



THE MAINSTREAM

SUNDAYS

WORSHIP IN PERSON
9:30 & 11:00 AM

WORSHIP BY LIVESTREAM
11:00 AM

SECOND QUARTER 2023



*From the Heart
of Pastor Mary Austin*

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Dear GPC Members and Friends –

Like a slide carousel, so many images of GPC are popping up in my mind. Each one of them calls up its own moment of thanksgiving.

In no particular order, I can picture:

- Walking across the parking lot to work, praying for GPC each morning.
- Moving down the church hallway on a Sunday, trying to count the number of people it takes to make a Sunday morning go smoothly. It's upwards of three dozen, counting teachers, coffee hour hosts, ushers, musicians, and worship leaders, each one doing his or her part to make Sundays happen at GPC.
- The Session, meeting on Zoom during the pandemic, some people at home and others in their cars, faithfully guiding GPC. (Now the Session has a mixture of in-person and Zoom meetings.)
- The staff, sitting around the red tables downstairs for our staff meetings, asking wise questions as we plan worship or events, and supporting each other.
- Our table at Rockville Pride last year, and the fun of handing out kazooos to delighted people.
- The faces of the people we've lost to death and whom we continue to miss.

I can feel:

- The sunshine, as I serve communion at the park or in the GPC parking lot, feeding our hunger for God during Covid.
- The anxiety of getting worship online in a hurry when the pandemic settled in, and the relief of having skilled tech people.
- The joy of visiting you at home, care facilities, and hospitals, whenever it was allowed.

I can hear:

- The sound of kids in worship.
- The sound of someone gearing up to make their favorite point in a meeting.
- The happy noise of the VIPS (Very Important Presbyterian Seniors) gathering each month.
- The swell of Sunday music, or the voice of a young person quavering through being the worship leader for the first time.
- The din of people talking during coffee hour.

For all of it, and more, I'm grateful. I'm so thankful for my time as part of the GPC community. You all will be firmly in my prayers as God leads you into the next chapter.

—REV. MARY AUSTIN
PASTOR

WAYS TO CONNECT



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MANY BLESSINGS

"Growing Spiritual Fruit and Bearing Witness to God's Goodness"

In the northern hemisphere, summer is the season for growing agricultural crops. Berries of all kinds, sweet watermelon served ice-cold, and even the variety of vegetables all bear witness to the goodness of this season. While our climate is changing, it seems that plant life adapts and adjusts to changes in temperature, rainfall, and sunlight.

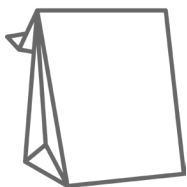
Perhaps we can take a cue from creation and consider how we are growing spiritual fruit and bearing witness to the goodness of God. After all, Jesus did say, "If you abide/remain/dwell with me, you will bear much fruit" (John 15:5). The apostle Paul listed some of the fruit that disciples of Christ produce: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). While the church is in transition, we can take another cue from creation and learn to adapt, learn new things, try new things, and consider new things, believing that God is calling us to something new this season.

"Abide in me," Jesus said, "and you will bear much fruit." Friends, fear not the changes that lie before us. We'll miss Rev. Mary Austin, of course. But God is faithful, and calls us to be faithful, too. We'll be fine. And one day we will look back on this summer and be amazed at what God produced in us. I promise.

—REV. MARY BETH LAWRENCE
ASSOCIATE PASTOR



SUMMER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES | PREPARING 200 BAG LUNCHES



On **Sunday, June 11**, and **Sunday, August 13**, following the 11:00 service, we will assemble 200 bag lunches for So Others Might Eat (SOME) in Lindsay Hall. Want to help? We will need volunteers to plan the lunch assembly, shop for food, prepare food, assemble bag lunches, and deliver lunches to Washington, D.C., the next day. Watch GPC emails and Sunday bulletins for more information and then contact Mary Beth Lawrence to offer assistance with any of these steps.

Summer Worship Plans

A note about worship this summer – we're still having it! This summer we are taking a break from the Follow Me curriculum to focus on the story of the early church. The earliest Christians didn't have committees, a Book of Order, or a presbytery to guide them in their worship, mission, and decision-making. But they did have the Holy Spirit. Each week, we will reflect on a passage from Acts and learn more about this amazing God who delights in doing new things.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



"FOOD TRUCK PARTY, ON A ROLL WITH GOD" allows kids to use all their senses to learn about God's love for them, and the importance of showing love for one another. It offers powerful Bible story-based adventures, engaging music, science experiments, a wide variety of crafts, and more. Kids experience love, acceptance, and spiritual growth in a safe and creative environment with talented adult and teen leaders.

