

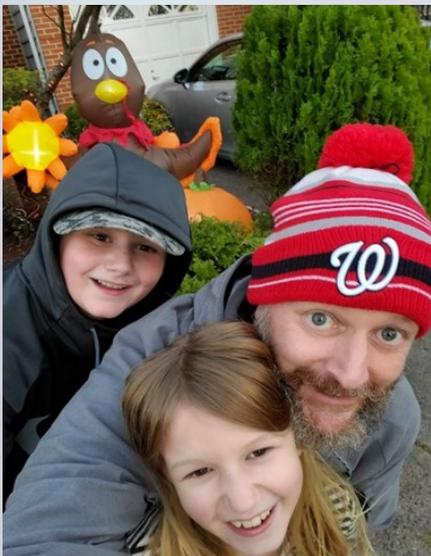


# Triumph Newsletter

MARCH 2021

## Welcome Our New Children's Ministry Director!

### News from our Staff - Parish Relations Committee



SPRC is pleased to announce that David Raich (pictured left with his kids) will be joining the staff as our new Children's Ministry Director effective Monday, March 8. The SPRC conducted a thorough and competitive process and had several highly competent candidates. That being said, the SPRC ultimately felt that David's faith in God, his call story and exploration of full-time ministry with children, his many years of experience as an educator in Fairfax County with children who have special needs, and his unique skill set as a soccer coach and volunteer, made him the best candidate for the position. David spoke passionately about his experiences on staff at Pender UMC and as a life-long Methodist, as well as his experience as a pilgrim on Emmaus. David is also the proud father of two children, Levi and Leighton, who are in 6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade respectively.

Please welcome David as our director! We believe God is doing great things and that David in tandem with the Children's Ministry Council, the Nursery Team, and the staff of the Sunbeam Children's Center have rounded out our staff in this key area of ministry. We believe he will work beautifully together with our core volunteers and staff to glorify Christ in this witness to our community and as we equip the next generation of children with a vibrant faith in Christ.

Last but not least, David will work with Caleb Mathews, who has been serving on an interim basis, to ensure a smooth transition with all involved. Please keep the process in prayer.

*(SPRC News continued p. 2)*

(SPRC News continued from p. 1)

# Lent Off to a Great Start!

Facebook Post from St. Thomas Mom,  
Sarah Brun, on Feb. 17, 2021



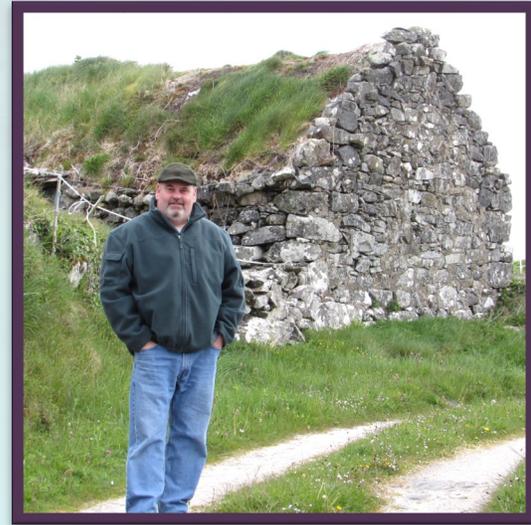
*Huuuuuge Lent kits from church. 40 activities!!  
Thanks St. Thomas UMC, Manassas campus! ❤️*



*Ashes on the foreheads of our SCC staff (Veronica and Gasna pictured above) help to mark the start of Lent at our 7 AM Ash Wednesday service! Many thanks to the SCC kindergarten students for sharing their artwork for Pastor Arum's felt board story on the Parable of the Good Soil.*



*Are you enjoying the Lent-at-Home Kit? Our PACK students were a big part of making it possible!*



SPRC is also pleased to announce that **Glenn Jordan** will be joining the staff of St. Thomas UMC as our new Assistant Food Pantry Coordinator effective Monday, March 8, 2021. The search team felt Glenn stood out above the rest of the applicants. Glenn has extensive background in the food service industry as a chef, program manager, and banquet captain for a number of restaurants both locally and in Massachusetts where he is originally from. He also has background as a carpenter and as a consultant in advertising, which could lend themselves to future endeavors with the Food Pantry. Lastly, Glenn also had experience working as a crisis counselor at a residential program and the team felt this background lent itself nicely to working with a wide variety of clients and volunteers. His background as a Christian is in the Catholic tradition.

