

November 2021

The Voice of Faith

Dear friends of Faith,

Most mornings I begin in the dark, brewing coffee and unrolling my yoga mat before the rest of the house begins to stir. I've learned it is important for my well-being to have a chance to breathe, stretch, and be still before the girls wake up, before the rush to eat breakfast, make lunches, and get out the door to school. For the past week and in the days ahead, I'm trying to use that time to cultivate gratitude – a daily practice of tuning my awareness to the things for which I am thankful. Research has shown that paying attention to thankfulness improves our health, our outlook on life. Even more than that, giving thanks is a spiritual practice – reminding ourselves that God is the source of all goodness in our lives, in the world.

Christian spiritual writer and poet Kathleen Norris, writing about gratitude says,

"True gratitude is magnificent; that is, it magnifies. It refuses to remain strictly private but... employs the personal to convey something more universal, stories that others may well claim as their own...As magnificent, gratitude is praise in the light of the past, and it uses past experience in order to bolster the ability to enter into an unknown future with trust and hope."¹

In the quiet of the early morning, I remember: This time last year, there was no morning rush out the door; we were two months into online school, facing the fall surge and cancelling our Thanksgiving plans. What a different place we are in now – thanks be to God.

There is so much to be thankful for here at Faith. The past few months have seen a new Sunday school for kids and families; a new bench made from recycled bottle caps; the return of our choir; meaningful reflection about race, racism, and our call to

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WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:45 in person and on Zoom;
at 11:00 streaming on Facebook.

November 14

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 1: 4-20
Mark 13: 1-8

November 21

Christ the King Sunday
Psalm 104: 1-9, 24
Job 28: 1-7, 34-31
Stewardship Sunday

November 28

First Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Luke 21: 25-36

December 5

Second Sunday of Advent
Malachi 3: 1-4
Luke 3: 1-6
Advent Fest

December 12

Third Sunday of Advent
A service of Lessons and Carols

December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve worship at 5:00 p.m.

December 26

Carol Sing

Wednesdays Bible Study

11:00 a.m. in Woodbourne Room and on Zoom

Join Cat every Wednesday to reflect on the coming Sunday's lectionary passage. All are welcome!

work for racial justice; an in-person family engagement night at our partner school, a Prayground in our sanctuary, and more. I am grateful for your prayers for one another, for your service of God through our church, for the Thursday crew's love and care for our property...for so many things. Join me in practicing gratitude this month – and let me know how it goes!

With thanksgiving for you and for Faith, Cat

¹ Norris, Kathleen, "Gratitude at Last," Faith Matters column in The Christian Century, 6/3/98, <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2012-05/gratitude-last?reload=1636386576993>

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Karen Burd, *chair*

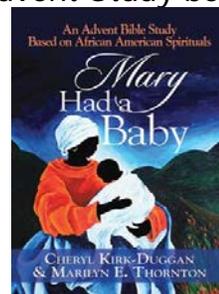
Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room and on Zoom

November

14th Healing Our City – **Mark Conway** Councilperson for the 4th District will lead the discussion.
21st Vegetarian Cooking – **Cat & Dary Goodrich** will share recipes and tips.

Advent Study begins.



Mary Had a Baby: An Advent Study based on African American Spirituals by Cheryl Kirk-Duggan and Marilyn Thornton

28th Mary Had a Baby

December

5th Rise Up Shepherd and Follow
12th Children Go Where I Send Thee
19th Go Tell It on the Mountain

Children and Youth



This fall, the Christian Ed committee decided to have six weeks of Sunday school for children ages 3 to 10. The younger children were ably taught by Chandra Jackson and Robin Nemser. The older children were taught by Susan Minor.

In the photo, you see our three stalwart students taking part in a Sunday school lesson outside a few weeks ago. We also had a fourth student join us twice and hope to see her again soon. Our lessons led us to think about how Jesus welcomed all, no matter who they were. We talked about how our church is welcoming and how we could personally make it more so.

We look forward to meeting again regularly.

