



RECENT SCENES AT GPC



WORSHIP IN PERSON

9:30 & 11:00 AM
EVERY SUNDAY



LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

11:00 AM
EVERY SUNDAY



From the Heart of Pastor Mary Austin

HOLIDAY MEMORIES

Dear GPC Members and Friends –

"What was the name of our math teacher?" a friend might ask you. Or, "What was that movie with that actor who was also in ____?" You might need to ask someone what you had for dinner last Christmas, or where you bought some great item. People who live together are always asking, "Have you seen the ____?"

We're used to outsourcing our memory to devices. It turns out that we also entrust it to other people. We don't have to recall everything because other people are remembering, too. Scientists call this "transactive memory"—memory that's shared in a group of people. This explains one layer of the grief we feel when we lose a longtime friend, or when a partner slips into dementia, or when a sibling dies. We lose a chunk of our own memories, along with their presence.

The church is the best place on earth for transactive memory. We have not just decades of it, but centuries. In Advent, we share the memories of Christians before us who have longed for the presence of Jesus in the world, who waited for him to be born, and who are waiting for his return. In a discouraging year, or century, we catch hope from one another again, and move into our shared anticipation.

This is our third Advent of waiting for life to return to "normal," whatever that was. We're still off-kilter, making mental calculations about coming to church in person, traveling, and seeing people in groups.

Advent shapes our waiting into a spiritual practice and reminds us that we're not waiting hopelessly. God has come to be with us, and will come again, and remains with us. We delve into our shared memory to remind ourselves that we are people of hope, and that Jesus is coming to us again, as God's gift.

You are in my prayers for a wealth of hope this Advent and Christmas.

Rev. Mary Austin
Pastor



www.gpchurch.org



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MANY BLESSINGS

Your grammar teacher will thank me. It turns out that verb tense really is important. John 1:5 says, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Some English Bibles translate this into the past tense—the light shone in the darkness, the darkness did not overcome it. But the original text is clear. The light of Christ still is shining and the shadows and pain and suffering of this world still have not overcome it.

Not war, not inflation, not poverty, not racism, not climate change, not gun violence. The light of God that is the Second Person of the Trinity still shines today.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to bear witness to that Light and to shine the light that is within us. We are to be Christ to each other—to listen to a neighbor, share our food with the hungry, work against injustice, support the vulnerable, visit the sick, and change the world. We don’t do these things in our own strength, but only in the strength of Christ within us.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. We hear this verse often in Advent and at Christmas, but it can carry us into the new year as well. Affirm this declaration daily, and let it change your life. Elsewhere in this issue you will find opportunities to shine the light and share the love of Jesus.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence
Associate Pastor

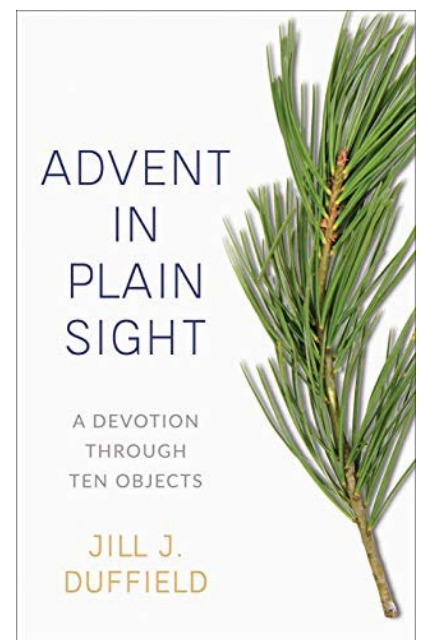
OUR ADVENT BOOK

Advent in Plain Sight by Jill Duffield will be our Advent Book this year. The publisher says, “At Christmas, God came into our ordinary world in the form of a child, and still today, God is at work through the ordinary stuff of life, if we train our eyes to see. In this daily devotional for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Jill J. Duffield draws readers’ attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation—objects we encounter in our own lives. Through objects such as gates, trees, cloth, light, and water, readers will find new meaning in the biblical account of Jesus’ coming. By connecting everyday objects with biblical texts, *Advent in Plain Sight* prompts readers to see the near kingdom of heaven on earth and ponder what that divine proximity enables and asks them to do and be. Each daily devotional features a Scripture reading, prayer, and reflection, reminding Christians that God still dwells among us, even in the most ordinary places.”

Two pop-up classes:

- Sunday, December 4, at 10:00 a.m. at GPC
- Wednesday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Questions? Contact Carolyn Hayes.