We also extend our deepest gratitude to **Jennifer Miller** who previously served in this role. She has now transitioned to being a key member on the newly established Food Pantry Ministry Team and is serving as a Saturday morning Captain while she continues her education at GMU and is employed full-time at Youth for Tomorrow in Bristow where her mother, Abby, also works. We are indebted to her for her faithful leadership during a pivotal time through the pandemic.

# What is Holy Week?

Holy Week is an important time for Christians throughout the world. Holy Week, the final week of Lent, begins on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter. Holy Week is a time when Christians gather to remember and participate in the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Passion was the final period of Christ's life in Jerusalem. It spans from when He arrived in Jerusalem to when He was crucified on a cross.

In the Greek and Roman liturgical calendars, Holy Week is called the Great Week because great deeds were done by God during this week. The name Holy Week was used in the 4th century by St. Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, and St. Epiphanius of Constantia. Originally, only Good Friday and Holy Saturday were observed as holy days but now the whole week is observed as an especially solemn time to reflect and remember what God has done to offer salvation to humanity.

## Holy Week Schedule

### **Palm Sunday, March 28**

9 AM Traditional Worship

11 AM Contemporary Worship

### **Maundy Thursday, April 1**

7 PM Livestreamed Holy Communion Service, with invitation to foot washing at home

### **Good Friday, April 2**

7 PM Tenebrae Livestream "Service of Shadows"

### **Easter Sunday, April 4**

7 AM Drive-in, Sunrise Service, Front Lawn

7:30 AM Curbside Pickup Easter Breakfast

9 AM Traditional Easter Livestream Celebration

11 AM Contemporary Easter Livestream Celebration

## How do Christians Celebrate Holy Week?

Four special worship services commemorate the events of Christ's Passion from His entrance into Jerusalem, when palm branches were placed in His path, through His arrest on Holy Thursday and Crucifixion on Good Friday, to Holy Saturday, the day that Christ's body lay in the tomb.

The summit of the Christian Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. The Triduum is the proper name for the three-days that mark the end of Lent and the beginning of the Easter season. Technically speaking, a triduum refers simply to any three-day period of prayer. Triduum comes from the Latin meaning "three days." The worship services that typically take place during the Triduum are:

**Maundy Thursday** when we remember the events of the Upper Room with Jesus and his disciples.

**Good Friday** when we remember the Lord's Passion and suffering on a cross at Calvary.

**Easter Sunday** where we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord.

**Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday** that recalls Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will receive palm fronds that they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem with a procession. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey to the praise of the townspeople who laid palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect.

*(Holy Week continued on p. 4)*

*(Holy Week continued from p. 3)*

**Holy Thursday** commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus consecrated bread and wine. This is the foundation for our understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Many faith communities will also offer optional foot washing during the service of the Lord's Supper as a way to remember that Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. At the conclusion of this service, the altar and chancel are stripped of all Paraments and finery.

**Good Friday** is one of the darkest days of the year for Christians. It covers Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. His death and burial are also remembered. Often, the events of Good Friday are portrayed in the Stations of the Cross, a 14-step visual depiction and devotion, traditionally prayed during Lent and especially on Good Friday. Often, crosses are draped in black cloth and a crown of thorns may be added. Church bells are silent. Altars remain bare. The solemn, muted atmosphere is preserved until the Easter Vigil.

**Holy Saturday** remembers the day that Jesus spent in the grave resting. For many Catholic churches, an Easter Vigil takes place at the end of the day at 8:30 P.M. because the new liturgical day begins at sunset. The vigil begins at sunset on Holy Saturday outside the church, where an Easter fire is kindled and a special Paschal candle is blessed and then lit. For Protestants, this service often takes place in the wee hours of Easter Sunday morning just before sunrise. Both traditions reflect and remember that the light of Christ conquers the darkness of death. The Paschal candle is also used during the year at baptisms, confirmation and funerals, reminding all that Christ is our life and our light.

