### WELCOME TO

# The Point

We're so glad gou're here!

# A Letter from Reverend Carissa

I know you're supposed to "never say never." But I am pretty sure of this one: I will NEVER go to Death Valley National Park.

As I write this, we are experiencing a heat wave here in Maryland - but it's nothing like the high of 120° that will hit Death Valley, California nearly every day this week. The largest National Park in the system also has the distinguished honor of being the driest, hottest, and lowest elevation. It's no wonder lost 19th century pioneers named it after the death they were sure was soon to come.

And yet even in the midst of death, there is life. This is not just a theological supposition — it's a biological fact. Across the deserts, dunes, and mountains, creatures great and small have adapted to life under extreme conditions. Just a few rain storms in the winter months will ensure that spectacular wildflowers fill the park with bursts of color.

It makes me wonder: are there places in our life where we have yet to be surprised by God's new life? Perhaps you have a relationship that seems like dried up and cracked earth. The heat of the words you've exchanged still

And yet, with a little winter rain, perhaps there are wildflowers there, just waiting to bloom. May you take this invitation to revisit those places that seem to be "death" and discover that perhaps there is life there after all.

smarts. It does not seem like a hospitable place.

grace & peace,

Rev. Carissa



July 2024

# Welcome to Hunt's Church!

If this is your first time reading The Point, welcome! We are thrilled that you have come to Hunt's Church, where we believe in the welcoming love of God for all people.

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# New Worship Series: Summer Road Trip

Let's go on a road trip! This summer, we're going on a spiritual journey through America's National Parks. Along the way, we'll find that God speaks through scripture and creation, bringing refreshing insights from the grand vistas.

Jun 23 Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona)

Jun 30 Voyageurs National Park (Minnesota)

Jul 7 Yosemite National Park (California)

Jul 14 Redwoods National Park (California)

Jul 21 Olympic National Park (Washington)

Jul 28 Glacier National Park (Montana)

Aug 4 Yellowstone National Park (Wyoming)

Aug 11 Mammoth Cave National Park (Kentucky)

Aug 18 Big Bend National Park (Texas)

Aug 25 Sequoia King's Canyon National Park (California)

Sept 1 Rocky Mountain National Park (Colorado)



Have you ever been to any of the National Parks listed here? If so, we'd love to see your photos! Email your pictures to Rev. Carissa at <a href="mailto:carissa@huntsumc.org">carissa@huntsumc.org</a> (or bring physical photographs into the office to be scanned). We'll use these photos in worship throughout the series.

We'll also be focusing on Scripture week to week to prepare us for our "next stop" - keep an eye out for devotionals on social media each week! There will be opportunities for you to reflect on Scripture and different parts of Rev. Carissa's sermons, as we seek moments to be still with God and find ways to praise Him and find peace - no matter what you're going through in your journey!

# Worship With Us Online!

Summer is a great time to worship online! You can watch the 10am Worship Service live each Sunday (or watch it later) at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/huntschurch">www.youtube.com/c/huntschurch</a>. If you have a phone, tablet, or TV with the YouTube app, just search for Hunt's Church and look for our church logo.



# Our Summer Worship Schedule

Throughout the summer, we'll hold one unified worship service each Sunday. Join us for the 10am worship service each Sunday with a variety of musical styles. This worship schedule will be in effect through Labor Day weekend.



















### Annual Conference 2024

Adapted from article by Melissa Lauber

The theme of the 240th session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference was "Like Fire Shut Up in My Bones." It could also have been "Grand Slam!"

The conference opened as a thousand United Methodists cheered on Bishop LaTrelle Easterling as she threw out the first pitch at the Baltimore Orioles game and Gunnar Henderson hit a grand slam. A similar feeling of something unique and exciting happening unfolded at the conference, held May 29-31 at the Hilton Hotel in Baltimore, where several clergy and lay members expressed a sense that

"God is doing something new in The

United Methodist Church."