The cost is just \$30 for one child, \$40 for two children, and \$50 for three children. Registration is required and the form can be found at www.gpchurch.org. Questions? Contact Carolyn Hayes. **Please register online by June 19.**



QUIPS FROM EQUIPPING DISCIPLES

disciples.” “So, what does that mean?” was their response. “Well, it’s rooted in biblical study, supplemented with theological study, and through discussion and occasionally debate we try to understand what it all means to us in our lived lives.” A not entirely blank look followed.

I continued: “Presbyterians believe that religious education doesn’t end with confirmation or when you finish high school. Rather, it is just the foundation and we are called to be informed believers and life-long learners, who are then able, with deeper love and understanding, to share God’s love with our immediate neighbors and throughout the world.”

“So you’re the nerds,” they said. “Yeah, pretty much, but we’re nerds with big hearts,” I replied.

Equipping Disciples is the ministry responsible for Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Ed, and the Young Families Ministry. That means we provide a variety of classes, such as Communion, Bible Basics, and Confirmation for our students; various Bible studies and Lenten and Advent studies; and other short-lived studies of particular books or topics for adults, as well as speakers of all sorts. We work with Congregational Life to provide intergenerational gathering opportunities, such as the 4th of July Picnic, the Fall Festival, the Ornament-Making Party, and the MLK Day of Service, because a big part of discipleship is fellowship.

Save the Date! All-Church Potluck Picnic – Saturday, July 1

Come celebrate the 4th of July by sharing food and enjoying fellowship, and then watch the fireworks from GPC’s north parking lot or by taking a short walk up 355 to Bohrer Park. (Details to follow soon.)



Educational Opportunities for Adults

Sunday Morning Classes: 9:30 a.m., all Hybrid

- **Present Word** is discussing their Spring Study book.
- **The Bible as a Whole** is moving into Revelation.
- **Contemporary Christian Classics** is debating its next study.

Sunday Morning Small Groups:

- Sunday Morning Small Group will publicize its plans soon (8:15, Hybrid).
- Creation Care (9:30, Room 32/33).

Monday Evening Bible Study has moved into Jeremiah (7:00 p.m., Zoom).

Wednesday Evening Bible Study is finishing Exodus and hasn’t decided on their next direction (7:30 p.m., Zoom).

Wednesday Evening Frederick Small Group is studying the Follow Me curriculum (7:30 p.m., Zoom).

Wednesday Afternoon Group is reading *Hard Books with Good Friends: Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl (3:00 p.m., Zoom). Meetings began on May 17.

2nd Friday Book Club is reading *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Maryland’s governor, Wes Moore (7:30 p.m., Zoom).

Worship and Educational Opportunities for Children

Sunday mornings at 9:30 and 11:00, children of all ages begin in the Sanctuary with their families. On the first Sunday of the month, children stay in worship for the entire service. The other Sundays, elementary-age children are most often excused for Sunday School following the Children’s Message. For your child’s safety, we request that a parent or guardian come to the classroom to pick up their child.

For children who wish to remain in the service, we provide an extensive Children’s Bulletin that reflects the scripture reading of the day. Children 4 years old and younger are welcome to enjoy the Playground, a small space in the Sanctuary with quiet toys where children can play, with their parents sitting nearby. Our Nursery is available for our youngest children from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

—CAROLYN HAYES
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES



YOUTH AND COLLEGE MINISTRY



Congratulations to Our 2023 Confirmands!

It was an honor to walk with these students on their confirmation journey! Together they had deep conversations about God, Christ, prayer, the Bible, our creeds, and simply how to continue their faith past Confirmation Sunday. Thank you, GPC family, for welcoming our newest and youngest members into our church family.

Pictured, from L to R: Carrie Larsen, Ashley Agard, Aaron Tchouambou, Katie Musick, David Fofuh, Leah Dobbins, Lainey Young, Max Young, Abigail Tchouambou, Charles Che, Daniel Anpoma, and Rev. Whit Fauntleroy

Thank You, VIPS and GPC Family, for Your Support!

Our **Muffin Mania Bake Sale**, held on April 23, was a huge success! Thank you for baking muffins and for supporting our Youth summer events! The \$850 raised will help to support our students who want to attend future mission trips and summer camp. A special shout-out to Nancy Sanders for her leadership in making this fundraiser happen.



CONGRATULATIONS!



