

The Vision

A Monthly Communication AND Christian Education Instrument of The United Baptist Church in Annandale, Virginia

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The United Baptist Church Vision is to *develop the intentional Holy Spiritual attitudes of God, as in Jesus, that our lives demonstrate the transforming impact of such a Holy relationship on us, our society, and on our world.*

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What Does Regathering Look Like?

Hopefully, you have seen our announcement for a “soft re-gathering” for church services only (no Sunday School, Bible Study, Agape Fellowships or Events at this time). We have successfully been meeting, worshipping and doing Sandwich Ministry since **August 2nd**. Fifteen of our members are consistently meeting in the cleaned entrance and Sanctuary, with masks, seated over 6 feet apart on Sundays. Per CDC guidelines we do not sing hymns together or have a choir for now, but there is beautiful music! Due to your compliance, no one has reported illness. We will remain **flexible** and notify you confidentially of any health concerns or changes to the adopted plan. Thank you to our CLCEB (Council) for the decisions made after digesting much research. Building Usage is not yet available for outside groups.

For now, our Fall services will remain at the temporary new time, **9:30 -10:30 am** and will be only for members and regular attenders who are healthy with no symptoms, willing to wear a mask, and for those NOT in high risk categories (65+/health). *You will decide on your own actions.* There is no peer pressure to attend; visitors, in fact, are not yet encouraged to attend unless family members and with full compliance. **Please be assured that your physical and spiritual health are our primary concerns!** If at home, please take advantage of the online services available, or call for a sermon copy or devotional materials. ♥ †



Annandale-Springfield CROP Walk

As you read last month, the **2020** Annandale CROP Hunger Walk this fall will be VIRTUAL due to health safety and distancing. We must continue to fight against new challenges of disease and disaster that leave people hungry; please help Church World Service and ACCA address needs locally and around the world. The virtual walk will take place on Saturday morning, **October 17 at 9 am** wherever you are. You may walk alone or apart with your immediate family or close contacts, in your neighborhood, at a local park or even within your homes. All physical walkers will walk at the set time and need to complete a waiver. However, United Baptist’s team so far is made up of virtual walkers and fundraisers; we will use this same time to pray and reflect on God’s grace in our provision, the immense human need compounded by the pandemic, and how God and we might minister to others through these funds. We will have photos from previous years on our Facebook page and we have set up our team webpage with ACCA to provide Online Giving, for convenience: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/annandaleva/UnitedBaptist>.

Sally Norris, United’s team leader for 12 years, has trained a new team of volunteers. As before, you may contribute by check payable to **CWS/CROP Walk** and mail to the office or bring on Sunday and give to Rev. Moyer, who is leading the team of Sally Norris, Margarita Menjivar and Libby Hicks. Thank you!

Kairos Moments . . .

(9/1/20) Reflections of Reverend Pamela Moyer

In spite of all the new regulations, Re-gathering has been a balm to my soul and to many others as we have reconnected both physically and spiritually as a stalwart faith community. *The Vision*, mailings and phone calls have helped us stay in touch, while I commend you on your creative forms of worship and devotions at home over these several months! I have also heard accounts of how you have been serving each other and neighbors, being the hands and feet of Christ! Well done! Let us know how you find opportunities to live out your faith, sharing the fruits of the Holy Spirit from Galatians 5:22. There may be new ministries that develop during this time. See the notes about Stuff the Bus and CROP Walk, among them. Alma Hunt collections begin later this month for Virginia (BGAV) state missions not covered under their budget.

As a fairly new pastor, I find that your vigorous commitment to the Lord and this community is encouraging during this time. I am grateful and frankly, inspired, by your determination and tenacity. It has probably always been thus, so please know the pandemic revelations (silver linings) have been added to our legacy and history as a church, and will define our future vision.