## News from VAUMC

Bishop Sharma Lewis of the Virginia Annual United Methodist Conference (VAUMC) has assembled a District Alignment Team (DAT), which has resulted in six recommendations. The central question: "How can districts more effectively order themselves for the adaptive challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century," remains. There have not been significant changes for 40 years, so now is a great time to make changes. The main one is at the district level; the Alexandria and Arlington Districts will now have one District Superintendent to represent both districts. Beginning on July 1, 2021 Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert will become the District Superintendent for both Arlington and Alexandria District. Please look in the upcoming weeks about ways we can honor our current District Superintendent for the Alexandria District, Rev. Jeff Mickle. He will be retiring in June after 44 years of service to our Annual Conference, and we will want to thank him for his service.

Respectfully,

Holly Banner and Perry Bailey,

STUMC Lay Delegates to Annual Conference



*Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert (top, center) and Rev. Jeff Mickle (top, right) with some of the Bi-District Staff*

# Holy Moments Shared During the Pandemic

*Pastor Abi received the following email from long-standing member, Lynn Furlong, the Friday following our Sunday, Communion Service on February 7, 2021. What a great reminder that God is good – especially in the tough times when we open ourselves up to new possibilities through the Holy Spirit.*

**D**ear Abi,  
I just want to share what happened last Sunday while I was in Delaware. One of my Dad's caregivers hooked my computer up to the TV so my Dad could "go to church" with me. I know he couldn't hear a lot of the service but he listened as best he could and enjoyed the singing.

One of his caregivers shared the service with us. Just after the service started a member of my Dad's church stopped by, bringing a DVD of his church's service. She stayed and attended church with us.

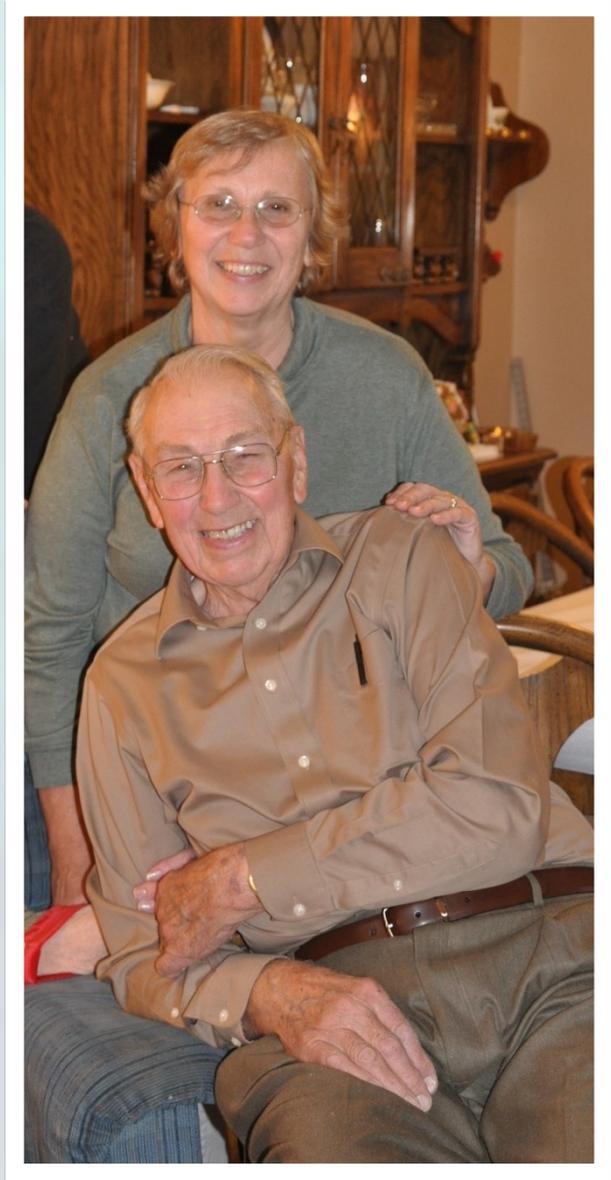
My parents have some gold-rimmed, antique glasses and the set includes 6 cordial glasses. There is also a very small salt dish. I had gone over to his home prepared for communion Sunday so I put 4 crackers in the little dish and grape juice in 4 of the cordial glasses. I put all of this on a clear glass plate. When the time came, I served everyone communion. I have never served communion to my dad. It was very special for me to be able to do this. The woman from Dad's church served communion to me.

