

September 2022

The Voice of Faith

Dear friends of Faith,

A few years ago, Barbara Brown Taylor wrote a book called *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*. In it, she tells stories from twenty years of teaching Religions of the World at Piedmont College in north Georgia. The young adults in her classes were often delving into other religions for the first time, and in the book she reflects on their learning, as well as her own – how she is refreshed by drinking from the wells of wisdom dug by other faiths, while remaining rooted in her own Christian practice.

So it was for me this year, as Deb Colmers, Krista Wallace, and I participated in the Congregational Leaders Fellowship Program at the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies. Since February, we've met monthly with clergy and lay leaders from a variety of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith communities. We have been welcomed into the sacred spaces of our new friends and colleagues, learning with and from one another how to navigate an increasingly pluralist world. The most important takeaway for me are the relationships we've made – faithful people from across the city, with whom we can build on our shared values of compassion and justice to respond to emerging needs in Baltimore.

In June and July, we partnered with the Beth Israel Congregation to explore how we *Welcome the Stranger*, given our scriptural mandates and faith as Christians and Jews. What a revelation to study scripture together, to experience how people from another religion approach the ancient texts, to ask questions and seek meaning at the same table. And, it was meaningful to work together to assemble backpacks for refugees, living our faith in a hands-on way. Now, those backpacks are on their way to the US-Mexico border, where local shelters will give them to folks recently arrived to seek refuge in our country. In a season when there are huge numbers of people arriving each day at our southern border, it is good to know that at least 24 of those folks will have a bit

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Please send articles and photos for the Voice of Faith to faithchurchbalt@gmail.com

Faith Presbyterian Church
5400 Loch Raven Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21239
www.faithpcbalt.org

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of support as they find their way in the U.S.

To hear stories of the other collaborations and revelations that have grown out of the fellowship, tune into the livestream of our storytelling event the evening of September 11 (register to get the link here: <https://icjs.org/events/storytelling/>).

Fall is full of promise for Faith, as we learn, serve, worship, and continue to be in community together. I pray that each of you will find a way to breathe in and breathe out God's love in the weeks and months to come: be nourished by our adult learning series in the Forum, contribute to a meal at Harford House, learn together during our weekly Bible Study, support students at Walter P. Carter by showing up for a Family Engagement Night, and/or catch up with your Faith friends at the picnic on Homecoming Sunday, September 11. Can't wait to see you there!

With love and gratitude,

Cat

Wednesday Bible Study

11:00 a.m. on Zoom.

Join Faith every Wednesday for a lively discussion on the upcoming sermon text. Led by Pastor Cat Goodrich the group explores the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday. Together we ask: "What might God be saying to us through this passage today?" Join us!

WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:45

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Gather Us In Sunday

September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14:1-7
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Picnic

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Karen Burd, *chair*

Children and Youth



We hope all our Faith kids, youth and families have had a wonderful summer! WE HAVE MISSED YOU! and hope to see you in the fall. We are gearing up for the school year and are planning the following activities:

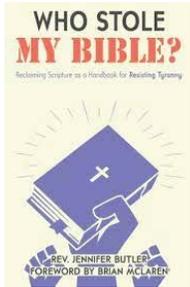
- Sunday school for our Pre-K and Elementary kids
- Confirmation class for our youth
- Youth group activities

-Intergenerational fellowship and learning opportunities.

Please stay tuned to News and Notes for more details soon. Questions? Please see Karen Burd or Pastor Cat.

Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room



September 18 – Introduction to *Who Stole My Bible? Reclaiming Scripture as a Handbook for Resisting Tyranny*

September 25 – Author Rev. Jennifer Butler of *Who Stole My Bible?* will join us via Zoom.

October 2 – What is Christian Nationalism? Excerpts from the Institute for Islamic Christian Jewish Studies (ICJS) video lecture by Matthew Taylor. Matthew is a protestant scholar and Loyola University Theology

October 9 - Conflict Transformation with Karen Burd and Rev. Kate Foster

October 16 - Conflict Transformation with Karen Burd and Rev. Kate Foster

October 23 Transforming Enemy images with Theresa Lantini excerpted video lectures at the 2015 NEXT church conference

October 30 – How will we transform conflict? Coffee and conversation with Karen Burd and Kate Foster

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

Judy Sperling, chair

Summer always affects church attendance.