Bottle Caps to Bench

Nearly two years ago, Christian Education and Social and Environmental Justice Committees embarked on a joint venture to collect 100 pounds of plastic lids and caps to prevent them from going to the landfill AND to create a functional piece of furniture to be used by our community. Twenty months, a pandemic and over 160 pounds of plastic later, we have a beautiful rainbow bench to place beside our Free Little Library near the south parking lot.



We want to thank Karen Meyers, who initiated this project, delivered the lids and caps to Indiana, and who brought our bench home to us this week. The youth were involved in publicizing the project and in sorting the caps prior to their delivery. We'd like to thank all of you for contributing to this project by donating your caps and lids. You made a difference for sure! Please have a seat on the bench and test it out, and keep an eye out for its installation in the near future.



Mozella (Mo) Williams and Mike Shirey enjoying the bench after it was blessed by the congregation.

Halloween at Faith

Since Halloween fell on a Sunday, Cat asked the congregation to come to worship in costume and stay for a Halloween carnival. The congregation complied.

After church friends and members of Faith got together outside and in the fellowship

hall to celebrate with a Halloween Carnival. Costumes were great, as was the pizza!

Kids were invited to paint pumpkins, play corn hole, find-the-skeleton-parts, wrap a mom as a mummy, (or grandmom).

All of this was lovingly organized by our youth group, under the leadership of Krista Wallace, and Hannah Pope. Thank you, everyone for a job well done!



WORSHIP & THE ARTS

How time flies. We started our new year of worship in September with an outdoor worship **Homecoming Service** on a beautiful sunny morning followed by a festive picnic on the lawn.



Rev. Cat Goodrich



Tracie Stofko and Mike Shirey, 6 Feet Apart



Zack Nemser during Moment with Faith Kids.



Since then, the Worship and Arts committee has worked closely with Pastor Cat Goodrich to worship together safely in what has become a very long pandemic. We are very grateful to the talented group of members that provide the technology that has given us the opportunity to choose to join worship in person or by joining via Zoom.

Another "thank you" goes out to the many people who made our World Communion Service very authentic by sharing personal items like fabrics and personal items that represent family histories, traditions, and diversities.



You are invited to join the Wednesday Bible Study in the Woodbourne Room (or join on zoom) at 11:00 am every Wednesday. This is not a formal classroom model. It is a time of conversation focused on the lectionary for the upcoming worship. It is an opportunity to share thoughts and questions discussed in a comfortable conversation.

Expertise is not necessary to join the **Bell Choir** (6pm Thursday) or the **Choir** (7pm Thursday.) Or, why not learn to play **Steel Drums** (Saturday am at Church) Contact Judy Sperling at 410 668 8189 if you would like to be a part of decorating our Sanctuary.

We have a new addition to our sanctuary: a **PRAYground!**



A PRAYground is a special space for children to be during worship - at the front, so they can see and hear what's happening during the service (and near the door, so they can make a quick exit if they need to!). There are quiet activities to keep hands busy so ears can listen, and books to look at in case the sermon runs long.

This is an experiment - a way to make worship more welcoming for people of all ages. There may be a bit more noise, some rustled papers and dropped crayons, and a bit more movement as our younger ones can be a little more wiggly than grown ups. We are learning as we go and adjusting as

needed. Our prayer is that the Prayground will help our youngest members encounter the mystery and wonder of God, and experience the beauty of our worship in a space that's just for them.

If you want to help support the Prayground, please let Cat know. (cgoodrich@faithchurchbalt.org).

DEACONS



Faith's Deacon from left to right: Lauren Hill, Patrick Baker, Deb Colmers, Chandra Jackson, Phyllis Compton, Bill Curtis, Susan Minor and Kurtis Moore. Not pictured: Dave Meyers, Veronica Herber, Mary Hodgson, Robin Nemser..

Harford House

We continue to provide support to our friends at Harford House monthly. In October, Susan and Charles Minor delivered food staples to help tide people over until checks arrive on the first of the month. Several residents and our contact at Harford House, Palestine, have expressed deep appreciation for this regular gift.

As was the case last year, Faith will contribute financially to a catered Thanksgiving dinner for the residents.

Watch for updates on how to contribute to Christmas giving for the residents.

Habitat for Humanity

A hardy crew from Faith gathered early on a Saturday to volunteer on rehabbing a home on Eager Street. If you would like to help with Habitat contact Natalie Wallace.



