

August 2024



Here at Burke UMC, we welcome all to experience Christ's life-changing love as we worship, learn, and share in a caring community!

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 August.

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

- Fill-A- Backpack donations end August 4
- August 11: Baby Shower for Rev. Ev!
- August 18: Blessing of the Backpacks, our Educators and Staff
- Aug 25: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- **Opportunities for kids and youth to connect this summer**
- And more!

PASTOR'S NOTE

The month of August has always held a mix of memories and feelings in my mind. August can be a peaceful time, with summer activities winding down as we take advantage of the last few weeks of Summer to enjoy time with family and friends. August can be an



exciting and nerve-wracking time, as teachers and students prepare to go back to school, and all of the various activities start back up. And August is, above all things, HOT! It's the definition of the "dog days of summer". The month of August exists in the in-between; we are both waiting for something new, and enjoying the moment while we are in it. It's a great time to reflect.

I hope we can all go into this month with a spirit of reflection. It's so easy to get caught up in the "what needs to be done". Yes, it's important to look ahead, but it is just as important to celebrate what we see around us. On Sunday mornings, I celebrate all that I see around me at BUMC. Friends greeting each other by the front doors, new visitors being welcomed and embraced by the community. Families singing together, acolytes bringing the light into worship. Ushers helping worshippers find room to sit; the clang of the Burke Bell. And the moments right after the service I find most precious of all. Getting to see kids proudly show off their projects from Children's Church, shaking hands with people of all generations, smiling at the babies who have fallen asleep on their parents' shoulders. Throughout the week I see volunteers bringing food to the co-op, dedicated believers praying in the sanctuary, and devoted staff meeting to brainstorm about so many ministries. These moments are blessings- which are easy to miss if we don't slow down and reflect.

So this month, may we as a church take the time to see God at work all around us. May we observe the beauty of God's creation, and vow to protect it. May we see those who others do not; may we reach out to those who have been overlooked and unheard. May we continue to see goodness and greatness in other people, even when we don't totally understand one another. Above all, may we continue to be the church; spreading love and hope from the inside out.

-Rev. Ev

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).
- August 4: Communion Sunday
- August 18: Blessing of the Backpacks, our Educators and Staff- Students, bring

your backpacks this Sunday so they can be blessed for your coming school year!

- Our choirs are returning soon! 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



Prayer 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 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!](#)

Thursday Morning - Join facilitator Jane Wilson in the Sanctuary on Thursday mornings from 9:00-9:45 am to pray together about current events and issues facing the world and prayers for those on BUMC's ongoing prayer list. All are welcome and encouraged to attend whenever possible for prayers of the people.

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 during church office hours and on Sundays. Stop in and visit this beautiful space and admire the stained glass windows.

LEARN: CONNECTING THROUGH EDUCATION

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

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

On Sunday, August 25, we will have a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon! If you taught a class this past year (whether it be kids, youth, or adults) or you plan on teaching during the upcoming school year, you are welcome to attend! It will be at noon in the Fellowship Hall, catered by Spartans. Kids and spouses are also welcome to come!

Looking Ahead: All Sunday School for the Fall will begin again on September 8th. Keep an eye out for more announcements and updates about the exciting educational opportunities in Autumn!

CARE: CONNECTING WITH COMPASSION

Baby Shower for Rev. Ev!: August 11

Women of Burke UMC, you are invited to join in a Baby Shower in Honor of Rev Evelyn on Sunday, August 11, at 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please use our SignUp Genius [link](#) to RSVP and sign up to help with the shower (e.g., set up, clean up, bring an appetizer, etc.).

Walk or Bike to Worship: Sunday, August 11

Fairfax County is inviting members of faith communities to bike or walk to worship on August 11 as part of their annual initiative. This is a great way to live into our values of creation care, health and wellness, fellowship, and equity. Folks can leave their bikes by the picnic tables/treeline in front of the church during the service. Learn more about this initiative [HERE](#).

Women's Connection: August 22nd from 6:30-8 p.m.

Join us for Women's Connection, Thursday, August 22nd from 6:30-8pm in the Fellowship Hall for food, fun, fabulous fellowship and a focus on Wellness! See you there!

Morning Birding and Stroll: August 24 at 10:00 a.m.

Morning Birding and Fellowship stroll with St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church, 10:00 a.m. See "Community Events" below 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. 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.

