



THE JOHN WESLEY COMMUNICATOR



John Wesley United Methodist Church

6922 N. Ritchie Highway

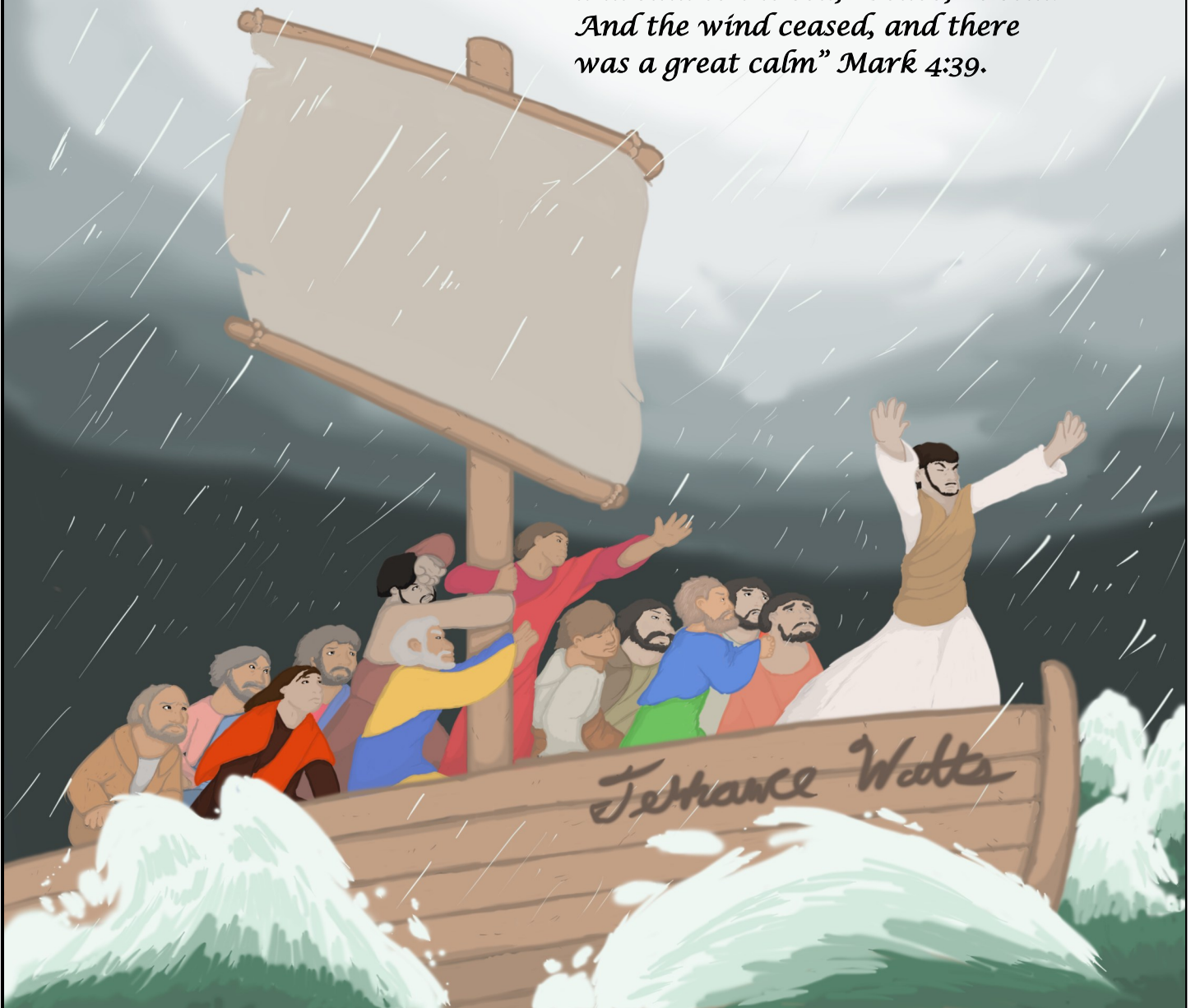
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Volume 19 No. 4

Telephone - (410) 766-6981

June 2026

*"Then He arose and rebuked the wind,
and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!"
And the wind ceased, and there
was a great calm" Mark 4:39.*



Rev. Dr. Kenneth Percell Moore, Pastor

Rev. Sarah Schliekert, Harbor District Superintendent

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, Baltimore-Washington Conference

Editor's Message

June 1, 2026

Greetings,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Welcome to summer. It's hot! People are aggravated. The cost of almost everything is skyrocketing. People are frustrated. Non-violent American citizens are being killed for protesting. People are alarmed. A war with Iran is occurring. People are terrified. Drove of people shouting, "No kings!" have rallied in the streets across the nation. People are galvanized. Bombarded with daily news of things that threaten our democracy, people are rebellious.