Students take a break and those who are able, vacation. But our worship time together has continued to be good both in person and by Zoom. The choir has enjoyed a well-deserved rest, but we have continued to enjoy wonderful music! Thank you, Samuel Springer, our guest musicians, and Vivian Slacum.

We were fortunate to welcome friends as guest preachers – Dr. Arthur Sutherland who preached and Rev. Kate Foster who celebrated communion, Father Joe Muth, and Rev. David C. Harris.

We also welcomed new friends from the Beth Israel Congregation who joined us for worship prior to a luncheon and a joint service project.

The **Gather Us In Service** (Sunday, September 11) will be an exciting way to welcome the new season! We will gather in the Courtyard for worship that features Bluegrass music provided by Mike Shirey's band, the Ararat Mountain Boys. Please bring lawn chairs if you can. Seating and tables will be provided, as necessary.

Picnic time follows worship. Grilled hotdogs will be provided. We ask you to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share if you are able. For those who are unable to attend, please join us on Zoom.

Plans are in motion for a joint worship service with the churches of North Baltimore Presbyterians Ministry Group on World Communion Sunday, October 2 at Towson University.

Outdoor worship is planned for October 10 and November 12.

DEACONS

Susan Minor, moderator

Deacons at Work

The Board of Deacons has held its first meeting of the season. Our meeting was virtual, but we were still able to discuss and make decisions about many important items affecting the mission work of our church.

We continue to support GEDCO through our donations of food and bags to the CARES pantry. We are gearing up our involvement with the residents of Harford House by beefing up our Last Thursday of the month dinner. Those of you in church on August 14th heard Deb Colmers ask for donations of food for the August dinner. Thank you so much to all who participated!

We will be providing dinner each month, so "watch the News & Notes" for upcoming menu requests.

We are working on making our prayer ministry more intentional in many areas. We continue to pray for those on our Care List, those in need brought to Cat's attention for inclusion in Sunday prayers, those in the Uncuffed Ministry, and the victims of violence in Baltimore, and their families.

PLANT & PROPERTY

P&P Update

A big thank you to the many hands that keep Faith's property looking great. We have hired Edwin Villatora to cut the grass the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Mike Shirey and Ethan Scoggins the 2nd week and Carl and James Herber will cover the 4th week. We will still need everyone's help with the hand mowing, trimming, weeding etc. Our 2nd Saturday blitzes remain a top priority for keeping the property up.

We have signed a contract with a company

to pick up our trash once a week. The cost will be shared with the Daycare. We have four designated large cans for this purpose. After a couple of years of struggling with limited city pickups that did not accommodate our needs, we hope that this will be a viable solution.





FAITH FORWARD

Patrick Baker, chair

There were approximately 20 members that attended the Iron Birds game at Ripkin Stadium to cheer on the local boys. Everyone enjoyed themselves sharing wonderful evening together.



PRIDE in Baltimore was a blast this year! It saw the return of the PRIDE Parade after a couple of years cancellation due to COVID-19. There were about 10 members that

marched in the actual Parade, wearing tie dye shirts that were created with Krista Wallace's guiding hands! Fun was had by all!



SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

Karen Meyers, chair

The project to replace the north end of our parking lot with trees is moving forward. Blue Water Baltimore, the organization,

which is managing the project, has solicited bids for the removal of the pavement and will soon pick a contractor to do the job and then let us know the start date. Once the pavement is removed, they will begin planting ground cover, but trees won't be planted until Fall. The planting will take place in two phases. We hope to celebrate the greening with an EcoFestival on October 15 which will feature music, food, tree and perennial giveaways, and environmental education.

The outdoor bulletin board which was constructed for us by the students at Nexus-Woodbourne will be installed soon, probably the week of August 28. It will be placed near the bus stop at the corner of Loch Raven and Woodbourne and we will use it to post information about church events as well as other notices that would be helpful to our neighbors.