An artistic illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary is shown in a blue robe, holding the infant Jesus who is wrapped in a yellow cloth. A bright yellow star shines in the dark blue night sky above them.

Join us for Christmas!

**Join the GPC Advent and Christmas celebrations –
and invite a friend to share in the fun!
Worship services will be in person and livestreamed.**

November 27	First Sunday of Advent
December 2	Annual Ornament Making Party and Snowball Extravaganza from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for children and the young at heart at GPC.
December 3	Deck the Halls! The whole church is invited to come help decorate GPC for Christmas. Brunch provided afterward.
December 18	Special Christmas music at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. services. Cookie decorating party during coffee hour. All ages welcome.
December 24	Christmas Eve service – 4:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day service – 11:00 a.m.
January 1, 2023	New Year's Day service – 11:00 a.m.

Note: The church building will be closed December 26–30.

QUIPS FROM EQUIPPING DISCIPLES

The weather outside may be frightful, but we are still open!
The winter quarter finds most groups keepin' on keepin' on.



Educational Opportunities for Adults

Sunday Mornings – 9:30 a.m., all Hybrid

- **Present Word** will move into the Winter Study of the Present Word.
- **The Bible as a Whole** will continue slouching toward Revelation.
- **Contemporary Christian Classics** continues their study of the Apocrypha.

Sunday Morning Small Group, 8:15 a.m., Hybrid

- Follow Me curriculum in November & January; will follow Pastor Mary's lead in December.

Monday Evening Bible Study, 7:00 p.m., Zoom, will finish the Song of Songs and begin Isaiah.

Wednesday Morning Frederick Small Group, 7:30 a.m., Zoom

Wednesday Evening Bible Study, 7:30 p.m., Zoom, will continue with Exodus.

2nd Friday Book Club, 7:00 p.m., Zoom, continues *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibrahm X. Kendi.

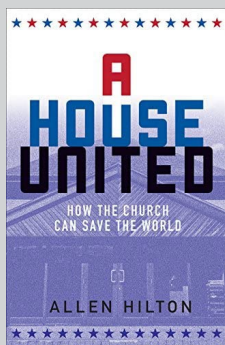
Worship and Educational Opportunities for Children

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, as well as any Sunday that includes a school holiday, children stay for the entire service. The other weekends, at the 11:00 service, children are dismissed to attend Sunday School. For your child's safety, we request that a parent or guardian come to the classroom to pick up their child.

For children who remain in the service, we provide an extensive Children's Bulletin that reflects the scripture readings of the day. Children 4 years and younger are welcome to enjoy the Playground, a small space in the Sanctuary with quiet toys where parents can sit 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



SOMETHING NEW TO TEMPT YOU!

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., Zoom, starting January 12

The study that brought you several great pop-up studies will morph temporarily to a 9-week study of *A House United: How the Church Can Save the World* by Allen Hilton. This is a stunningly even-handed approach to viewing, with an eye to healing, the divisiveness that is tearing the world to pieces.



CONGRATULATIONS TO CAROLYN HAYES!

On Sunday, October 23, during the 11:00 a.m. service, the congregation of GPC extended its support and congratulations to Carolyn Hayes, our Director of Children and Young Families, upon completion of her study to become a Certified Christian Educator in the PC(USA).

As Pastor Mary shared, "This was a year-long process akin to passing the Certified Public Accounting exam, getting a nursing license, or passing the bar exam. Very few churches have full-time educators now, and even fewer have educators with this level of training. No other church has anyone as creative as Carolyn!"



After celebrating her distinguished accomplishment during the service, the tributes continued at a reception in Lindsay Hall sponsored by the Congregational Life committee, with help from the Human Resources committee.

Carolyn's thoughtful and nurturing leadership is a highly regarded blessing to our church community!

Dear GPC Family,

Thank you!!! Thank you for helping me celebrate, thank you for your support and encouragement over the last couple of years, and thank you for being the most wonderful church family imaginable.

*Love,
Carolyn*



Poinsettia Orders

Once again, our Sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias at Christmas. To order your plant(s), complete this form and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday, no later than **Sunday, December 12**. The cost is **\$13 per plant**. Please make checks payable to "GPC" and marked "poinsettia."

