

September 2024



Welcome!

We are a caring community from various backgrounds, drawn together by the love of God and the transforming message of Jesus. We believe all persons are of sacred worth and dignity as part of God's creation and as demonstrated by the ministry of Jesus Christ. We welcome everyone without exception – everyone means everyone – regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, family structure, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic background, political affiliation, physical or mental ability, faith history or life experience. We recognize among us differences in theology and biblical interpretation, and we covenant to accept, respect and love one another along our faith journeys.

We hold an unwavering commitment to alleviating suffering and confronting the root causes of injustice through informed action and actively seek cooperative relationships with other faith communities.

Please join us, because wherever you are on life's journey, there is a place for you here at Burke United Methodist Church!

We believe that a holistic approach to discipleship includes engaging in all the core ministry areas of worship, learn, care, and share. This includes all ages, from the youngest to oldest members of our community. Be sure to scroll through this newsletter and read about upcoming opportunities to connect and engage in September.

Some highlights to look for in this month's newsletter:

- September 7 and 8: Burke Festival, volunteers needed!
- September 8: Fall Sunday School Classes Begin!
- September 9: Centering Prayer Begins
- September 22: Outdoor Worship

- September 22: Women's Connection Game Night/JUMP and Learning with LEGO
- All September: Teddy Bear Brigade
- And more!

PASTOR'S NOTE



As many of you know, I just got back from a month renewal leave. My family and I traveled to New England. We generally find interesting sites to stop at, places where we can appreciate the beauty of the world and places that connect with our family or family history. I took a character strengths test a few years ago, and my top strength was my love of learning. If you had told my high school self that, I don't know that I would have agreed. But now, it makes sense to me. My family all has a joke because

when we are traveling or exploring, and there is a sign, I love reading signs. I tell everyone to keep going, and I will catch up. But to me, the signs can tell the story of what you are looking at in a way that brings deeper meaning to the experience. When there is no sign, we rely on the voices of the people who lived in the place or were a part of it.

When we went through Schenectady, NY, we faceted my dad. He had lived there his elementary school years and my grandfather had worked for G.E. If you go there now, there is still a big GE sign with a gated off area with a few buildings. My dad was telling me that when he was there, it was like a compound. Everyone in town seemed to work for G.E. Within the G.E. compound, there was a bowling alley. Then I looked online and realized that Thomas Edison's company merged with another to form GE and they looked for a town that could become the mecca for lighting back in 1892 and Schenectady was it! The sign that you still see today was right at the railroad so everyone who trained past the town knew that G.E. was there.

This is why I love diving into and learning about people and places and buildings... it becomes richer for knowing who it was and what it is now.

You will read in this newsletter the new mission, vision, & value statements that our Leadership Board created and voted on in the Spring. They help to verbalize and name who we are as a church and who we hope to be. In the next year, we will put together a team to start looking at the 100th anniversary of Burke UMC and hopefully offer glimpses into the many ways the church has been a place for people to grow in faith for a century. Reading the signs and stories of our past have helped us to be in the place we are and our mission, vision and values tell the story of where we have come to and who we hope to be. I hope you will read these and come to take them to heart as you are a part of this wonderful body of Christ that continues to touch the lives of so many! As the Fall starts, I hope you might find ways to engage that can enrich your faith life, as well as touch the lives of the people in our

BUMC NEWS

Last Fall, we had a Leadership Board retreat that we invited the whole congregation to take part in, and we looked at the idea of what a church's mission, vision, and values statement are meant to be. Our church had a mission and vision statement and had created a welcome statement. After the retreat, the Board asked itself if it was time to look at these statements to articulate better who Burke UMC is, and the Board decided it was. A small group worked on crafting new statements that captured some of the ideas that came out of the retreat, and our Board voted to accept these as our new statements. You may ask why have these statements? These statements help the church decide what and how they want to be the church.

I always say there are a million great things a church can be doing, but we can't do it all. So, these statements become the litmus test by which we make some of those decisions. **The mission is what we exist to do. The vision is what we might look like if we meet that mission. The values are parameters around how we choose to do this work.** We noted that the Welcome Statement was an important piece of work that this church did about ten years ago and did not feel a need to change anything, but you will see that we added a sentence that we felt would make it so our Welcome Statement captures all four elements of our value statements. We will share more about these statements throughout the Fall, but we wanted to give you an opportunity to read them and connect the ways that our ministries embody these statements!