Advent Festival 2021 Version

You may all remember our virtual, yet very successful, Advent Festival last year, which consisted of an online sale of handmade items from our yearly "Hands of Faith" Table.

We were hoping that we would be able to have a true Advent Festival this year complete with a delicious luncheon, Christmas Carols, Ron Sperling's rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and sharing of holiday stories.



Advent Fest 2019

However, in the spirit of keeping both young and old members of Faith healthy, we will be forgoing our in-person luncheon, but will be presenting the Hands of Faith Table IN PERSON in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 4 from 10:00 to 2:00. Please plan to come and do some Christmas shopping to support the Deacons' Hands of Faith fund, which has been used over the years to care for those in need in our community. We will also have, as always, an opportunity to donate to the Heifer Project in honor of friends and loved ones. We hope to have a craft table where the children (and adults) can make a Christmas ornament. Watch this space for more fun activities to be announced!

In order to have a bountiful table, we need YOUR help! Do you have a favorite recipe that you could make and package as a gift

(fudge, jelly, breads, soups, etc.)? Are you a crafter or woodworker who could create ornaments or small items for the home? Do you knit or crochet warm hats or scarves? Maybe you could put together dried soup mixes or cookie recipes in a Mason jar. The sky's the limit with our Hands of Faith Table! Start now to be ready for December 5!

Contact Robin Nemser for more information at robin.nemser@gmail.com

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

WPC Family Engagement Evening

Members of Faith are again supporting the Family Engagement Nights that are being held at the Walter P Carter School. As part of our partnership, which has been enabled with grant support from the Presbytery, several Faith folks participated in the planning and then joined the activities for a program focused on literacy. We also sponsored the meal.



With the weather cooperating fully, and a Harvest Moon eventually rising, the October 19 program was able to be held outdoors. The Faith table used the children's book, *Leaf*

Man, by Lois Ehlert, and engaged the students in creating figures using leaves and twigs. In addition to several leaf figures of people, some children made artistic attempts at fashioning animals, including one very fine turtle with an acorn head.



Volunteers included Natalie Wallace, Deb Colmers, Pat Nesbitt, Paula Burger, and

Pastor Cat Goodrich. Consider joining a future Family Engagement Night. It's fun and energizing. Plus, Faith members occasionally showcase new talents, as Natalie and Deb did some impressive dance routines to the background music.

Note: the next WPC Family Engagement Night is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16 and will be a math carnival. Let Karen Meyers or Cat know if you'd like to volunteer.

Support Refugee Resettlement

Some Faith members and friends are forming a team to support the resettlement of an Afghan family in the Baltimore area through the International Rescue Committee. We are collecting items and furniture to help set up an apartment for the family.

[Click here for a list of needed items if you'd like to contribute.](#)

If you want to volunteer, please [email Cat](#) or our Social and Environmental Justice Council chair, [Karen Meyers](#). The International Rescue Committee provides opportunities for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture and other immigrants to thrive in Baltimore and around Maryland.

PLANT AND PROPERTY

Mike Shirey, chair

Faith Care Days



Sprucing Up the Front Entrance

Those who have been worshipping in person have no doubt noticed the major enhancement to the planting beds at the sanctuary entrance to Faith Church. Kudos to Pat Nesbitt for the vision and major investment of time and energy in undertaking this terrific improvement to the church's grounds. Pat first dealt with the long serving but struggling "Knockout Roses". Under Pat's supervision, they got a TKO. She then visited nurseries to find good stock and fair pricing on Ilex hollies, making several trips to transport the shrubs to Faith.

Then, at the October Care Day, she oversaw the transplanting of liriop plants from various church gardens so that groundcover could be interspersed among the hollies. In order to make it more manageable to maintain the new beds, the size was intentionally decreased and grass was established in the former rose bed. This didn't just happen! The luxurious carpet of green is attributable to cultivation and several weeks of daily waterings.

Among the ranks of talented Faith folks, Master Gardener Pat Nesbitt is preeminent. And, her landscape assistant Jack was there

every shovel full. Be sure to thank them Or better yet, come some Thursday or Second Saturday and help pull weeds!