CASEY CARUSO	Vanderbilt School of Law
MONA CARUSO	Eckerd College BS, Psychology with Human Development
CHASE WILSON	West Virginia University BS, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
ALLEN BAXTER	Sherwood High School
EUGENE CHOI	Col. Zak Magruder High School
SAM EISENHOUR	Col. Zak Magruder High School
SARAH FRANETZKI	Col. Zak Magruder High School
A.J. GORDON	Watkins Mill High School
ALLISON HOWLETT	Richard Montgomery High School
RACHEL MAYO	Clarksburg High School

Summer Camp Theme for Middle School and High School Camps: NEVERTHELESS 2023

Being a Christian is so much more than just going to church and trying hard to be good. Being a Christian means Jesus is totally in charge of our lives. What does this mean for a middle or high school student? It means that their thoughts, their habits, their belongings, their wildest dreams—everything about them—is no longer what they live for. Instead, Jesus is living in them. When we live for ourselves, we get prideful, angry, scared, bored, and even just plain mean. But when Jesus lives through us, we are filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control. At summer camp, youth will learn what it means to die to Christ but nevertheless have him alive within us.



MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP Juniata College | July 17–20 **HIGH SCHOOL CAMP** Salisbury University | July 24–28

Summer 2023 Youth & College Events

Fun events, outings, and activities are in the works for both our youth and our college students. For more information, email Carrie at clarsen@gpchurch.org.

—CARRIE LARSEN
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS



MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE:

A Season of Harmony and Praise

Our dedicated and talented musicians have been hard at work, sharing their gifts and uplifting our congregation through their music.

I'm delighted to share that in March the Canterbury Ringers participated in the annual Ocean City handbell festival. Their beautiful ringing resonated with the many other handbell musicians, and I'm proud to say that they represented our church admirably.

Our Chancel Choir has also been active, showcasing their choral excellence during Holy Week services. Their heartfelt and inspiring renditions of the anthems on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday were deeply touching, creating an atmosphere of reverence and celebration. Of particular note was the collaborative ecumenical service on Good Friday here at GPC, where we were joined in the choir loft by choristers from Epworth United Methodist Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Grace United Methodist Church.

Looking ahead, I'm pleased to announce that a variety of musical groups, including CWF, International Choir, and Praise Band, will be gracing our worship services before the summer arrives. Their diverse styles and genres bring an added richness to our worship experience, and we're eager for you to enjoy their offerings.

As summer approaches and my time leading the Music Ministry ends, the focus will shift to smaller musical ensembles. These intimate groups allow for a more personal connection with the music, and we believe that they provide a unique opportunity for our musicians to explore their talents further. If you would like to share your talents in worship, let me know.

We are incredibly grateful for the hard work, dedication, and passion that our music ministry members bring to our church community. Their ministry not only enriches our worship services but also deepens our spiritual connections. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing more musical blessings with you in the coming months.

—WADE MEYERS
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS



MONTGOMERY PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

The final concert of the orchestra's 2022–2023 season, titled "Symphonies Different Together: A Continued Exploration of the Evolution of the Symphony," will be held on **June 11 at 6:30 p.m.** in our Sanctuary. It will feature *Symphony No. 8 in F major, Opus 94*, by Ludwig van Beethoven and *Symphony No. 1* by Adolphus Hailstork. There is no charge to attend the concert, but donations are always gratefully accepted.

Free Summertime Opportunities at GPC for Youth and Adult Musicians

MONDAY EVENINGS: JUNE 26, JULY 10, 17, 24 & 31, AND AUGUST 7

Youth Leadership and Chamber Music Festival

The Montgomery Philharmonic will again host this festival for students ages 11–19, with MP members serving as coaches for the various chamber music ensembles. Playing in an ensemble teaches listening skills, leadership, and how to rely on one another. It is also great preparation for studying and enjoying music later in life! Participants will present a short concert in our Sanctuary on August 7 at 8:15 p.m.

Summer Reading Sessions

The Montgomery Philharmonic is again offering Summer Reading Sessions in Lindsay Hall to musicians of all ages who are accomplished enough to play in a symphony orchestra and who have reasonable sight-reading skills.

For more information about both programs, visit www.montgomeryphilharmonic.org.

GPP&K SPRINGING FORWARD!

During the month of **April**, the children learned about “**Animals that Hatch.**” They had their own incubators and enjoyed observing eggs hatch into adorable baby chicks. They also learned about the life cycle of a butterfly.

We also held our second set of **Parent-Teacher** conferences. This is a special time for our teachers and parents to share each child’s progress during the school year.

May has been full of exciting events. The Threes classes are learning about different forms of transportation. The Pre-K classes are learning about **Community Helpers**. GPP&K expanded its annual **Truck Day** into its first **Family Truck Day Fair**. For this event, held May 12, we invited all types of vehicles to join us in the church parking lot. It’s always a great opportunity for the children to have a hands-on experience. They learn about each vehicle and/or truck, what it looks like, and the variety of functions that it has. The fair also included food, games, face painting, and a moon-bounce.

The children worked on Mother’s Day surprises for their mothers and other important women in their lives and then we celebrated those women during our annual “**Muffins for Moms**” event.