Grandparents Day (including Great Grands) is September 13th, and after many conversations, we will offer Communion then, but a little differently. Due to safety guidelines, wearing gloves, a disposable communion set will be placed on the pew with your bulletin. Because they are hard to open, we ask you to take it home and join us at 1 pm as a churchwide Lord's Supper. This will be a fitting day to share the ordinance of communion together while apart; we will pray the liturgy at the 9:30 am service, while the partaking of the elements will be done by us all at home at 1 pm. If you worship at home, please plan to have bread and juice available, and on Facebook, I will schedule a post for 1 pm, Sept. 13. You may read Luke 22:14-23 or 1 Corinthians 23-26 to participate.

August services used John 17, the "Priestly Prayer." Jesus first prayed for his own glory to be shown to the disciples through the Cross and Resurrection, then prayed for protection, encouragement, sanctification and commitment of his disciples, to whom he had poured out his life in a short time of ministry. Lastly, he prayed for us and for all future believers to have perfect unity with God and each other through holy intimacy and courageous sharing of Scripture. How timely a message about unity is, when we have been separated from one another physically for months and our nation's citizens have been torn apart by racism, poverty, and politics. Sharing our faith stories is even more significant in this pandemic and crisis time of fear and confusion.

Will you join me in this re-commitment of our calling? For the next several weeks, our worship will engage Acts of the Apostles. We'll look at the early church through Luke's eyes to see what and how we might be church in 2021. 📖

Did You Know?



For those of you who live in Fairfax County, August's edition of *The Golden Gazette* listed shows that might be of interest, with dates and times on local **Channel 16**. It is not just for Board of Supervisors' Meetings! There are helpful interview shows with the Fairfax County Health Department, Penny Gross and Board Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay for breaking news. "*Mature Living*" and "*Everyday Yoga and Tai Chi: Movement for Life*" are available morning and early evening on various days. If you do not have a copy, call Margarita or Pam in the office, or go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/fairfax-county-government-television>. Too much information to publish here, but we're happy to get it for you to keep you informed and active.

If you live in the City of Falls Church, the best way to stay informed about health and city business is online: <https://www.fallschurchva.gov/>.



Scammers are busier than ever during COVID-19. Be aware and be careful! There is a new podcast called Scam Slam, led by Martin Bailey at www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty50.

Several well known brand names are being used inappropriately on phishing scams: Netflix, Amazon, Square, PayPal, Stripe, banks, and more. "Phishing" is when someone uses fake emails or texts to get you to share valuable personal information or add malware to a computer or phone. NEVER give out your credit card number, bank account details, social security info or passwords. NEVER click on a link from someone you do not know and trust, even if the logo seems familiar. Trust and verify first.

Do you need **Caregiver Support**?

There are webinars, support calls, activity ideas and many resources. Call Fairfax County Adult and Aging Caregiver Resource line at 703.324.7948. Don't go it alone.



Thank You Notes from Partners

- Thank you from *The Shepherd Center of Annandale Springfield* for a donation of \$250. It will help provide services, activities and transportation for senior adults.
- Thank you from *The John Leland Center* for continued financial support for theological education.
- Thank you from the *Baptist General Association of Virginia* (BGAV) for monthly contributions to their state ministries, training initiatives, programming and Disaster Relief efforts.
- Thank you from *NorthStar Church Network* for faithful and generous financial gifts! They appreciate our active support.



Church Business

We hope you are doing well in this strange season. As a church, we have had no reported COVID-19 cases and are in generally good health. You can see by the prayer list who still needs our prayers and attention. Please keep us up to date.

You may have heard that our intrepid Church Leadership Council Executive Board (CLCEB) members have acquired some new skills! **Zoom!** As did most churches, we faced a challenge to get together during the pandemic to conduct church business; however, we have continued to meet monthly to review financials, establish calendar policy and discuss pertinent issues. When we announce our next church membership meeting, it will be in the Sanctuary and without the luncheon, so it is safe. Stay tuned for that date.