College Card Ministry

It's that time again for back-to-school planning. As our college students head back, we would like to continue our College Card Ministry.

For years, our college students have received notes of love and encouragement along with a finals week package, all due to Margaret Yowell's caring efforts. This fall, Margaret will be stepping away from this role. Please let her know how much she has been appreciated! Her successor is Janeth Prothero. Thank you, Janeth, for continuing this wonderful ministry!

The BUMC congregation sends a card each week card to one of our college students. On Sundays, a card will be out for you to sign at the Connection Center. In addition to the congregation card, information for each student will be included in the Friday Five email so you can send a personal card or note.

Would you like your new college student added to the list, or do you have an updated address for a returning student? Please contact our new College Card Ministry Coordinator, Janeth Prothero, at 4prothero@cox.net to add or update your student's information.

SHARE:
CONNECTING THROUGH OUTREACH

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 summer 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.



Fill A Backpack: Annual School Supply Donation Collection

Our Fill A Backpack school supply collection campaign ends on Sunday, August 4. You can drop donations off in the box near the front entrance of the church labeled "Fill A Backpack."

If you would like to sign up as a volunteer, [please click here!](#)

Based on the donations received, the only items we still need are:

Composition books

Pencil boxes or pouches

Highlighters

Dry erase markers

Glue sticks

Rulers

Pencil Sharpeners

Erasers

[Click here to download a list](#) you can screenshot or save to your documents so you can have it handy while you're shopping!

Shalom Farms: August 14 from 9-12 p.m.

Shalom Farms turns 15th this year- and we need your help celebrating! Come out on July 21st, any time between 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, on our Northside farm to join in the fun. We will have a cooking demonstration, farm tours, food trucks, kids' activities, ShalomFarms' information booths, 10+ community organization booths, a raffle, a short program at 2:30 pm, and more. It's family-friendly and free to attend. RSVP at www.shalomfarms.org/15

CHILDREN & YOUTH

We have many opportunities for children and youth to grow in their faith and spend time in community this summer 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 teachers for this upcoming fall. You can volunteer as a weekly volunteer or a substitute (to allow our weekly volunteers room to away for a week if needed). Able to serve in this way? Let [Shannon](#) know and she'll provide all the details you need!

[Download August Opportunities for Children + Youth](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Creation Care: St. Peters in the Woods

St. Peter's in the Woods Sanctuary Forest is being inducted into the Community Forest Network of the Old Growth Forest Network. This designation means that they are a forest that is inhabited by a mature forest (soon to be old-growth) and old-growth trees. They will be listed on the national listing of such forests (they are the 3rd inducted in Virginia). Their induction ceremony will be September 14 at 10am at St. Peter's in the Woods, 5911 Fairview Woods Dr., Fairfax Station, VA 22039. More information will be forthcoming. [Please check out their website for more information!](#)

St. Peter's in the Woods SING events:

AUG 24 - Morning Birding and Fellowship Stroll 10am

AUG 24 - Evening Sunset in the Forest Celebration 6:30pm

Also meet at the same address as above.

Go! Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: August 23rd from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Go! is a new lay-equipping and empowering initiative designed to encourage boldness in building relationships and sharing Christ in your surrounding community. Go! is a new lay equipping and empowering initiative, designed to encourage boldness in building relationships and sharing Christ in your surrounding community. Participants in Go! will receive training and resources to be better evangelists in their churches and communities. Register now at novaumc.org/go.

CONFERENCE NEWS

From June 20 to June 22, 2024 the Virginia Conference hosted the 242nd Annual Conference in Hampton, Virginia. The theme of the conference was "A Conference in Three Movements." Bishop Sue, our current Bishop for the Virginia Conference, presided over all the business sessions of the conference. There was a service of ordination, service of remembrance, UMCOR kit, fellowship around lunch + dinner tables, and more! Throughout the time at conference, both lay and clergy members were allowed to give reports and discuss petitions and resolutions with the full voting body. You can read more in-depth about these reports/resolutions below. Overall, the spirit of conference this year was uplifting, hopeful, and unified. Thank you to Jane Wilson and Steve Nash for their work on this detailed report - we are grateful!

[Click Here to Read the Full
Report](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Leadership Board took a break in July!

The next Leadership Board meeting is on August 15th, and congregation members are welcome to attend on Zoom [using this link](#).

LET'S STAY CONNECTED



burkeumc.org | [@burkeUMC](#)

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