Bishop Easterling acknowledged this spirit of renewal during

opening worship when she acknowledged how the General Conference, which met just weeks ago, overturned the denomination's prohibitions on same-gender marriage and the ordination of homosexuals and removed the language from church law that said homosexuality was incompatible with Christian teaching.

At General Conference, "There was joy and hope for our future together, she said. "The delegates seemed to understand at a visceral level the phrase, 'unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, charity in all things.' This exemplifies that our identity is in Christ. Now it is time for us to live into this future together."

"Beloved," the bishop stressed, "now is not the time for mandates and dictates and constraints; rather, now is the time to immerse ourselves in the Word of God. Now is the time to study together, to learn together, to wrestle with our Wesleyan theology, to hear God speak a fresh word into our lives, and we need to lift as we climb. We don't need boards, councils, and committees, rushing to control the church. We need to engage in some deep conversation as we are led by the Spirit. We need to pray with fervor and intention: Veni Creator Spiritus! Come Holy Spirit!"



Members, like the Rev. Michael Parker of Journey UMC, spoke about what feels like a new Spirit-filled future. "For 4,231 days I woke up to the threat and possibility of being asked to leave a vocation I love because of how I love," he said. He felt he had "lived quieted and closeted," but **the weight has now lifted**from his shoulders, and he is able to "live more authentically and love God's people authentically."

The Rev. Chet Jechura of Good Shepherd UMC in Baltimore was ordained on May 31. Before the historic questions were asked of the ordinands, he offered a prayer on behalf of the BWC's Queer Clergy Caucus.

Reflecting on his ordination, Jechura believes the church is experiencing "a movement of the Holy Spirit filled with resurrection hope, glory, and power to boldly live an open-hearted and heart-warming evangelical witness of God's inclusive and expansive love for all." If we believe in God's love and sanctifying grace," he said, "we will see God's glory. Like fire shut up in my bones, I know this to be true.

To better equip local congregations for ministry in this season following COVID, disaffiliations, declining membership and diminished connections, which have brought challenges to the church, a task force announced a plan for **restructuring the conference**.

The Restructuring Task Force spent several months gathering input and insights at listening sessions throughout the conference. This input led to a unique plan that increases connectionalism and vitality and better positions churches to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Congregations will be placed in hubs of 5-12 churches, which will be led by a Connecting Church and resourced by a conference staff person. These hubs will be placed in six non-geographic districts based on population density. The districts will be in one of two administrative regions. Conference members helped launch the restructuring plan by voting to decrease the number of districts from eight to six. The restructuring efforts begin this month with an extensive survey that will be sent to local church leaders. The configuration of the hubs is expected to be announced in January, the districts will be formed in March, and the plan will go into effect in July 2025.



In addition to restructuring, the conference laity heard from the Rev. Michael Beck, director of the denomination's Fresh Expressions, who invited them to re-define how they think about church. Fresh Expressions, Beck explained, are innovative faith communities that connect with people in their daily spaces and rhythms of life. They are based on relationships and can be held anywhere – in dog parks, burrito joints, tattoo parlors, online, around dinner tables, anywhere people gather in their daily lives. "This is about creating a community of belonging and letting the Holy Spirit do the rest," Beck said. The BWC offers training in creating Fresh Expressions, which includes a Fresh Expressions Academy.

Conference members also learned about a vast array of resources offered by the BWC's Discipleship Ministries to help them grow more vital as they seek to see all the people, live and love like Jesus, deepen discipleship and multiply their impact. Last year, the BWC's Director of Connectional Ministries, Christie Latona, reported that the BWC engaged 18,220 people in **missional experiences**, awarded \$1,023,600 in grants, and had 58 churches experiment through Catalyst Initiatives and Missional Action Planning to learn how to respond more faithfully to God's call. The Discipleship Council also announced a new resource, the **Public Interactive Data Report Tool**, which provides a wealth of information to connect people in mission and ministry.

The focus of BWC leaders to equip and empower churches continued in the stewardship arena, as members adopted a budget to keep more money at the congregation level to increase mission and ministry in local communities. Members **passed an 18.4 million budget**, with mission shares set at \$12,223,047. They also adopted a reduced benevolence factor of 17.4 percent and a collection rate of 87 percent.

