



SUMMER at HERNDON UMC

Friends,

One of my great joys in ministry, recently, has been living into our new governance structure alongside our church leaders. In the Fall, we formed a Resource Management Team, Missions + Ministries Team, and Trustees Team. These lead teams are supported by Action Teams around specific objectives. This new structure frees people up for more ministry. Our community agreed to pilot this for six months, discern and evaluate, and proceed at the direction of the Holy Spirit.

The recent June charge conference affirmed that we need another six months to evaluate this leadership structure. We celebrated some of the “wins” this structure has presented in creating more nimble, collaborative teams for appropriately paced decision making and allowing for an increase in opportunities for involvement in the life of the church, while also recognizing that having fewer individuals in leadership increases the impetus for communications in the life of the church. Ultimately, we can only move at the speed of trust, and ensuring our community is well-informed and well-able to have input is a key element of our future success.

I have to tell you that making a move like this, especially given the wide array of changes we’re experiencing, is a bold and audacious step for our church family. But it’s one I celebrate, in large part because of what I’ve been learning in my doctoral studies around organizational change and leadership. One of the principal maxims of this program has been **to ensure that the organization you lead is structured for who you are becoming more than who you have been**. In other words, the more we can be vision casters, able to discern appropriately God’s call upon our personal and communal lives, and then deploy that vision into actionable spaces inside and outside our four walls at 701 Bennett Street, the more likely it is that we live into a healthy and thriving future.

This is challenging because the future is unknown! We can predict what may happen, but we can’t know it. One of the temptations in that unknowing space is to go back where we’ve come from. This, however, bears with it even more challenges than we can imagine. Because even if we could recreate everything as it was then, the world we live in now is different. Instead, my sense is that it is healthy to determine what lessons and ideas from our former spaces are worth carrying into the future, and then to step forward with confidence.

I love the way Corrie ten Boom would think about this scary, frustrating, impossibly beautiful idea of moving forward. She would say, **“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”** My hope and my prayer for our church is that as we move into these summer months, we do so as a people of trust. Trusting in God to provide direction. Trusting in God to cover our every need. Trusting in God to see what is to come and to guide us along the path of life.

I can’t wait to see where the journey leads next!



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

Reflections on Herndon Serves Week

After Easter, our community engaged in a week of service highlighting our mission to serve and share God’s love. It all started with a global mission to feed those in need.

Rise Against Hunger



On April 23, Herndon UMC and Herndon High School collaborated for a Rise Against Hunger event at Herndon High School. It was a joy to see so many members of our church family and so many members of our community working together to measure, pack, and label meals that will feed the hungry overseas.

Rise Against Hunger says “it all starts with a meal” because these meals open doors for them to build relationships and offer other needed resources and education. Learn more about Rise Against Hunger at riseagainsthunger.org.

Herndon surpassed 25,000 meals before the end of the second shift with our Herndon UMC family covering the full cost of the meals (about \$10,000) and the additional community donations going to support Rise Against Hunger in-country programs, like those that support the refugees from Ukraine.



We look forward to partnering in this service opportunity again next year.

Worship Without Walls

On April 24, we changed up worship and spent much of that time out in the community serving. With a very brief worshipful blessing, folks were told to “Go! Go and serve!” A variety of opportunities were offered in the morning—baking cookies and making cards for local firefighters and police, cleaning out the shed to support the LINK expansion, helping Harbor House residents with odd tasks, offering water along the W&OD trail, or taking a prayer walk to pray for our community and neighbors. The evening service focused on backpack foods for Dranesville Elementary School. Between the Youth Group and worship group packings, over 100 packs of weekend food were prepared for delivery later.



The prayer podcast by Pastor Scott, [Ways to Pray](#), is still available on SoundCloud, if you would like some coaching on ways to pray for our community.



It was a Spirit-filled Sunday! Look for Worship Without Walls and Herndon Harbor House Helping Hands to return in the future.

Herndon Serves Week

The week continued with more opportunities to grow relationships in our community. We highlighted needs with our regular partners—LINK and the Closet of Greater Herndon. LINK and The Closet need volunteers year round.

On Wednesday of Herndon Serves week, the Wesley Choir took a break from Rise Up! Concert rehearsals to sing along with the residents of Herndon Harbor House.