We don't know what tomorrow will bring in this politically tumultuous world, but what we know is that God is in control. No matter what one narcissistic person might think of himself, he is not God, for God is God all by Himself, as the first Commandment says in Ex. 20:2-3, "I am the Lord your God...; you shall have no other gods before Me." Can man walk on water, calm a storm by simply commanding, "Peace be still!", or raise the dead to life? No man, but Jesus, is God, and He is to be exalted. Despite what goes on around us, have faith. Don't worry, for worry is incongruent with faith. God got this!

Look on the bright side. Summer is typically a time of relaxation, recreation, and restoration. We shed our many layers of clothing and, hopefully, our worries with them. At John Wesley UMC-GB, we are on a relaxed, summer schedule, for we realize that people are taking a break from the hustle and bustle of life: resting, going on vacations, enjoying recreational activities, and doing whatever makes them happy. They take the time to enjoy a more carefree lifestyle. Psalm 23:2-3 says, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul." That's rest, serenity, and restoration.

Enjoy your summer, and remember to support JWUMC-GB throughout this season and always.

Sincerely,

Deborah Williams

Editor

Editor

Deborah Williams

Staff

Rochelle Jones
Addie Liles

Linda Mouzon
Maria Rawlings

Terrance Watts



DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

**August 5, 2026
or ASAP**

Quarterly Calendar

June 2026

Sunday, June 07, 10:00 AM

Worship Service and Holy Communion

Saturday, June 13 - Cedar-Morris Hill Community Day

Sunday, June 14, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

United Women in Faith Anniversary

Thursday, June 18 -20

Annapolis Juneteenth Celebration

Sunday, June 21, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Graduation/Honor Roll Ceremony

Monday, June 22 - Friday, June 26

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 28, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Last day for Sunday School

July 2026

Sunday, July 05, 10:00 AM

Worship Service and Holy Communion

Sunday, July 12, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Sunday, July 19, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Sunday, July 26, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

August 2026

Sunday, August 02, 10:00 AM

Worship Service and Holy Communion

Sunday, August 09, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Sunday, August 16, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Saturday, August 22, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

16th Annual Car Show

Sunday, August 23, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Sunday, August 30, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Ongoing Classes, Meetings and Practices

Bible Study - Tuesdays - 7:00 PM (via ZOOM)

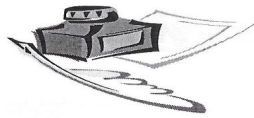
Children's Church School - 2nd and 4th Sundays
10:00 AM

Dance Rehearsal - Tuesdays - 6:00 PM

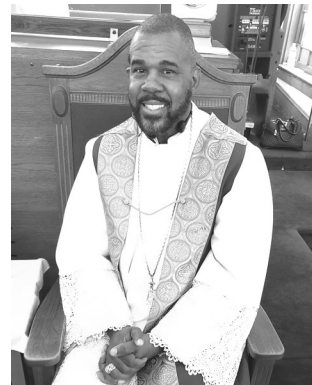
Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays - 6:00 PM

United Women in Faith's Meeting - 1st Monday of the
month (Zoom) - 7:00 PM

United Methodist Men's Meeting - 1st Monday of the
month (Zoom) - 7:00 PM



A Message from Rev. Dr. Kenneth Percell Moore, Pastor



Dear Beloved John Wesley Family and Friends,

As summer is now upon us, I want to encourage you as we have left the chill of winter and the challenges that spring brought us, and now enter the lazy days of summer. While wars are still occurring around the globe, finances are stretched, and our ability to do many things we used to do in the summer may now be restricted. Still there's nothing like the beauty of God's creation, the fellowship of family and friends.