The 241st session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be held May 20-22, 2025. To read more about Annual Conference, **visit www.bwcumc.org/events/2024-annual-conference** 



# Be cool. Give blood.

# **Blood Drive**

Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church Van Metre Hall 1912 Old Court Road Towson, MD 21204 Wednesday, August 7, 2024 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter the sponsor code huntschurch(all one word) to schedule an appointment. For all Eligibility Questions please call 1-866-236-3276.

For Hunt's Members: We are looking for six volunteers to assist with this event. If you're interested, or have any questions, please contact Howard Lin via email at howlin0812@gmail.com or call 410-241-4807.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.

If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor,
consider making a Power Red donation.

Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Donors needed! Come give blood in August for \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/Help





# SHRED IT! COMMUNITY PAPER SHRED EVENT

- COMMUNITY MEMBERS (RESIDENTIAL ONLY) WELCOME!
- BRING UP TO 3 BOXES OF OLD

  PAPERS & DOCUMENTS.

  MUST MEASURE A MAXIMUM OF:
  H 13" W 13" L 17"
- OK TO SHRED: PAPERS, PAPER CLIPS, STAPLES, RUBBER BANDS, & SMALL FASTENERS
- CAN'T BE SHREDDED: 3-RING BINDERS, METAL ITEMS, CDS/DVDS, TAPES, X-RAYS, BOXES, BATTERIES, LIGHTERS, MATCHES, OR CELL PHONES
- DRIVE THROUGH ONLY EVENT

\*PLEASE NOTE THAT PAPERS THAT ARE NOT SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS MAY BE RECYCLED

THIS IS A FREE EVENT! HOWEVER, WE'LL BE COLLECTING MONETARY DONATIONS TO HELP PURCHASE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY YOUTH IN NEED!



# Birthdays

Annie Smith (7/1); Elinor Davidson (7/1); Merle Bayne (7/2); Meredith Boyle (7/6); Bonnie Ochs (7/7); Dave Junkin (7/7); Lillian Kroeger (7/9); Todd Pauliny (7/9); Abigail Gartrell (7/9); Julie Cooper (7/10); Janice Cooper (7/10); Kyle DeHaven (7/11); Sarah Kintner Brown (7/11); Andy Voter (7/12); Travis Williamson (7/13); William Kroeger (7/14); Phil Kennedy (7/15); Emily Laziuck (7/16); Robin Bosley (7/17); Joseph Barringer (7/18); Rusty Erdman (7/21); Kellsie Barnes (7/21); Hope Pollard (7/21); Marilyn Miller (7/21); Nellie Hamamoto (7/22); Katie Cairns (7/28); Natalie Polk (7/30); Derek Waters (7/30); Jen Waters (7/30); Meg & Tom Whiteford (7/31)

### Anniversaries

Sue & Bob Dey (7/1); Cheryl & Doug Eisenhauer (7/5); Cheryl & Dan Warren (7/5); Kristina & Matt Bayne (7/17); Lisa & Dave McMillan (7/20); Cathy & Dave Junkin (7/20); Megan & Jeremy Davis (7/24); Merrilee & David Peske (7/28); Patt & Glenn Lieske (7/29)

# Family Ministries

# Sunday School

In Sunday School during July, we will continue exploring the stories of the Babylonian Captivity. We will continue to follow a format of starting all together, preschoolers and elementary schoolers, for a fun music time, then flexibly dividing into an older group and younger group for lessons and crafts.

