



What's Working @ Faith

Friday, August 28, 2026

Please note that we aren't able to list every opportunity happening over the next two months, so we encourage you to also take a look at the Fall issue of [The Good News](#) for the full overview.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

Saturday, Aug. 29: Faith UMC Work Day

Sunday, Aug. 30: Sunday School Open House

Sunday, Sept. 13: Sunday School begins for all grades! and Ministry Fair & Ice Cream Social and Youth Ministry pot-luck dinner at Cabin John

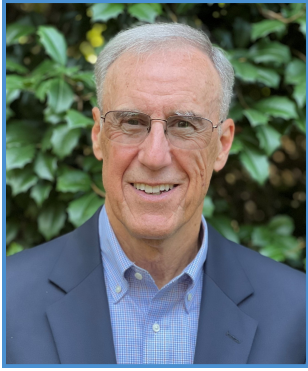
Tuesday, Sept. 15: ESOL class begins

Saturday, Sept. 19: Empty Nesters

Friday, Sept. 25: Faithful Friends for Grades 3-5

Faith in Action

REPORT FROM THE LEADERSHIP BOARD



The Leadership Board has had a productive summer, gathering for a five-hour retreat on July 11, its regular meeting on August 9, and an August 22 conversation with three workgroups exploring missional uses of our building and grounds for housing, food sharing, and reflection.

Before reporting what has been accomplished, let me offer a word of encouragement about your involvement at Faith: the simplified board structure creates many opportunities for church members to serve through task-focused workgroups and ministry teams. These teams offer shorter, more flexible commitments than board service and allow people to share their gifts in meaningful ways. We especially welcome assistance with financial governance, reporting, and transparency as the Board builds a clear, comprehensive, and sustainable framework for overseeing Faith UMC's financial resources. When someone asks you to serve, please consider how important your "yes" is to the life of the church.

Budget Structure

The Board endorsed a budget structure that balances current operations with long-term planning, including a capital reserve for the building and a future endowment. Our immediate focus is presenting the budget clearly so the congregation can understand Faith UMC's financial position, priorities, and mission impact. Since the pandemic, we have strengthened nursery care, Christian formation, youth ministry, hospitality, community outreach, worship, and care of a building that serves both our congregation and the wider community. As we prepare the 2027 budget, we have an opportunity to build the financial support needed to sustain these valued ministries while using our limited reserves wisely.

Endowment Fund

The Board also met with directors of the Faith Foundation, which houses Faith's only current endowment fund. This summer, the foundation directors reviewed an unprecedented number of grant requests; details will be shared with the congregation later. Our joint conversation strengthened shared understanding of each board's vision, roles, governance, and compliance responsibilities and affirmed our common commitment to faithful stewardship.

Safe Sanctuary Policy

The Board updated Faith's Safe Sanctuary policy in preparation for the new ministry year beginning September 1.

We welcome your questions and ideas. Please contact any Leadership Board member: Mike Coppersmith, Rachel Hedrick, Tamara Fish, Brian Jones, Kathy King, Janelle Veazey, or Jennifer Young.

Bill Maas, Chair, Leadership Board



Bill Maas, Chair

Laura Norvell, Pastor

Mike Coppersmith

Rachel Hedrick

Brian Jones, Lay Member
of the Annual Conference

Kathy King

Tamara James-Fish,
Lay Leader

Janelle Veazey

Jennifer Young

FAITH UMC WORK DAY

Tomorrow, Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - noon

Calling volunteers of all ages! Join us as we come together to care for our church building and grounds. Together we'll tackle a variety of projects to repair, refresh, and maintain the spaces that support our ministry, worship and fellowship.



No special skills are required—just a willingness to lend a hand!

Please wear clothing for messy work. Faith will provide water and snacks. Whether you're able to lend a hand for an hour or stay through the morning, your presence will make a meaningful impact.

FAMILIES DISPLACED BY FIRE

A plea for donations

Early on Wednesday morning, August 19th, Scarborough Square Apartments in Rockville, MD experienced a fire that affected the residents of two apartment buildings. Scarborough Square is an affordable housing development owned by [Rockville Housing Enterprises \(RHE\)](#), the public housing authority for the City of Rockville that offers affordable housing for low-income families. While no one was injured, 21 families have suffered displacement, many of them with school-aged children just as the school year begins.



While RHE has secured temporary apartments for the families, the families are unable to access their homes while RHE and local officials work to mitigate the fire damage and ensure that the units are safe for residents to return. Many of these families have previously experienced homelessness, are recent immigrants, or live independently with physical and mental disabilities.

RHE is requesting monetary donations on behalf of the displaced families. While the Red Cross and city and county emergency services have provided immediate assistance to the families, many of them have lost belongings and are currently residing away from their support networks. Please help RHE support these families through this period by contributing to the RHE Foundation, a 501(c)3 connected to RHE. To ensure the donation is directed to the families, you may dedicate the donation to "Scarborough" using the online form [linked here](#).