LINK and the Closet need volunteers all year long. Learn more about Herndon UMC's involvement with LINK and the Closet at herndonumc.org/link and herndonumc.org/the-closet.

Go straight to their sign ups for [The Closet](#) and [LINK](#) on their respective Sign Up Genius pages to volunteer.

National Rebuilding Day



The week finished with National Rebuilding Day. Our volunteers were delighted to be back doing hands on mission work as they repaired a house in Reston. These repairs were provided at zero cost to the residents. Thanks to all who contributed to a great day sharing God's love with our neighbor.

More Reflections from Spring

LINK Expansion Continues



LINK needs to expand the pantry space to better serve the needs of our community, and there is about 300 more square feet in the building that was being used for storage. What started with "Worship Without Walls" continues as LINK helped Herndon UMC improve our storage shed to allow us to free up the building storage space for LINK. Herndon UMC and Troop 157 have now begun using the improved

shed for storage. This picture shows Herndon UMC's half of the shed.



LINK is now working to remodel the pantry space. You may continue to see PODS and work going on by the LINK building as the work continues.

Rise Up! Music Concert



Saturday, May 7 was a night to remember. It was the first live mission concert performance held at Herndon UMC in over 2 years. It offered the world premiere of Mark Patterson's anthem, "Song of Assurance", commissioned by Martha Shimkin and her family in honor of Roger and Jan Engdahl. The song was performed by singers and instrumentalists from the Wesley Choir and the greater Reston/Herndon community. ([Watch the song performance from the concert on YouTube.](#)) Finally, it was a memorable evening filled with beautiful artwork painted by Jan, beautiful and inspiring

music performed by musicians of all ages, and thanks to the incredible generosity of everyone in the audience, it helped raise close to \$3,500 to support the Northern VA chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). This organization provides free mental health resources to families and individuals across Northern VA. For more information on NAMI's mission and outreach, you can learn more here: www.nami-northernvirginia.org/about-us.html

Here are some words of thanks from NAMI:

Dear performers,

On behalf of NAMI Northern Virginia, we want to thank you for volunteering your time and talent in support of our work.

We know that about 1 in 5 individuals live with a mental health condition, but many more are impacted. NAMI Northern Virginia provides essential peer support to individuals living with mental health conditions, as well as family members and friends of those living with mental health conditions. Donations from community members allow us to continue to offer education, support, and advocacy to people across Northern Virginia at no cost to program participants.

Your support allows us to reach even more people as the need for mental health support continues to grow in our community. Thank you for helping us continue to do our important work!

– From Megan Souza, Program Coordinator, NAMI Northern Virginia

My name is Rebecca Kiessling and I am the new executive director of NAMI Northern Virginia. Megan Souza just told me that your benefit concert at Herndon UMC on Saturday night raised over \$3000!! On behalf of everyone here at NAMI Northern Virginia and the people with mental health concerns we support - THANK YOU! This is an incredible amount and we are so appreciative of the generosity of your community.

– Rebecca Kiessling, Executive Director,
NAMI Northern Virginia:

It is a special thing indeed when the work of the church is able to extend beyond our church walls and help bring help and healing to the greater community. Through this special night to remember, we were able to live out our mission in a musical way- bringing people together as instruments of God’s peace.

Spring Prayer Event*

On June 4, almost 50 people participated in Herndon United Women in Faith’s Spring Event. The hybrid Zoom presentation allowed some to gather in the sanctuary and others to join online. Three Deaconesses from up and down the East coast offered their amazing stories of faith and mission.

[* means the event was available digitally]

101 Health Kits!

Naomi Ruth Circle (of UWinFaith) made the [health care kits](#) to be distributed to those in crisis through [United Methodist Committee on Relief \(UMCOR\)](#). Over \$450 was donated to cover the cost of materials and other costs.

Happy Birthday, Church!

For Pentecost Sunday, June 5, we celebrated! We celebrated the birth of the church. We celebrated the confirmation of six amazing youth as members. We celebrated our graduates. And we celebrated a few members who

Confirmands



We had the joy of welcoming our six confirmands into membership at Herndon UMC! Kaylien Cooper, Madeline Hunt, Maggie Growney, Corbett Howell, Colby Smith, and Owen Smith and their mentors, Brianna Hitchcock, Andrew Bowers, Larry Greenfield, Scott Bach-Hansen, and Melissa Chavez spent four months journeying together, exploring the basics of what it means to be United Methodist and to live a life grounded in faith.



