

# October 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 October.

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

- **October 6:** Communion Sunday
- **October 13:** Getting to Know Burke Class
- **October 20:** Centering Prayer Event
- **October 20:** Educational Event for Children's Sabbath

- **October 27:** Trunk or Treat
- And more!

# PASTOR'S NOTE

## REV. DR. JASON SNOW



Fall has arrived. I think we feel the change of season most in the Fall. The visible leaves falling, the cold air starting to nip at our noses, the invasion of pumpkin into every conceivable food (I seriously saw Pumpkin Spice Frosted Flakes this year... c'mon, Tony the Tiger, not something we need). Fall is a change that has become routine... , a change that we can expect. Often, change can feel oppressive, and we find ourselves reminiscing about the times before changes. When I go back to my college, there are things that are still familiar, but many new buildings and areas that always blow my mind. I see on Facebook that my friend's children are going off to college, and I feel like I was just at their wedding. I see the ways my children do schoolwork using all kinds of new technology and tools, and I still remember the cover of my book report where the picture was all pixelated, and I had to tear the perforation off of both sides of the paper after it came from the printer.

But at the same time, we should expect that things will change. Things progress... some things go away, and new things take their place. In Isaiah, God says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." As we look to this October amidst the changing season, we can be reminded of God's presence in it and know that God is present in our lives. As we see change in our own lives, may we seek God's presence and see what new things may be beckoning us to be a part of it. And as you look through this newsletter, see the possibilities that are present that could bring meaningful and hope-filled change in your life. Whether through participating in something new, making a point to meet someone new, or volunteering in a new way, God is doing a new thing. May we perceive it in our lives.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jason

# STEWARDSHIP



During the month of October, we are asking people to prayerfully consider how much they may be able to give to the church in 2025. All the ministry we do from

staff salaries to building maintenance to all the wonderful ministries we offer are possible only through the gifts of the congregation. If you received a mailing, you will have received a letter with an amount we hope can be a starting point for your giving. Everyone is invited to go to [www.burkeumc.org/stewardship](http://www.burkeumc.org/stewardship) where you can find videos of stories from congregation members, information about ministries and an online estimate of giving card. Please consider filling out an estimate of giving for 2025 by October 27<sup>th</sup>.

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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 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.



**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.



### Join Us for Worship at Burke United Methodist Church!

We invite you to come and experience our vibrant and loving community.

Whether you're joining us in person or online, we would love to have you be part of our weekly Sunday Morning Worship at 9:30 am. You can also participate virtually through our live stream at [burkeumc.org/online](http://burkeumc.org/online).

We offer Children's Church for kids aged 4 through 2nd grade. Children begin in the Sanctuary with their families and are led to their own special time of learning and worship before returning during the closing hymn. (On Communion Sundays, they return in time to receive communion.)

Our Galatians sermon series continues through October! Join us as we explore how Paul's letter to the Galatians speaks to us today as followers of Christ.

#### Mark Your Calendars:

- **October 6:** Celebrate World Communion Sunday with us as we join Christians around the world in unity at Christ's table.
- **October 20:** Join us at Burke Presbyterian Church for the Blessing of the Animals! Bring your beloved pets—dogs, cats, snakes, rabbits, and more—as we come together to honor all God's creatures. For more information on this event, please see the "Community Events" section.

We look forward to worshipping with you and growing in faith together. See you Sunday!

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#### Music:

**Our Music Groups Are Back for a New Season—And It's Never Too Late to Join!**

If you love music and want to get involved, now is the perfect time! Whether you're

an experienced musician or just eager to learn, we have a place for you. For more information or to join, reach out to Tammy Zerbo at [Tammyzerbo@burkeumc.org](mailto:Tammyzerbo@burkeumc.org).

### Exciting News!

Our Celebration Handbells group will perform at the Herndon Handbell Festival, and you're invited to enjoy a wonderful evening of music.

Free Concert:

📅 Saturday, November 2

🕒 6:00 pm

📍 Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Rd., Herndon

Come out and support our talented musicians at this community event!

New members are welcome! Kids can register [here](#). Youth can register [here](#).



### Prayer Opportunities:

#### Prayers Before the Election: Mondays 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. 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 Service: October 20th at 7 pm

Join us for a time of reflection and stillness at our next Centering Prayer. We'll gather at 7 pm on October 20th in the Prayer Chapel. This is a wonderful opportunity to quiet your mind, connect with God, and experience deep spiritual renewal. All are welcome!

### Ongoing Opportunities:

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 devotionals 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.

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Interested in a fall LEARN class? Visit [burkeumc.org/learn](http://burkeumc.org/learn) to see which classes are continuing to meet over the fall.