STEWARDSHIP 2022



For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.
(Matthew 18:20)

On Sunday Oct. 31, we officially kicked off our Stewardship campaign for 2022 giving year, themed, 'Gather Us In!' You should have received pledge cards in the mail with some details on your giving options. We will celebrate the campaign with Minute for Mission testimonials from our Faith members during service and hope you will take some time during these weeks to consider how to best support all we do at Faith with your 2022 Pledge. We will conclude the campaign on Sunday the November 21st with a blessing of the pledges and a celebration thank you luncheon weather permitting, but there will be a 'to-go' option if necessary. Please contact Carl Herber with any questions at all about making your pledge or your different online/automated giving options. Carl@herberhometeam.com 443.286.4099.

The People of Faith

As part of our Stewardship Campaign, Cat Goodrich had a great idea for creative recycling of the photographs of individual church members. As you may recall, these

photos were placed on wooden sticks and attached to the pews for Cat's first Sunday in the pulpit when Covid prevented us from welcoming her in person. For several months, she preached to these figures via Zoom in lieu of a live congregation. Subsequently, the congregation photographs were assembled gallery fashion in draped boxes for the reception following Cats installation last October.



When we began to have folks sitting in some pews again, we placed the boxes of photos at the front of the sanctuary in a symbolic representation of us being together. The stewardship campaign is now underway with the theme, "Gather Us In!," which seems to work also as a mantra for our hybrid worship services. Thus, these photographs have been made into a compelling collage of the People of Faith.



Thanks to our resident queen of creative bulletin boards, Judy Sperling, the hallway leading to the Sanctuary is now a real testament to the rich diversity of our congregation. If you are someone who comes and goes through the main sanctuary doors, be sure to wander down the hallway and look next time you come to church. It is a cause for inspiration and for celebration. Thank you Judy!

FAITH FAMILY LIFE

Happy November Birthday!

- 1st Robert Nemser
- 4th Eva Marinacci
- 7th Tina Bartlett
Campbell Burd
- 12th Pharibe Pope
- 15th Jack Nesbitt
- 18th Stephen Davis
Fran Marinacci
- 21st Christa Burns
Reginald Wallace
- 24th Carly Burd
- 26th Mike Shirey
- 28th William Brown Jr.

Happy December Birthday!

- 3rd Grail Lent
- 4th Bill Millen
- 5th Diane Borgatti
- 6th Mary Ellen Curtis
Ellen McGill
- 7th Payton Lemon
- 12th John Marinacci
- 18th Rashaun Millen
- 20th Dorothy Weller
- 22nd Audrey Trapp
- 23rd Peter Burger
Susan Johnston
- 26th Colin McGill
- 30th Dylan Brown
Janice Williams

If you would like your birthday added or if it is incorrect, please contact the church office.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Family and friends of the members of Faith who have recently died:

- Nan Pohl - October 11, 2021
- June Rowe - October 24, 2021

Prayers for Wellness:

- Kay Ballard
- The Barchi family

Neal Hairston
John Reale and the Seavers-Reale family
Robert Ingram
Bobby Hall
Ann Scheck
Faith's homebound members

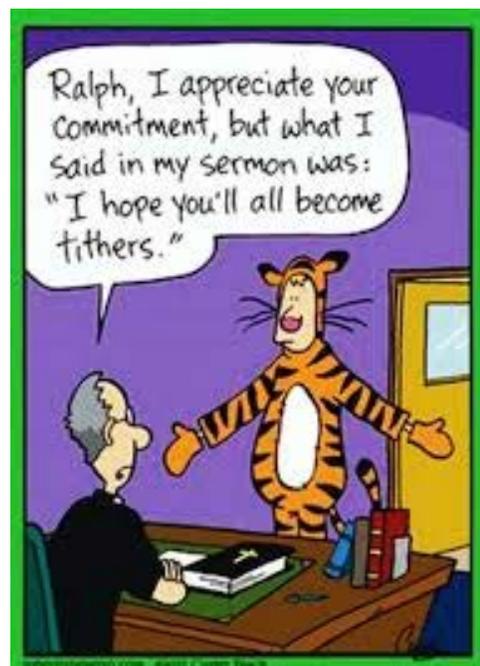
Please send your prayer requests to Cat Goodrich, Pastor 410-435-4330, and/or Sharon Will 410-254-6788

