



MINISTRY MATTERS

The Newsletter of Christ United Methodist Church
Owen Brown Interfaith Center, Columbia, Maryland



NEWS FROM THE OWEN BROWN INTERFAITH CENTER

The Owen Brown Interfaith Center is home to UUCC and CUMC. Together, our congregations own OBIC Corporation, which manages the building. We believe OBIC is—and can continue to be—much more than just a building. Over the past year, the Board completed a strategic planning process and shifted from day-to-day operations to a more strategic role. With the hiring of Kevin Buker as our new and very effective Executive Director, building management is in excellent hands.

Our Vision: OBIC provides a setting that fosters collaborative interfaith community.

Our Mission: OBIC supports the missions of its owning congregations through strategic management of resources and by creating shared space where people of diverse faith traditions, worldviews, cultures, and races work together to serve the greater community.

In 2026, the Cradlerock Children’s Center will move to a larger space. While we will miss this valued tenant, their growth reflects OBIC’s success as an incubator. Their departure will open space for new opportunities—bringing both short-term revenue challenges and exciting possibilities.

As we plan ahead, we invite your ideas. What kinds of clients or community partners would you like to see at OBIC? Do you have specific recommendations? The Board will hold a retreat in early 2026 to consider next steps. Please share your thoughts with a CUMC OBIC Board member (Clara Fitzgerald, Lee Klinkenberg, or Rev. Deb Scott) or email [Charles Scott](mailto:Charles.Scott@cumcobic.org) or [Rev. Deb Scott](mailto:Rev.Deb.Scott@cumcobic.org).

— Charles E. Scott, OBIC Board Member

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Lessons from Life with Lupus

As I sit to write this newsletter article, I'm midway through a lupus flare (here's hoping I'll be out of it by the time you're reading this!) and so I thought I might share a little about my journey living with this chronic illness. While I do not believe that God causes bad things to happen—i.e. God didn't give me lupus—I do believe God works in, through, and in spite of the circumstances we find ourselves in. And such in the case for me. God has shown up time and time again throughout this journey.

Lupus is an autoimmune disease in which the body gets confused and instead of only attacking germs, my body attacks itself. I began to experience lupus symptoms my senior year of high school, though I can trace signs of the illness back much earlier than that. After a few misdiagnoses, I was finally diagnosed with lupus in the fall of 2004, my sophomore year of college. I was quite sick for my college years, in part because the doctors had not yet figured out how to effectively treat the disease for me and in part because the bitterly cold weather of my college town in the snowbelt of Lake Erie was a terrible influence on my health.

Learning to navigate chronic illness at the same time as I was learning how to be an adult shaped me in ways that continue to influence my life. Here are a few lessons I've learned from life with lupus:

- **Work ahead.** Some of you have commented about how far ahead I usually work. I joke about getting brownie points for turning in my newsletter articles early or having the year of worship planned out. Some of that is my personality, sure, but that work ethic is shaped from my time in college when I had to work ahead because I never knew when I would be laid out flat with a flare or when the lupus brain fog would get so thick that I wasn't articulate enough to write a paper. This skill—born of necessity—has served me well in ministry. While I've been lucky that my lupus has been mostly controlled since 2007, in ministry you never know when a funeral, hospital visit or world event may take precedence over the work at hand. So, for me it works well to work ahead.
- **Know my limits.** Yes, I do know my limits, even if I'm not happy about it. I got so sick my sophomore year of college because I kept pushing through. I think I was afraid if I stopped, I wouldn't get going again. It wasn't until I hit a breaking point and had to leave college and go home to rest for a week that I learned that my most important tool in my lupus tool belt is horizontal time. Not just sleep, but rest. Full rest. My health had spiraled because I was trying to push past my limits and wasn't listening to my body. Since 2007, I have been able to nip flares in the bud—stopping them before they really took hold—with 24 hours of horizontal time. That didn't work this time, but I stand by the importance of knowing my limits and prioritizing horizontal time.
- **Depend on community.** My campus was hilly and snowy and not particularly wheelchair accessible. I needed a lot of help from friends to navigate the campus. I depended on professors making accommodations for my physical needs as I worked through their academic courses. And I leaned hard on the chaplain at my college who saw me through many tears wondering where God was in the mess

CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Angela



Lessons from Life with Lupus, continued

- Empathy. I began full-time ministry at age 28. At this young age, I found myself ministering to people who could be my great-grandparents. While living with chronic illness is not the same thing as age, it did give me a window into medical challenges that most people my age weren't familiar with. I knew/know what it's like to have my body betray me. I knew what it was like to frantically search for a seat when everyone was expected to be able to stand. I knew what it was like to navigate complex, not user-friendly medical systems and how to advocate for myself within those systems. I knew what it was like to make tough decisions about what I had energy for and what I needed to miss. I like to think these experiences as a young adult made me a better pastor.
- God is in the hard. I learned that God could take my anger, could take my grief, could take my doubt. I didn't need to apologize or retreat from these feelings to satisfy some divine expectation. In fact, I found that God showed up right in the midst of the mess. I learned that following an embodied God who knew human pain had nothing to do with the toxic positivity pushed by culturally Christian pseudo-theology. Jesus didn't just grin and bear it. He didn't just push through the pain. He didn't just focus on the glass half-full. Jesus cried out to God. Jesus wept. Jesus raged. If God can have all these strong emotions, so can we.

We started the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday remembering our own mortality. We are dust and to dust we shall return. These bodies aren't forever. And yet, for now, these bodies are home, gifts from God for this season. So, we hold the tension—the pain and the beauty, the miracle and the mess. We trust that God persists with us through the hard and we give thanks for the beloved community that reminds us of God's steadfast presence even when we can't feel it.





WORSHIP

Lectionary Lent

The revised common lectionary is the 3-year cycle of scriptures assigned for each Sunday that is used by many mainline denominations throughout the Christian world. Some pastors are purists and preach only lectionary. Other pastors are all in on sermon series and never preach lectionary. I like to do a mixture of both. Sermon series can be fun and can allow us to explore themes deeper, tackle texts not included in the lectionary, and bring new perspective or movement to a congregation's vision. But even after dabbling in sermon series a lot in the last year, I always come back to the lectionary. Why?

The lectionary keeps me honest as a preacher. It pushes me to consider preaching texts I might not otherwise choose. It helps us get a fuller exposure to scripture instead of just focusing on the most familiar or favorite stories. It also assures that I am starting with the scripture and inviting God to speak through it in a new way rather than seeking out scripture to support a predetermined theme.

The lectionary also reminds us that we are a part of the big "C" Church—the church across the globe. Our congregation is not an island unto itself, we are a part of something much bigger and together with our siblings around the world we are telling the same stories—in different languages, within different cultures, interpreted in different ways. There is beauty in recognizing how this same story can embody God's love for people in all our diversity.

The lectionary allows me to be more nimble as a pastor to address the needs of a particular moment. A war starts, a natural disaster hits, ICE raids, a mass shooting occurs, a death of a beloved member of the congregation happens. It can be difficult to adequately pivot to what people are actually facing when sticking to a predetermined sermon series. It's possible, but other times we end up simply acknowledging said crisis in prayer. The lectionary, on the other hand, has an uncanny way—aka Holy Spirit way—of addressing exactly what is needed in a moment.

So, this Lent we are journeying through the lectionary. What will the themes be? You'll have to come and find out! I have loosely picked which lectionary text (four are assigned each week) I'll preach on each week, but that may change. And together, prayerfully, we'll see where God leads us.

Curious where to find the lectionary readings?

Google "Vanderbilt RCL" and you'll find my alma mater—Vanderbilt Divinity School—provides all the lectionary readings for the next Sunday (and following Sundays) easy to access.