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Number of plants _____

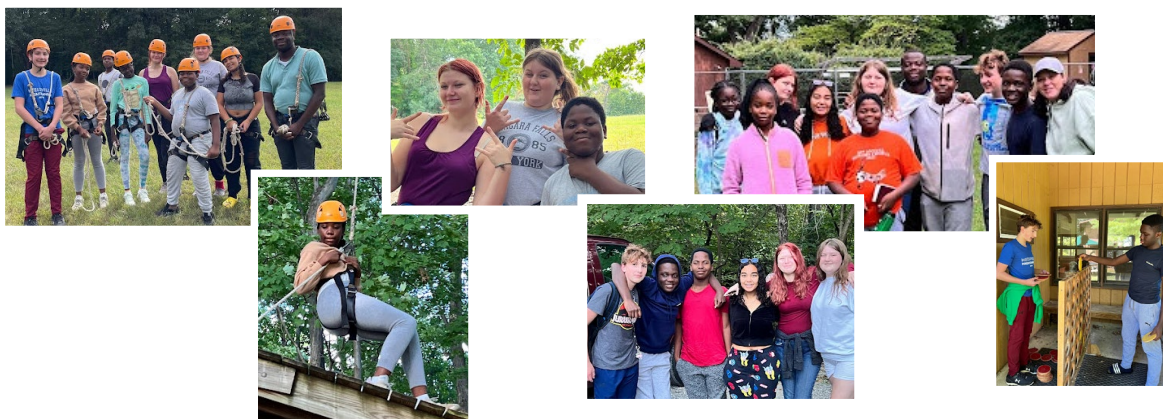
Phone _____ Email _____

Circle one: IN HONOR IN MEMORY IN CELEBRATION OF:

You may take home your poinsettia(s) after church on December 25.

YOUTH AND COLLEGE MINISTRY

Our start to the 2022–2023 school year has been awesome! We've shared conversations over bonfires and s'mores and shared laughs over games, and new friendships have been forged. The best highlight this fall was our Fall Retreat! We ziplined and hiked together, grew deeper with God and one another, and celebrated that God calls us His own. I'm looking forward to seeing God move during this next season. The pictures below show the smiles, the friendships, and some retreat highlights.



KINGDOM WORKER WORSHIP NIGHT / MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7 @ 7 PM / JOURNEY'S CROSSING CHURCH

#KINGDOMWORKER

No matter your age, you are a kingdom worker! Join us for an all-county worship and fellowship night to celebrate being one.

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Confirmation Class is open to all youth in 8th Grade and above. If you are interested in attending, please let Carrie know. A Parent Meeting is being scheduled in November for families that would like to participate. Confirmation will take place at the beginning of 2023.



Please see our parent emails for more details about our youth and college events.

Carrie Larsen
Director of Youth and Young Adults



THANK YOU FROM SHES

On behalf of the Linkages program, Summit Hall Elementary staff, and, most importantly, our families, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the GPC community for supporting the winter clothing needs of our children.

The outpouring of coats donated will allow us to have many Summit Hall children get ready, with the proper gear, to deal with the incoming winter days (and the current cold mornings too).

To all of the donors who dropped off coats, and who donated gift cards, we send a heartfelt thank-you for supporting your Church Winter Coat Drive and our vulnerable Summit Hall families. Special thanks to the Morrison couple for their coats delivery job. It is greatly appreciated.

—**Ana Schmitz**, Linkages To Learning, Community School Coordinator



MUSIC NOTES

"My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you—I whom you have delivered."

—Psalm 71:23 (NIV)

There are so many opportunities for music making in the seasons of Advent and Christmas and so much good music to look forward to! All of our active groups will bring the joy of music to worship this year, but guess what? If you've thought about singing, playing an instrument, or ringing handbells, now is a great time to join in! Even if you haven't thought about it before, the Music Ministry is actively recruiting folks for our music groups and worship. Please give some thought to whether this is a way that you can get more involved in the worship of God at GPC.

It is so easy to see and hear our groups in worship—to enjoy what they do to enrich worship and glorify God. Everything goes smoothly, but WE NEED YOUR HELP! We really need more singers in Chancel Choir and adding one treble ringer and two ringers in the bass section of the Canterbury Ringers would be an enormous blessing. If you're interested in one of our other groups, like the Praise Band or Christian Women Fellowship, don't hesitate to ask me!

Are you too busy for weekly rehearsals? Whether you are looking to join a group regularly or would like to join for a specific occasion (looking at you, Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. service!), you would be warmly welcomed and appreciated! Previous experience and the ability to read music are helpful, but not necessary. If you are inexperienced ringing handbells but would like to ring with the Canterbury Ringers or the Covenant Ringers, don't let that stop you! I would be happy to work with you to teach you what you need to know and show you the ropes of how to ring in a handbell choir.

