

Triumph Newsletter

OCTOBER 2020

Trunk or Treat, October 27, 2020

Like most things in 2020, our annual Trunk or Treat event is going to look a little different this year. On October 27 from 6:30-8pm our church and community have the opportunity to participate in our Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat for a free, fun, and safe Halloween celebration! The evening will feature our parking lot full of decorated trunks with lots of candy available in individually packed bags. Whether you participate as a volunteer or bring your family, we are doing everything we can to create a safe experience for all.



This year our COVID safety features include:

- All participants must wear masks (volunteers and attendees).
- Volunteers distributing candy will be gloved.
- All participants must remain in vehicles at all times.
- Candy will be prepackaged in individual bags for each child.
- Bags will be distributed to participants on a tray for a no contact experience.

Last year we welcomed 1,015 people to our property through this ministry! Together our Children, Youth, and Outreach Councils are working hard to make this a fun and safe experience for all. We'd love for you to be a part of making this happen. There are several places to serve both before and during this event including:

- Candy Donations
- Candy Packing
- 20 Decorated Trunks
- Parking Attendants
- Set-Up Crew
- Photographers

Follow the link or contact Caleb Mathews to sign up today! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4ea8a82ba7ff2-trunk>

Buildings & Grounds Update

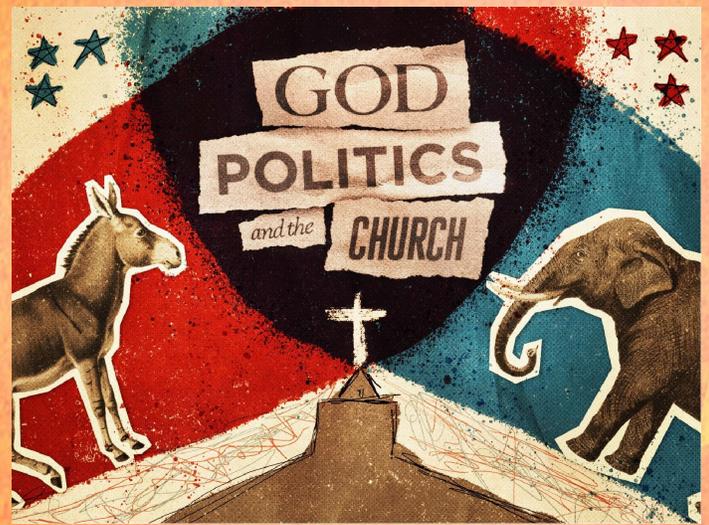
By Will Ameen

Fall is upon us and with that the cool fresh air seems to meet us as we walk out the door in the mornings. The sky seems bluer and the leaves are just beginning to show color. As the Church begins to reopen, we hope that an air of freshness meets you when you walk into the doors.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has been working behind the scenes to give the Narthex a fresh new look with newly painted walls, some new furniture placement and our Mission Statement clearly affixed to the wall explaining who we are. Frank Priest has done a wonderful job clearing out the Fellowship Hall so that the walls are free of clutter and the old chairs and tables have been replaced with new, clean and comfortable chairs and tables. Hopefully as we all adjust to the “New Normal” you will be greeted with some other new elements of freshness in the coming months. Stay turned and keep your eyes open.

New Renovation Blog

If you'd like to stay informed about the renovations as they occur, we encourage you to sign up for the Renovation Blog on our website, under 'Resources'. Each time we post an update, you'll be alerted! Stay in the know as we share carpet samples, paint colors, and other plans along the way.



October Sermon Series

While this year's election cycle can't be over soon enough for most people, we're taking the subject of politics head on this October with our new sermon series, "God, Politics, and the Church."

We recognize that election years tend to polarize Christians as they try to reconcile their voting with their faith. So, how does our faith relate to politics? Was Jesus political? Should Christians be political? Would Jesus be a Democrat, Republican or Independent? These are among the questions that Pastor Abi and Pastor Arum will reflect on this month as we discover that the Bible guides us in how to live out our faith in the public sphere – even with people we disagree with politically!

Here are the Sermon Titles & Texts for the Series:

- Oct 4** Who Comes First?
God or Your Political Party?
Romans 13:1 –7
- Oct 11** Leader or Servant?
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15–17 | Mt. 20:25 –28
- Oct 18** The Role of the Church
1 Timothy 2:1–8
- Oct 25** De-Voted Christians
1 Peter 2:4–17 | M. 6:24

Return to In-Person Gatherings

We have missed you St. Thomas! We look forward to seeing you soon as we begin to transition to a hybrid model of ministry that offers both virtual and in-person gatherings.

St. Thomas is open for in-person worship at both 9 AM and 11:00 AM -- for up to 50 people per worship service. Both services will continue to be livestreamed through Facebook and on our website as we offer this hybrid model to accommodate everyone's comfort level as we seek to "return to normal"!

All the details are on our website - just click on the red 'Return to In-Person Gatherings' link at the top of the home page. There's even a video featuring Rodney Miller showing you how the process works. Check it out and consider joining us soon.