A culminating moment was the confirmation retreat in May. Lovingly called “The Big Church Sleepover”, our students and mentors had the opportunity to come together with some team builders, delve into spiritual disciplines, and gather around the fire pit at the home of Meghan and Scott Pafumi on Friday night.

On Saturday, after staying up very, very late playing the traditional lock-in game “Murder in the Church”, the group spent the morning learning about the Sacraments, and then traveled to Washington, D.C. to explore the National Museum of African American History and Culture. During the time at the museum and at dinner afterwards, the group reflected on the experience and the ways in which Christians as both individuals and a group chose to live out their faith in ways that contributed to ongoing oppression or supported liberation, and what that means for us now as people of faith in 2022. The retreat ended back at Herndon UMC in worship, reflecting on all that we had learned and experienced. It was a fun and full 30 hours. It was a fun and full three months of learning, growing, and exploring. We are excited for next year!



A creed written by the confirmands was shared in worship on Pentecost. You can read their creed on [YouTube](#). The video is titled “[We Believe.](#)”

Graduates



A few recent high school graduates—Aubrey Werner and Jason Albanus—came out to the potluck and were recognized. Herndon UMC wishes all our graduates the best in their future endeavors!

Herndon UMC Scholarships 2022

Whether you are a recent high school graduate or an adult furthering your education, Herndon UMC would like to offer some support in the form of a scholarship to your school. The application form is now live, and can be found using this link:

bit.ly/HerndonScholarships2022

A PDF of your transcripts and an interview with the scholarship committee are required.

Applications are due by **Friday, July 15.**

The scholarship committee will schedule interviews once all materials are submitted.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to JoAnn Batteiger at

joann@herndonumc.org or
scholarship@herndonumc.org.

Mission Pins



Every year, the Herndon women recognize a few from our church family who have made significant contributions in serving and sharing God's love. Since 1969 they have recognized over 104 church members.

It is tradition that the nominated and selected honorees remain a secret until the pins are presented. This year four folks were recognized—Fred Kibler, Chris Miller, Shannon Wise and Ken Sullivan. Three were presented at the potluck and Ken, who was unable to attend the potluck, received his pin later.



End of the School Year

With the end of the school year, many Herndon UMC groups take a hiatus for the summer. Thank you to all our musicians, vocalists, group leaders, and volunteers for a great year! It is great to take some time to recharge and we hope that everyone will be ready to jump back in starting in mid-to-late August!

Summer in the Sandbox

Worship takes a fun twist this summer for everyone. The Bible is a gift that is many things to many people. To some it is something of a textbook, to others it is something of a collection of lessons or instructions. But what if we saw Scripture as a playground? A space for exploration and discovery? This Summer, we'll be looking at some of the most fascinating stories in Scripture to understand more of their background, characterization, and impact on our lives. In doing this, we'll be treating the text like a sandbox, a place where we might play, explore, and discover more about who we are meant to be.

Sundays, June 12 - August 14, 2022:

8:00 am Outside Worship

10:00 am Inside, Live-streamed Worship*

5:00 pm Sandbox Space

Summer Camps



Vacation Bible School

From July 11-15 (9 am to Noon), Herndon UMC bids ye welcome to North Castle, where kids are armoring up in their faith!

Knights from age 3-Grade 4 will be engaging with all of the vacation Bible school classics—relevant Bible stories, games of valor, great works of art and scientific wonder, and festive music! Sign up your knight today by going to [bit.ly/VBS-2022!](https://bit.ly/VBS-2022)

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.

Camp Herndon

All youth (rising 7-12th graders) are invited to Camp Herndon in the afternoons during the week of July 11! Yes, you read that right— come help volunteer with VBS in the morning, and join us for an afternoon of fun, service, and shenanigans! On Monday we'll do some team building with a Messy Olympics; Tuesday we'll go hang with the residents of Herndon Harbor House; Wednesday, we'll learn more about the town of Herndon with an Amazing Race; Thursday, we'll make a meal and head into DC to learn more about Project Transformation, an organization that helps underserved children with their literacy and social-emotional skills and have dinner with their interns; and then on Friday, we'll wrap things up with tubing on the Shenandoah River! Camp Herndon will kick off at 12:30pm with lunch being provided, and will wrap up around 5pm, with the exception of Thursday and Friday. So, come volunteer with VBS in the morning, then hang around for some fun and service in the afternoon! Sign up using this link: bit.ly/CampHerndon2022. Email JoAnn if you have any questions at joann@herndonumc.org.



