



# Triumph *Newsletter*

## See You In June! An Invitation to Invite!

Most of us can't wait to share about something we love and invite others to join in.

From a delicious new ice cream shop to a really good TV show, we want to tell everyone we know about this thing we enjoy. And this is even truer in the age of social media.

Did you know that **71% of unchurched people** are likely to attend church if someone they know invites them?

Think about 71% of everyone you know. That's a lot of people!

Think about how the world could change if 71% of the people you know could experience the same life-giving salvation and life-changing hope that you have?

Since the pandemic closures, many people have fallen out of the habit of going to church and connecting with God and His people.

If that's you, you won't find any shame or

condemnation here. You'll find an opportunity.

Invite someone to come back to church with you this June as we explore what it means to be Courageous as Christ-followers.

It might seem intimidating at first, but we want to make it easy to invite someone with you.

Go to our website under "[stthomasumc.org/reach/sermon series](https://stthomasumc.org/reach/sermon-series)" to download a few images you can send to friends via text, post on social media, or print to give to friends and family as you share what church has meant to you and invite them to join you.

You don't have to start with 71% of everyone you know. Just start with one.

It only takes one spark to start a fire. It only takes one invitation to change a life.

Grace upon grace,

*Pastor Abi*

# Staffing Updates

By Bill Bixby, SPRC Chair

Our current Assistant Director of the Sunbeam Children's Center, **Cynthia Guevarra**, is nearing completion of her Masters in Early Childhood Education (ECE) at George Mason University and has accepted a teaching position next fall with Fairfax County Schools. We wish her well in her new endeavors and have appreciated her leadership, especially in helping to develop Spanish curriculum for our students.

We are also excited to inform you that **Teresa Rook** will begin as the new Assistant Director June 1. Ms. Teresa has been working in childcare since 1977 and has dedicated 17 years of service to SCC. She has an associate degree in ECE, Magnum Cum Laude, and brings with her many years of training and experience. She currently serves as the liaison between the SCC board and the teaching staff. She has a great love for Sunbeam, the staff, families and children. Teresa has a servant's heart as seen through her coordination and leadership of our scholastic book program, activity room, activities for STUMC, and summer camp ministry. Please join me in welcoming Teresa to her new position.

**David Raich**, our Children's Ministry Director, for family reasons submitted his resignation. His last full-time day at St. Thomas was Sunday, May 30. We thank David for his inspired work with our children and wish him and his family the best.

**Sam Spencer**, who was already looking forward to joining the staff as our seasonal Summer Camp Director on June 1 while home from college, has graciously agreed to step in to the gap immediately to ensure smooth operations of VBS and all other summer camps.

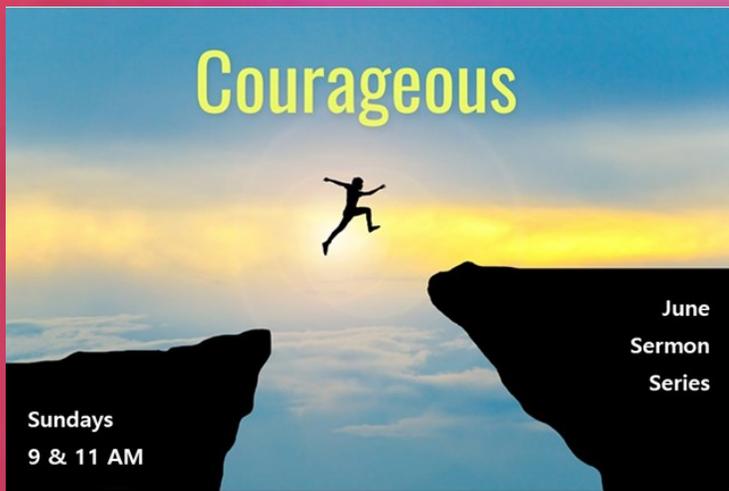
If you have any further questions about these transitions, please direct them to me, our Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee Chair.

Thank you.

## Join the Welcome Team!

We need your help on Sunday mornings as we resume in-person worship services! We are looking for volunteers to serve as The Welcome Team: Ushers, Greeters, the Welcome Desk crew, the Check-In table crew, or Parking Assistants. Anyone who can welcome our church visitors with a big smile is the perfect candidate! Even the children and the youth can serve with their family! You can sign up for Sundays when you are available. No experience? No Worries! A special training session will be held on Sat, Jun 5 at 9:30 am at church. Any questions? Please contact Pastor Arum.