I felt so blessed to be able to share communion with others, something that I haven't done because it is only me when we typically have communion Sunday. Moreover, to be able to serve communion to my Dad made the sacrament even more special. What a wonderful experience.

The woman, Linda, from my dad's church also sings in the choir so we harmonized on the hymns. It was wonderful to share the entire service with friends and family.

WHAT A BLESSING!

Love, Lynn



*Lynn Furlong pictured with her Dad.*

# News from the Kitchen

by Janel Weed



*Earl Amstutz and Bert Kenyon making those awesome pancakes!*

A big thank you to the men's group for helping prepare and serving our Shrove Tuesday Night Dinner.

It's so wonderful to see so many of you on Tuesdays! We look forward to preparing your meals and having them ready for pick up. Thanks for driving in and visiting for a couple of minutes as we hand you your food.

We will continue to offer the "Park and Pray" option on the following Tuesdays in March: March 2, 9, 16, and 23. We hope you will be blessed by this during the season of Lent. Thank you to Pastor Abi and Pastor Arum for being willing to be here on those Tuesdays to pray with you and a thank you to the volunteers who are joining them each week. We hope this time will offer another way for our church family to support each other.

## March Menus:

### March 2

Hot Roast Beef Sandwich with Texas Toast,  
Mashed Potatoes, Beef Gravy  
Whole Kernel Corn

**Dessert:** Hot Fudge Pudding Cake

**Kid's:** Grilled Cheese and French Fries

**Cookie:** Lemon Coolers

### March 9

Orange Chicken  
Rice Pilaf  
Butternut Squash  
Pita Bread

**Dessert:** Carrot Cake

**Kid's:** Cheese Quesadilla and Fruit

**Cookie:** Sugar Raspberry

### March 16

St. Patrick's Day Dinner  
Irish Stew (Beef)  
Deviled Eggs with Bacon  
Irish Soda Bread

**Dessert:** Guinness Cake

**Kid's:** Potato Pancakes with Bacon

**Cookie:** Lucky Charm Cookies

### March 23

Caesar Salad  
Baked Meat Lasagna  
Spring Vegetables  
Bubble Bread

**Dessert:** Coconut Cream Pie

**Kid's:** Same as adult meal

**Cookie:** Italian Sprinkle Cookies

### March 30

Baked Stuffed Pork Chops  
Roasted Redskin Potatoes  
Corn Soufflé  
Fresh Bread

**Dessert:** Vanilla Cake, Warm Nutmeg Sauce

**Kid's:** Corn Dog and Tater Tots

**Cookie:** Banana Pudding

**Thank you!**

**From the Kitchen Ministry Team**

# Operation Bearhug

Thank you all for participating in Operation Bearhug. With bears donated by the congregation and our local DAR chapter, we were able to send 100 bears for patients at Novant Hospital and 76 bears for residents at Manassas Health and Rehab. The United Methodist Women also sent Valentines and treats to the staff at Manassas Health and Rehab.



From the DAR:

*It was our pleasure to hold a Teddy Bear drive for you today. We left stuffed animals and non-perishables. Thank you guys for all that you do for the community and we are happy to assist you in any way that we can, Angela Thompson, Regent, Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill, NS/DAR*



*The gifts delivered to Manassas Health and Rehab*

And your gifts were obviously appreciated as we received lovely thank you notes from the Novant Hospital Auxiliary and a patient at Manassas Health and Rehab.



# United Methodist Women

## Virtual Spring Craft Bazaar

The UMW is holding a craft bazaar with items for spring!

To see the available items, go to

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/8nkKbdEyvxz2jUqg8> beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. Orders will be accepted through March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Click on the photos to enlarge and read the information.

To place an order, email item number from photo to [Chair.STUMW@gmail.com](mailto:Chair.STUMW@gmail.com) We will respond with a pickup receipt. Curbside pickup will be on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 5:30 pm by the carport at the Parsonage House. Please have exact change for cash payments or checks made out to **STUMW**. We will bring your order to your car. All proceeds go to missions.