Book Club

Tuesday November 30 -7:00 on Zoom



The Book Club is reading American Dirt is a 2020 novel by American author Jeanine Cummins, about the ordeal of a Mexican woman who had to leave behind her life and escape as an undocumented immigrant to the United States with her son. Please join us for what should be a timely discussion about this controversial book



Autumn

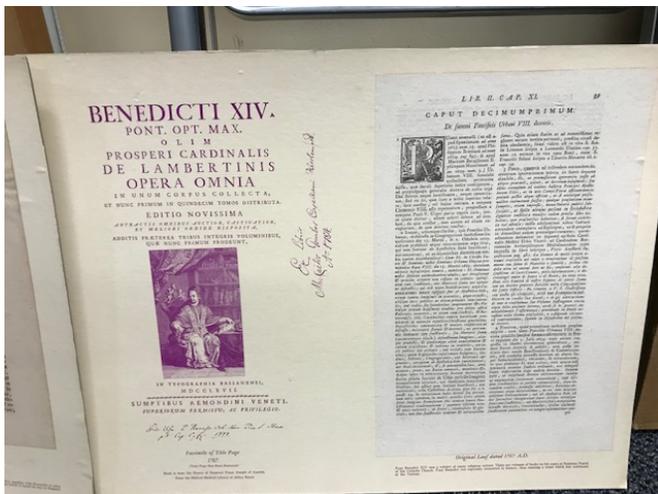
A poem by Susan Johnston

It is the season for walking through spider webs.

Late yesterday after a portentous rain heavy clouds sat on a gray platform trailing fragments like frayed flags.

It is time to pay attention: Beneath bright blue and first leaves turning what invisible strands might cling?

Can Anyone Help Solve this Mystery?



The church library has eight posters of original pages from old bibles and manuscripts, some dating to the 16th and 17th centuries. These were part of an early print and manuscript collection assembled by a man named Stanley S. Slotkin, a California businessman and antique Bible collector who distributed actual pages from rare books to libraries and churches around the world. The pages are glued onto a backing and accompanied by a facsimile of the title page from which the work was taken. The copies that Faith has are not framed and the boards have warped a bit so that they are not particularly suitable for display. Does anyone know how Faith came to have these? Please let Paula Burger know.

Morgan State Senior Recitals at Faith Presbyterian Church

December 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Asia Haynie, *soprano*

Marvin Mills, *piano*



Program will include Bach's aria *Quia respexit* from Magnificat; selection of music from Poulenc's *Le Bestiaire*, ou Cortège d'Orphee; Margaret Bonds' *Three Dream Portraits*; and other great classical works; and spirituals.