## June Sermon Series

Our world often tells us that being courageous is about strength, bravery, and heroic acts. This series explores what courage looks like in the New Testament letter to the Philippians and expands our understanding of courage. Together, we will learn how courage can help us raise other people up, transform our communities, and face new and challenging situations.

Join us in-person beginning June 6 at 11 AM, with the 9 AM service following on June 27.

## Endowment Giving

### Barry Barger, Permanent Endowment Committee Chair

Endowment giving consists of those contributions received at any time with the intention of funding a specific purpose or mission. By definition, an endowment is a fund where the principal amount of the contribution is preserved and invested. This creates an income flow such as appreciation, interest and/or dividends which is then used to fund those specific purposes or mission projects of our church. Investments are usually made through the Virginia United Methodist Foundation.

By the **Guidelines for the Permanent Endowment Program**, contributions may be assigned to any of these four recognized categories:

1. Mission Funds (for missions in and beyond the local church and community)
2. Property Funds (for maintenance, care, improvements or additions to, or construction of physical facilities)
3. General Endowment Funds (for special needs and ministries determined by the church leadership)
4. Scholarship Endowment Funds

When a donor makes a contribution to the Endowment they indicate whether it is a **designated** or **undesignated** gift. So, what does this mean? It is really very simple.

A **designated** gift means that the contribution is given for the intended use of one of the four categories above and the church is restricted to that specific use.

An **undesignated** gift means that the contribution may be assigned by the Permanent Endowment Committee to any of the four categories and that the church is unrestricted in its use within the categories.

In future editions of the Triumph, we will look deeper into each of the four categories and how an endowment may be used to benefit the mission and ministry of the church within that particular area.

Should you have interest in contributing to the Endowment Program, please let the church office know and I will contact you. Of course, you may also contact me if you have any questions too! Blessings!

# El Salvador Mission

By Tim Grembowski

Our church has been supporting the El Salvador mission project for about a decade. Our teams have met people in their homes while delivering food, operated a medical clinic, taught a Children's Bible School and helped build homes & churches, working alongside local people. During our last mission trip in Nov 2019 (not possible during 2020 COVID) we helped build a huge Christian High School.

We hope and pray the Christian High School will provide educational and spiritual nourishment to the young in El Salvador so that they can find better alternatives at home rather than attempting dangerous trips to the USA border.

Check out the link for the latest on the Christian High School and the "Miracle School" pictured below.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1huOOYZmprLt9droGJNHgx8zad4W\\_hmo5/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1huOOYZmprLt9droGJNHgx8zad4W_hmo5/view)



There are some ways you can support this mission. You can join our UVMIM team for a week-long trip for a phenomenal personal experience. One missionary said, "traveling to Ahuachapan, directly meeting and working with the people, helps to dispel cultural stereotypes on both sides". We typically travel in November, returning before Thanksgiving.

We don't know if we can travel in 2021 due to COVID but we continue to raise funds for the mission.

You can financially support directly by sending funds to St Thomas UMC with "El Salvador Mission" designation.

Look for Jhenny Michalek's authentic and "famous" Pupusas for sale the next time her family offers them! They are a delicious treat very common in El Salvador.

For fundraising, we do home service projects for anyone in need and ask for whatever level of contribution you can offer. Some examples are yard cleanup, painting, furniture moving, fences, drywall, minor elec/plumbing/carpentry, house & pet sitting, and computer assistance.

For questions or more information, please contact Tim Grembowski by phone, 703-753-7471, or by email, [timgrembowski@comcast.net](mailto:timgrembowski@comcast.net).

## Haymarket Campus Update

On Wednesday, May 26 more than 70 members from both the Manassas and Haymarket campuses gathered for a virtual zoom Church Conference to vote on launching the Haymarket Campus of St. Thomas as an independent UMC. Our DS, Rev. Jeff Mickle facilitated the meeting and the vote was unanimous. Many people shared testimonies about how their faith has grown and the ways they've been blessed as a result of being part of this process!

This change will occur officially on July 1, 2021. We trust God has great things in store for both campuses as they are empowered to reach their unique mission fields.

# United Methodist Women

## Virtual Summer Craft Bazaar

The UMW is holding a craft bazaar with items for summer! To see the available items, go to <https://photos.app.goo.gl/GA8J5fBudpQ7XS6k8> beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>. Orders will be accepted through June 14<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, June 15<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.