The pews look a little different, but the colorful cones and pool noodles are in place to keep us 'socially-distanced', but together in Worship.



Below, third graders Billy Beecy & MiKayla Wright receive their bibles in Worship on September 27.



October *Mission* Extravaganza

Hands-on Take Home Projects *Due back Oct 25*

Thank you to all who are participating in our October Mission Extravaganza. All completed projects should be returned to the church by October 25 th. Drop them off in the choir room In the designated boxes at any time. Be sure to check off your name for each completed project on the lists attached to each box . Thanks again for all you do.

Below, The Purpose Driven Friends small group got together to stuff Blessing Bags.

Completed projects are coming in already!



NO SEW BLANKETS

Please cross your name off below as you return your projects.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cathy Campbell (2) | Youth Group (15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Rosko (2) | Jennifer Lewis (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa [unclear] (2) | Lori Harper (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth Gargner (1) | Joyce Jucker (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linda Barger (2) | Janel Wood (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brenda Farrar (2) | Pat Decker (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judy Callahan (2) | Deborah Rubin (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Clouse (2) | Teresa [unclear] (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sara Boyd (3) | Ann [unclear] (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Axl Poescher (2) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paula Rosko (4) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joan Callahan (2) | |

United Methodist Women

Virtual Craft Bazaars

COVID has certainly changed everything in 2020, but our online Apple Pie sale went so well (we're almost sold out!), let's try it with Crafts! The UMW is going to hold our Bazaar online this fall in three phases:

Fall Crafts: Orders taken Oct 11-17 with curbside pickup on Oct 20.

Christmas Crafts (excluding ornaments): Orders taken Nov 1-14 with curbside pickup on Nov 17.

Ornaments: Orders taken Dec 6-12 with curbside pickup on Dec 15.

To see the items available for the Fall Crafts, go to <https://photos.app.goo.gl/pyo4fhDbshrrLo3X6> beginning October 11. We will publish links to other sales closer to their dates. Click on the photos to enlarge and read

the information. To place an order, email item number from photo to

Chair.STUMW@gmail.com. We will respond with a pickup receipt.

Curbside pickup will be 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 local and international missions.

Stay tuned - we'll announce Peanut Brittle sales soon!

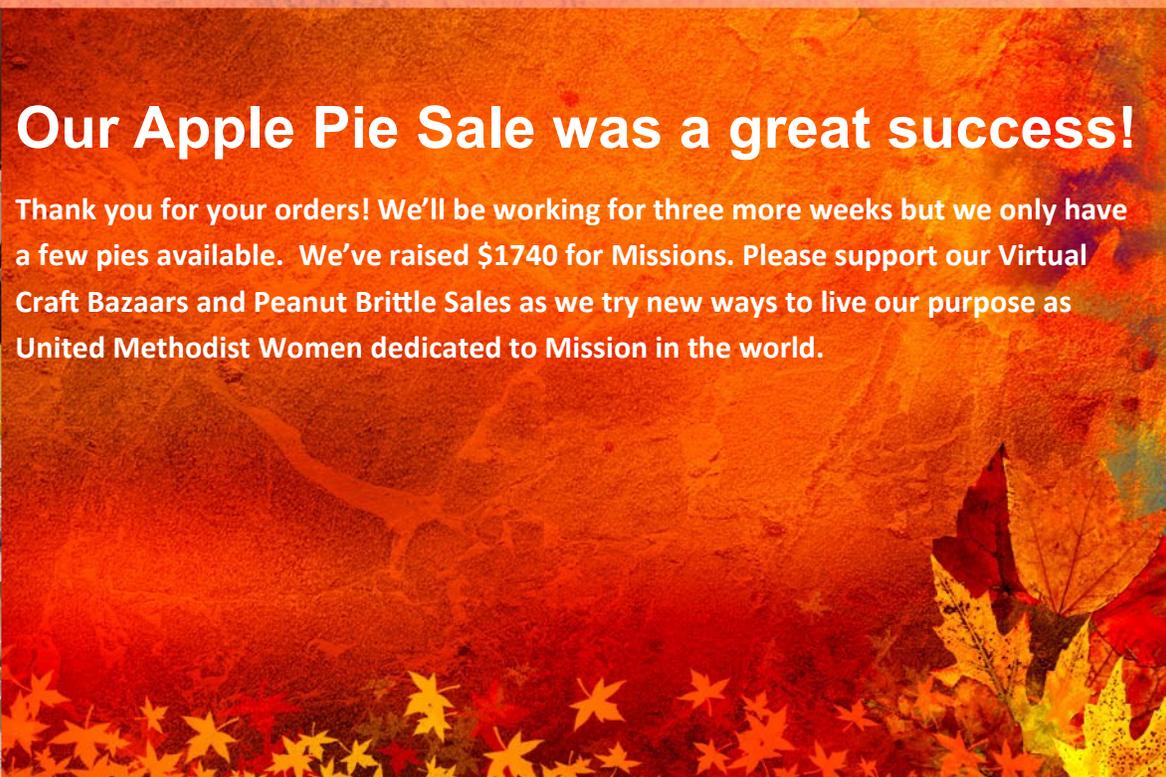


Ladies Virtual Fall Tea Sunday, October 18 at 2 pm

Bring your favorite beverage such as tea, coffee, or hot chocolate in your favorite mug and join us via Zoom for a Fall Tea! Wear your favorite fall hat, jewelry, shirt, and/or join us from a fall themed space. To RSVP and obtain the Zoom link, contact Chair.STUMW@gmail.com. For women, high school age and up.

