

Triumph Newsletter

AUGUST 2022



Welcome Back Sunday - August 21



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

During worship at 9am and 11am

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

DON'T MISS THIS BIG DAY OF FUN!

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Picnic | Moon Bounce | Games & School Bus
Starting at 10 AM



Join us for our “Welcome Back Sunday” on Sunday, August 21st as we kick off the new school year! Come and celebrate our students with the “Blessing of the Backpacks” and we offer prayers for educators during both worship services. We will have special gifts for all students.

After worship, plan to stay and visit with our neighbors as we enjoy food, yard games, moon bounces, face painting, storytime, and even a special school bus ride. This is a can't miss opportunity, especially if the child in your life is celebrating the milestone of starting kindergarten this year, or is new to our local schools -- such a fun way to practice riding the bus! Don't miss this BIG day of fun! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Greetings Church,

We would like to bring everyone up-to-speed on your Church leadership actions regarding the recent developments of the United Methodist Church (UMC) around the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ members in the life of the church. This complex issue started in the 1970s, has continued ever since, and appears to be reaching a tipping point collectively across the denomination. However, due to COVID, the UMC has been unable to hold its General Conference so that a definitive way forward could be resolved, particularly related to concerns around same-sex marriage and ordination.

In response, a segment of the UMC has decided not to wait for the next General Conference and launched the Global Methodist Church this past May. In response, the UMC has provided a process in which any UMC church can formally leave the denomination aka disaffiliation. Currently, 10 churches out the 1,146 within the Virginia Conference have applied for disaffiliation.

Where is St. Thomas? Recognizing the need for our Church body to begin discerning our collective thoughts, your Church Council launched an LGBTQ+ work stream in January. That work stream is going strong and will report to the Church Council this fall.

Most recently, the Church Council decided in May to begin our church-wide discernment process regarding our position on the full inclusion of LGBTQ members and whether or not to disaffiliate in January of 2023. It also asked that a sub-set of the leadership team continue scoping out a deliberative, **methodical** (John Wesley would be proud) process to come to a church-wide decision on these matters.

While this process is still being fleshed out, here is what we would like to pass along:

We encourage you to educate yourself and pray over this complex issue. Your leadership has curated a list

of resources that is located on our website to aid you with this effort. Pray for yourself, our congregation, and all the leaders in the UMC that God will continue to lead us through this.



Our delegation from St. Thomas at Annual Conference this year in Hampton, VA.

Our annual fall leadership summit, which consists of current leaders and stakeholders, will focus solely on creating a framework for church-wide discernment on disaffiliation. We have invited our District Superintendent, Rev Sarah Calvert, to lead an informational session with Church Council members and are awaiting confirmation from her Administrative Assistant.

As directed by the Council in May, church-wide discernment will begin in earnest in January and other related actions will be completed within 2023.

If you only take one thing away from this article, please understand that your Church leadership is here to ensure that the entire body at St Thomas is directly involved in this important matter by taking a measured, well-conceived approach. We will do this **together**.

Please do not hesitate reaching out to us with any questions and / or comments.

Respectfully,

Joe Steen
Church Council Chair

Pat Brown
2022 Lay Leader

Abi Foerster
Senior Pastor

Arum Kim
Associate Pastor



HEALING & NEW LIFE

SERMON SERIES

July 31st to September 4th

There are no easy answers when we experience trauma, but as Christians we are called to share a message of hope and show Christ's unconditional love to our brothers and sisters who are struggling with the realities of this life – divorce, illness, violence, job loss and the like. We share God's light and love so that all in our community may experience healing and new life through Christ. Whether we are facing our own suffering or helping someone else face suffering, God calls us to trust and allow him to direct our steps. His love for us is what calls us to confidence and hope; even while it may seem that our suffering is insurmountable, it will not be forever. During this six-week series, Pastor Abi will focus not only on the challenge of suffering but also on how God equips us to face trauma by relying on the Holy Spirit, in community with other believers.

Week 1: Healing & New Life for All **Genesis 32:22 - 31**

Using the story of Jacob wrestling with God as a backdrop, we will reflect on our own experiences of disappointment, loss, and struggle as the birthplace of hope. In spite of life's complexity, we can cling to God until we discover blessing and new life even.