Godspell Jr. – Summer Musical Theater Camp

Registration is now open for this terrific, musical opportunity for those 8-18. They will get to work with an all-star (and tremendously talented) production team— Melissa Chavez, Mallory Hopper, JoAnn Batteiger, and Margaret Tobat—to present Godspell Jr. at the end of the week. If you have a child, friend or neighbor who loves to sing, dance, or be artistic, please invite them to sign up. They can learn more and register at herndonumc.org/godspelljr. Need based scholarships are available. If you have questions, please contact Melissa, melissa@herndonumc.org.

Other Opportunities to Serve

Serving opportunities continue into the Summer. Volunteer at one of the summer camps, in worship, for Afghan Refugee Food, or with one of our partners like LINK or the Closet.

See all 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!

Or, look for the clipboards on the Connection Corners or call the office, **703-707-6271**.

Discipleship Corner

Summer Reading Lists

As we approach the end of the school year and prepare for our Summer Vacations and plans many of us are putting together our Summer Reading Lists! So, as you think about your own list or as you are looking for ideas, take a look at what the staff here at Herndon UMC has on our lists! Have a great summer!

Scott Bach-Hansen

No Cure For Being Human, Kate Bowler
Being Mortal, Atul Gawande
Inspired, Rachel Held Evans

Mallory Hopper

More Than This, Patrick Ness
The Oceanography of the Moon, Glendy Vanderah
The Illustrated Mum, Jacueline Wilson

Jo Ann Batteiger

Take This Bread, Sara Miles
The Art of Gathering, Priya Parker
Maybe You Should Talk To Someone, Lori Gottlieb

Margaret Tobat

Atlas of the Heart, Brené Brown

Melissa Chavez

My Body is Not a Prayer Request, Amy Kenny
Dinner in an Instant, Melissa Clark
The Nickel Boys, Colson Whitehead

Jonathan Page

Undistracted, Bob Goff
Analysing Qualitative Data, Graham Gibbs
The Diversity Bonus, Scott Page

Pastor's Book Club | Undistracted

If you'd like to join Pastor Jonathan in reading a book this summer (that isn't a deep dive in qualitative data analysis), consider picking up [Undistracted by Bob Goff](#). From the book summary: "Through the pithy and inspiring storytelling that has endeared him to millions, New York Times bestselling author Bob Goff invites you to laugh with more gusto, dream with more confidence, and love with more intention in this disarming call to live Undistracted." This book will be a big part of the message on July 10. Check it out!

Growing Spirit-filled Relationships

A small group is the best way to grow Spirit-filled relationships and stay connected at Herndon UMC. Look for new opportunities to come in the Fall. If you are looking to connect in a small group or community, please talk to a staff member.

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

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

Online visit,
<https://bit.ly/HerndonUGroups>

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

Discover Herndon

Interested in what it might look like to become a member at Herndon UMC. Attending this casual gathering does not mean you have to become a member of the church! It's just an opportunity to explore what church membership might look like in the community we serve. These events will repeat monthly, usually on the second Sunday of the month, July 10 and August 14. Locations will vary, so watch the announcements and e-News for the latest information.

Holy Land Tour 2023

Pastor Jonathan and Pastor Tim from Crossroads UMC are working together to sponsor a Holy Land tour in April 2023. The trip is through EO Tours and is scheduled for April 17-27 (with an optional extension to May 2. Learn more about the tour at bit.ly/HolyLandTour2023.

If you're interested in learning more, there will be a Zoom information session on Wednesday, July 6 at 7pm. [You can register to attend the session here.](#) (If that time doesn't work for you, you may attend Pastor Tim's session on June 28, at 7pm. The link is in the Tuesday e-News.)

You can also always contact the office, 703-707-6271 or office@herndonumc.org for information.

HVAC Update

The Doe Fellowship Hall replacement unit is due to ship the last week of June. Once it arrives, installation will be scheduled. The Sanctuary replacement unit is currently scheduled to ship sometime in July. Both Doe

Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary currently have some HVAC capability, but will be pushed to keep it really cool on the hottest days.