As our school year ends (May 26 for Pre-K and June 2 for Kindergarteners), we are excited to honor our Pre-K children as they move up to Kindergarten and celebrate our Kindergarteners as they graduate from GPP&K.



REGISTRATION FOR THE 2023–2024 SCHOOL YEAR IS STILL OPEN!

You may register online or in person. If you know someone who may be interested in registering their child, ask them to contact the school office via email at schooloffice@gppk.com or by calling **301-977-5787**. You may also visit our website, www.gppk.com, for more information.

—CYNTHIA DOBBINS
GPP&K DIRECTOR



TABLE FELLOWSHIP

Now is the time to sign up for Table Fellowship, previously known as Dinners for Eight (D48)! Table Fellowship will take place indoors or outdoors, will involve adults with or without children, and will not require everyone to host. For every eight adults that sign up, a group will be created. After participating in one group, you may sign up to be included in another group. To be added to a group, contact Clara Pratt (*call the church office*).





MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

FIRST SATURDAY | 8:00 AM | CAFÉ SOPHIE

At their **May** meeting, attendees were happy to welcome back Whitney Myers, GPC's former Praise Team director, whose presentation was titled "Stories Behind Famous Hymns and Songs." On **June 3, July 1, and August 5**, the group will meet for breakfast and conversation at Café Sophie in the Gaithersburg Airpark (formerly the Airport Café). No program, just fellowship, and each person pays for his or her own breakfast. As always, women are welcome to join the group for these outings. Questions? Contact Ted Farrand (*call the church office*).



VERY IMPORTANT PRESBYTERIAN SENIORS {VIPS}

FIRST THURSDAY | 11:30 AM | LINDSAY HALL

The **June 1** meeting will provide an opportunity to reminisce and share stories, as each attendee is invited to bring in photos, souvenirs, artifacts, etc. representing his/her experiences of "Summer - Then and Now." All items will be displayed on tables in a walk-around exhibit. Gathering begins at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at Noon. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunches or may participate in the shared lunch. The annual **4th of July Party** will take place on **Tuesday, July 4, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at the Clubhouse at the Villas at Asbury Methodist Village. The gathering will feature a potluck meal, patriotic songs, and games.

There will be **NO** regular meeting in **August**. Questions? Contact Nancy Sanders (*call the church office*).



CRAFT GROUP

FIRST SUNDAY | 12:15 PM | LINDSAY HALL

The group has resumed meeting in person and continues knitting and crocheting to support the requests for prayer shawls, knitted hats, scarves, mittens, and prayer squares by local service organizations, including Holy Cross Hospital, The Equity Center, and JSSA (Jewish Social Services Agency). You can help too - just let Barbara know! Any pattern is fine. Yarn and patterns are available, if you need them. Prayer squares are 4"x4" and should have a prayer card attached. Donations must be washed and placed in a plastic bag. Arrangements for pick-up can be made, if needed. The next four meetings will be on **June 4, July 9, August 6, and September 10**. (Please note that the meeting dates in July and September were changed because of the July 4 and Labor Day holidays. Also note the new meeting location.) Questions? Contact Barbara Clark (*call the church office*).



2ND FRIDAY BOOK CLUB

SECOND FRIDAY | 7:30 PM | ZOOM

The group is currently discussing Chapters 7-10 of **The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates** by Maryland's governor, Wes Moore. They are hoping to hold hybrid (in person at GPC or via Zoom) summer meetings on **June 9, July 14, and August 11** at an earlier time. You are invited to participate anytime, even if you haven't read the book. For more information or to verify meeting start times, contact Cindy Cenname (*call the church office*).



CUB SCOUTS

TUESDAYS | 7:00-8:00 PM | LINDSAY HALL

The Cub Scout Pack 64 scouts have been busy finishing their achievements. At their overnight Spring Campout in **April**, they fished, hiked, told jokes, performed skits, and made dinners and s'mores. They got pretty wet one night but had fun in spite of the weather! In **May**, they assisted with tree dispersal on Quarry Earth Day in Rockville, attended the county-sponsored Bicycle Rodeo, and took a spring hike. Their last Pack meeting before summer will be held on **June 6** and will include a **Raingutter Regatta**, at which each scout makes a boat and races for time. Scouts will receive their achievements and move up to the next rank. **Summer activities** will be announced at a later date. Rising kindergarteners (fall 2023) through rising fifth graders are welcome to join in any of the activities. For more information, contact Barbara Clark (*call the church office*).





MANY THANKS and GOODBYE

Mary, we have been truly blessed by your talents, insights, and love that you've so warmly shared with us since you came to GPC in the fall of 2019. We will be ever grateful for your gifted leadership of Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church during these past 3-1/2 very challenging years. May God bless and keep both you and Carl as your ministry begins its next chapter in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

—YOUR GPC FAMILY



BIG THANKS to Rev. Whitney Fauntleroy!