We look forward to hearing from you and to bringing you special music from the Chancel Choir, Children's Joy Choirs, Handbell Choirs, and more this Christmas season.

Wade Meyers

Director of Music and Worship Arts

SAVE THE DATE FOR SANCTUARY CONCERTS!

MONTGOMERY PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

Sunday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m.

The orchestra's third concert of its 16th season will include *Childhood Memories – Valse Caprice* by Alton Augustus Adams/arr. Sandra Ragusa; *Letters from Burma for Oboe and String Orchestra* by Roxanna Panufnik, featuring oboist Evan Tegley; and *Symphony No. 8 in G major, Opus 88, B. 163* by Antonin Dvořák. Admission is free but donations are always gratefully accepted. Please wear a mask.

GAITHERSBURG CHORUS WINTER CONCERT

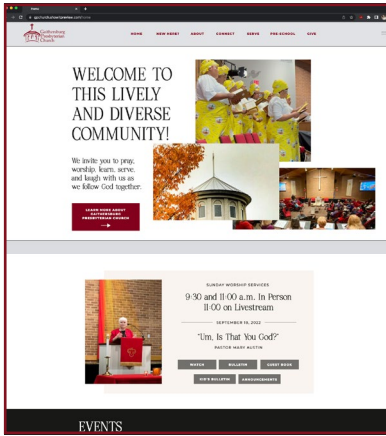
Friday, December 16, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will feature a variety of musical selections, including holiday favorites; Irving Berlin's *Blue Skies*; and a medley of John Denver hits; as well as Argentinian, Israeli, Sephardic, and Zambian selections. Admission is free but donations to the City of Gaithersburg are always gratefully accepted. Please wear a mask.



COMING ATTRACTIONS . . . NEW GPC WEBSITE!

With approval from Session, GPC's Digital Ministry and Communications committees have been working with Communications Manager Jenna Obermiller Bruni—our chosen website designer—to create a fresh, new look for our church. As Pastor Mary said, "Our current site is four years old, so it was ripe for an update."



The goal is to create a clean, modern, inviting website design on a new design platform that is easy to navigate for users of any tech level on a desktop, tablet, or mobile device. The website will serve as a resource/tool for a range of website viewers, from first-time church shoppers to lifetime members. As a bonus, the new website builder platform selected will SAVE us more than \$500 a year over the cost of our current platform.

GPC is paying for the new website with money from the Barbara Reid Fund, through a gift she left to our church in her will. That bequest continues to bless the church and fund special projects at the direction of the Session.

Our new website is coming soon! Be sure to log on and see the refinements!

NIFTY NOVEMBER GPP&K NEWS

Thanks to our Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service for coming to talk to our children about fire safety. The children got see the firefighter dressed in their firefighting suite of masks, tanks, and helmets.

To celebrate our fathers, we invited them to our Donuts for Dads event. The children spent a special moment with their dads in their classrooms while enjoying a special donut treat.

On picture day, the children wore adorable outfits. Individual pictures were taken as well as photos of the whole class. We look forward to seeing their precious smiles.

During November, the children discussed some things that they were thankful for. All of the classes made pumpkin muffins and shook cream until it turned into butter. Then they joined another class for their Friendship Feast to share their muffins and homemade butter. Delicious!!

We appreciate all of the love and support from the families of GPP&K and hope that everyone at GPC will have a wonderful Thanksgiving with families and friends.

We're still accepting registrations for some of our classes for our current school year. If you would like more information about our school and enrollment or to schedule a tour, please visit www.gppk.com and/or call the school office at 301-977-5787.

Stay tuned for our 2023–2024 open enrollment, which will begin next February. We would be happy to show you our facility, so contact us if you would like to schedule a tour.



*"Children are a gift from the Lord;
they are a reward from him."
—Psalm 127:3*

—Cynthia Dobbins
GPP&K Director



OUR THREE FINAL FEATURED COMMITTEES HELP EQUIP, FUND, AND STAFF GPC

What a year this has been as we've successfully transitioned from COVID Shutdown to Open Church Activities! Through it all, our pastors, church leaders, and committees have been hard at work to keep us connected and moving forward. We couldn't do that without direction, funding, and staff. Learn more as you read now about the Equipping Disciples, Finance, and Human Resources committees. Missed any of our previous committee articles? See the February, May, and August 2022 issues of the Mainstream on the GPC website. We end with a grateful "THANK YOU" to all those who so effectively and generously give a portion of their time and talents to GPC!