Mark your Calendars for Holy Week

April 2 at 7pm: Maundy Thursday Worship with St. John United at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center

April 3 at 7pm: Good Friday Worship at OBIC, just our congregation this year

April 5 at 10am: Easter Worship with a Community Easter Egg Hunt to follow on OBIC grounds partnering with UUCC





CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND



A New Chapter Begins: Launching the CUMC Endowment & March Match Opportunity

For more than fifty years, the people of CUMC have faithfully nurtured a mission rooted in love, justice, and community.

As we envision the next fifty years and beyond, we recognize a sacred responsibility: to preserve the foundation that has sustained us while cultivating new growth for the future. Our world is changing rapidly. Needs are evolving. In a time marked by division and uncertainty, our commitment to building a beloved community is not only relevant—it is essential.

This is why we are excited to be launching the CUMC Endowment Fund, a long-term investment in the future of our church's mission and outreach. The Endowment will allow us to strengthen existing ministries, support innovative new initiatives, and ensure that CUMC remains a vibrant spiritual home for generations to come. By contributing to the Endowment now—or by including it in your legacy planning—you help secure the long-term sustainability of the work God has entrusted to us.

March Match: Your Gift Now Will be Doubled

Your gift during CUMC's Endowment Kickoff will help grow CUMC for tomorrow.

To celebrate this important milestone, gifts made to the CUMC Endowment before March 31st will be matched dollar-for-dollar. This means your generosity goes twice as far—expanding our outreach, empowering emerging ministries, and planting seeds of hope that will bear fruit well into the future.

Together, we can build a legacy of faith, compassion, and service that will bless generations yet to come. With gratitude, we celebrate every gift—large or small—as a seed of hope that will grow and bless generations to come.

March Match

**During our Endowment Kickoff,
all gifts received before March 31, 2026 will be matched
so your gift will have double the impact.**

Give online or by check made payable to CUMC
with Endowment Gift noted in memo line.



bit.ly/4ce1K4i

www.cumcobic.org
Christ United Methodist Church
Owen Brown Interfaith Center
7246 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD 21045

For additional information check out the Giving tab on the [CUMC website](http://www.cumcobic.org).

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Prayers and good wishes are sent to **Rev. Jack Day** who is recuperating from kidney surgery.
- **Rev. Bill Young**, a former member of CUMC, is at home from Rehab after a serious fall and needs our prayers and support.
- Please remember the **Swirdovich Family** as they deal with the long illness and hospitalization of Natalie's father.
- Continued prayers for **Sofi Flanagan-Wells** as she copes with mental health challenges.
- The **Mueller Family** sends appreciation for the cards, prayers and support on the death of Fred's mother, Katherine Mueller.
- Prayers of healing for **Rev. Angela** as she recuperates.
- CUMC has several folks who are unable to participate in services or activities but are still part of the CUMC Family. Please remember them with your prayers, calls, cards and visits: **Janis Battle, Alice Frazier, Siah Johnson, Catherine Messenger, David Nevitte, Lucie Pelgrim and Darwin Perry**. Contact information for all is in your CUMC Directory.

Happy Birthday!

Regina Gibson-Burtnick
Delvin Daniels
Rob Rosenberger
Cora Duggan
Jack Day
Doug Weston
Fran Irvin
Brendan Barnett
Lillian Lehnert
Dsih-Wei Liu



CUMC CARES

Community Ministries Matter

Stronger Together: Supporting CRES Through Rock Resources

This month, our Community Ministries Team wishes to support students at Cradlerock Elementary School (CRES) through its Rock Resources Program—a partnership that is making a real difference in the daily lives of children in our community.

Rock Resources provides basic, often-overlooked items—like Chapstick, travel-size Kleenex, and hand cream—that can have a big impact. When students have what they need, they can stay comfortable, confident, and focused on learning.

Our congregation has already shown how powerful this partnership can be. Last fall, CUMC members donated brushes, combs, hair ties, deodorant wipes, socks, and gloves—practical items that directly supported students' well-being. This spring, the needs are more specific:

- Chapstick
- Small Kleenex packets
- Travel-size hand cream
- Reusable, packable raincoats



Vialaciger
5 Pack Rain Ponchos for Kids
Reusable Raincoats for Girls Boy..