Health challenges have kept Rev. Whit from doing as much at GPC as she would have liked. She's going to come off the regular payroll and remain a friend of the church and a favorite guest preacher. We're very thankful for all the creativity and wisdom that she's contributed to GPC.



THANK YOU— and GOODBYE

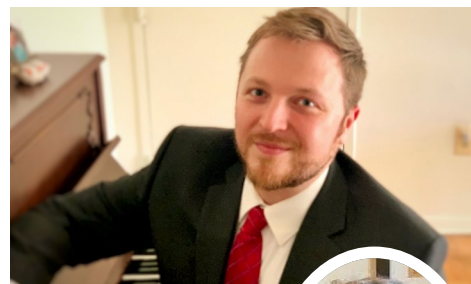
Dear GPC Family and Friends,

My time at GPC has been a beautiful, faith-filled journey that has left an indelible mark on my heart. It has been a joy to share the peaks and valleys of your lives, and to share our music in worship together. As a community, we faced the challenges of the pandemic head-on and emerged more resilient. We've grown our music ministry in new directions, and I'm very glad that our ensembles have been flourishing this past year. Most especially, it has been a delight to see the children and youth back in worship. I am deeply grateful to the parents and volunteers who have not only made that possible but made it a profoundly positive experience for them.

After much reflection and prayer, I have made the decision to accept the position of Music Minister for Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia. I intend for my last Sunday at GPC to be June 25, with my last day in office on July 1.

I cannot express enough how deeply grateful I am for our time together. Your friendship, compassion, and encouragement have had a profound impact on my life, and I treasure the time we've had together.

—WADE MEYERS



WELCOME, *Rev. LeAnn Hodges!*



The Session has hired the Rev. LeAnn Hodges to serve GPC as a stated supply pastor, half-time, starting July 1. A stated supply pastor has an annual contract and is hired by the Session, instead of being called by the congregation. Rev. Hodges currently serves at Oaklands Presbyterian Church in Laurel and is a certified coach. Her work will be in two main areas—preaching and worship, and helping GPC look to the future. She will be at GPC two Sundays a month and will plan the worship schedule, line up guest preachers, and help the church in this season of discernment.

Session-appointed elders Gayle Luckenbaugh, Donna Dannels, and Laurie Wallace-Lanham, and HR Committee members Lucy Nzelle and Gary Aller served as the search committee for this position. They all agreed that Rev. Hodges is uniquely gifted to work with GPC in this next season and were excited to recommend her to the Session. The Session has approved her contract and terms of call and looks forward to her work at GPC.

In her bio, Rev. Hodges says that she is the mother of three school-aged boys, wife and daughter of teachers, sister of a social worker, granddaughter of small-town farmers, lover of creativity, former engineer, grateful pastor in National Capital Presbytery, leadership coach, and beloved child of God. She is passionate about helping people live into the fullness of God's calling and joyfully participating in the sorrows and celebrations of life. As a former engineer, she embraces a systems approach to leadership, and has worked with a family-systems-trained leadership coach for over 12 of her 20+ years of ordained ministry. Her driving force as a disciple of Jesus Christ is to practice a way of life that works toward the full liberation of all of creation. And if there is high quality dark chocolate along the way, even better!



CONGRATULATIONS!



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • PROPHETIC

Elder Kris Obom Maldarelli was approved by the National Capital Presbytery as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) and commissioned at their Zoom meeting on Tuesday, March 28. Several people joined her in our Sanctuary and on Zoom that night to celebrate this milestone event.

A CRE receives additional training and is commissioned for service to a particular congregation. Kris has been called to serve on the staff at Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Kensington but will also retain her ties to GPC. We'll celebrate with Kris on an upcoming Sunday, and we're thankful that she'll continue to be at GPC on some Sundays.

*THANK YOU
GPC Family!*

I want to thank you for walking with me as I journeyed toward the call to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder. I also want to thank everyone who joined me in person or online for the commissioning and laying on of hands. I was humbled by your presence and grateful for your prayers and support. My time will be split between Warner Memorial Presbyterian and GPC, so I hope to be with you a few times a month.

—ELDER KRIS OBOM MALDARELLI

RECENT MISSION TRIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

PDA Mission Trip (April 30 – May 5)



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Another productive trip to New Bern, North Carolina, thanks to the 26 volunteers from GPC (and friends)! For details about their many accomplishments that week, visit the GPC blog on the website.