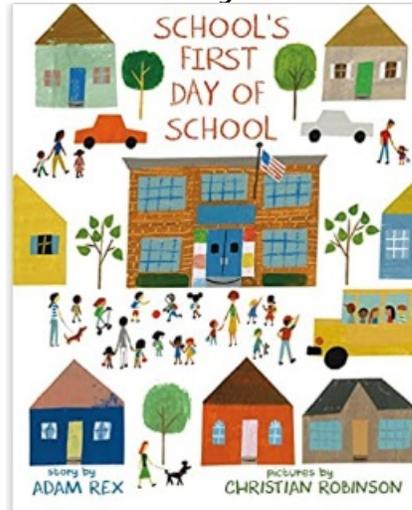
We are collecting school supplies for the students at Walter P Carter Elementary/Middle School. There is link in News and Notes to a list of the supplies requested and a box in the narthex where they can be left.

Backpack Packing with Beth Israel Congregation





Faith's Story Walk



It is the start of a new school year. How do you or did you feel on that very first day of school? Did you ever wonder how the school might be feeling as it anticipates new students arriving to learn in its classrooms? Well, here is your chance to find out. The Story Walk for this month is "School's First Day of School" by Adam Rex which is an entire story told from the perspective of the school. The Story Walk starts by the Little Free Library and weaves its way around the church grounds. Just follow the arrows and the numbers on the story pages to read this fun story. On the last page of the story there is a QR code to a short survey for you to let us know how you liked the book. Please share the Story Walk information with your family, friends, neighbors as a great activity to read a little, walk a little, and have some late summer/early fall fun.



Summer at Faith



FAITH FAMILY LIFE

Happy September Birthday!

- 7th Leanora Eubanks
- 8th Paul Parker
- 12th Bryant Burns
- 14th Magnus Brown
- 15th Kyla Roberts
- 17th Chloe Brown
- 19th Bernard Brown
- 20th Scottie McGill
- 23rd Oluseun Adetayo
Ebony Brown
- 26th John Colmers
- 29th Jackie Billings

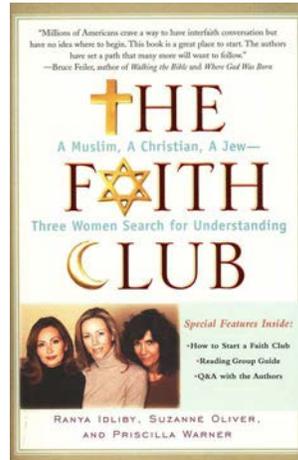
If you would like your birthday added or if it is incorrect, please contact the church office.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Ann Scheck
Linda Seward
Faith's homebound members
The people of Ukraine
Victims of gun violence

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

Book Club



Book Club will meet in September on Tuesday the 27th at 7:00. We will be discussing *"The Faith Club: A Muslim A Christian and Jew Three Women Search for Understanding"* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. "A groundbreaking book about Americans searching for faith and mutual respect. The Faith Club weaves the story of three women, their three religions and their urgent quest to understand one another."

We will also be planning our booklist for the year ahead. I hope to generate a list of new and old suggestions for your consideration so that we can come prepared to make a plan. Send along any suggestions for me to add to the list.



September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	2	3
4 10:45AM – Worship	5	6	7 11:00AM – ZM Bible Study	8 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	9	10 9:00AM – 2 nd Saturday Care Day
 11 Gather Us In & Picnic 10:45AM – Worship	12	13 7:00PM- ZM Deacons	14 11:00AM – ZM Bible Study	15 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	16	17
18 9:15AM – Adult Forum 10:45AM – Worship	19 7:00PM – WM & ZM Session	20	21 11:00AM – ZM Bible Study	22 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	23	24
25 9:15AM – Adult Forum 10:45AM – Worship	26	27 7:00PM – OC & ZM Book Club	28 11:00AM – ZM Bible Study	29 9:00AM – Thursday Crew	30	
					<p style="text-align: center;">Locations</p> <p>ST – Sanctuary CT - Courtyard WB – Woodbourne Room WM – Woodmont Room FH – Fellowship Hall ZM - Zoom OC – Off Campus</p>	