-Lisa McMillan

# Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was FABULOUS this past week! The excitement during this year's nautical—themed VBS was riveting! The scenery enhanced the children's senses as they ventured from one part of the church building to another equally stimulating area. With Rev. Carissa and Chase, they learned new songs and viewed entertaining skits. With Capt. Ted, they studied scripture and its real application...in a submarine! With Jody and Cathy, they ate delicious snacks and crafted. With Bill, they enjoyed stories, photographs, and videos of his diving experiences and learned about his equipment and about sea life. With Rev. Carissa and Tammy, they were adventurously immersed in each day's Bible story, and learned about Elijah, Jonah, Lydia, and JESUS. Our crew leaders watched over the campers throughout the week. And everyone, campers and volunteers alike, learned that: God is a friend who is real; God is a friend who loves; God is a friend we can trust; God is a friend for everyone; and God is a friend forever.

-Lisa McMillan

WATCH THE RECAP HERE:



# VBS 2024





















# VBS 2024



















# Columbarium Update

As I write this article on June 13th, the installation of the main columbarium unit from Eickhof Columbaria has begun. The niche units arrived on June 12th and installation began that afternoon. Once this work is completed, the capstones will be set and the stone masonry work will quickly follow. Grading and subsequent hardscaping and landscaping by Maxalea will follow. Along the way, water and power will be run to the site. The project should wrap up sometime in the second half of July. Looking at this picture may raise a question about the height of the unit. In that regard, this picture is deceiving as the area has not been graded yet. Only a small section of the form the niches are mounted to will be above ground level, so the final scale will be comfortable to the human eye (see rendering below). Through Marty Azola's leadership, the project remains on schedule and on budget. We are also planning on cleaning up the area behind the columbarium to improve the aesthetics of the overall area.

Yours in Christ,



### Missions Corner

I sure hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. Due to technical difficulties we were unable to have our Meeting in June. We are planning to meet on the July committee day, Wednesday July 10 by zoom at 7 PM. Sorry if people have other meetings that day. If you have something you want to address please send it to me so that I can bring it up for you.

I am sure Camp Hope was as wonderful as it is every year. Our Senior High is an amazing group of young people and the work they do is incredible. Thanks to each one for representing Hunt's Church so well.

Steve, Glenn and Linda are busy getting ready for Baltimore County Christian Work Camp. If you can volunteer for the week or a day you will find the experience well worth it. You will be helping to change people's lives in such a positive way.

In July and August we have the opportunity to make donations to two fantastic mission projects. The first is Christmas in July. We will be collecting money to support the many Christmas missions, making a little cheer for some needy children. Please make a donation now, so that the team can start shopping early to get the best prices. The second project is getting school supplies for less fortunate children in Baltimore County. This is an exciting time for all of us working with the Baltimore County Police Department to give the kids a fresh start this year.

# Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC)

The month of April was designated as our month with special emphasis on the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC). During that month, we collected about 350 pounds of food. The donations that we recently received are a bit down from last year. Various factors (inflation, economic uncertainty, etc.) may contribute to this decrease. – We continue to receive five to ten non-perishable food items weekly (in our collection boxes.) – During VBS, we requested non-perishable food donations from the families for ACTC. – Dave McMillan

# Camp Hope is July 7-13

Senior High is heading to Camp Hope! - A group of 24 youth and adults will be heading to Allegheny County on July 7th for a week-long mission trip. They will be helping 3 families with repairs to their homes. Stay tuned for updates and photos of their week. - Thank you to everyone who helps support our youth in this fellowship. - The Senior High Counselors

## Board of Child Care (BCC)

For Easter, Hunt's ordered some requested supplies for the BCC Easter baskets to be given to their children. In May, BCC celebrated its 150th anniversary with a gala on its Randallstown campus. On May 10th, BCC announced that there would be a new name for BCC and it would be announced on May 24. Following are some excerpts from BCC's May 24th email:

For over 150 years, the Board of Child Care has brought hope to thousands of children, parents, and their families. Our mission transforms lives, turning challenges into triumphs. However, our organization's growth is ongoing and demands thoughtful, innovative strategies now and into the future.

We are excited to unveil Everstand, a modern name to match our dynamic mission, core values, and brand!