## Greeting Card Workshop

Join us for a virtual meeting to make Greeting Cards on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm! Pat Brown, who is highly skilled in making cards and scrapbooking, will lead us in making two greeting cards. A kit containing the needed supplies for making your cards costs \$5 and will be available during the Spring Bazaar's curbside pickup on March 16<sup>th</sup> or through the church office during the week of March 15<sup>th</sup> (but before noon on Friday). Payment is due when you pick up your kit. To attend, sign up via this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4FADAB2CA3F85-greeting> or on the Events page on the church website. Space is limited.

## WE'RE SELLING RADA CUTLERY



## RADA Cutlery Products

Are still available for sale through the UMW. Since we can't take orders in person, you can order online by going to: <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=4803461.2b654e>

# The Work Room Gets a Facelift!

Many thanks to Ron Campbell, Dave Rea, and Don Rickerson for helping to renovate and update our workroom – one of the busiest rooms in the church! This is part of our strategic plan under the priority area, “Administration & Infrastructure” and supports the goal to “develop a long-term staffing plan that takes into account administrative needs, growth in membership, and growth in ministries.”

The update of the workroom is one of the ways that the Trustees (in tandem with the Building & Grounds Committee and SPRC) are accomplishing “Action Step 2,” which states that “We will evaluate existing office space and records storage to determine best use of space. We will equip offices to facilitate ministry flow and growth. Purchase furniture as needed.”

By re-locating the copier and the folding machine into the renovated workroom, Administrative Director, Samantha Bouquet, now has an office that is much more conducive to supporting the overall work flow of the church and its staff.



*“Before” shot with Ron Campbell and Dave Rea*



*“After” shot of new & improved Workroom!*

## February PACK Adventure

On Saturday, February 27, the adventurous thirteen of our PACK students and family joined Wetland Wonders Program at Neabasco Regional Park. It was a wonderful day to explore the nature God beautifully created. Did you miss it? Come join us for our next outdoor event: Canoe @ Camp Highroad on Saturday, March 20!



# Student Ministry

By Pastor Arum



We have a BIG NEWS! As the PACK continue to meet in hybrid format (in-person and online via Zoom); we are planning for a big change coming soon in March: our gathering day and time will move from Tuesday afternoon to **Sunday at 6:30 PM!**

Prince William County public schools are now reopening and beginning hybrid In-person classes. Other schools in Manassas City and Manassas Park are also preparing for the same. Our current weekly gathering schedule (Tuesday at 4 PM) will soon conflict with our student's new schedules. The Youth Council has decided to move the weekly PACK gathering to Sunday at 6:30 PM based on a survey received from our students and their parents. We hope to gather at 6 PM again when the pandemic is over so we could enjoy

supper together before a program for the day.

We hope that the PACK continues to be the place where the students can hear the message of hope and encouragement and relax and share a laugh or two with each other. Please keep our students in your prayers so they may stay connected with each other and most of all, with Christ in this difficult time.

## The PACK AM on Sunday at 10:10 AM via Zoom

The PACK AM (Sunday School) has been vibrant with a new curriculum, *The Jesus Studies!* This curriculum is



designed to help our students navigate through issues they are confronted with on a daily basis in a Christ-centered way. We hope that our students will be equipped to see the relevant issues of their lives through the words of Jesus. Our faithful leader, Perry Bailey, teaches The PACK AM.

## The PACK on Sunday at 4 PM via Zoom or In-Person

We will hang out, play fun games, participate in mission projects, and/or have some faith talk. The following is a tentative plan for the month of March. We will be closely monitoring the COVID situation and make a change in the plan if necessary. Please stay tuned in the PACK weekly newsletter for any updates!

- \* March 7 (Sun): PACK **via Zoom** at 6:30 PM. It's our first "Sunday" gathering. During this time, we will brainstorm how to make this year's Youth Sunday special!
- \* March 14 (Sun): PACK **in-person** at 6:30 PM at church in the Fellowship Hall. Come wearing something green! We will play a couple of games and talk about St. Patrick and what his life teaches us.
- \* March 20 (Sat): **Special PACK: Canoe at Camp Highroad** (21164 Steptoe Hill Rd, Middleburg) at 10:30 - 12:30 AM. The camp instructor(s) will lead activities on the water. All equipment provided. Bring your friends!
- \* March 21 (Sun): PACK **in-person** at 6:30 PM. We will spend our time together to practice and record for the Youth Sunday.
- \* March 28 (Sun): Depending on how much we would have completed our preparation for the Youth Sunday, we will either gather in-person for the final practice/recording or gather via Zoom for a fun game night.