Rebuilding Together Montgomery County (RTMC) – Saturday, April 29

A group of 22 people (17 from GPC and 5 from St. Paul UMC in Laytonsville) gathered at a Silver Spring residence for GPC's annual community service project to help make a homeowner's house safer and more functional. In only one day they were able to make a noticeable difference both inside and outside the house. In addition to extensive yard clean-up (pruning bushes, raking, and removing trash), they performed multiple tasks inside the house, including replacing kitchen lighting, faucet, and 12'x12' floor; repairing stairs and handrail; replacing threshold between stairs and kitchen; installing smoke detectors on all levels; and replacing bathroom exhaust fan and vent, toilet, and showerhead.

Special appeal: The family's refrigerator doesn't work, so if you have one that you'd like to donate, contact Yaw Obeng (call the church office).

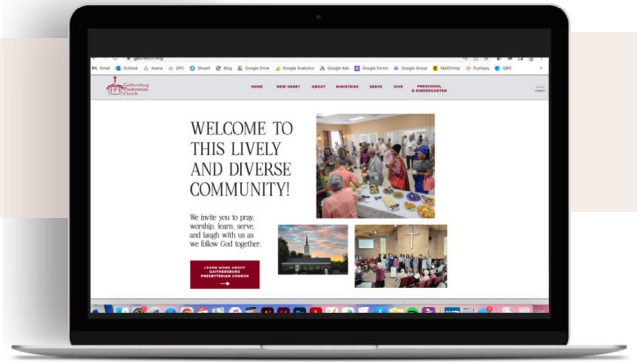
A big thank you to all who participated in this project!



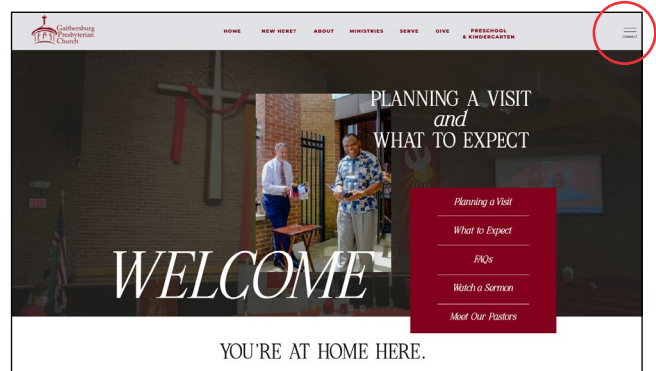
ARE YOU USING

THE NEW GPC WEBSITE?

Did you know that in June, GPC's new website will have been active for six months? It was created to serve both people "shopping" for a new church and all ages of folks in our congregation. We hope that you've noticed the website's new look and features and are finding it to be a valuable resource for church information. If you happen to be thinking that you haven't really needed to use the website, here are four reasons among many for regular viewing:



1. **The Church Calendar of Events** on the home page is now actively kept up to date by member volunteer Paul Whitehead. Please contact him at office@gpchurch.org to provide all calendar event information for posting.
 2. **The Online Church Directory in the Member Portal** is the only place you can find cell phone numbers! If you haven't provided yours yet, please do. And while you are doing that, please add your photo. Have you forgotten the general password to get into the directory? It's "**610sfrederickave**". From the Directory login page, click the "Manage my Family Info" link to create your own personal account & password to add a photo and manage your contact information.
-
3. **Church Staff and Church Leadership Bios** with photos allow you to really get to know the people who are dedicated to making GPC the best it can be. Just click on staff photos on the About page to read staff bios and find their phone extensions. Information on Deacons and Elders can be found beginning on page 8 of the February 2023 issue of the Mainstream.
 4. **The GPC Blog and Mainstream** (as well as the Member Portal) can be accessed on computers at the top of the home page under the double black line Connect link, and at the bottom (footer) of each page. If you haven't checked out the **Blog** recently, you don't know what you're missing. There are recipes from the Souper Fellowship Luncheon, delightful tales from PDA Mission Trips, and of course continuing great information for families from Carolyn Hayes. In addition to the current issue of the **Mainstream**, previous issues are also available.



The new website was coordinated by the Digital Ministry and Communications committees and designed by our GPC Communications Manager, Jenna Obermiller Bruni. This big project was paid for through the Barbara Reid Fund, a legacy gift to the church. The Communications committee has held three tutorials to receive feedback and answer questions about the website, and they would be happy to provide more to any interested groups. Our GPC website will continue to be a work in progress, so we encourage your input by contacting Paul Whitehead or Lucille Baur at office@gpchurch.org.

BEAUTIFYING OUR CHURCH GROUNDS



Under the auspices of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, the Creation Care Committee beautified our church grounds on

April 1. Special thanks to church members who have donated or plan to donate perennial plants from their gardens or local nurseries. Many thanks to the physical efforts of Pat Keziah and his grandson Daniel, Larry Masselink, Elisa McClelland, Suzie Ward, Laura Wilson, and Paul & Lisa Whitehead for weeding and planting the donated flowers. Another planting was held May 20.