Week 2: Healing & New Life after Divorce **Jeremiah 18:1 – 6**

Divorce. One of the topics we often overlook in worship. Yet, so many individuals and families within our community have experienced the pain of divorce and often wonder, "Is there hope and healing from the brokenness I have experienced?" The answer is a resounding yes! Relief is possible.

Week 3: Healing & New Life that Breaks the Silence | 2 Samuel 13:1 – 19

According to RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, every 68 seconds another American is sexually assaulted; and 1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime. How can the church respond? How can we provide support in the midst of this type of suffering? It is time to break our silence.

Week 4: Healing & New Life during Illness **2 Corinthians 2:12 – 17, James 5:13 – 16**

If God loves us, why do we suffer? Christian or not, it's a question we ask when we're diagnosed with cancer or face chronic illness. During times of distress, we want to know our suffering matters to God and He cares about our pain. Healing is possible, even if it comes in ways we may not expect initially.

Week 5: Healing & New Life in the face of Suicide **Psalms 13, Selections from Romans 8**

Nationally, suicide rates are higher than they have ever been, and with each death, loved ones struggle with what they could have done to prevent this tragic loss. This introductory sermon will help equip you to prevent suicide if you or a loved one are struggling. This could just be a life-saving message.

Week 6: Healing & New Life after Job Loss **Jeremiah 29:11 – 13, Matthew 6:19 – 34**

During the pandemic, many folks resigned from their jobs while others lost theirs, or their employers reduced their hours. In our culture, work is a significant contributor to our identity and self-image. This sermon is for anyone who has ever been unemployed, underemployed or experienced job loss of any kind that changes so many things.

United Women in Faith

We've been enjoying the summer, especially our Ice Cream Social on Saturday, July 23, one of the hottest afternoons of the year! Twelve intrepid ladies braved the heat to sit in the shade and enjoy ice cream, cupcakes and fellowship - there was even a bit of a breeze!

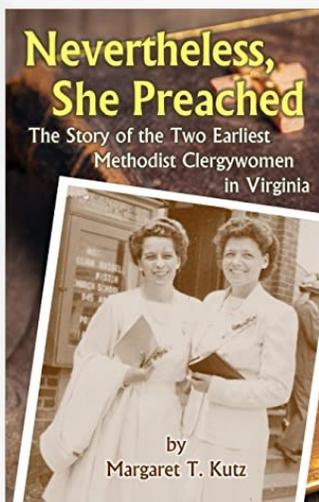


Dorcas Circle - On Tuesday August 9th, join the Dorcas Circle at Lois Dymond's home 9316 Eagle Court Manassas Park VA at 1 pm. Bring a food item to share and your Bible. We will have fun and fellowship and devotions.

Potluck Lunch - 11am Saturday, September 17

We invite all ladies of the church (and your friends!) to join us for food, fellowship and an exiting program. Rev. Marg Kutz will speak about

her ministry and her recent book, *Nevertheless, She Preached, The Story of the Two Earliest Methodist Clergwomen in Virginia*. You can find the book on Amazon if you would like to read it before the meeting.



Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors

The OWLS enjoyed a delicious lunch in the cool, air conditioned Three Monkeys Pub and Chophouse on Friday, July 22. We only had one server for the 23 of us which gave us lots of time to fellowship. After our leisurely lunch, about 10 of us continued to Nathans to enjoy a cold dessert. The hit ice cream flavor of the day was Cookie Monster. As usual, everyone had a good afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun.

Our next outing will be **AUGUST 19** (notice a date change) when we will travel to Nancy and Bill Buchanan's summer home in King George. This is a favorite destination every year. We will meet at the church at 9:15, leaving at 9:30 AM. We are hoping to use the church van but we will also need to drive some private cars. Please, when you RSVP let us know if you can drive and how many passengers you can take. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share; sandwiches, casserole, salad, dessert, etc. Also bring a deck or camp chair. Please RSVP to Marian (571-315-6881) or Lynn (703-499-0243) no later than August 17.

OWLS is open to everyone over 55 years of age. You do not have to be a member of St Thomas to enjoy our outings. Invite your friends. We always have fun and ALWAYS have food.



News from the Kitchen

We surely did enjoy our Christmas dinner in July! We had fun setting up the tree and having Christmas carols playing as we served you.