Our Apple Pie Sale was a great success!

Thank you for your orders! We'll be working for three more weeks but we only have a few pies available. We've raised \$1740 for Missions. Please support our Virtual Craft Bazaars and Peanut Brittle Sales as we try new ways to live our purpose as United Methodist Women dedicated to Mission in the world.



Student Ministry

By Pastor Arum

We started a new chapter in the Student Ministry in September. I've officially joined The PACK as Caleb transitioned into his new role as the Children's Ministry Director. We kicked-off a new school year as we gathered at the church parking lot on September 22. This year the Pack is gathering in a hybrid style: in-person and via Zoom. All students from 6th to 12th grade are invited to join us for Faith Talk, Fellowship, and Fun!



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

We continue our journey of faith together through "The Thread," where we discover the thread of the Gospel through the big picture of the Bible. During this hour, we will study the Bible and have conversations on faith.

Call for Volunteers for the Student Ministry!

We would like to build a team of Youth Sunday School teachers. Currently, we are offering a PACK:AM (Sunday School) only via Zoom, so you can lead the meeting from anywhere. You have the option to lead meetings either regularly or whenever you are available. We invite you to this important ministry to support the faith journey of our next generation! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Arum at arum.kim@StThomasUMC.org. Thank you!

The PACK on Tuesday

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month: via Zoom at 4 PM

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: in-person. Time varies depending on the activity for the day.

We will hang out, play fun games, and talk about relevant topics that impact our everyday lives. Especially, this school year we will enjoy a variety of COVID-safe outdoor activities during in-person gatherings to give our students the opportunity to get away from the virtual world.

Upcoming Pack Meetings

October 6: PACK via Zoom at 4 PM

October 13: PACK at the church parking lot at 5:30 PM. We will participate in two mission projects from *October Mission Extravaganza*.

October 20: PACK via Zoom at 4 PM

October 27: PACK at 5:30 PM. We will support *Trunk or Treat* event!





Bottom Line:
God's got it.

Memory Verse:
"God is with you wherever you go."
JOSHUA 1:9, NLT

PRESCHOOL: People of all ages experience circumstances that leave us looking for someone who can help—someone who's got our back and can help carry the load. This month, we want to begin teaching preschoolers that God is the best Someone for the job. No matter what our situation or how uncertain our circumstances may be, we can know that God is with us wherever we go, and God's got it. This kind of trust in God is what allows us to Sing in the Rain.

There's always a chance of rain in our lives or in the lives of our preschoolers. Many of us have already come through some pretty big rainstorms. Some of us are in them right now. That is why it is our sincere prayer that during this month we and our preschoolers will begin to trust that God's got it. This kind of trust in God is what will give you and me and our preschoolers the power to sing in the rain—no matter what that rain might be.

OFFSTAGE

DROP THE ACT

ELEMENTARY: Since the very beginning, not only has God been true to His word but He's been faithful in His character. Because we know that God is good, we can live life with integrity. When Jesus lived on earth, He lived a perfect life that we were unable to live. Through His Spirit, we can become people of integrity. Who we are in private should match who we are in public. When we trust in God, we can be truthful in whatever we say and do.

Bottom Line: Integrity-Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do. **Memory Verse:** "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." Proverbs 10:9, NIV

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 MORNINGS AT STUMC:



NURSERY, 0-2 years old:

Provided during both worship services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am



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. Supply bags are available for all kids filled with supplemental resources to our Sunday lessons for anyone to come pick up from the church. 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 Children's Ministry Director, Caleb Mathews.

KIDS CARE 2 for Tweens!

Our next gathering is Friday October 9 from 6:30-8pm at St. Thomas. We'll be completing some individual projects for our Mission Extravaganza including no sew scarves and gift bags for first responders. We'll also put together a wood craft, so bring a hammer. Eat before you come and we'll have a snack at the end. Please RSVP by completing the online Health Form by Tuesday October 6.



Kids Care 2 September Kick-off



Our Tweens enjoyed Putt-Putt and Ice Cream at their September gathering.
Join them for their next event on Friday, October 9



St. Thomas
United Methodist Church

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

stthomasumc.org

703-368-5161

Newsletter Deadline:

15th of the month

Please email all articles to both:

samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org

receptionist@stthomasumc.org

October Events

- **Oct 19** Charge Conference 7pm
Held via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.
Meeting ID: 937 0753 0488 Passcode:
539311
- **Oct 27** Trunk or Treat 6:30-8pm