**Bazaar Crafters** are looking for someone with calligraphy or fine painting skills for doing finishing work on crafts, such as painting faces or words. We use acrylic paint on wood or glass surfaces. Photos of crafts or craft patterns and paint will be supplied. If you are interested, please contact [Crafters.STUMW@gmail.com](mailto:Crafters.STUMW@gmail.com)

## UMW Container Gardening Class, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm



Join us for a demonstration on how to design your own container garden taught by Janet Shalestik from Merrifield Garden Center in Fair Oaks. Contact [Chair.STUMW@gmail.com](mailto:Chair.STUMW@gmail.com) by June 15<sup>th</sup> to obtain the Zoom link.

## RADA Cutlery Products

Make great Wedding Gifts! Since we can't take orders in person, you can order online by going to: <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=4803461.2b654e>





## VBS Donations Needed Now!

This year, we are hosting in-person VBS for 36 children in our community and 50 children from SCC on June 14—18. Our ability to keep the VBS camp at a very low cost is dependent on the generous donations from our community. To see how you can help, please go to the sign-up genius, <https://rb.gy/qdota3> to sign up for one or more items to donate. Return donation to Narthex by **Wed, Jun 9**. Volunteers are also needed to help setup a few decorations. Contact Sam Spencer, [sdspencer35@gmail.com](mailto:sdspencer35@gmail.com).

### Here is a message from Sam Spencer!



*"I am looking for leaders for our summer camps this year (preferably 15+ years old).*

*No experience required!*

*These are paid positions that can be discussed further with interested individuals. I hope to hear from you soon!"*

The positions are for the camps happening **June 28-July 2, July 12-16, and July 19-23**. These camps are held from **9am - 4pm on Mon-Fri**.

If you are interested please contact Camp Director, Samantha Spencer, by cell (703)565-7037 or by email at [sdspencer35@gmail.com](mailto:sdspencer35@gmail.com).

## Christmas in June Toy Drive

The Missions Council is sponsoring a toy collection for the month of June. We are asking everyone to bring one new toy to be given to the many "walkins" at Christmas time who come in asking for help to provide gifts for their children at Christmas.

We have been doing this for many years but have never asked for help. This year we served approximately 28 families with around 90 children. Please bring any toy, keeping in mind that this may be the only thing a child receives for Christmas. Dolls, blocks, trucks, dinosaurs, games, legos, craft kits, etc. are needed. Toys will be packed and stored until December. Please bring the new toys and place them in the brightly wrapped box in the narthex during the month of June. If there are any questions, please contact Cathy Campbell at [sstechur@yahoo.com](mailto:sstechur@yahoo.com)

Thank you for your continued generosity and Merry Christmas!





Receiving  
foods  
& goods

# Volunteer at the STUMC Food Pantry and join the Pantry Team!

Find us at  
[https://  
www.stthomasumc.org/serve/  
serve-in-food-pantry.html](https://www.stthomasumc.org/serve/serve-in-food-pantry.html)  
or follow the link when you scan  
the QR Code below.



Help run  
errands



Making  
calls and  
developing  
lists



Computer check in,  
charts, tracking numbers



Picking up goods at  
grocery stores and  
delivering to the Pantry

“Only a life lived in the service  
to others is worth living.”  
Albert Einstein



Saturday Distribution  
Check in on computer  
Packing for distribution  
Loading food in vehicles



Help  
restocking  
& organizing  
items



Stocking  
and  
preparing  
for USDA  
orders.

This task is for  
those who can lift  
and carry...  
and save money  
at the gym!

# Student Ministry

By Pastor Arum

Our last PACK gathering of this school year is Sunday, June 6 at 6:30 PM at church and our last PACK Sunday School is June 13 at 10:10 AM. During the Summer months, our PACK students will gather



occasionally 1) to volunteer and/or work at the Vacation Bible School and the Children's Camps, and 2) to participate in the two "Home" mission opportunities in June and August where they can help with our church mission ministries, such as *Food Pantry* and *Community Clothing Closet*, be a part of renovation of the Old Church Building into the Youth Center, volunteer at local charity agencies and run a small project at our church's members' home. Please continue to keep our students in your prayers so that they may stay healthy and safe and have some fun, too, as they work as hands and feet of Jesus in this Summer!