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✓prime Tomorrow

As a designated Community School, CRES serves families in historically under-resourced neighborhoods by providing wraparound support that helps students succeed both in and out of the classroom. CUMC is proud to be one of its Community Sponsors, joining others who help provide food, clothing, and school supplies.

Through our ongoing relationship with CRES staff—including Stephanie Dobbs and CJ Ridgely, whom many of you met on Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday—we know just how meaningful this support is. Their gratitude reflects the real impact of your generosity.

How You Can Help

There are three simple ways to participate in this shared effort:

1. **Shop and Donate** - Bring requested items to church during March.
2. **Give Through Gift Cards** - Purchase a CUMC gift card (see Dea Atkins for details). This option stretches your donation further while also benefiting the church.
3. **Make a Monetary Donation** - Let the Community Ministries Team purchase the most-needed items directly.

Our Community Ministries Teams connects our congregation's generosity with real, immediate needs in our neighborhood.

Thank you, CUMC family, for being part of this shared ministry and for helping CRES students thrive.

CUMC CARES

Missions Matter

THE LUNCH BUNCH PROJECT

At a recent Lunch Bunch gathering the women learned of an organization called Matthew 25: Ministries which works across the country to collect items from faith communities that can be packed with medical supplies which they send to developing countries.

One specific need is for smaller EMPTY plastic containers that held prescriptions and over the counter (OTC) medications. Can you contribute these? Each should be thoroughly washed and capped. Peel off the labels from prescription meds; a new label will be placed over wording on OTC containers. Place in the marked receptacle on the back table at church and know they will go to good use. This project will be held March thru May.

Sissy Plank & Lillian Lehnert



[OUR WORK](#) [HOW TO HELP](#) [ABOUT US](#) [WORKS OF REV. METTEY](#) [EVENTS](#)



[DONATE NOW](#)



Our Work

Caring For A Needy World With The Things We Throw Away

The work of Matthew 25: Ministries helps the poorest of the poor and disaster victims throughout the United States and around the world.

We accept monetary donations and product donations of misprinted, slightly damaged, over-stocked or gently used supplies from corporations, organizations and individuals nationwide. We also supplement outside donations by manufacturing, assembling and blending products in-house including school notebooks, pencils, rice-soy meals, and paint.

With the help of our volunteers, these goods are processed at our over 300,000 square-foot Processing Center in Cincinnati, Ohio and then shipped via forty-foot seagoing containers and by semi-trailers to the poorest of the poor and disaster victims.

LEARNING FOR ALL

Education Matters

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School for preschoolers thru HS age: Each class has 2-3 adults and leaves for class approximately 15 minutes into our regular worship service and returns near the end of our worship time. In addition to their Biblical story and discussion, the younger children usually do a craft activity.

COMMUNITY STUDY

STUDY SERIES: EXPLORING COMMUNITY

We have completed our study on Community where we explored Robert Putnam's concept of social capital, what brings people closer, what holds us together, and how we can help build the kind of beloved community God intends for us. Here are some of the questions we explored and some of the resources that we used.

SESSION 4 - Beloved Community: MLK's Vision

Rouse: A City Called Columbia

- Beloved Community: [Letter from Birmingham Jail MLK](#) (Click on the title to view the video.)
- Discussion: Ask for reactions - What does Beloved Community require of us today? How is CUMC doing with the 25 traits of Beloved Community? (Which ones are strengths, weaknesses, and best fits for the work of CUMC?)
- What ideals guided Columbia's creation?
- How have those ideals been upheld or challenged?

SESSION 5 - Charles Vogl - [The Art of Community and Belonging](#) (Click on the title to view the video.)

- What social media accounts do you have?
- Has the Internet reversed the the decline of social capital?
- Considering Vogl's video, what do you think about: the role of *gatekeeper*?, the idea of *rings*?, the idea of *temple*?

SESSION 6 - Priya Parker - [The Art of Gathering](#) (Click on the title to view this video.)