Blooming for Easter Sunday:

- Fragrant white Candytuft with evergreen foliage that may rebloom in fall
- Vivid blue Forget-Me-Not, actually a short-lived perennial that reseeds readily
- Pale coral and yellow Columbine, a hybridized native
- Forsythia, large shrubs with early yellow flowers on arching stems

During the rest of the growing season, look for:

- Five varieties of ferns previously planted by Donna Dannels and Sue Eisenhour: native tall Ostrich Fern, striking silver/green/purple Japanese Painted Fern, glossy Japanese Holly Fern, Korean Tassel Fern (unfurls with tassels that disappear as leaves grow), and Korean Autumn Fern (fronds emerge coppery and mature to green)
- Natives purple Echinacea, Orange Coneflower, and golden Black-eyed Susan (our state flower)
- Natives tall Woodland Sunflower (prefers dappled shade) and White Turtlehead with flowers resembling snapdragons
- Pinks, whose rose-pink blooms pop amidst blue-green foliage
- English Lavender, whose purple blooms and leaves are fragrant
- Natives blue Aster and the orange milkweed Butterfly Weed, host to monarch butterflies
- Native False Blue Indigo, whose sky-blue flowers become rattling black seed pods
- Hummingbird Mint, a hybridized native with bold orange blooms, and native Narrowleaf Mountain Mint with white flowers

All of these are perennials, meaning that they rebloom year after year; many are native (helpful to local pollinators); most are deer resistant; and we should enjoy blooms from March through October. Enjoy the gifts of cooling plants, lovely colors and shapes, occasional fragrance, and wonderful pollinators.

—LISA WHITEHEAD
GPC CREATION CARE COMMITTEE



LIVING LEGACY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

The annual LLF dinner was held at Asbury on Sunday, May 21. The "Meet-and-Greet" time was followed by dinner and a short program, including presentations about some benefits of the current endowments.

The Living Legacy Fellowship was established by the Session in July 2011 to recognize individuals who have made past, current, or future planned gifts to GPC's endowments. The dinner also provided an opportunity for other church members and friends to investigate ways that they can participate with future legacy possibilities (will bequests, retirement plan beneficiary, life insurance beneficiary, etc.). For information about these options, contact Phil Melberg or Pat Keziah (*call the church office*).

SUMMER CAMPING OPPORTUNITY!

The Moshers and the Chois are organizing another summer trip to **Greenbrier State Park**. Join them for **Tent Camping (August 11-13)** or, for those looking for a less rustic weekend, a **Day-at-the-Lake (August 12)**. This outing is for individuals and families who want to camp out or spend a day at the lake while enjoying the fellowship of other GPC families. Greenbrier is a beautiful park and a great starter experience if you've never gone camping.

The only "official" activity will be a potluck-style dinner on Saturday night. The rest of the time is open for swimming, volleyball, boating, hiking, fishing, etc. The Moshers will again offer canoe rides and the use of kayaks and stand-up paddle boards.

The Chois have reserved Site C69 in the Cedar Loop, which has electrical hookups and is a pet-friendly loop. The Moshers have reserved Site A8 in the Ash Loop down near the lake.

You are invited to reserve a site near either of those two sites. But don't wait!
More than half of the sites in the Ash and Cedar Loops have already been reserved.
Reserve Your Campsite Now!



THIS IS A DO-IT-YOURSELF TRIP. YOU RESERVE. YOU TAKE FOOD.
YOU TAKE A TENT. YOU MAKE ALL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS.

Please email **Fred** and **Kwang** (*call the church office*) with your Site # or if you want to be kept in the loop about this activity. You may also email them if you have questions.

Scan for
Park Information



Scan for
Camping Reservations



Scan for
Flyer Download



*The Moshers and Chois hope that many other families will join them at Greenbrier!
The more the merrier, so help them spread the word!*



DIRECTORY CHANGES

Addresses and phone numbers
are available through the church office.