Here are the highlights of our PACK activities in the late April and May:

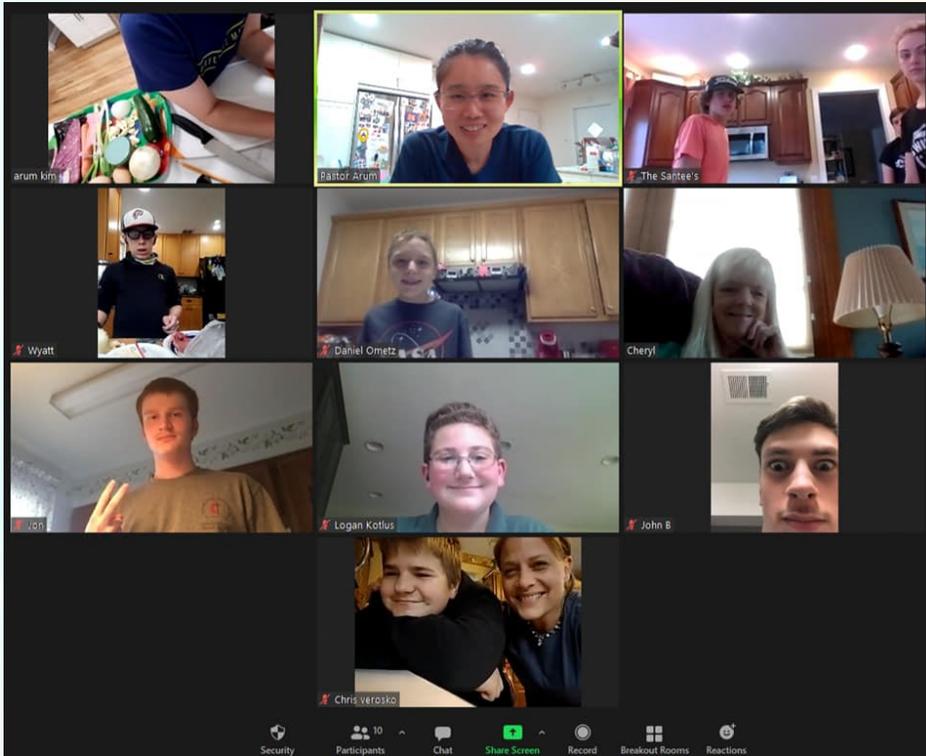
## Pulled all the weeds on our church property on April 25



## Helped at the Outdoor Communion Service on May 2



## Cooked Korean dishes for Mom on May 9, Mother's Day



## “Catch Our Breath” Faith Talk on May 16

We talked about common stressors of the student’s life, how to cope with stress, how to seek out help from professionals, and how to help other students who are struggling.

## Cleaned Fairmont Park & Played Water Balloon Bombs on May 23

The PACK officially “adopted” Fairmont Park in our community and plans to clean the park quarterly this year. Our first cleaning was done on May 23, followed with water balloon fight!



# Gift delivered to the High School Graduates on May 23

We celebrated our graduates during the worship services on May 23. Did you miss it? Check out the video on our church Facebook page! Especially, our high school graduates received a special Yard Sign and an essential kit as a graduation gift from church. Here are some of their photos!



# Special Outing for Middle School Graduates on May 30

On May 30, the 8th graders got together for a special outing to celebrate their middle school graduation. Congratulations to Emmie, Megan, Gavin, Conor, and Wyatt (from left to right on the photo)!



# Children's Summer Programming

## Worship & Sunday School

This summer, we encourage families to make worshipping together with the body of Christ a priority – whether you join us for in-person gatherings beginning June 6 at 11am, or virtually through our livestream at both 9 am and 11 am. Worship is essential to our relationship with Christ and to having a healthy and growing faith.

During the months of June and July, Sunday School will be taking a break to give our leaders time to rest and to set up hybrid supports in our various classrooms so that when we return in the fall, we'll be able to offer both in-person and virtual gatherings at the same time.

We are also excited to share that Kristi Swanson, our Nursery Coordinator, will be helping to lead a newly developed ministry to help support families that may be traveling and on the go this summer after a long period of being cooped up from the pandemic. Read more about it below!

## Kristi's Prayground

Each week on Tuesday mornings at 10 AM beginning Tuesday, June 22, we will make content available on our Facebook page and website. Families will be able to watch the video or download audio files – whichever works better for you and your family to listen or watch whenever it's convenient for You!