Blessings,
Pastor Jason

THE MISSION OF BURKE UMC

The mission of BUMC is to offer engaging worship, foster a deeper understanding of Christian faith, nurture meaningful relationships, and create a loving and inclusive community in Christ that works together to promote positive change in our world through social justice in action.

THE VISION OF BURKE UMC

The vision of BUMC is to combine faith and action to become a beacon of hope and a living witness of God's love, both within our immediate community and reaching far beyond. We aspire to be a vibrant congregation that radiates love, inclusivity, and transformative impact.

THE VALUES OF BURKE UMC

Radical Inclusivity:

- Offers radical hospitality to everyone.
- Affirms all people so that everyone feels seen, heard and loved.
- Recognizes and honors the image of God in every human being.
- Appreciates differences as representation of the Kingdom of God.

Authentic Relationships:

- Exhibits personal authenticity, true respect, and validation of others.
- Builds trust through listening emotionally and fostering empathy and compassion for others.
- Tolerates ambiguity and acknowledges limitations, seeking to learn.
- Acknowledges conflict or pain and works towards resolution.

Dynamic and Active Spirituality

- Empowers individuals to develop a vibrant and authentic relationship with Christ.
- Recognizes scripture reading, prayer, worship, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as central aspects of our faith.
- Encourages creative expressions of faith from diverse perspectives.
- Gathers for regular fellowship, nurturing the needs of all who gather.

Faithful Community Engagement

- Commits to justice with unyielding persistence and unwavering commitment.
- Addresses systemic issues of injustice through informed action.
- Builds cooperative relationships with other faith traditions.
- Alleviates suffering due to poverty, hunger and homelessness by providing resources to those in need.

WORSHIP: CONNECTING WITH GOD

Ongoing Worship Opportunities:

- Weekly Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 am, In-Person and online on our website at burkeumc.org/online
- Children’s Church: Children aged 4 - 2nd grade begin Worship in the Sanctuary with their families. They will be escorted to Children’s Church when directed. They will be returned to the sanctuary during the closing hymn (except on communion Sundays, when they will be returned prior to receiving communion).
- September 1st: Worship includes Communion
- September 22nd: Outdoor Worship Service—Bring your folding chairs, water bottles, and a hat and join us in the back parking lot as we worship outside. Sunday School will not be offered on this day.
- Starting September 22nd, we will spend six weeks moving through the book of Galatians in our worship. Galatians is a letter from Paul that helps the new Christians of Galatia understand what it looks like to be followers of Christ. Join us as we see how Paul’s words may guide us today!



Music:

Thank you to all who participated in Summer Singers and Ringers!

See below for the starting dates for our choirs. Our adult groups have already started, but it’s not too late to join! Send an email to Tammyzerbo@burkeumc.org.

New members are welcome! Kids can register [here](#). Youth can register [here](#). See the chart below for more information:

GROUP	REHEARSAL DAY and TIME	FIRST REHEARSAL
Celebration Ringers (adult ringers)	Mondays, 7:30-9:00	August 19
Chancel Choir (adult singers)	Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45	August 21
Good News Players (1 st -3 rd percussion)	Mondays, 5:00-5:30	September 16 (5:00-5:45 kick-off)
Good News Ringers (4 th -6 th ringers)	Mondays, 5:00-5:30	September 16 (5:00-5:45 kick-off)
Good News Singers (1 st -6 th singers)	Mondays, 5:30-6:30	September 9 (5:00-6:30 kick-off)
In His Name (7 th -12 th singers)	Sundays, 11:30-12:30 (flexible schedule)	September 15
Joyful Ringers (7 th -12 th ringers)	Sundays, 11:30-12:30 (flexible schedule)	September 22



Not Pictured: Heather Mercer



Prayer Opportunities:

Prayers Before the Election: Beginning September 9th at 7 pm

As we look at the coming weeks preceding the presidential election, we are all wondering what we can do to help bring peace to our process. One thing we can do is pray. Beginning Monday night, September 9, we are offering a silent prayer opportunity at 7 pm every Monday night until the election. This is a chance for us to quiet our spirits and allow God to guide and comfort us. This 30-minute experience in the Fellowship Hall will begin with a short music introduction, then brief calming instructions, followed by silent prayer. Questions? Contact facilitator Jane Wilson.

Centering Prayer Services Begin: September 15th at 7 pm

Join us for a time of reflection and stillness at our next Centering Prayer. We'll gather at 7 pm on September 15th in the Prayer Chapel. This is a wonderful opportunity to quiet your mind, connect with God, and experience deep spiritual renewal. All are welcome!