Assessments: [Self-Assessment](#) and [CUMC Assessment](#)

Key Ideas: At its heart, The Art of Gathering is about belonging. Belonging does not happen automatically; it is cultivated through purpose, care, and courage. Parker's work complements thinkers like David Brooks and Charles Vogl by reminding us that community is not just about good people—it is about good design.

Questions:

- Where would I most like to grow in truly seeing others?
- In what ways might CUMC grow more deeply as a community?

FELLOWSHIP

Matters

FIRST FRIDAY

NEED A BOOST? Tired of winter? Yearning for some new conversation? Want to “catch up?” Try this! First Friday, March 6 will be at the home of Mary Jo and Scrib Messenger. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy CUMC “connections.” Please contact the Messengers by Tues. Mar. 3 if you plan to attend.

MARCH LUNCH BUNCH

A DIFFERENT LOCATION for just this the month. Lunch Bunch for all CUMC women will meet at Miller's Grant in Ellicott City at 12:30pm (note time change) as hostess Dea Atkins welcomes us to their Bistro where simple inexpensive meals are purchased. Please contact Dea by Mon. Mar. 9 as she needs to tell the kitchen how many diners to expect.



GOING GREEN

Matters

Click anywhere on the calendar to open a readable pdf version.



Because the world can change a lot in 40 days. Lenten Creation Care Calendar 2026



VAIPL's theme this year is **"Healthy People, Healing Planet"**. Our mission is to achieve climate and environmental justice for Virginians and our world by collaborating with people of faith and conscience. In Job 12:7-10 we read, "But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being."