### Everstand: Enriching communities, one family at a time.

Our new name embodies our commitment to stand as a beacon for youth and families, equipping them with vital tools to build resiliency for life's greatest challenges. With a legacy spanning 150 years, we pledge to stand beside, stand up for, and stand strong for those we serve. You might have some questions regarding this change, why we felt it was necessary, and how it will improve the organization. One important question we want to highlight with this announcement is about our legal name.

### Is Everstand now the Board of Child Care's new legal name?

Given the complexity involved in changing our operating licenses, contracts, and many other core business operations, we elected to pursue a "doing business as" (dba) strategy. Our legal name is still the Board of Child Care of the United Methodist Church, Inc. Effective today, May 24th, 2024, we will be doing business as, "Everstand." Our federal tax ID remains 52-0591534, and no changes are needed for any of our existing contracts or licenses.

### When does the new Everstand brand go live?

All of our email addresses have now switched over to sending from @everstand.org. Rest assured any emails sent to existing @boardofchildcare.org email accounts will get delivered without interruption. Our website, social media, and other digital pages are all being migrated over to the Everstand brand today. Over the coming weeks, you will start to see the new brand identity integrated across all our campus and office locations. We are excited to share our transformation with you and the world!

These are remarkable times for Everstand! Join us as we empower youth and families across our national footprint each year to help them build resiliency for life's greatest challenges. Join us as we enrich communities, one family at a time.

Therefore, if you hear or see Everstand, it is the same as the Board of Child Care! Presumably, eventually, we senior members will remember the new name. We will probably endeavor to use Everstand and the Board of Child Care together for the near future (unless of course if we forget). For more information, check out <a href="https://www.everstand.org">www.everstand.org</a>.

- Steve Lippy





# Baltimore County Christian Workcamp (BCCW)

Home repair and assistance for the needy by volunteers of all ages in Baltimore County. Volunteers choose their own site depending on their preferred location within the County or their desired type of work or if they want to work on the team for which Glenn Keatts is the crew chief. Unlike those workcamps that involve travel and overnight stays, BCCW is a "commuter's" workcamp where you sleep in your own bed at night.

The 41st annual BCCW will occur from July 21-27. If you would like to attend one or more of the evening meals (Sunday at Hunt's, Tuesday in Catonsville, and Thursday in Parkton) and/or the Saturday lunch in Cockeysville, the online registration deadline is July 14; for volunteering only, it could be as late as the day before, albeit those procrastinators would need to contact someone to find out which site(s) need help and where to go the next day. (Note: BCCW no longer provides breakfast or lunch supplies from Monday-Friday. Volunteers go directly to the work sites each day.) Reverend Carissa has registered to work for the full week (barring any emergencies or pressing pastoral needs); therefore, if you would like to see how she does in the heat and humidity of July, volunteer. We do not know yet what site(s) the "Hunt's Team" will be working on, though, hopefully, it will be a ramp(s).

For information on BCCW, go to <a href="https://www.bcchristianwork.org">https://www.bcchristianwork.org</a> or Hunt's website <a href="https://huntsumc.org/project/baltimore-county-christian-workcamp/">https://huntsumc.org/project/baltimore-county-christian-workcamp/</a>; or contact Howard Lin, Glenn or Linda Keatts, Joe McMillan, Lizzie McMillan, or myself.

- Steve Lippy



# Ridge Ruxton School

443-809-3594

6916 Charles Street · Baltimore, Maryland 21204

Fax: 443-809-3595

Dear Barabara, Jeff, and the entire Food for Thought Crew at Hunt's Church,

We are so thrilled and humbled at your continued generous support of the needlest families at Ridge Ruxton School. The bi-weekly drop offs of grocery bags overflowing with meal staples, fresh fruits and vegetables, and meat have had a huge positive impact on our students and their families. The generosity of spirit your church family has shown is an example we hope to be worthy of. Here at Ridge Ruxton School, we value each one of our supporters and appreciate all the help we can get.

With your donations, our student families have been provided with crucial food items. Families have expressed immense gratitude at the food donations, especially in these times of skyrocketing prices. You are truly making a difference for the families of Ridge Ruxton School.