Kristi will record a faith-based story and a brief devotion based on the story for the day along with a short prayer and several prompts for families on the go. Her first story will be I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont and she'll share how God made all of us and loves us as we are.

Next, she'll read The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle and share about the importance of making time for prayer and fellowship - even when there are LOTS of other things to do. We hope you enjoy Kristi's Prayground – please look for the schedule of upcoming stories on our Children's Page on the church website.

## Popsicles & Play

Families bring your children to the church playground either before or after worship on Sunday mornings, June 20 and July 18, from 10:00 – 10:45 AM. This is a great time for parents and care providers to have fellowship with one another while your children play safely outside on the playground. We'll provide some cool popsicles as a special treat before we wrap up the morning.

## Summer Camps

Registration for summer camps is underway on our website ([stthomasumc.org/summercamps.html](http://stthomasumc.org/summercamps.html)).

Our camps, organized around one common theme each week, are specifically tailored to meet the developmental needs of 6 to 8-year-olds and 9 to 11-year-olds. Each day, campers will experience games, crafts, friendly competitions, and a variety of new experiences and outdoor play all around the theme for the week. Each camp is limited to 36 campers, split into four smaller groups of nine campers each. In addition to camp staff, master educators help lead the themed curriculum daily. Hours of operation are from 9 am – 4 pm, Monday – Friday, with after care options available until 5 pm. Cost of the camps is \$150 weekly and an additional \$25 for aftercare, with a 10% discount for siblings.



# News from the Kitchen

Our numbers for Tuesday Night Dinners are growing and we are so thankful for the opportunity to serve so many meals. We are planning to serve meals through July 20<sup>th</sup>. We will take a little break and then begin again on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. We are working out the details to serve people in Fellowship Hall as well as continuing to serve curbside. Please watch for those details in the September newsletter.

**Our June menus are as follows:**

## June 1

Fettuccini Alfredo w/ Chicken  
Garden Salad / Bubble Bread  
**Dessert:** Fresh Strawberry Pie  
**Kids:** Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce  
**Cookie:** Amaretto Cookies

## June 8

Sweet Chili w/ Cheese  
Baked Potato / Caesar Salad  
**Dessert:** Apple Crisp  
**Kids:** Grilled Cheese  
**Cookie:** Double Chocolate Brownies

## June 15

Shepherd's Pie  
Garden Salad / Bacon Corn Bread  
**Dessert:** Carrot Cake  
**Kids:** Pizza  
**Cookie:** Rice Krispy Treats

## June 22

Chicken & Waffles w/ Gravy  
Corn-on-the-Cob  
**Dessert:** Apple Pie  
**Kids:** Corn Dog  
**Cookie:** Snickerdoodles

## June 29

Country Fried Steak  
Country Gravy  
Hash Brown Potatoes  
Scrambled Eggs  
**Dessert:** Fresh Fruit Cup  
**Kids:** Cheeseburger  
**Cookie:** Chocolate Oatmeal

Thank you!

The Kitchen Ministry Team



**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

- June 1 UMW Virtual Summer Bazaar
- June 5 Welcome Team Training - 9:30 AM at Church
- June 6 In Person Worship Begins for 11 AM Service
- June 6-12 START Mission Trip to North Carolina
- June 14 Vacation Bible School through June 18
- June 16 UMW Zoom Event—Container Gardening
- June 21 Sports Camp through June 25
- June 27 In Person Worship Begins for 9 AM Service
- June 28 Mad Science Camp through July 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>June Birthdays</b>	1 Nancy Birdsell	2 Sheila Dawson Martha Barlow	3	4 Florence Adams	5 Andrew Santee
6 David Connor	7 Mary Haines	8	9	10	11 Alex Haines Alex Boyd	12
13 Jennifer Miller Marissa Stone	14 Phil Schrack Christen Thompson Caiden Thompson	15 Lizzy Ledesma	16	17 Larry Madison	18 Christopher Bixby John Evans Buddy Kilby Al Sanchez Bryan Spencer	19
20	21 Jim Buchanan June Childress Benjamin Haines	22 Janie Crompton Anne Madison	23	24 Jonathan King	25 Caitlin McMahon-Brault Ed Glade	26 Helen Brewer-Irons
27 Linda Barger Davina Norman Wesley Swanson	28 Annette Juran	29	30			

*Baptisms: Logan James Harcup*



*Nicolas Philip Jolivert Adams*



*Sunbeam Children's Center Pre-School Graduation – May 28*