We are organizing and getting ready for the start of Tuesday Night Dinners on September 6th. We will continue to offer both curbside and dining in. Our serving times will be as follows:

Dine In: We will serve our dine in guests from 5:00pm-5:45pm. We ask that all dine in guests finish their meals by 6:30pm so our volunteers will have time to clean the Fellowship Hall.

Curbside Pickup: We will serve curbside from 5:30pm-6:00pm. Please call Janel if you are running late and we will keep your meals inside until you arrive.

We are also making some changes in our pricing. Frank does an awesome job of shopping for the best prices on food items for our dinners but as you know just from your own shopping the cost of food has gone up greatly. We therefore are raising the cost of the adult dinners to \$7.00 per person. The kid's meal will be \$4.00 and the adult kid meal will be \$7.00. Our family plan will be \$25.00 for a family of 4. The biggest change will be that after paying \$25.00 for the family of four the additional meals will be \$5.00 per person.

We appreciate your understanding and will continue to provide you with great food. See you for dinner on September 6th!

Music Ministry Kick Off

Traditional Music Ministry will be resuming rehearsals for the 2022-23 program year.

Chancel Choir will resume rehearsal on **Tues, Aug 9** at 6:30pm in the choir room. They will be singing at our "Welcome Back Sunday" on Aug 21. All current members or new and interested singers are welcome to attend. No experience necessary. On Tues, Sep 6, all other rehearsals will resume at the following times. All are welcome!

Children's Choir (PreK-5th grade):

5:00-5:30pm

Joyful Noise Singers (6th-12th grade):

5:30-6:20pm

Bells of St Thomas (must read music):

7:30-8:30pm

Short Term Aid & Relief Team - START

The START team is a disaster response rebuilding team that is set up to assist people recover from disasters such as hurricanes, forest fires, floods, and other events. We primarily assist people who have limited means and are otherwise unable to repair their homes. We show God's love during these missions and change people's lives for the better. Anyone who has a desire to serve and all skill levels are welcome and you don't have to commit to a full week. Our next organizational meeting is Wed, Aug 24 at 7 pm in room 300. For those who cannot attend in person please let us know and a Zoom link will be sent to you. If you have any questions about these missions, please contact Cliff Farrar at fcliff@hotmail.com or 703-881-8718.





from Kristi Swanson

The summer has been a lot of fun, with camps, Wacky Wednesdays and Prayground videos going full swing. We have one camp left which takes place the first week of August -- our kids will enjoy Innovation Lab, a STEM-based experience full of fun and adventure.

they can't remember every single one. We will resume our GrowKids Curriculum with Famous, a series about Solomon.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Blessing of the Backpacks at Both Services
Fun Activities for Children, starting at 10 AM

Picnic | Moon Bounce | Games & School Bus



We are looking forward to our Blessings of the Backpacks on Welcome Back Sunday, August 21. Celebrate our students as we bless their backpacks and offer Prayers for Teachers during both worship services. Then join in the rest of the Welcome Back activities after worship. It is sure to be a day to remember.

Lots of kids dream about becoming famous... and why shouldn't they? It sounds awesome to have fans who celebrate your wins with you. On the flip side, it would be pretty tough to have people always watching, even when you're not having the best day. In Famous, we are going to talk about a family in the Bible who lived in such a spotlight. Through their stories, kids will learn that no matter our celebrity status, we can make things right, God gives us friends, we can ask for God's guidance, we can give God what we have. Fame and fans may come and go, but you don't need to be liked by everyone when you're loved by God!

Sunday School will kick off on August 28th from 10:00-10:50 a.m. Our first session will include an opportunity for all the kids to display what they've practiced over the summer, and show off how many books of the Bible they can remember! There will be prizes for all kids who have worked hard to learn the books of the Bible over the summer, even if

St. Thomas Kids Summer Fun!



Fun at Spy Camp



Summer Camp Director Samantha Spencer



Pastor Arum, Kristi Swanson and the Camp Tweens Kids



Kristi Swanson & Mitchell Banner on the Playground



Camp Tweens at the Park



A tour of Bruster's, including treats!