This summer is a season of warmth, possibility, and joy. Embrace it with gratitude, adventure, and self-care. Summer is more than just warm weather; it's a time of renewal, freedom, and endless possibilities. Whether you're lounging by the beach, hiking in the woods, or simply savoring a backyard picnic, the long days invite you to slow down, enjoy the present, and create memories that last a lifetime, simply consider:

- In the warmth of the sun, every moment becomes a memory. Let each day be filled with joy and connection.
- Summer is a canvas. Paint it with laughter and adventure. Use this season to explore new places, try new things, and make your mark.
- Rest is not idleness. Lying on the grass under trees on a summer's day is by no means a waste of time. Even downtime is an act of self-care.
- Summer teaches us that after every storm comes a rainbow. Challenges may come, but they're followed by brighter days.
- Bloom with the flowers of summer. Let your spirit grow and shine as brightly as the season.

Make the most of your summer, perhaps by:

- Savoring the simple joys: sipping a cool drink, enjoying a sunset, or walking in the park
- Connecting deeply: spending quality time with loved ones, sharing stories, and creating traditions
- Pursuing passions: taking classes, starting a project, or traveling to new destinations
- Staying present: being mindful and showing gratitude to help you enjoy each moment
- Being kind to yourself: resting when you need to and celebrating small wins

A final thought to ponder is what F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote, *"And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees... life was beginning over again with the summer."* This season is a reminder that life is meant to be bright, full of color, and full of possibility. So, soak up the sun, chase your dreams, and let this summer be the one you'll remember with warmth, wonder, and gratitude.

With profound thanksgiving, Lady Tonica, Noelle and I pray you have a relaxed, renewing, safe, memorable summer, replenished from the chilly winter and unpredictable spring.

In humble grace,
Reverend Dr. Kenneth Percell Moore, Lady Tonica & Noelle

Celebrating Black History

Each Sunday in February, we heard from or about a Black historical figure. First, there was *Mahalia Jackson*, portrayed by Maria Rawlings, sashaying, with dignity and pride, up the aisle.

On the second Sunday, there was *Maya Angelou*, portrayed by Dolores Bynum, who had memorized the lines of “Phenomenal Woman” and “Still I Rise”.

On the third Sunday, Makiyah Banks presented a brief biography of *Mary McLeod Bethune*.

Finally, on the last Sunday, Nathaniel Bedell shared a brief biography of *Ruby Bridges*.



The choir and many congregants dressed in African garb on the last Sunday in February.



Veterans' Ministry Hosts *Faith, Freedom, and the Future*

On Saturday, February 21, the Veterans' Ministry hosted the “*Faith, Freedom, and the Future*” Black History Month Luncheon. Morgan Jacobs opened the program with a dance to “Heal” by Jamal Roberts. Camille Rawlings tested our knowledge of Black History. Guest speaker, Darius Stanton, MD Commissioner of Economic Development and a motivational speaker, provided valuable, historical information and challenged us to pass it on to the next generation. Ilene Shaheed, a local performance artist, delivered a stellar portrayal of Harriet Ross Tubman. Lenny Rogers, a talented musician, played the steel pan throughout most of this awesome event. Michele Jacobs, “The Beautiful One”, was the Mistress of Ceremonies.

We thank Veteran Maria Rawlings and her dedicated team for their fine service to this ministry.



Bible Study

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” - 2 Timothy 2:15.

You are invited to attend the weekly Bible Study via Zoom on Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Each week in June, July, and August, we will focus on a given scripture and related scriptures. Each Tuesday, you will receive an e-mail with a reminder of the Zoom identification code us02web.zoom.us and password 142985 prior to the session. Please see the following schedule:

June 2026

06/02/26 - Satan Challenges Job's Integrity - Job 1:1-12
06/09/26 - Job's Faith Facing Loss - Job 1:13-22
06/16/26 - Job Wishing for Death - Job 7:1-10
06/23/26 - Job Defends His Integrity - Job 27:1-10
06/30/26 - The Lord Restores Job's Life - Job 42:7-17

July 2026

07/07/2026 - Paul Explains His Plan - 2 Cor. 1:16-24
07/14/2026 - Assurance of Christ's Love- 2 Cor. 5:11-19
07/21/2026 - Paul's Spiritual Authority - 2 Cor. 10:1-8
07/28/2026 - Paul's Coming Visit - 2 Cor. 12:14-21

August 2026

08/04/2026 - Moses Is Born - Ex. 2:1-10
08/11/2026 - God Appears to Moses - Ex. 3:1-10
08/18/2026 - The Passover Instituted - Ex. 12:1-11
08/25/2026 - The Ten Commandments - Ex. 20:1-17

March - Women's History Month

On each Sunday in March, Women's History Month, a woman in the church told the story of a female, African-American, historical figure.