**Adult Sunday School Classes will not meet on October 20th.**

**Educational Event for Children's Sabbath: October 20th at 10:30 am**

On October 20th at 10:30 am, located in the Fellowship Hall, BUMC offers an education hour (for adults and older youth) about how poverty affects the youngest members of society: kids. This is in honor of Children's Sabbath, an annual observance of the needs and values of children worldwide. We will welcome Suzanne Hough of FACETS to give a presentation on poverty in the Fairfax area and what we can do locally in response. While adults and older youth attend the education event, children will learn and gain a better understanding of what it means to be generous and how outreach can help others in their own community and broader. [Click here to sign up for this class](#)

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**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](#).

**BUMC Biking at Mercer Lake: Oct 12 at 10:00 am**

Come join others for a fun, leisurely 5-mile bike ride around the lake. We will meet at 10:00 am at the gravel parking area behind South Run Recreation Center and depart at 10:10 am. See this link to learn more about the Mercer Lake Loop. If you have any questions, text Tom Jaeger at (307) 223-6910.

**Getting to Know Burke: October 13th from 10:30-11:30am**

The Getting to Know Burke class is a chance to get to know more about the church, meet other folks who are newer to the church, get a tour of the church, and learn about becoming a member!! Join us on October 13 at 10:30am for our next class. If you are able to attend, you can sign up on the events page on the website. [Sign up here!](#)

### Women's Connection: October 24th from 6:30-8:00 pm

Ladies, you're invited to join us for an evening of connection, conversation, and community on Thursday, October 24th from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided, so come hungry!

This month, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we'll engage in a meaningful discussion on prevention and ways to support those affected by the disease. Don't miss this opportunity for food, fellowship, and learning together. We look forward to seeing you there!

### UMF Book Group Meeting: October 26 from 10:00-11:30 am

All women are invited to the UWF book group meeting in the library at Sydenstricker UMC from 10:00 -11:30 am. The October book is "*What Makes You Come Alive: A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman*" by Lerita Colman. Contact [Jane Wilson](#) or go to [Beyond the Book Reading group](#) for more information.

### Trunk or Treat: October 27th from 3-5:00 pm

We are so excited to once again host this wickedly delicious outreach to our neighbors and friends with our trick-or-treaters this year! [Please sign up to reserve your spot](#) to display your decorated trunk or just decorate a parking spot (a car is not required) and provide treats for our guests. This is a pedestrian event, with guests parking along the front row closest to the church and in the circle. Trunks or decorated spaces along the back row. Plan on at least 300 trick-or-treaters during the event. Be sure to offer nut-free options or other ghoulish treats. You may begin to set up October 27 at 2 PM, with the event starting at 3 PM and ending at 5 PM. In addition to decorated trunks, we will need volunteers to help with setup before the event, directing traffic, making candy runs or whatever needs arise, and a lot of candy donations. Thanks for participating!

### 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](mailto:4prothero@cox.net)



### 100% Voting Initiative

Burke UMC has once again joined a group of Virginia churches pledging to be a "100% Voting Church." The Social Justice Team wants to ensure that people have

information about the November election, including when they 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!](http://burkeumc.org/vote2024!)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:deewhite@burkeumc.org) with questions.

### **ECHO Fall Yard Sale**

ECHO's traditional Fall Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, October 26, at St. Bernadette School, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, from 8:00 am to noon. Bargain shoppers and treasure hunters will find a gymnasium full of housewares, toys, fashion accessories, jewelry, electronic equipment, picture frames, wall art, and more! The twon yard sale events each year are primary sources of funds for ECHO to carry out its mission of helping people in need in our community.



### **Blessing of the Animals: Burke Presbyterian on October 20th at 5:30 pm**

We are excited to gather once again at Burke Presbyterian for a Blessing of the Animals service on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. If you have a pet as part of your family, we encourage you to bring them to Burke Presbyterian for a very short worship service and an opportunity for us to bless your family members.



Are you interested in helping out with children and youth here at BUMC? Whether you have a child or youth presently in our program or not, if you want to help our program thrive, please volunteer!

[Assist with Children's Church here](#)

[Assist in the nursery during Sunday School hour](#)



Sign up to sub in Sunday School: [Email Shannon](#)

### [Assist with leading Learning with LEGO or JUMP](#)

We have so many wonderful opportunities for children and youth to grow in their faith and have fellowship with each other this fall at Burke UMC! Please click the link to see our latest newsletter and find out what's coming up for our young disciples this month.

Are you able to help us by serving as intentional volunteers that care about children and their growth as young disciples? [Please email Shannon](#) for more information!

#### **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](mailto: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 October Opportunities for Children + Youth](#)



#### **Financial Report:**

Burke UMC is blessed to have many generous families who support the ministries of this vibrant congregation. Your prayers, participation, service, and financial support enable us to worship, learn, care, and share together AND with the wider community. Thank you! For the last few months, expenses have exceeded the amount given to the church, which often happens during the summer. Your staff and Leadership Board trust that the return of activity during the fall months will also result in an increase in contributions to the church's operating budget.

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

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# LET'S STAY CONNECTED



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