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES COMMITTEE



One of the key principles of Reformed faith is continuing faith education. The Equipping Disciples Committee takes that idea very much to heart for children, youth, and adults. Our Mission Statement reads: "To call, equip and nurture each generation to be and become effective and committed disciples of Jesus Christ by providing individuals of all ages with the knowledge and tools to grow in their faith, creating relationships that foster and sustain such growth and equipping and encouraging members for the work of Christ in their families, the church, and in the world." In other words, our ministers are teachers in the worship setting, and we are the teaching ministry by and for lay people.

The committee works alongside many wonderful church members, who serve as leaders for a variety of classes and Small Groups to provide a wide range of options—from Bible Studies of various kinds, to a study of Christian Classic literature, to book discussions and activities focused on social justice issues. The classes, often as not, become functional Small Groups, because many of them have met for years—with its members learning, laughing, and supporting one another through life's challenges. This is true for children and youth, as well as adults. So, we are also and intentionally in the business of fellowship.

Our intentionality about fellowship is evidenced by our not quite quarterly churchwide events—the Fall Festival; the Ornament-Making Party at the beginning of Advent; and the Fourth of July Picnic. We also host a Movie Night the first Friday of most months. We've collaborated with Congregational Life on many of these wonderful events, which have been enjoyed by our own folks as well as folks in the community. This program year we are looking forward to bringing speakers on a variety of topics to GPC: perhaps climate change and ways to reduce our carbon footprints, or new and different ways for parents to bring faith alive in their homes, or strategies for people who are transitioning from their working lives to making the most of their retirement years. These are just a few

ideas, and we welcome yours and potentially your help if you feel called to lead any of these studies, discussions, and/or fellowship events.

Although we are committed to adult education, most people think first of educating our children and youth, which are indeed important components of the ministry as a whole. Sunday worship services include a Children's Message, and on Sundays that are not communion Sundays or connected to a school holiday, the children and youth are excused for education and fellowship. We regularly provide a workshop for families so that their children understand and appreciate communion and also a Bible workshop. To accommodate families unable to attend worship and Sunday School, we provide a recorded version of Sunday School and Godly Play each week along with an e-bulletin.

Carrie and her team of youth advisors offer a confirmation class each spring. In addition to a very active youth group (Wednesday Night Youth Thing) she is also actively working with the families in the Frederick area (Friends in Frederick) to help keep them in touch with one another and the church, and also has an active college ministry. Carrie also works with several churches in the area to provide workshops on topics important to families with middle and high school age kids, as well as really great fellowship activities with the kids from the other churches. Whitney Fauntleroy not only brings us amazing sermons, but she also works with the Young Adults to bring them together for faith, fellowship, and fun. You may not have realized that Equipping Disciples has such a broad reach!

The Equipping Disciples Committee currently consists of Andy Imboden (chair), Cindy Cennane, John Hastings, Carolyn Hayes (staff liaison), Carrie Larsen, Steve Olin, Akiko Taketani, and Suzie Ward. We meet via Zoom on the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. If you think that you might be interested in joining us, contact Carolyn Hayes for the Zoom link. We'd love to see you!

—Carolyn Hayes

GPC COMMITTEES (CONT'D)

FINANCE COMMITTEE



In a typical not-for-profit organization scenario, a finance committee would only look at the financial well-being of the whole organization in pursuit of its missions and projects. As a PC(USA) member, however, GPC must be guided by its prescribed rules, as follows:

"The role of the finance committee is to support the treasurer in implementing the various financial policies of the session. They can help the treasurer in the budget development, overseeing investments, developing draft policies for session approval, selecting and approving financial secretaries and counters, and other appropriate tasks. They usually will review the current financial report on a monthly (timely) basis and communicate with the session when things seem out of order or when a group in the church is reaching the limit of their budget for the year. The finance committee usually does not make financial decisions unless they have been authorized to do so by the session.

<http://presbycc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Church-Treasurers-Manual-PCUSA-print-version.pdf>.