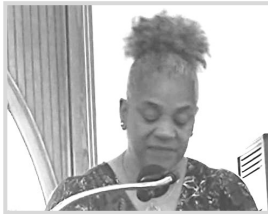
Janice Jennings shared the story of Mary Bowser, a slave in the house of Confederate President Jefferson Davis during the Civil War. Ms. Jennings told how Bowser was underestimated as she stood in the room where secrets were shared among Confederate leaders, who did not recognize her intelligence nor realize that she was a spy who had telegraphic memory. Bowser conveyed those secrets to the Union.

After the war, Mary Bowser founded a school for freed slaves in Georgia.



Joyce Howard presented the life of 94 year-old Elizamae Robinson, a Community Activist, who has spent decades advocating for affordable, safe and dignified housing for families and seniors in Annapolis, MD. Her lifetime of service includes her long-standing work with the Coalition for Atonement and Repair (CAR). She helped organize the longest, successful rent strike in the city's history.

She is an accomplished author and poet whose words have preserved stories of Annapolis.



Michele Jacobs conveyed the story of Henrietta Lacks, who was diagnosed with terminal, cervical cancer and died when she was 31 years old. However, the cells from her malignant tumor lived on after her. Johns Hopkins Hospital harvested these cells and distributed them throughout the world's medical community. These miracle "HeLa" cells (named after the first two letters of her first and last name) have been used in the cure and treatment of diseases, too numerous to mention.



Marchena Gaither discussed Constance Baker Motley, a former lead attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and a primary architect of dismantling Jim Crow. She wrote the original document for Brown v. The Board of Education and led litigation to integrate universities in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. She was the first Black woman to argue before the Supreme Court, where she won 9 of 10 cases. In 1966, she became the first Black, female Federal Judge, a role she held for nearly 40 years.



Joyce Sias shared the story of her mother, Lois H.C. Stewart, an educator in Anne Arundel County, who, along with her siblings, received a Master's Degree from New York University at a time when Blacks could not obtain one anywhere in Maryland.

Mrs. Stewart instilled in her daughters the desire for education. Ms. Sias and her sister, Patricia Whiten, are retired educators.

Ms. Sias urged others to research and share their family history.



Raising a Gavel to Your Success: Passing the Maryland Bar!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! My journey to becoming a Maryland lawyer began over two decades ago. After graduating from Stanford Law School in 2007, I took the California Bar and began practicing intellectual property law. When I moved to Maryland in 2020 in the midst of the pandemic, I realized that God was giving me the opportunity to practice in both states. I was sworn into the Maryland Bar on January 5, 2026. My practice will consist mostly of pro bono work.



Rev. Dr. Willie Otto Kent Memorial Scholarship Fund

There's still time to apply for the 2025-2026 Churches United for Christ (CUCC) Scholarship. All application packages must be post-marked by Friday, July 3, 2026. Application packets must be mailed to the following address:

Silas First Baptist Church
Churches United for Christ Cluster
91 N. Earleigh Heights Road
Severna Park, MD 21146
Attn: CUCC Scholarship Committee

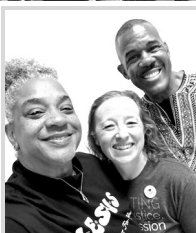
Please contact Rev. Moore or Jamarri Bright (410-360-0540) for the application packet and/or any questions.

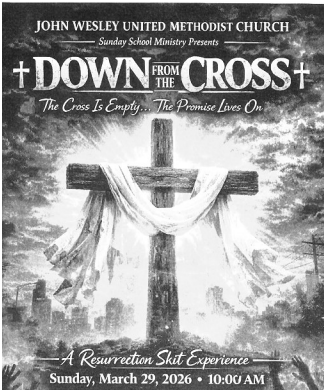
Baltimore-Washington Ignite Conference

Abigail Abanukam, Laila Alexander, Makiyah Banks, Nicholas Bedell, Noah Bedell, Nathaneal Bedell, Hailey Holt, Ethan Holt, Grace Matthews, and Cameron Stevens attended the 2026 Baltimore-Washington "Ignite" Conference in Ocean City, MD. Their chaperones were Audrea Matthews, Kevin Kess, Anthony Bedell, Rochelle Jones, Tina Ekemam, Michele Jacobs, Latifa Stevens, and Pastor Kenneth Moore.