# Kids Care 2

## Ministry with our Tweens (3rd—5th graders)

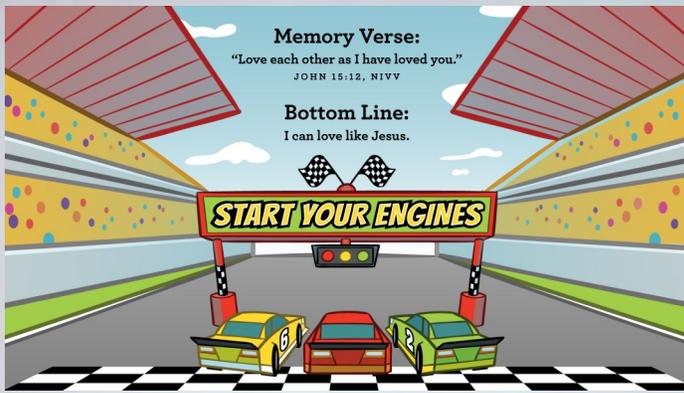
Our next meeting will take place on Friday, March 12 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall at church. We will learn all about Lent as we bake special Lenten bread – pretzels! You can enjoy them for snacking or keep them frozen and use it later for communion on the first Sunday of April. All tweens 3rd-5th grade are invited to participate and their friends are always welcome! Pastor Arum will continue to lead the Kids Care 2 Ministry as an interim lead until the new Director of Children’s Ministry joins St. Thomas.



On Friday, February 5, we got together for a Kids Care 2 event – in a new hybrid format! Our special guest, Ms. Autumn Prescott. She is Emi and Riley’s mom and also a nurse. She taught us all about COVID-19 and how she and other medical professionals help her patients at the hospital. We even got a chance to try on a hospital-grade PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) just like the real nurses and doctors do when they take care of COVID-19 patients. It was surprisingly difficult to breathe and talk through all the masks they have to wear every day! We are now even more thankful for all their hard work.



Last but not least, we made 50 goody bags enclosed with our Thank-You notes for the medical professionals at Fair Oaks Hospital where Ms. Prescott works. Pastor Arum had previously delivered goody bag kits to the kids who were joining virtually so everyone got a chance to participate in expressing our gratitude for the healthcare workers. We also made 250 bags for the Food Party to wish a Happy Valentine’s to the children who visit us with their parents on Saturday. (David Burnett couldn’t join us on the day of the event. But he and his mom came to church on another day and together they made almost 200 bags!)



**Preschool:** When race car drivers hear the call to “start your engines,” the mission is clear, and they’re ready to go! The same can be said for those of us who follow Jesus. Jesus is calling each of us to start our engines and go do what He has prepared us to do. His call is to “love each other the way I have loved you.”

And, how do we love like Jesus? We put others first and are a good friend. We share with others, help others, and say kind words to each other. When we do these things, our light shines bright and the love of Jesus shines through us.

Preschoolers want to show everyone that, “I can do it. I can put on my shoes. I can make my bed. I can carry heavy things.” Let’s help them add, “I can love like Jesus,” to that list. Now, start your engines!



**Elementary:** Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don’t have to wait on our own. God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient. God is in control and knows what’s best for us. Even though God’s people were waiting for years for the promised Savior, at just the right time, God sent Jesus. Because we’re created in God’s image, we can reflect His patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done and trust God no matter what.

**Memory Verse:** Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don’t lose hope. Wait for the Lord. *Psalm 27:14*

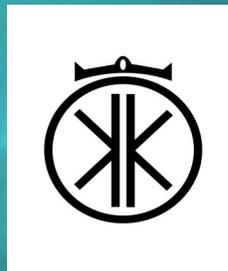
**Bottom Line:** Patience is waiting until later for what you want now.

# King’s Kids

*Our ministry with children seeks to share the faith with the next generation of children from birth through 5th grade.*

*The primary ministry occurs on Sunday mornings. Check it out...*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 10:15 am



### FOR PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY KIDS ON ZOOM:

All kids are invited to join us on Zoom for lessons and activities around each week’s Bible Story. We’d love to have you join us.