Although, as an independent church, we don't operate strictly that way, GPC's Finance Committee has made the PC(USA) order a routine in conducting business. Our responsibilities, as charged by the Session, can be summarized as follows:

- Create GPC's annual general budget, incorporating the individual budgets of each committee of the church
- Set aside and manage reserves for unforeseen situations
- Produce and report on monthly and annual finances to keep the Session apprised of budget projections, spending, offerings, and any other relevant data
- Protect the church assets by working with the Session to create policies that mitigate and prevent such circumstances as fraud, embezzlement, and other events that can potentially disrupt GPC's financial survival as a community of faith
- Keep a close eye on how GPC's financial resources are spent and what kind of debts it can support so that, if necessary, reserve funds can be initiated and sustained in order to stay on budget
- Make the Session aware of the state of GPC's budget and how it has been managed so that, in

collaboration with the Stewardship Committee, they can inform and solicit the congregation for unforeseen expenses and needs

The Finance Committee is responsible for a significant part of the church's well-being and success, and participation by its members requires a significant amount of time, patience, and knowledge.

Over the last couple of years, the Finance Committee was able to:

- Streamline payroll and W-2 production.
- Make it easier for GPC members to donate, especially by adopting and implementing Pushpay software.
- Strengthen our cooperation with the Stewardship Committee in order to propose the annual budget timely.
- Conduct timely annual audits with the Accounting Manager.
- Recover money drafted from GPC's bank account with a counterfeit check.

As 2022 ends, our main goal in light of the repairs underway is to encourage and call the entire congregation to a common effort of replenishing the Capital Maintenance Reserve (CMR), which has been almost depleted below the Session's set limit.

Finance Committee members are usually elected by the congregation, but they may be appointed and approved by the Session as well. Current members are Phil Melberg, Raymond Raven (chair), Joyce Schumacher, and Steve Ward. Pastor Mary Austin and the Accounting Manager participate in meetings as guests from time to time. Meetings are held via Zoom on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. GPC members are welcome to contribute to the dynamism and effectiveness of ways the congregation could improve the church's financial outlook. The Nominating Committee and the Session as a whole will be responsible for making any final decisions, however.

—Raymond M. Raven

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE



God counts on a village to make His church work in the world. In Romans 12, as well as other places in the Bible, we read about how God gives gifts to His people for the



purpose of using them to His glory. Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church is blessed with a gifted team of professionals dedicated to leading the membership in the worship, fellowship, and education opportunities vital for a healthy relationship and a life of abiding in Him. The Human Resources (HR) Committee supports the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff in building a healthy work environment for the professional staff and tapping into the multifaceted gifts of the congregation. HR's primary functions support all church employees by assuring that best employment practices are documented and followed, and that position descriptions and compensation are developed and administered appropriately. HR also staffs hiring actions for the non-pastoral staff, including the development of position descriptions, recruitment, and interview of applicants.

Most of the activities of the committee repeat annually. An extensive effort was made several years ago to revamp and rewrite the Human Resources Manual; however, the committee discusses periodic changes to the Manual as the need arises. The committee ensures that human resources practices, including compensation, comply with PC(USA) and Presbytery policies, and local, state, and Federal employment laws. The committee provides annual performance feedback to the Senior Pastor, but personnel management activities for the remaining staff are administered by the Head of Staff.

The National Capital Presbytery provides an annual recommendation for compensation for the pastoral staff, which is reviewed by the committee and recommendations are presented to the congregation for approval. Salary adjustments for non-pastoral employees are reviewed at least annually to reflect fairness, equity, and market-competitiveness. Compensation recommendations for these staff members are implemented through the budget process and do not require congregational approval. A review of staff compensation was completed recently, resulting in some adjustments to improve parity. Costs for contracted support staff (such as the Communications Manager) are also regularly reviewed.

Staff liaison to HR is Mary Austin, Head of Staff. Elder Lucy Nzelle is the Session liaison and Committee Chair. Members serve two-year terms with a maximum of four consecutive years. Current committee members are Gary Aller, Pam Clinch, Sue Farrand, Sally Rush, and Steve Ward. The committee holds closed meetings on the fourth Monday of each month and ad hoc as needed.

—Sue Farrand

ORDINATION OF OUR NEW CHURCH OFFICERS
January 8, 2023, 11:00 AM

LEARNING TO BE STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION

*"... Whatever you did for one of the least
of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

—Matthew 25:40

Clearly, Jesus calls us to give generously from our goods and talents to the least of these. In Matthew 25:19–28, Jesus also illustrates that we all need to be thoughtful stewards of all He has given us. By thoughtful caring for Creation, we can better care for the "least of these," who especially suffer from environmental destruction.

How can we become better stewards of God's Creation? Many Presbyterians across the country are becoming part of the "Creation Care" movement. Now some members of GPC are forming a "Green Team" to develop plans to educate themselves and take action within and outside the GPC community to better care for the environment and our neighbors.