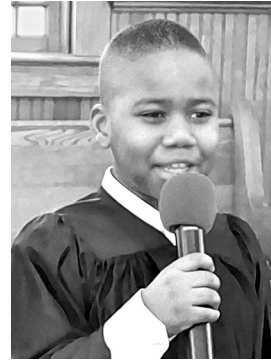


The Conference was designed for youth to discover what it means to *BELONG* as they experience Christian community through intentional worship, dynamic speakers, practical workshops, and a mission project that would transform belonging into discipleship in action. Youth explore God's purpose for their lives and discover how to make a meaningful impact on others. They delve into how unique talents and skills can foster connections, encouragement, and support within the community. They worship Jesus, engage in faith-building activities, listen to inspiring speakers, fellowship with others, and enjoy faith-based entertainment.

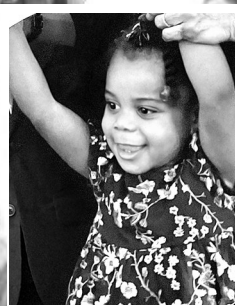




On March 29, Palm Sunday, the Sunday School presented "Down from the Cross". Various characters in the play tried to convince Jesus to get back on the cross, but He would not. He had died and risen from the dead so that we might live eternally. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16.



At the Cross! At the Cross!
Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away;
It was there by faith, I received my sight,
And now, I am happy all the day!



Baptism

Jakai José Morales, son of Justin and Lequay Morales and grandson of Claudine and José Morales, was baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit on March 08, 2026, and is now enrolled as a baptized member of John Wesley United Methodist Church of Glen Burnie.



Confirmations

"God saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" Titus 3:5.

On Easter Sunday, April 05, 2026, Warriona Ra' Miracle Barnett and Jimmy Leon Dodson, who had been instructed in the word of God and in the faith of the Christian church, affirmed the promises of Baptism; made public confession of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit before the assembled congregation; were confirmed; and became members of John Wesley UMC-GB.



Baby Dedication

Lennox Grey Michél Jean-Baptiste, the son of Sedrick Jean-Baptiste and Traysia Rogers, and the godson of Brittney Marcus, Brittney Evans, Matthew Spooner, and Stanley Delva, was dedicated to God on May 03, 2026, the day before his first birthday. He resides in New Jersey.





Congratulations! *3rd Quarter Honor Roll Students*

Abigail Abanukam
Monarch Academy
(Tina Ekemam's daughter)

Laila Alexander
Chesapeake M.S.
(Sponsor- Audrea Matthews)

Noah Bedell
Lindale M.S.
(Rosalind Ekemam's son)

Elijah Cieplik
Marley Middle School
(Robert Woods' grandson)

Briella Emedoh
Overlook E.S.
(Mabel May Emedoh's daughter)

Haydyn Harper
Cromwell E.S.

Jacobi Jones
Lindale M.S.

Jeremiah Jones
North County H.S.

Zaina Jones
Hilltop E.S.

Damir Toppins
Corkran M.S.

Nayah Wooten
Glen Burnie H.S.
(Sandra Jones' grandchildren)

Grace Matthews
Annapolis Area Christian School
(Michael Matthews' daughter and
Audrea Matthews' granddaughter)

Cameron Stevens
Lindale M.S.
(Sponsor - Audrea Matthews)

Hendrix Thiaw
Oakwood E.S.
(Yvonne Thomas' grandson)

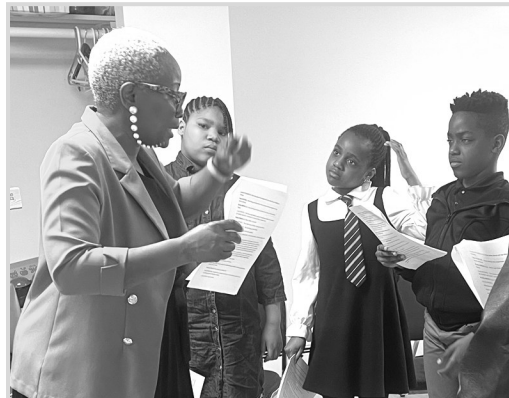
Chierika Uzodinma
Park E.S.
(Chidinma and Jackson Uzodinma's
daughter and Priscilla Nwankpa's
granddaughter)