Popsicles on the Playground



THE PACK

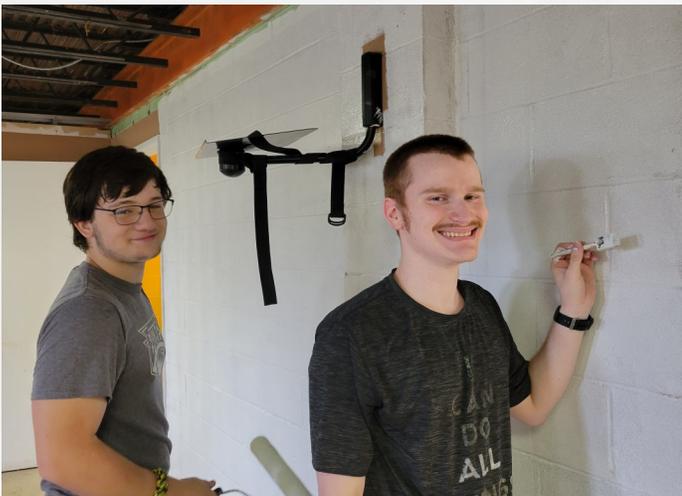
ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

from Arum Kim

Can you believe that Summer is almost over? Manassas City Public Schools start a new school year on August 10 and Prince William County Public Schools does on August 22. As we kick off the new school year, our church is hosting a big "Welcome Back Sunday" on August 21st. All of our students and their families are welcome to come join the fun! On the following Sunday on August 28th, we will kick off the PACK Ministry for the new year with the PACK AM (Sunday School) at 10 AM and the PACK Night at 6 PM. During the PACK Night, we will officially welcome the rising 6th grade students and their family into the PACK, and also have a Family Game Night. The Winner family will receive a gift! Stay tuned for more information from the PACK emails. If you have any questions about the Student Ministry, please feel free to contact Pastor Arum at arum.kim@stthomasumc.org or 571-438-3953 (cell).

Here are the highlights of THE PACK from the 1st PACK Mission & Fun weekend! 13 Students and 5 Adult volunteers participated. On Thursday, July 7, we painted a primer in the downstairs of the Youth Center. Mr. Dave Rea led this project and Mrs. Kathy Rea, and Mr. Cliff Farr joined their forces! Our students got excited to contribute to the renovation work and look forward to seeing how the downstairs would be transformed!





On Friday, July 8, we went to Camp Highroad for fun! We first tried the Archery and Jessica was the best player among us! We then went to try the Ultimate Challenge course with zip line and high ropes and a giant swing. It was literally so challenging and even terrifying! Thanks to encouragement and support to one another, all got through the challenge course! Lots of good memories were made and friendship was built. It was a hot & fun day!



Ultimate Challenge Course at Camp Highroad

We made it!



On Saturday, July 9, we helped the Food Pantry in the morning and the Health Fair in the afternoon. We served 143 families through the Food Pantry and met people from our community at the Health Fair. Virginia joined us as a future member of the PACK.



St Thomas Booth at Celebrate America Event



We hosted our church booth at Celebrate America event in Old Towne Manassas on the 4th of July. More than 200 people visited our booth and our face painting activity was quite a hit! What a great opportunity to meet people in our community and tell them how awesome St Thomas is! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this event on a such hot day!



St. Thomas UMC

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Rev. Arum Kim, Associate Pastor

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Newsletter Deadline:

15th of the month

Please email all articles to both:

samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org

receptionist@stthomasumc.org

August Church Events

- Aug 1-5 Innovation Lab - Camp
- Aug 9 Dorcas Circle
- Aug 19 OWLS Trip to Buchanan's
- Aug 21 Welcome Back Sunday

August Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Loretta Travis Elanor Doczi Sarah Hammack	2	3	4	5 Chris Fick Bill Goldfarb Ryan Tacik	6 Jessica Thornton Katina Stone
7 Margarete Hinkle Abby Miller	8	9	10 Virginia Wald	11 Jane Priest Judy Golladay	12 Mary Ella McGregor	13
14	15 Sharon Becker Stephanie Burnett Abigail Palian	16 Kara Crawford Bernice Labrozzi	17 Stephen Verosko	18 Gordon Haines Lauren Young Judy Gallahan	19	20
21 Gwen Glusser	22 Lisa Burke Mildred Stokes Mica Lyle Milan Steen John Wack	23 Joyce Hale	24	25 Carly Swanson Doug White	26 Matthew Renfro Joe Steen	27 Sharon Mizelle
28 Haiden Boyd	29 Cheryl Rosko Perry Bailey	30 Daniel Becker Vicki Schoch	31 Lynn Furlong			