Be sure to sign up for our

weekly King’s Kids E-News to stay up to date and receive Zoom codes each week by contacting our the church office.

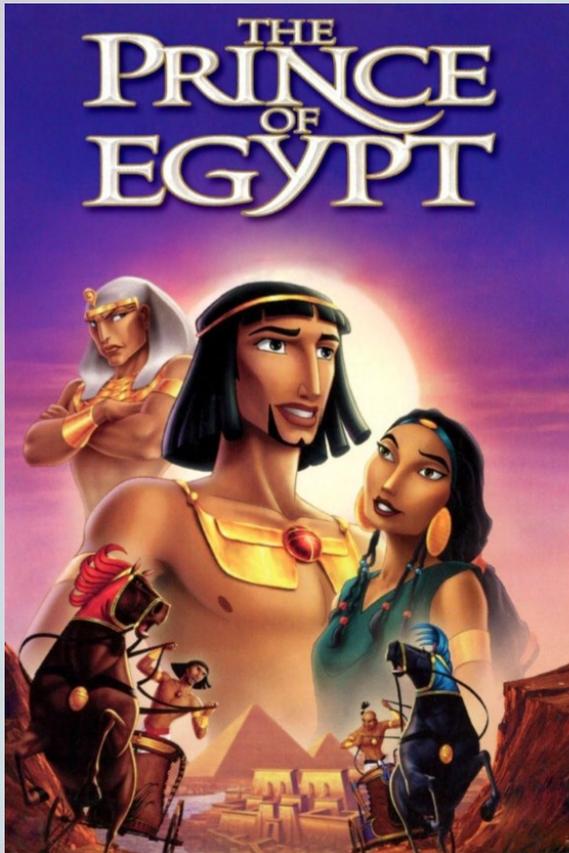
## KIDS CARE 2: 345



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keep them frozen and use it later for communion on the first Sunday of April. All tweens 3rd-5th grade are invited to participate and their friends are always welcome!

Pastor Arum will continue to lead the Kids Care 2 Ministry as an interim lead until the new Director of Children’s Ministry joins St. Thomas.



## Drive In Movie

Saturday, March 27 at 7 PM

***The Prince of Egypt (PG)***

A story of Moses

A sign-up link will be available soon at

[StThomasUMC.org/reach/events](http://StThomasUMC.org/reach/events)



# St. Thomas

United Methodist Church

8899 Sudley Road, Manassas,  
Rev. Abi Foerster, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Arum Kim, Associate Pastor

[stthomasumc.org](http://stthomasumc.org)

703-368-5161

### Newsletter Deadline:

15th of the month

Please email all articles to both:

[samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org](mailto:samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org)

[receptionist@stthomasumc.org](mailto:receptionist@stthomasumc.org)

## Upcoming Events

- Mar 7 NEW! Pack Day & Time Kick Off, 6:30 pm
- Mar 12 Kids Care 2 - Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm
- Mar 20 PACK: Canoe at Camp Highroad, 10:30 am
- Mar 21 UMW Greeting Card Workshop, 2 pm
- Mar 27 *The Prince of Egypt* Drive In Movie, 7:00 pm
- Mar 28 Palm Sunday, Services at 9:00 am, 11:00 am
- Apr 1 Maundy Thursday, Service at 7:00 pm
- Apr 2 Good Friday, Service at 7:00 pm
- Apr 4 Easter Sunday, Drive-In Service at 7:00 am,  
Livestream Services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March Birthday Calendar</b>						
	1	2 Dottie Dawson Carter Guice	3 Madisyn Harcup	4	5 Kelly Cook Ashby Boyd	6
7	8 Ron Campbell	9 Gale Heuser	10 Anna Tacik	11	12 Lori Perez Wyatt Almond	13 Jack Bailey Edwin Feng
14	15 Rachel Ometz	16 Felicia Michalek Munah Norman	17	18	19	20
21	22 Norma Boyles	23 Elana Verosko	24 Aiden Lowry Emma Hardy	25 Rick Weed Donna Williams	26	27
28 Galen Freeze Rich Banner	29 Marghee Hammond	30	31 Helen Stidham			