Noah Wilson
Polytechnic H.S.
(Rene Newman-Price's
grandson and Evelyn Price's
great-grandson)

Sunday School

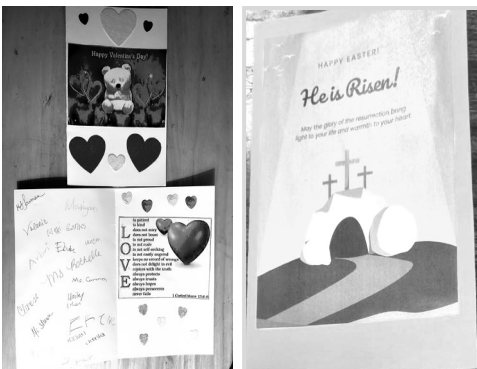
The Sunday School meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10:00 AM. Students learn Bible lessons, create projects, and participate in activities, including the Christmas and Easter programs.

Among many projects, they created Valentine and Easter cards for our Sick-and-Shut-In.



“But Jesus called them to Him, saying, ‘Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it’”

Luke 18:16-17.



Congratulations, December Graduates!

We congratulate you, our December graduates. May God continue to bless you as you pursue your plans. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" - Jer. 29:11.

With a heart for service and a testimony of transformation, I am honored to share my journey toward earning my Master's Degree in Addictions Counseling. This path, rooted in my own experience with addiction and a growing awareness of the critical need for compassionate, knowledgeable counselors in the field, began in 2009.

Before pursuing this calling, I worked as a nursing assistant, caring for individuals from the head down. While I deeply valued that work, I was inspired to do more - to care for people from the head up. I became increasingly curious about the human mind and spirit, seeking to understand how and why people think, feel, and behave the way they do. This curiosity sparked my passion for psychology and the study of addiction.

In 2013, I earned my Associate's Degree in Addictions Counseling from Anne Arundel Community College. I continued my education and received my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in 2017 from Grand Canyon University. By God's grace, I have now completed my Master's Degree in Addictions Counseling, also from Grand Canyon University. Each step of this journey has been marked by perseverance, faith, and the honor of graduating with distinction.

I am deeply grateful to God for His restoration, His promises, and His unwavering guidance throughout this journey. I know that without Him, and without the love and support of my family, friends, and community, I would not be where I am today.

It is my prayer that my journey serves as a testament to God's faithfulness and as an encouragement to others that no matter where you begin, with faith, determination, and support, all things are possible.



Deneen Carter



Camerra Hines

Camerra Hines, daughter of Carmen Hines and the late Charles Hines, graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Dietetics from the College of Health Sciences of the University of Rhode Island on December 13, 2025.

She previously earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nutritional Sciences from Morgan State University in 2023 and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Food Science from Delaware Valley University in 2019.

Camerra has had a long-time interest in nutrition, focusing on diet, exercise, medical history, and lifestyle to manage diseases for long-term health, such as: hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, and obesity. This interest has transitioned into the healthcare sector where she serves as a Formula Technician, concentrating on neonatal nutrition in the NICU at Johns Hopkins Hospital-Bayview.

Commercial Real Estate Broker and Principal



Lamont D. Bessicks, Jr.

Most commercial real estate deals die for two reasons: securing the property or finding the financing. What if you didn't have to solve both problems separately? As a commercial real estate broker and a commercial loan broker, I help my clients find the right property, and secure the financing for the acquisition and the renovation, all in the same space - one advisor, one strategy, one closed deal.

If you're trying to buy commercial real estate, contact me now at someck@gmail.com or bessicks@lewisservices.com and let's get your deal funded. I am Lamont Bessicks, based in Washington, D.C., Associate Broker with Lewis Real Estate Services and the Principal of Someck, LLC.



Book Reviews

Have you read any good books lately? Can you suggest one for us? Are you willing to write a review of it for the September newsletter? If so, let us know. To arouse your interest, here are some books that we recommend for your reading pleasure:

The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times

by Michelle Obama

In *The Light We Carry*, Michelle Obama shares her strategies for dealing with topics such as how to build meaningful relationships, how to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness, and what to do when it all feels like too much and we want to give up and give in. She offers readers news stories and insights on the power of doing for others as a way of building up oneself. She draws from her experiences as a daughter, a mother, a spouse, and a friend and First Lady. She shares the habits and principles she adopted to overcome obstacles and the wisdom that helps her continue to grow.

