMC Music Ministry invites our entire community to a special celebration of the power of music to bring hope and healing, and the joyful return to in-person musical performance at Herndon UMC.

A wide variety of musical numbers will be offered, including Gwyneth Walker's "How Can I Keep From Singing" and the world premiere of an anthem called "Song of Assurance" by composer Mark Patterson. This original work was commissioned for the Wesley Choir in 2021 by Martha Shemkin, the daughter of two beloved Herndon UMC choir members, Roger and Janet Engdahl, who passed away in the summer and fall of 2020. It has been a great blessing to work with both Martha and Mark in finding a musical way to express the love felt for Roger and Jan, and to finally be able to share this beautiful work with others. The song's dedication states:

This work is dedicated in loving memory of Roger and Janet Engdahl, whose faithful witness and service were a shining light to all whose lives they touched, and to all of the loved ones lost during the Covid pandemic.

In the tradition of the Spring Mission Concert, donations made at the concert will benefit the Northern VA chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). NAMI partners with schools, faith and community organizations to reach more than 9,000 Northern Virginians each year, offering youth and families mental health education, advocacy and support at no cost to participants.

Martha Shemkin has graciously offered to sponsor a reception following the concert in Roger and Jan's honor, and some of Jan's original paintings will be featured in a silent auction that will also benefit NAMI.

A note from the director:

After two years of not being able to have concerts at the church, it is a wonderful feeling to once again have a spring mission concert on the calendar!

It is amazing to work with our talented Wesley Choir members while also inviting others in our community to sing and offer music, all for the benefit of such a worthy cause.

Please share an invitation to the concert with your friends and family, and help spread the word about this joyful event! It will be a wonderful way to join music and mission together as we share the love of Christ with our community.

Peace,

Shannon

See open opportunities to serve others at bit.ly/HerndonUMCNeeds
 If online, follow the instructions on the confirmation email to complete your sign up.

Or, sign up in the Herndon UMC App.
Go to Love > Sign up to serve!

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

Herndon UMC Scholarships

Information about applications for the Herndon UMC scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year will be coming soon! Be sure to keep an eye on your email, the Tuesday e-News, and the Herndon UMC Facebook page for more details!

Summer Preview



Vacation Bible School and Youth Summer Missions

Vacation Bible School is looking for both youth and adult volunteers. If you would like to help with the Knights of North Castle, please contact Mallory, mallory@herndonumc.org.

For youth, alongside a fun week of helping with Vacation Bible School, in the afternoons of July 11-15, we are looking at various opportunities

to be in service to the local Herndon community, as well as some fun on the Shenandoah river. Things are still taking shape for this week and for the summer as a whole, so be on the lookout for more information coming at the end of April/early May!

Summer Musical Camp

Also this summer, July 18-22, Herndon's Music Ministry will be offering a musical camp. Look for more information to be coming soon, and if you are interested in getting involved please contact Melissa, melissa@herndonumc.org.

Spring Worship

When young people are in their middle and high school years, they go through something we call Confirmation. Other traditions might call it catechism or some other form of discipleship or intentional learning, but the point of this experience is to teach young people about some of the core principles of Christianity. We trust that, throughout life, people are on a discipleship journey that builds on the foundations of Confirmation. And while that may be the case, it is infrequent that we revisit those foundational pieces as a set apart consideration in worship. This Easter season, you are invited to join us for a "Confirmation for Everyone" sermon series that we hope will give us all a lens to reconnect with the lessons of Confirmation, believing that we might continue our journey of faith together.

Worship with Herndon UMC:

- 10:00 am Live-streamed Worship***
- 5:00 pm Evening Worship**

Help Wanted! There are many ways to help make worship happen for our church family. Contact a staff member to figure out how you might be able to help.

Look for the * to indicates
digital/hybrid opportunities!

Alternative modes of gathering (i.e. outdoors, expanded digital offerings) continue to be offered.

Youth Group (grades 7-12) continues to meet on Sunday afternoons to gather in community, have fun, and learn about God. **Coffee & Convo** returns May 10 from 4-6pm at Weird Brothers (Sunset Park). For more information, contact JoAnn at joann@herndonumc.org.

KIDS CLUB (Preschool - grade 6) is meeting during the 10 am worship service. Kids leave worship following the children's message for a Bible lesson just for them.

Popsicles in the Parking Lot

Popsicles return for the spring and summer! Starting on April 21, every other Thursday from 5-6:30pm, everyone is invited to enjoy a frozen treat, or play with sidewalk chalk, bubbles, or on the playground! Join the [HUMC KIDS Facebook group](#) to keep up on the schedule.

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). To get connected contact the office, office@herndonumc.org or 703-707-6271.

Growing Spirit-filled Relationships

Are you looking to connect in a small group or community? If you can't find what you are looking for here, please talk to a staff member.

What is a Deaconess?

Herndon women are invited to find out what a Deaconess in the United Methodist Church is. Herndon UWinFaith is sponsoring an in person and zoom event on Saturday, June 4 at 9am. Three Deaconesses of the UMC will talk about their jobs and calling. Look for more information coming soon to herndonumc.org, or join the [HerndonUMC Women Facebook group](#) to learn more about this and other events and activities.

Ukulele Group for All Ages

The ukulele group is now open to all ages. If you are interested in learning to play the ukulele or want to be a part of the group, please contact Margaret Tobat, margaret@herndonumc.org.

Ring for the Season

The handbell ensemble is now practicing on Wednesdays. This is a multi-level group. If you are interested in trying ringing, contact Shannon Wise, shannon@herndonumc.org.

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 Women of Faith** (UWinFaith) circles. Times, places, and missions vary by group. Interested in finding a group or creating one, 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.

Learn more about Herndon UMC's groups in the Herndon UMC app.

In the app, click **Grow >> Open/Public Herndon UMC Groups >> View the list.**

To get the app text "herndonumc app" to **(833)-841-6111.**

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.**

Reread Jonathan's letter or the reflections on Upward basketball or even the Rise Up! Concert information and you can see how our pursuits are valuable to our community and already on the move. There is more to come. Contact spt@herndonumc.org to get more information or get more involved.



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.)

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