Ridge Ruxton School looks forward to continuing our long-standing relationship with your church family. If you have specific questions about how your donations are being used, or want more information on continuing your support, please contact us.

Thank you.

Yanina Giller, Assistant Principal

Jacob Dover, School Social Worker

Jus 61

Ridge Ruxton School



# Financial News "Summer Surge or Summer Slump? It's Up to Us"

Here is our operating fund performance through the end of May:

	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget	Difference (Actual- Budget)	Budget
Income	\$233 <b>,</b> 352	\$224 <b>,</b> 606	\$8 <b>,</b> 746	\$459 <b>,</b> 701
Expense	\$213 <b>,</b> 336	\$214 <b>,</b> 313	- \$977	\$518 <b>,</b> 897
Difference	\$20 <b>,</b> 016	\$10,293	\$9 <b>,</b> 723	- \$59 <b>,</b> 196

Through May, expenses continue to run in line with what was budgeted. In terms of income, the offering of \$193,427 is running 5.3% ahead of budget (\$183,726) and 2.0% ahead of last year (\$189,723). Of concern is that May's offering was disappointing, coming in \$6,100 below what was budgeted and last year. Early June offering is disappointing as well. Please help us make the giving a "summer surge" and help us avoid the dreaded "summer slump."

Many members have remarked how electronic giving has helped them keep their giving on track while they are away from church due to vacation or family reasons. We recently added a "How-to Guide" as a drop-down option on the "Give" tab on the church's website in case you have questions. You can always reach out to me if you need one-on-one assistance. We want you to have the tools to help you achieve your giving-goals.

Our preschool has wrapped up another strong year. Once again, the Preschool Committee, management, and staff have provided the children entrusted to their care a wonderful, engaging, and educational experience all year long. When the year-end accounting is complete, we project they will have had a good year financially as well.

If you ever have questions about our finances, please do not hesitate to contact me at tedochs@msn.com. Yours in Christ,

- Ted Ochs, Finance Chair

The Month of July at Hunt's								
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
		2 (2P STAFF MTG) (7P CHURCH COUNCIL)	3 12:30P AA MTG	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY OFFICE CLOSED	5	6		
7 CAMP HOPE (SENIO	8	9	10	11	12	13		
10A SUMMER WORSHIP 10A NURSERY CARE 10A SUNDAY SCHOOL	K HOJ	(NO STAFF MTG)	12:30P AA MTG (7P COMMITTEE MTGS)			BETH ON VACATION  NO PROJECT WORK  DAY		
14 11:15A POPSICLES & PLAYTIME  BETH ON VACATION  10A SUMMER WORSHIP	15	16	17 12:30P AA MTG	7P RECONCILING MINISTRIES MTG	19	20		
10A SUNDAY SCHOOL		(2P STAFF MTG)						
21 2PM BCCW KICK- OFF	22 CHRISTIAN WORKCAMP	23	24	25	26	27		
10A SUMMER WORSHIP 10A NURSERY CARE 10A SUNDAY SCHOOL	REV. CARISSA IS OUT C	NO STAFF MTG	12:30P AA MTG 5PM FAMILY FOOD TRUCK NIGHT					
10A SUMMER WORSHIP 10A NURSERY CARE 10A SUNDAY SCHOOL	29	3O (NO STAFF MTG)	31 12:30P AA MTG					





# Talk with Your Pastor

Rev. Carissa would love to spend time with you! If you would like her to visit you, just reach out: call (443) 353-O439 or email carissa@huntsumc.org. You can also schedule a meeting with her at www.calendly.com/revcarissa.

# Worship Online

If you or a loved one is unable to come to church on Sunday – or simply not comfortable at this time – then you can connect with your Hunt's Church family by worshiping online! Livestream the lOam Traditional Service each Sunday (or watch it later) at www.youtube.com/c/huntschurch or through the YouTube app on your iPad or smart TV.

# Follow @HuntsChurch

Stay connected with your church wherever you live online. Just search for @huntschurch on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Make sure to click "like" and share our posts whenever you're inspired!