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Week Theme - Rethinking food & honoring God's abundance						
February 15 Prayer: "God of goodness and mercy, hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey. Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, and guide me as I humbly seek to return to your love"	16 Want to try a meatless meal during Lent that doesn't have fish? Check out these 65 recipes that are perfect for family dinners and potlucks! https://bit.ly/4azExuV	17 Eating seasonally and locally can reduce carbon emissions since your food doesn't have to travel as far. Use this guide to find what is in season for you throughout the year. https://bit.ly/3M8ptsb	18 Ash Wednesday Want to eat a more plant based diet but still love meat? Try becoming a weekday vegetarian and only eat meat on the weekends. Here are some tips to get you started. https://bit.ly/4qFFu7Q	19 108 billion pounds of food is wasted annually in the United States. Think about the little changes that you and your family can take to reduce food waste in your home and community, such as composting. https://bit.ly/4gad0gu	20 Meatless Friday How seafood is raised and produced varies. These differences can have an impact on our planet and health. Use this database to find sustainably sourced seafood that is better for people and planet. https://bit.ly/4sY8fm	21 The next time you buy groceries, head to your local farmers market! This is a great way to support local businesses and farms while enjoying locally grown fruits, vegetables, and other food! https://bit.ly/4pPdDkr
Week Theme - Sustainable living as an act of faith						
22 Prayer: "Help me live more simply so I may share space with my neighbors in harmony." "And the land could not support both of them living together because their possessions were so great that they could not live together." -Genesis 13: 6	23 Cut back on single-use food containers by bringing your own dishes and containers to family and community dinners. If you are unable to bring your own dishes, consider purchasing biodegradable products instead. https://on.nrdc.org/4gNvriX	24 Valuing our clothes by repairing, reusing, and resisting fast fashion isn't just a practical climate solution; it's a spiritual practice of stewardship and love. https://bit.ly/3MbuZdz	25 Transportation is the #1 source of greenhouse gas emissions. Reduce carbon emissions by carpooling, walking, biking, or using public transportation. https://bit.ly/49Punly	26 Single-use plastics are polluting our water, as well as exposing us to harmful chemicals and microplastics. Try fasting from single-use plastic bags this Lent. https://bit.ly/4rkGMW1	27 Meatless Friday Shop at your local thrift store for new clothes and home goods. Not only can you save money, but you can reduce your carbon footprint while finding unique, high-quality items! https://bit.ly/308yWQL	28 Consider installing a bidet to cut down on toilet paper consumption, which is a major contributor to deforestation. Bidets use less water on average than it takes to grow the trees used for making toilet paper. https://bit.ly/3EpMMcC
Week Theme - Thinking of our neighbors at home & around the world						
March 1 Prayer: "Almighty God, you invite us deeper into your world and your people. Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter. Give us hearts hungry to serve you and those who need what we have to give."	2 Our indigenous neighbors often face a disproportionate pollution burden and other environmental injustices. Watch how this 16-year-old is working to secure justice for her indigenous community. https://bit.ly/4qJ5IGz	3 World Wildlife Day Support your local food bank or church's feeding program by donating food, money, or your time. Find your local food bank by using the link below. https://bit.ly/4f4nf5A	4 Consider supporting an organization providing humanitarian aid in Gaza, Ukraine, and other areas of the world, like Doctors Without Borders. https://bit.ly/4q2kabJ	5 Look for fair trade and ethically produced products! Fairly traded and ethically produced goods provide livable wages to workers and are often good for the planet. https://bit.ly/4jAWxoA	6 Meatless Friday Support labor rights by buying union-made products for your parties and holiday celebrations. Find a list of union brands you can buy from this Easter and beyond! https://bit.ly/4jCSeFA	7 Pray with your family and neighbors for those grieving the loss of a loved one this season. https://bit.ly/3WcBWWF
Week Theme - Praying for those experiencing climate grief & eco-anxiety						
8 World Women's Day Prayer: "Help us to see our sisters and brothers as truly beloved children of God. Help us to fast from incivility and feast on your love"	9 Coping with Climate Grief: Take time to explore your feelings with climate grief and learn how you can acknowledge, grieve, and take note of how you can use this grief moving forward. https://bit.ly/413c21z	10 Eco-anxiety is becoming more prevalent in communities experiencing climate disruptions, as well as in those who are witnessing these injustices. Read more below. https://bit.ly/3M2Bu2a	11 Eco - Chaplains: How is your faith community discussing climate grief? https://n.pr/4hdL0dd	12 Use these five strategies to help alleviate eco-anxiety for yourself and others. https://bit.ly/4ag5YZ	13 Meatless Friday How can we create action out of climate grief? Consider starting or joining a mutual aid network in support of a just transition. https://bit.ly/3ZCSU8M	14 Find Hope: How can we find hope towards a sustainable future? https://bit.ly/40SE7IM
Week Theme - Energy efficiency						
15 Prayer: "Teach me to resist waste in energy usage as I do so with food, fashion, and household goods." "Gather up the fragments, so that nothing may be lost." —John 6:12	16 Swap out your light bulbs for energy-efficient LED bulbs to cut down your energy bill and reduce energy consumption. https://cnet.co/3DK7aVQ	17 St. Patrick's Day Check out these tips to reduce your energy usage and save on your electric bill! https://bit.ly/3Z32KAO	18 Consider switching to solar energy for your energy needs. Learn about the benefits of solar energy here https://bit.ly/4il2tBx	19 Use this checklist to weatherize every room in your home. https://bit.ly/4rfd8kG	20 Meatless Friday Obey the speed limit when driving. Every 10 mph faster reduces fuel economy by about 4 miles per gallon, regardless of vehicle size. https://bit.ly/4glwQ8y	21 International Day of Forests Remember to turn off lights and electronics when they are not in use. During the day, make good use of sunlight to help limit your energy consumption. https://bit.ly/3BYa20L
Week Theme - Rejoicing for our trees and gardens						
22 Prayer: "O God, we thank you for this earth, our home; For the wide sky and the blessed sun, For the salt sea and the running water, For the everlasting hills And the never-resting winds, For trees and the common grass underfoot..." —Walter Rauschenbusch	23 World Meteorological Day Learn more about the Plant Natives Initiative in your region! https://bit.ly/3WD3rzK	24 Plant food for your community through a community garden. https://bit.ly/4hxQtLD	25 Trees help to reduce heat during hot summers, keeping us cool and lowering energy bills. Read more below. https://bit.ly/4640vPC	26 Help our pollinators thrive! We rely on them to grow food and create beautiful flowers for all to enjoy. https://bit.ly/4jyeTqn	27 Meatless Friday Test the health of your soil to make sure your garden is ready for fruits, vegetables, and other plants this Spring! https://bit.ly/3WSbN6V	28 Join VAIPL's "Cool the City" campaign to lower higher temperatures in the Richmond area. Fill out our volunteer interest form below. https://bit.ly/VAIPL_CTC_VOL
Week Theme - Looking toward the future						
29 Palm Sunday Prayer: "Dear Lord, bless those who tirelessly advocate for the Earth and its inhabitants. Grant them the courage to speak out against injustice, the determination to drive positive change, and the wisdom to inspire others. May their efforts be a beacon of hope in our quest for a better world. In your name, we pray for the empowerment and protection of environmental advocates. Amen."	30 Make sure you know who your representatives are in the Virginia General Assembly. State leaders can have just as much, if not more, of an impact on our lives as federal leaders do. https://bit.ly/4gemzv2	31 Reflect on how Christianity calls on us to care for people and planet. https://bit.ly/4k3r0fH	April 1 Are you registered to vote? Voting is an easy way to advocate for your family and community. You can register or update your voter registration here https://bit.ly/41oJueq	2 Sign up for election reminders and view what is on your ballot using the resource below. https://bit.ly/45C0XpT	3 Good Friday Join or start a "green team" at your church to help your community learn about the environment. Reach out to our Faith Outreach Organizer, Laticia, for more information and resources. lee@vaipl.org	4 Holy Saturday Consider registering your congregation to become a partner with VAIPL and join our mission to grow healthy communities by advancing climate and environmental justice. Join at https://bit.ly/3D4debd