On Sunday, October 16, at the Adult Education Fair, several Green Team organizers shared proposed ideas and materials for the expansion of the Green Team and a Creation Care class expected to begin in January. Several GPC congregants signed up to become involved in the brainstorming and developmental stage and showed interest in the class, which will focus on how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus one "green step" at a time.

A brainstorming meeting was held in mid-November, but we welcome anyone interested in joining our Green Team, brainstorming with us, having a Creation Care Sunday School class, and/or working on environmental stewardship. GPC Green Team organizers Carolyn Hayes, Elisa McClelland, Lisa Whitehead, and Laura Wilson can be contacted through the church office. Come join us!

*"... Just ask the animals and they will teach you...
Speak to the earth and it will instruct you...
For the life of every living thing is in his hand,
and the breath of every human being."*

—Job 12:7–10





VERY IMPORTANT PRESBYTERIAN SENIORS {VIPS}

VIPS meetings are held the first Thursday of the month in Lindsay Hall, with Gathering beginning at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting starting at Noon. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunches or may participate in the shared lunch. Upcoming meetings include our traditional **Christmas Party** on **December 1**, a presentation by Fred Mosher on **January 5** entitled “*Nutrition Labeling – Behind the Numbers*,” and a “*VIPS Turns 30! Let's Celebrate!*” party on **February 2**. Questions? Contact Nancy Sanders (*call the church office*).



MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

On **Saturday, December 3, at 8:00 a.m.**, the group will meet in Lindsay Hall. Our speaker will be Rev. Whitney Fauntleroy (topic TBD). On **January 7**, Rev. Mary Beth will share experiences from the GPC team's PDA mission trip to North Carolina in early November. On **February 4**, Ernie Baur's presentation will be “*50 Years in Broadcasting*.” As always, women are welcome to join the group for Christian fellowship, prayer, and a light continental breakfast. Questions? Contact Ted Farrand (*call the church office*).



CRAFT GROUP

The group has resumed meeting in person and continues knitting and crocheting to support the request for prayer shawls and prayer squares by Holy Cross Hospital in Germantown. 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. Questions? Contact Barbara Clark (*call the church office*). Their next two meetings will be **Sunday, December 4, and Sunday, January 8, at 12:15 p.m., in Room 30–31**.



2ND FRIDAY BOOK CLUB

The group's next meeting (still via Zoom) will be on **Friday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m.** They are currently reading *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibrahm X. Kendi. You're welcome to participate anytime, even if you haven't read the book. For more information, contact Cindy Cennane (*call the church office*).



CUB SCOUTS

In **September**, Cub Scout Pack 64 marched in Gaithersburg's Labor Day Parade. In **October**, the Pack honored four scouts who had completed their Religious Medals: Aaron Clark, Joseph Gleichmann, Everett Clark, and Johan Gleichmann. The annual family camping trip was held at Little Bennett State Park last month. A fun time was had by all at the costumed fall festival and party. The Pack's Arrow of Light Den has been visiting various BSA Troops, in anticipation of moving on next spring. In **November**, the Pack participated in the annual Scouting for Food drive. In addition, the Bears Den is sponsoring a canned food drive for the Pack for Gaithersburg HELP. In **December**, the Pack will welcome the Montgomery County Community Engagement Officer to the Den meetings. The Pack is looking forward to participating in Wreaths Across America at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, Maryland, next month as well. Looking ahead to 2023, the Pinewood Derby will be in **January** and the annual Scout Sunday celebration and Blue and Gold Banquet will be in **February**.

Regular meetings are on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Den activities are the first and second Tuesdays of the month, and Pack meetings are the third Tuesday. Boys and girls in Grades K–5 are welcome to join in the fun! Questions? Contact Barbara Clark (*call the church office*).





INTERFAITH WORKS WOMEN'S CENTER (IWWC)

**WEEK OF MEALS
DECEMBER 26–31, 2022**

*Deliver breakfast items
and pantry staples*

Provide dinner

To sign up and for more information, go to:
www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f48a8a87-iwwc

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO HELP!

**Volunteers
are needed to:**

**Purchase breakfast food
and other supplies and
drop them off contact-free
at either GPC or the
shelter's new location
(even closer to GPC!) on
Crabbs Branch Way in
Derwood, or use a grocery
delivery service.**

*Delivery Date:
Saturday, December 24*

**Prepare or order dinner
for 38 residents. Drop
dinner off or stay to serve
it (up to five volunteers
may serve each night).**

*Delivery Dates:
December 26–31*



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2022



Watch the tree go up on Saturday, December 3, during Deck the Halls and take an ornament home to provide a gift for a neighbor in need. This year, the Community Engagement Ministry has identified four worthy organizations to receive our Christmas gifts. More information will be available in weekly church emails, but here is a brief summary about each one.