December 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

Diamond Lonon, *soprano*

Samuel Springer, *piano*



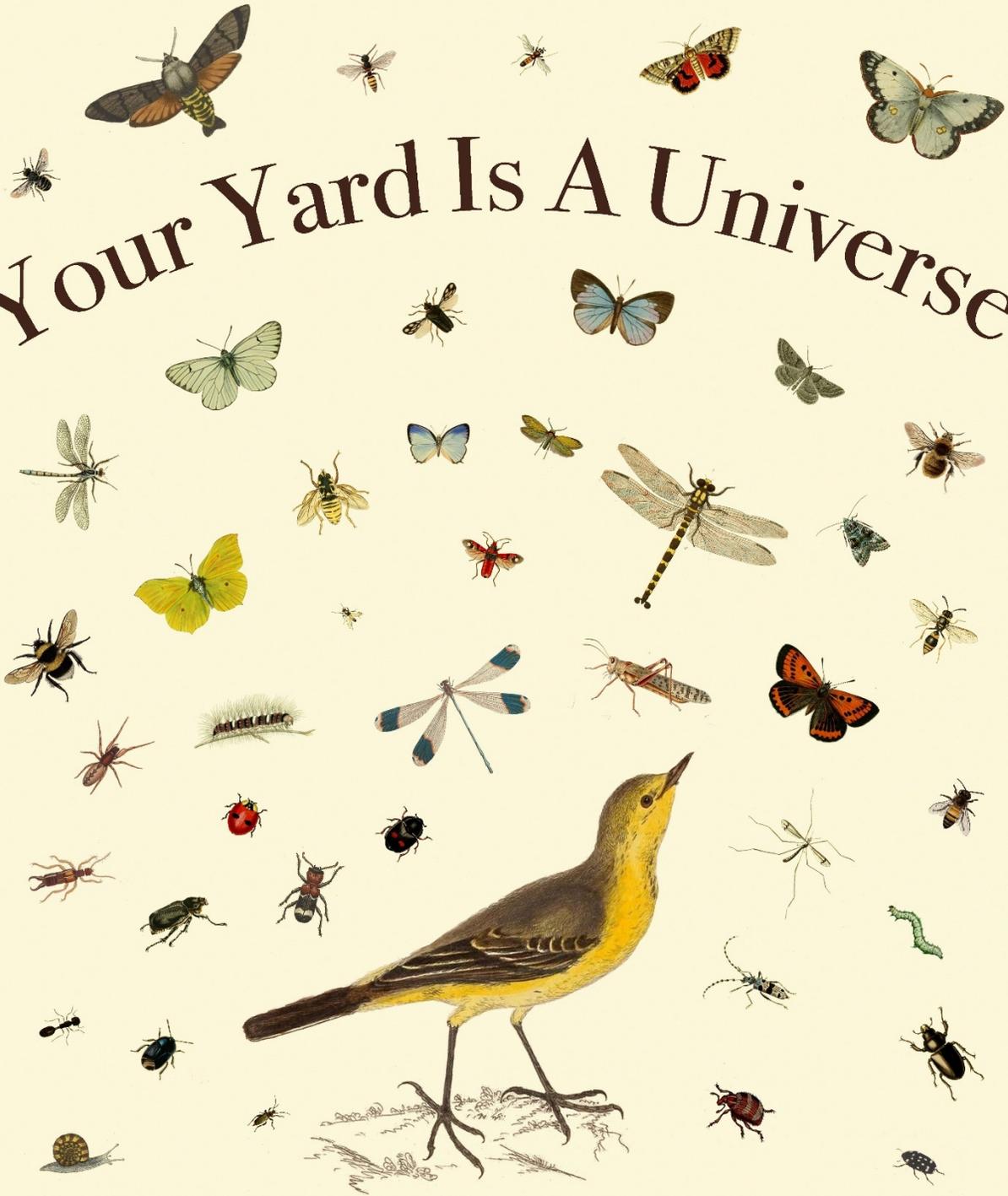
Program will include Handel's *Let the Bright Seraphim* from Samson; Puccini's *Quando m'en vo* from La Boheme; a collection of Ravel's arias; other great classical works; and spirituals.

Free and all are welcome!

Leave Leaves Alone



Your Yard Is A Universe



Many small creatures can spend their whole life within the perimeters of your yard. Their lives depend on you.

No Toxins - Plant Natives - Leave The Leaves

To learn more about sustainable landscaping visit: www.healthyyards.org



November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3 11:00AM – Bible Study	4 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	5	6 10:00AM – Kickball & Crafts at Alhambra Park
 7 9:15AM – Adult Forum 10:45AM – Worship All Saints Sunday	8	9 7:00PM- Deacons on Zoom.	10 11:00AM – Bible Study	11 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	12	13 9:00AM – Care Day
14 9:15AM – Adult Forum 10:45AM – Worship	15 6:00PM – WB Session in person	16 5:30PM – WPC Math Night	17 11:00AM – WB Bible Study	18 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	19	20
21 9:15AM – Adult Forum 9:30AM – Pageant Meeting 10:45AM – Worship Stewardship Sunday and Luncheon	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Office is Closed	26 Office is Closed	27
28 9:15AM – Adult Forum 10:45AM – Worship 1st Sunday of Advent	29	30	31			
				Locations ST – Sanctuary WB – Woodbourne Room WM – Woodmont Room FH – Fellowship Hall OC – Off Campus		