Prayer Resource Table - There is a prayer resource table at the entrance to the Narthex. These resources are available to borrow for your use or share with friends. Upper Room devotionals are available in the printed copy. You may also view the Upper Room daily devotions here: <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

Sunday Morning - On Sunday morning between 8:45 and 9:15 am, you are invited to gather to pray for our morning worship and its leaders. The Prayer Focus Team members facilitate this gathering, but others are encouraged to participate. A notebook with full instructions is on a small table in the chapel. You may also sign up online to be the leader [using this link!](#)

Prayer Chapel - Our relocated prayer chapel (on the lower level underneath our office complex) provides a peaceful, calming area for personal prayer or small group prayer. The chapel is open anytime the church is open. Stop in and visit this beautiful space and admire the stained glass windows.

LEARN: CONNECTING THROUGH EDUCATION

Interested in a fall LEARN class? Visit burkeumc.org/learn to see which classes are continuing to meet over the fall. Chat with Rev. Evelyn if you have questions!

Safer Sanctuaries Training: September 28th at 10 am

On September 28th at 10 am we will be having a Safer Sanctuaries training led by Kelly Crespin; a qualified Safer Sanctuaries educator. The training is required for all people working with children and youth under the age of 18. We also highly recommend it for ushers and greeters on Sunday mornings. We encourage folks to attend the in-person training on the 28th, but if they are unable to attend that day, we will have a recording available that can also meet this requirement.

Intro to the New Testament: Starting September 8th

Are you looking for an opportunity to learn more about the New Testament? Whether you have read it in its entirety or you have never studied scripture before, you are welcome in this class. This class will walk through all the books of the New Testament and explore their major themes and historical contexts. Barry Burdett will teach this 6-week course beginning September 8 in the Upper Room. [Sign up here!](#)

Just Faith Environment: Sacred Water

Burke UMC is offering the third session of Just Faith Environment this Fall! This session is entitled Sacred Water: Oceans and Ecosystems. This is an eight-week virtual program that dives into the biblical, justice-based, and scientific reasons why people of faith should take action to protect our ecosystems. While the folks who took the first two sessions of this program (Sacred Land and Sacred Air) are encouraged to finish the program through this third session, you can also sign up if you have not taken the first two sessions. The class will begin with an Orientation Session on September 10th at 7 pm via Zoom ([link here](#)). After signing up, you will receive more information via email. [Sign up here.](#)

HOPE: Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am starting September 8th

The HOPE Sunday Morning class will be continuing their study of "Opening Israel's Scriptures" by Dr. Ellen F. Davis. This book is a collection of 36 essays on the Hebrew Bible, from Genesis to Chronicles, which gives powerful insight into the complexity and inexhaustibility of the Hebrew Scriptures as a theological source. This is a hybrid class that utilizes both in-person and Zoom ([link here](#)) learning. Participants can join the class by gathering in person in the Discipleship Room, or they can log in on Zoom. [Sign up here.](#)

GIFT: Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am starting September 8th

The GIFT Sunday Morning Class will be studying "Everywhere is Jerusalem:

Experiencing the Holy Then and Now" by James C Howell. GIFT meets at 10:30 am on Sundays in the Grace and Peace Room, starting September 8th. Part travelogue and part Bible study, this book will take you on a spiritual journey to the places that are most important in our faith, and you'll discover that the most important place of all is the place where you are right now. [Sign up here.](#)

Parent's Fellowship: 10:30 am on Sundays

Parents Fellowship is a conversation-based group of parents of preschool and school-age children. Each week, parents meet to discuss the themes brought up during the worship service and check in with one another. No home reading is required. Parents Fellowship meets at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays in The Covenant Room. Visitors are welcome!

Tuesday Morning Class

The Tuesday Morning Small Group meets on Tuesday at 10 AM on Zoom ([link here](#)), starting September 10. This Fall, they will be studying "Context: Putting Scripture in its Place" by Josh Scott. Context looks at verses we know by heart but may not know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Josh Scott delves into these well-known Scripture verses, exploring their true meanings by examining them in their original biblical context. Through this process, he unveils fresh and enlightening interpretations that are often missed when these Scriptures are taken out of context. [Sign up here!](#)

Women in Study (WIS): Thursdays Starting September 19th at 10 am

Women in Study will kick off the school year with a potluck at the church on September 19th from 10:00- 11:30 am! Then, the class will meet on Thursdays via Zoom ([link here](#)) at 10 am. Any woman interested in expanding their faith through studying the Bible is welcome! This group will be studying "Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation" by Bruce M. Metzger. [Sign up here!](#)