The essence of the book is its sense of positivity and gratefulness. It highlights our most valuable practices like “starting kind,” “going high” and assembling a “kitchen table” of friends and mentors. It discusses the difficulty of getting people to see the past and glittery side of life with Barack and gets a better look at their realness as an actual couple that does not live life as a perfect entity - that he is not a perfect man and theirs a perfect marriage. She explains issues connected to race and gender and encourages readers to work through fear, connect with their community, and live in boldness.

Patrícia Whiten

It's Not Her

by Mary Kubica

During a family vacation at an antiquated, country resort, Cortney Gray discovers her brother and sister-in-law, Nolan and Emily Crane, murdered in their cottage. Two of their children are safe, but their teenage daughter, Reese, who had a contentious relationship with her mother, is missing. Is she another victim or the murderer? Reese has an anger management problem and has openly wished her mother dead, but is she actually a suspect, or has she been abducted? Does the book title, *It's Not Her*, refer to her elimination as a suspect or to something else? Based on motives, suspects are rounded up; alibis are validated or invalidated; and the unlikely killer is finally identified. Additionally, an unsolved murder from five years ago is solved for the reader, but not for the townspeople.

Mary Kubica, a New York Times best-selling author, has again written a thriller that compels the reader to join in the search for the culprit.

Deborah Williams

Nash Falls

by David Baldacci

Walter Nash is a sensitive, intelligent, family man with innate skills and dogged tenacity. He works in a high-level position at a prominent investment firm and has reached the top of the pyramid in his business career.

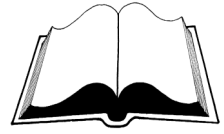
Following his estranged Vietnam veteran father's funeral, Nash is unexpectedly approached by the FBI in the middle of the night. He is urged to become the inside man at his firm to expose a global crime network that is laundering large sums of money. The FBI has been trying to bring down this network for years.

After consideration, Nash has little choice but to accept the proposal. While helping the FBI, the tables are turned on him, forcing him to take the ultimate step, both to survive and to take revenge on the criminals who hurt his family. Nash must become the opposite of who he has always been and resolve personal issues after his father's death.

David Baldacci is a #1 New York Times bestselling author of suspense novels and legal thrillers. *Nash Falls* is Book #1 in this series. Stay tuned for Book #2, *Hope Rises*.

Addie Liles

Bible Quiz: Quirky Characters



There are many “quirky” characters in the Bible. See if you can identify them by their peculiar or unusual traits. You may use the Biblical references in parentheses to assist you. As always, please try not to peek at the answer key before you finish the quiz.

1. Which of the following is most known for being hairy? (Gen. 25:25, 27:11)
a. David b. Esau c. Peter d. Joseph
2. Which of the following is most known for being a doubter? (John 20:25)
a. Daniel b. Joab c. Jeremiah d. Thomas
3. Which of the following is most known as a reckless driver? (2 Kings 9:20)
a. Jehu b. David c. Paul d. Obed
4. Which of the following is most known for being wise? (1 Kings 3:10-13)
a. Job b. Lot c. Solomon d. Jezebel
5. This man is most known for being obese. (Judges 3:17)
a. Eglon b. Aaron c. Judas d. Obed
6. This man is most known for being a traitor. (Mark 14:10)
a. Jonadab b. Obed c. Judas Iscariot d. James
7. This man was known for wearing a leather girdle. (2 Kings 1:8)
a. Peter b. Joseph c. Elijah d. Zadok
8. Which of the following is most known for being tall? (1 Sam. 9:2)
a. James b. John c. Rebekah d. Saul
9. This man is known for conversing with his donkey. (Numbers 22:29)
a. Simeon b. Balaam c. Zelophehad d. Amos
10. This man is known for being humble. (Numbers 12:3)
a. Moses b. Gideon c. Nimrod d. Cain
11. This man is known for being short. (Luke 19:2-4)
a. Micah b. Joseph c. Zacchaeus d. Joel
12. This man ate grass for many years. (Daniel 4:33)
a. Shishak b. Nebuzaradan c. Rabshken d. Nebuchadnezzar

1. b - Esau; 2. d - Thomas; 3. a - Jeru; 4. c - Solomon; 5. a - Eglon; 6. c - Judas Iscariot; 7. c - Elijah; 8. d - Saul; 9. b. Balaam; 10. a - Moses; 11. c - Zacchaeus; 12. d - Nebuchadnezzar