Ukraine Relief – Write a check to GPC and in the memo line write “Ukraine Relief.” Your gift will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and will be used to meet basic needs and offer counseling.

SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) of Frederick County – This non-profit public charity supports students experiencing homelessness in Frederick County, Maryland. Write a check to GPC and in the memo line write “SHIP.” Your gift will be used to buy shoes, clothing, and school supplies and to provide safe lodging for teens experiencing homelessness.

Homes not Borders – This local organization welcomes refugees and asylum seekers to Maryland. Write a check to GPC and in the memo line write “HnB.” Your gift will help furnish apartments, offer job training, and provide salaries to newcomers.

Reverse Advent Calendar – Each day of December add a non-perishable food item (a list will be provided on the GPC website) to a box and on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day bring your box to church for dedication. These food items will be donated to Gaithersburg HELP and to our recently installed Little Free Pantry.



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

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

Mimi Hocknell
(in Gaithersburg, MD)
September 18, 2022

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

Betsey Bahls

(her father,
Fred Plumb,
in Chatham, MA)
October 30, 2022

Lucy Nzelle

(her aunt,
Adelley Metukmebong,
in Buea, Cameroon)
September 26, 2022

Erica Chizmar

(her brother,
Alexander Manz,
in Maumelle, AR)
September 16, 2022

Tom Reddy

(his wife, June Reddy,
in Gaithersburg, MD)
August 29, 2022

Anita Sung

(her mother, May Sung,
in Gaithersburg, MD)
August 20, 2022

Sue Luce

(her mother,
Mary Bohnenblust,
in Fargo, ND)
August 8, 2022



HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

39
YEARS

Ted & Sue Farrand
October 15, 1983

40
YEARS

Rob & Elisa McClelland
September 18, 1982



WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Congratulations to:

Emmanuel Mbaiti & Valerie Yang,
the proud parents,
and Heaven and Haiden,
the proud siblings of
HAILEE YANG
born on September 30, 2022

Edge Kaunda & Omega Namwali,
the proud parents of
**SANDRA KUYELA
KAUNDA**
born on September 11, 2022

Grace Ndjongo and family, the proud grandparents of
RILEY ETOO
born on August 27, 2022



HOLIDAY RECIPES

from GPC's Communications Committee


We hope that you've been enjoying the recipes included in Pastor Mary's recent Friday emails. All four recipes are also being posted on the blog portion of the GPC website.



DIRECTORY CHANGES

Addresses and phone numbers are available through the church office.

 = address change

 = phone number change

Joseph & Carol Dobrzynski  

June Hitt  

Pat Keziah & Barb Thorne  

Jean Lauderdale  

Larry & Mary Masselink  

Rosa Nine  

Marie Pondi 

Patrick Sasu  

Vanlalhriatrenga
"VLC" VanlalChhangte  
(new member)

Mary Wasik  

Terry & Megan Young 

FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

September 2022

2022 YTD **% OF BUDGET**

INCOME

Envelope Pledged	\$521,704	68%
Envelope Unpledged	\$154,414	74%
Loose Offering	\$5,499	37%
GPP&K Rent	\$0	0%
Other Income	\$2,096	84%
Room Rent	\$0	0%
Interest & Dividends	\$1,358	679%
Mizo Church - Offering	\$5,000	0%
Manse Rental	\$0	0%
Carryover	\$0	0%

Total **\$690,071** **64%**

EXPENSE

NCP Membership	\$18,849	75%
Human Resources	\$446,460	76%
Buildings & Grounds	\$174,236	82%
Office Operations	\$22,844	69%
Communications	\$32,530	75%
Stewardship	\$1,178	19%
Comm Engagement	\$74,908	74%
Eq Disciples	\$10,473	39%
Vital Worship	\$18,476	59%
Congregational Life	\$1,027	35%
Session	\$0	0%

Total **\$800,978** **75%**

NET **-\$110,907**

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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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



IMPORTANT INFO

- [Advent/Christmas Schedule \(p. 3\)](#)
- [Sanctuary Concerts – 12/11 & 12/16 \(p. 7\)](#)
- [GPC's New Website \(p. 8\)](#)
- [Women's Shelter Meals \(p. 13\)](#)
- [Christmas Giving Tree \(p. 14\)](#)