Virginia Annual Conference

In June, the 240th session of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church convened in Hampton, VA. From Herndon UMC, representation included Pastor Jonathan Page, Pastor Scott Bach-Hansen, JoAnn Batteiger, Melissa Billman, Sally Block, and Ruth Page. This year's conference session was highlighted by being together in-person for the first time since 2019. We celebrated the licensing of Scott Bach-Hansen as local pastor this year, while also recognizing orders from 2020 and 2021 to include Herndon alums Sean Devolites (ordained elder) and Josh Hagstrom (provisional elder).

Amidst all the celebration and gathering, some important business took place. This included the following:

Passing the District Initiative

A proposal came from the Cabinet to shift the number of districts in Virginia from 16 to 8. This was offered as a strategic, missional shift to better use the resources entrusted in the Annual Conference to reach people while maintaining a sense of connection. This initiative passed. For Herndon, this means that as of July 1, we will be a part of the new "Northern Virginia District", which is a combination of the former Arlington and Alexandria districts. There will be an information session and conference held on

July 9 at 10am over zoom to hear more about the shifts this will create in our district life.

Request for Declaratory Decision

In the Virginia Annual Conference, two ordained elders are being held under complaint for officiating same gender weddings. Both of these complaints have been held for over two years, impacting the ability of those clergypersons to have access to medical leave, benefits, and other ministry resources. In an effort to follow the process for complaints outlined in the United Methodist Book of Discipline, a request was made from the floor for a declaratory decision from Judicial Council, the body within the UMC that offers ruling of law when there is distinction of interpretation of items from the Book of Discipline. After much discussion and an unplanned demonstration of solidarity, the body voted to submit the request for a declaratory decision to the Judicial Council. The Bishop will be sharing a request as well.

Nomination for Episcopal Election

The Annual Conference received a request from the Virginia Delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conference to recommend Rev. Tom Berlin for election as a Bishop at the upcoming 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, to be held in early November of 2022 at Lake Junaluska, NC. The conference overwhelmingly supported this request. Rev. Berlin will now be one of about a dozen candidates to be elected as a Bishop in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. It is expected that somewhere between 4-6 of these candidates will be elected. Rev. Berlin currently serves as

the Lead Pastor at Floris UMC, also located in Herndon.

2023 Conference Budget

The Virginia Conference Council on Finance and Administration brought a budget proposal for 2023 that represents a small savings over the 2022 budget. The passing of the District Initiative allowed for a major cut in the District Superintendent's Fund, which has been distributed to other areas of the conference to fund raises for conference staff, needed IT improvements, and increases in legal expenditures. The budget passed and will be implemented for the 2023 fiscal year.

If you'd like to have a detailed perspective of each day of the Annual Conference, a more precise summary has been put together by the Conference communications team and can be found at this link:

<https://vaumc.org/category/ac-2022-news/>.

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.**

On June 20, Herndon UMC held a charge conference to approve two items that contribute to the future of our church.

2022-2023 Herndon UMC Budget

The budget is meant to serve as a missional plan for the coming period. Given our environment of change, and the need to align our budget (and all our resources) better with

our vision and pursuits, the Resource Management Team proposed dividing the budget into two six-month sections. The first section (July 1-December 31) is fixed, while the second section (January 1-June 30) is flexible to be adapted to our missional and stewardship needs over the next six months. In that time, leadership has committed to intentional work around donor development and better aligning all our resources (i.e. staffing, building, and ministries) to our mission, vision, and strategic pursuits, with an expectation of budgetary savings for the second half of our 2022-23 fiscal year.

Summary of the 2022-2023 Budget Approved

	7/1-12/31 Fixed	1/1-6/30 Flexible
Income Projection	437,070	432,226
Budgeted Expenses	478,641	452,110
<i>Difference</i>	-41,571	-19,884

New Governance Structure

The second item was discussed in Pastor Jonathan’s letter ([on page 1](#)). The charge conference approved a 6-month extension of our new governance structure, which is an adaptation of a simplified accountability structure. There was vast agreement that new efforts to communicate with the congregation will be necessary to ensure the success of leadership efforts moving forward. A diagram of the governance structure can be found at herndonumc.org/about-herndon-umc/.

We are grateful for all those who attended charge conference and look forward to all that is ahead for the Herndon UMC family!



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

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