Men's Fellowship

Starting September 5th, the Men's Fellowship group will be watching and discussing "Understanding the New Testament" via Amplify. This Fall course explores The New Testament as the canonical root of Christian history and theology and also as a paradox, because this single "book" is comprised of 27 different books by more than a dozen authors, each of whom has a different perspective and is responding to a different set of historical circumstances. This group meets each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 7:30-9:00 pm both on Zoom ([link here](#)) and in the Covenant Room (hybrid meeting, feel free to attend in person or online!) [Sign up here!](#)

Disciple 2

The Disciple curriculum will be returning to BUMC this Fall! Starting September 30th, leader Mike Sawin will be leading this 32-week class on Mondays at 7pm in the Discipleship Room. "*Disciple: Into the Word Into the World*" is the second study in the four-phase Disciple program and is prepared for those who are graduates of "*Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study*". [If you are interested in taking Disciple 2, but have not taken Disciple 1, you are still welcome to join! Please contact Mike Sawin \(mike.sawin@verizon.net\).](#) This study proclaims the transforming power of Scripture while teaching Bible study skills that take participants deeper into the Scripture. The study emphasizes the rhythm of coming to God and going for God, of being in the Word and in the world individually and corporately. "*Disciple: Into the Word Into the World*" approaches all experiences of life as opportunities for faithful witness and service. [Sign up here!](#)

CARE:

CONNECTING WITH COMPASSION

Sunday Morning Coffee

Many thanks to Gary and Darlene Pulliam, who have kept us grounded and perky on Sunday mornings as Fellowship Coffee coordinators! Now that they have stepped away from this role, your help is greatly needed! Check out this link to help with [Sunday Morning Coffee](#).

Burke Centre Festival Wine and Beer Garden Gathering: September 7th from 5 -10 pm

Live music and relaxing ambience. Bring your own lawn chair, water and a munchie to share if you'd like. Reach out to Jim Silverthorn at (703) 731-0386, or [click here for more info!](#)

Women's Ministry Meeting: September 15th at 11:30 am

All women of BUMC are welcome to attend this quarterly meeting to discuss programming for the Women's Ministry. In September, we will discuss an in-house women's retreat and entertain additional ideas. Please join us! This event will be held in the Covenant Room.

Paws on the Path Walk: September 15 at 6:30 pm

Come enjoy the cooler fall weather with a walk in the woods! We'll meet at 6:30 p.m. at the playground area at the back of the church. Well-behaved dogs are welcome, or come sans pooch—all are welcome. The path is paved and mostly level, stroller-friendly. The walk will last about 40 minutes. There is no need to RSVP in advance!

Fall Celebration: September 22nd after Outdoor Worship (10:30-11:30 am)

Join us for a Fall Celebration on September 22nd, immediately following Outdoor Worship (10:30-11:30 am). Enjoy food, activities for kids, and a chance to connect with fellow BUMC members while learning about upcoming ministry opportunities. The INOVA Blood Mobile will also be present at this event.

INOVA Blood Mobile: September 22nd from 9 am-1 pm

The INOVA Blood Mobile will be in the Burke UMC Parking Lot on September 22 from 9 am-1 pm! We hope you'll select a [donation slot](#) and plan to also join us for our outdoor worship service and fall kickoff.

Women's Connection: September 22nd from 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Join us for fun, food, and fabulous conversation! This month, we're playing Bunco! Never played before? No worries; it's such a simple, fun, and social game! It's also *Share a Salad* night too! Bring your favorite salad (chicken salad, fruit salad, pasta salad, etc.) to share. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Childcare is provided at JUMP and Learning with LEGO. If nursery care is needed, please contact Anne Sawin at sawinfamily@verizon.net by Sept 15th. This event will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

The Sanctuary Forest at St. Peter's in the Wood Episcopal Church: September 14th at 10:00 am

Come celebrate community! The Sanctuary Forest at St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church is being inducted into the National Old Growth Forest Network on

Saturday, September 14th at 10:00am. This will be the third community forest to be inducted in Virginia and the first faith community to be added. Please use this link for more information and to let St. Peter's know you plan to attend: [RSVP here!](#)

Beyond the Book: September 28th from 10:00-11:30 am

Beyond the Book is a monthly reading group sponsored by United Women in Faith at Sydenstricker UMC. All women are invited to attend. Meetings are held from 10:00-11:30 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of the month for discussion and fellowship. The next meeting will be held on September 28th. "A Right Worthy Woman" by Ruth P. Warson will be discussed. Please contact [Jane Wilson](#) if you have any questions.