 Address change | Phone number change 

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

ADULTS MARCH 2023


Afi Adelan
Austin Castellanos &
Natalie Jorge-Castellanos
Thierry Kpehor &
Daniela Amewuame-Kpehor
Syntia Kwende
Paul Mastroni*
Ernest Mbeenge
Ray & Selma Ridgway
Loyce Simfukwe
*membership reinstated

CONFIRMANDS APRIL 2023

Ashley Agard
Daniel Anpoma
Charles Che
Leah Dobbins
David Fofuh Mouafo
Katherine Musick
Aaron Tchouambou**
Abigail Tchouambou**
Lainey Young
Max Young
**will be baptized & become
members in July 2023


Kingsley Anpoma 

Sandra Bruce 


Patricia Cummings 

Cynthia & (Chris) Dobbins 

Monica Fomuso 

Stuart & Carolyn Hayes 


James & Sandra Menzies 

Lucil & (Emmanuel) Oppong 

Charlotte Spencer  

Debonnaire & (Serge) Tchouambou 

Merilee Worsey 

Tiffany & (Ruddy) Velasquez 



WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Congratulations to

Ahmed & Doreen Tadde,
the proud parents of
AYLA HISANATOU TADDE
born on February 18, 2023

Eddie & Michele Schantz,
the proud grandparents,
and
Wesley & Stephanie Schantz,
the proud parents,
and
William Edmund Schantz,
the proud big brother of
CHARLES ALAN
born on April 19, 2023



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We mourn the loss of members and friends who have died.

Carol Rudolph
in Gaithersburg, MD
April 2, 2023

Florence ("Flo") Hoff
former long-time GPC member,
in Waynesboro, PA
April 11, 2023

Anna Utter
in Gaithersburg, MD
May 9, 2023

We extend our sympathy to the members of our congregation who have lost loved ones.

Rose Hendje
her mother-in-law, Rosalie Ebongo,
in Douala, Cameroon
January 16, 2023, and
her sister, Sarah Mbinack,
in Douala, Cameroon
January 19, 2023

Doreen Turczyn-Toles
her aunt, Virginia
(Ginny) Lomba Bradbury,
in Ocala, FL
March 13, 2023

Kingsley Agyepong
his mother,
Comfort Adowa Arko,
in Ghana
April 23, 2023



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

50 YEARS

Ernie & Lucille Baur
April 28, 1973

43 YEARS

Dick & Barb Clark
May 6, 1980

SANCTUARY FLOWER ORDERS

WANT TO DONATE FLOWERS *for a Sunday worship service?*

You can give flowers in honor or memory of someone or to celebrate a special occasion. The cost is \$45, and you may take the flowers home after the 11:00 service. Scan the QR code below to access both flower forms or visit gpchurch.org/flower-form to place your order.



THE MAINSTREAM

Submission Deadlines for Articles and Distribution of Newsletters

The Mainstream is published quarterly. It is sent electronically and hard copies are mailed in February, May, August, and November.

**Submissions should be
sent to jobermiller@gpchurch.org
and bmoldroyd@earthlink.net
by January 15, April 15,
July 15, and October 15.**

Questions? Contact the church office.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

April 2023

% OF
2023 YTD BUDGET

INCOME

Envelope Pledged.....	\$281,593	38%
Envelope Unpledged	\$89,494	45%
Loose Offering.....	\$4,944	55%
Other Income	\$3,676	184%
Room Rent.....	\$100	0%
Interest & Dividends	\$3,183	64%
Mizo Church – Offering	\$5,000	0%
Captial Maintenance Reserve ..	\$0	0%
Carryover	\$0	0%

Total.....\$ 387,99040%

EXPENSE

NCP Membership	\$6,928	25%
Human Resources.....	\$222,615	33%
Buildings & Grounds.....	\$73,577	33%
Office Operations.....	\$14,350	46%
Communications.....	\$2,519	48%
Stewardship	\$0	0%
Comm Engagement	\$37,378	38%
Eq Disciples.....	\$7,331	32%
Vital Worship	\$8,148	67%
Congregational Life	\$586	17%
Other.....	\$12,415	0%
Session	\$0	0%

Total.....\$385,84735%

NET\$2,143

To request a complete financial summary,
email accountingmanager@gpchurch.org.



GPC MEDIA POLICY

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church (GPC) uses print and digital media of church life in communications materials to share the ministry of GPC with our congregation and community at large. GPC reserves the right to use any media taken at any activity sponsored by GPC, without the express written consent of those individuals included within the media. GPC may use any such media in publications, social media, and any website.



THE MAINSTREAM

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

610 South Frederick Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877-1297

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PENTECOST IS SUNDAY, MAY 28!

REGISTER NOW FOR VBS (JUNE 26-30)!



FIND IT FAST!

- Summer Mission Opportunities (p. 2)
- Summer Worship Plans (p. 2)
- Vacation Bible School (p. 3)
- High School, College, and Law School Graduates (p. 4)
- Montgomery Philharmonic Concert & More (p. 5)
- GPP&K News (p. 6)
- Table Fellowship (p. 6)
- GPC Staff Changes (pp. 8-9)
- Congratulations to CRE Kris Maldarelli! (p. 10)
- Tips for GPC Website Use (p. 11)
- Camping Weekend at Greenbrier State Park (p. 13)