One issue for your immediate feedback has to do with our two vans/buses. Despite staffing attempts, we no longer have a "Special Education" program, and no longer need the Special Ed bus. Adequate number of insured drivers is not available. Both vans passed Virginia state inspections yet are aging fast (2004) and are not being used for any "missional" purpose. Pastor Ed Young, our Mission Center Partner, with New Beginning Missionary Baptist Church (NBMBC) has inquired about purchasing one. Aubrey Jones will act in his role of Trustee and Chair to work with Rev. Moyer regarding purchase information. If you have questions or feedback, please contact Rev. Moyer as soon as possible. This proposal reflects good stewardship.

IDEA: Since we cannot have fellowships right now, could you share your favorite recipes with us to print?

September Birthdays



Wayne Shoemaker	1
Linda Clarke	4
Wayne Yawn	4
Ashley Lozano	9
David Evans	14
Randy Clarke	19
Michael Grimsley	23
Patsy Small	26
Bonnie Hester	27
Charlotte Garris-Jerdak	30

SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Although a small remnant is meeting, the science warns those 65+ or in high risk categories to stay at home due to potential viral surges. Assignments are still on hold for now, in order to assign and keep sanitized our microphones; staff will pray and read.

Those who choose to come will meet in the Sanctuary. Thank you for your patience!

Contributions

<u>August (Partial)</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Received</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,250.00	\$3,593.14
Building Usage	7,400.00	5,710.00
Mortgage Loan (int)	712.37	.00
Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>20.80</u>
Monthly	\$14,362.37	\$9,323.94
Total YTD (incl Jan)	\$114,898.96	\$83,006.65
Above/(Below)		(\$31,892.31)*

* For your information, August 16th CLCEB report showed our 7-month tithes & offerings (and event income) were below normal. Expenses, although curtailed, are still incurred as budgeted.

Many churches find themselves in a similar status, so thank you for your continued prayers and faithful Stewardship! Sacrificial, catch-up or benevolence offerings may be mailed to the office at 7100 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. Mail is safely and securely processed daily. Our ministries, contractors and staff rely on us; they thank you for your generosity. Benevolence offerings by check may be mailed or brought on Sunday, clearly marked "Benevolence" (on memo line). Thank you!

It's September!

It is a Fall season like no other in our history! We did not conduct a School Supplies Drive this year for several reasons. The children will be learning virtually online from home for an indefinite period, our usual donation place is closed, and staying safer at home (not shopping) is still important. We ask you to re-direct those gift funds to the **CROP Walk** this year! These same children experience food insecurity during COVID-19, so CROP Walk funds will go to support ACCA's food pantry to serve students' and parents' needs in our community. Or if you prefer, ACCA is holding a **Stuff the Bus** drive-by event Saturdays, September 12 and 26, 10 am-3 pm at George Mason Reg. Library.

Although school buses will not be as visible this fall, there are special students being transported to buildings for instruction following CDC guidelines, and neighborhood children will have outdoor activities. Please use all precautions driving defensively under the posted speed limits. Let's keep our children safe and healthy!

COMMUNITY & GLOBAL PRAYER

Consider prayer as an important spiritual practice which helps us stay connected and grow spiritually. Serving others in prayer is a needed social act in these times!

- Police Officers, Fire Fighters, EMS, Sheriffs, for protection; praying for peace
- All Medical professionals, techs, researchers & staffs incl. Red Cross
- Assisted Living, memory care and nursing home residents and staffs, especially virus protection
- All essential service providers, esp. USPS now – Gratitude, Safety and good Health
- Unemployed or under threat of eviction, homelessness or poverty
- Global health and COVID-19 vaccine and cure
- Mission Center Partners and all Ministry Leaders
- Regional churches, schools, businesses & non-profits as they re-open/re-gather
- High Risk Sr. Adults -- good physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health
- 1st Responders and Residents affected by wildfires, flooding, hurricanes and tornadoes
- Our Nation's leaders' health, opinions and decisions
- Nation's voters as they decide and prepare to vote