College Card Ministry

Has your college student returned to campus? Do you have a freshman getting settled?

The BUMC congregation sends a card each week to one of our college students and we would like to include your college student in our College Card Ministry. There is a card out for the congregation to sign on Sundays at the Connection Center. In addition to the congregation's card, information for each student will be included in the Friday Five email for people to send an additional card or note to the student of the week.

If you would like to add or update your student's information to be a part of the College Card Ministry, please contact our new coordinator, Janeth Prothero at 4prothero@cox.net



SHARE: CONNECTING THROUGH OUTREACH

100% Voting Initiative: Begins September 1

Burke UMC has once again joined a group of Virginia churches pledging to be a "100% Voting Church." The Social Justice Team will work on educating people about the November election, including when you can vote, polling places, and issues on the ballot. We will help people get registered and provide transportation if that is an impediment. You can learn more about this initiative at burkeumc.org/vote2024!

Teddy Bear Brigade

We will be collecting for the Teddy Bear Brigade in September. Any new or gently used plushie can be donated; no soiled or ripped, please. They will be used to put in the hands of a child going through a crisis, whether man-made or natural. A donation of \$1 per plushie will help offset the cost of shipping and would be greatly appreciated. The donation bin will be located at the front of the church.

Burke Festival Volunteers

We are still looking for volunteers to come to our booth at the Burke Festival on September 7 and 8. If you have a friendly face and can talk about how much you love our church and the things we do, you are qualified! Slots are only two hours long. [Please sign up here!](#)

Crop Walk: November 3

November 3rd is the Crop Walk. We would love to have a group there to represent Burke UMC. There are many ways to help- walk, donate to a walker, volunteer on walk day. Email Farah Greeley for more information at Outreach@burkeumc.org.

Burke Gives Back Community Co-op:

We're looking for some additional volunteers to serve in the co-op and our gleaning pick ups this fall due to some of our regular volunteers having trips planned. Able to help out?! [Sign up using this link](#). Reach out to deewhite@burkeumc.org with questions.

ECHO Clothing Department Donations

ECHO's Housewares Department is looking for donations of hand towels and 3- and 5-quart pots. The Clothing Department is concentrating on fall and winter clothing now and hoping for donations of warm clothing for boys or girls in sizes 4 through 20 as well as sneakers for older kids in sizes 1 to 6. Adult winter coats in small, medium and large sizes and new men's underwear are also needed.

Also, please mark your calendar now for October 26, when ECHO will have its Fall Yard Sale extravaganza at St. Bernadette's Gym, Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. ECHO is open M-F from 9:30 to 12:30 and T,W,Th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. More information about ECHO needs and volunteer opportunities can be found on the ECHO website at echo-inc.org.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

We have many opportunities for children and youth to grow in their faith and spend time in community this fall here at Burke UMC! Read our latest newsletter to see what's coming up for our youngest disciples this month.

Interested in helping out with children and youth here at Burke UMC? We are still in need of Sunday School Nursery volunteers, nursery volunteers during worship, Children's Church Assistants and substitutes for Sunday School for this upcoming fall. You can volunteer as a substitute which is desperately needed to fill in the gaps of when Sunday School teachers can't come on particular Sundays. Able to serve in this way? Let [Shannon](#) know and she'll provide all the details you need!

Looking for Service Hours?

We are looking to get some youth volunteers in need of service hours around the church. Contact Tom Muldoon for more information at tommuldoon@burkeumc.org. Opportunities include:

- Weed pulling in the beds by the walkway from the parking lot to the circle.
- Weed pulling at both church signs on Burke Lake Road and Burke Center Parkway.
- Pick up fallen limbs and sticks throughout the property, which can be placed in the wooded areas.

Download September Opportunities for Children + Youth

ADMINISTRATIVE

Financial Report:

Burke UMC is blessed to receive many generous contributions throughout the year. Expenses have recently exceeded contributions, but we are hopeful that with the increased activities this Fall, additional funds will help cover the shortage and this congregation's programs.

[Click Here to Read the August Leadership Board Report](#)

DISTRICT NEWS

On September 8, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., the Northern Virginia District will hold an installation service for our new District Superintendent, Rev. Kirk Nave, here at Burke UMC. Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will be with us to welcome Kirk into this new role.

All are welcome to attend this worship service and reception. Please [RSVP using this link](#) in order to help the district office plan for refreshments.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED



burkeumc.org | @burkeUMC

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