Thank you.



Dr. James Hedrick (he/him), Interim Executive Director
Rockville Housing Enterprises

Please note that in addition to requesting individual donations, Faith's Outreach team has approved a microgrant to support recovery efforts through RHE.

NEW THIS FALL: FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Friday, September 25, registration deadline September 21



We're excited to launch a brand-new quarterly program just for children in third-fifth grades: **Faithful Friends!**

Each quarter, kids will gather on a Friday evening (6 - 8 p.m.) for two hours of dinner, games, hands-on service projects, and plenty of fun. Each event will be a chance to build friendships, grow in faith, and discover how we can make a difference in our community—all in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

For our first gathering on Friday, Sept. 25, we'll be making fleece pet beds and homemade dog biscuits to support local animal shelters. It's a great chance for kids to learn simple ways to serve others while having a ton of fun together. **To register for the September 25th gathering, [click here](#)! Deadline is Monday, September 21st.**

FAITH UMC AND FAITH LEADER SPOTLIGHTED IN OUR COMMUNITY

What's New at Reach this Month, the newsletter of Community Reach of Montgomery County, August issue features Nancy Kneisly, chair of Faith's Outreach Team and United Women in Faith. The article shares that *Nancy's own passion for serving vulnerable populations, especially children and older adults, aligns closely with FUMC's commitment to caring for neighbors in need. She sees Reach's work as a natural extension of the United Methodist tradition of generosity, compassion, and community service.*



"We have found throughout the years that Reach has a niche that other organizations do not have," she said. "The ability to use your funds in a way that helps the whole person."

The newsletter also recognized the contributions of Faith UMC, *Faith United Methodist Church (FUMC) has been a dedicated supporter of Reach for more than 14 years, contributing to multiple program areas and helping ensure neighbors in need have access to critical resources. This year, FUMC deepened its commitment by sponsoring the Reach-MKHC Gala for the first time, where we were proud to recognize the church as a member of the Legacy League for its longstanding support.*

To read the full article and the rest of the newsletter, [click here](#).

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

BREATHING UNDER WATER

We continue with our series, *Breathing Under Water: A Journey Toward Wholeness*, based on a book by Father Richard Rohr. Rohr helps us see the wisdom of the Twelve Steps as a deeply Christ-following path of honesty, surrender, healing and grace. As we journey together toward wholeness, we remember that we can breathe, even breathe underwater, because the breath of God is always with us.

To learn more about the *Breathing Under Water* series and to access more resources that include the 12 steps, further questions to explore and a brief video featuring Father Richard Rohr, [visit our website](#).

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Scripture: Romans 2:14-15 and John 21:15-17

Invitation to Reflection: Throughout this series we have incorporated an *invitation to reflection* following the sermon. Last week we explored repairing what is broken. This week, as we move together into Steps Ten & Eleven of *Breathing Under Water*, we realize more deeply that transformation is not a single moment. It becomes a way of living.

Together, we explore the will of God, move more profoundly into a life of prayer and remember that grace is practiced day by day, breath by breath.



SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday following worship

Families are invited to a special opportunity following worship to connect with the teachers who guide our children and youth in Sunday School. Caregivers and their children can visit classroom spaces, learn about the curriculum, enjoy light refreshments while experiencing the welcoming environment where faith formation takes place.



This will be a meaningful way to begin the new season together—strengthening relationships and celebrating the shared ministry of nurturing children in God’s love. We look forward to seeing you and your family!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Sunday following worship



UWF believes love in action can change the world. Join Faith UMC women following worship **in room 111** as they work to influence and impact our community.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Nancy Kneisly, chair at kneislynancy@gmail.com.

LIVESTREAM SERVICE

How do I get to the worship service on the Faith website?

There are three ways to access our worship experience on Sunday mornings through our website. [Click here](#) to learn about those options.

PREVIOUS SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

[Listen and watch last Sunday's online worship service.](#) See and hear the worship service, led by Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, from last Sunday's worship service featuring music, scripture, and prayers.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING: GRADES 6-12

Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Teachers of grades 6-12 will meet via zoom to review curriculum, safe sanctuary policy, schedules, etc.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86790319296?
pwd=4MX2DMbbVBokbLWJvwe9SvaBOOFGMG.1](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86790319296?pwd=4MX2DMbbVBokbLWJvwe9SvaBOOFGMG.1)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

AIM (ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION MINISTRY) MEETING

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

AIM was formed to work on ways to improve the accessibility of Faith's physical building and its programs to individuals with disabilities. This group meets the first Wednesday of each month via zoom. If you have questions or would like to participate, contact Jennifer Young at young.jennifer@gmail.com.



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Faith United Methodist Church is a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network