Reflect on all you have accomplished during the Lenten season and what you will carry with you into this new season of growth. How has your frame of mind changed? How will you respond to VAIPL's theme for this year: **Healthy People, Healing Planet?** Conclude your Lenten creation care practice by making a personal pledge to advocate for an environmentally just and resilient world with your faith community, legislature, and in your neighborhood. Join VAIPL for civic engagement events, workshops, lobby days, and more as the year progresses.





CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Matter

SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE

As faith leaders representing diverse traditions across Maryland, we are deeply troubled by the rising levels of violence and fear connected to immigration enforcement throughout the country. Recent events have underscored the profound human cost of these actions, including the loss of life and the escalation of confrontations between communities, law enforcement, and federal authorities.

Here in Maryland, we are especially concerned for our immigrant brothers and sisters who have endured intimidation, detention, and the separation of families. The growing presence of immigration enforcement in schools, hospitals, and places of worship has created an atmosphere of anxiety that undermines the trust essential to healthy communities. Across the nation, we have witnessed repeated accounts of individuals being treated in ways that disregard their inherent dignity. At the same time, public discourse has been clouded by misinformation that seeks to justify or minimize these harms and damages the reputation of individuals.

Our various faith traditions teach that every person possesses an inviolable worth. We share a common conviction that the vulnerable must be protected, that families must be supported, and that truth and compassion must guide public action. From this shared moral foundation, we cannot accept narratives that dismiss these incidents as isolated or insignificant. The pattern of fear and instability affecting immigrant communities demands our collective attention and response. We are also mindful of rhetoric that threatens to use force against our cities or communities. Such language only deepens division and erodes the trust necessary for public safety and civic cooperation. As leaders of many faiths, we stand with all who seek a just and peaceful society. We urge federal authorities to conduct their duties with restraint, respect, and a commitment to the dignity of every individual.





CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Matter

SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE, continued

While we understand that the government has the responsibility to enforce laws and to secure the borders, there is also an urgent need for comprehensive immigration reform that ensures the safety of all, respects those who come or have come to the United States seeking a better life for themselves and their families, keeps families together, and offers a path to citizenship.

We call upon all people of goodwill to strengthen the bonds of community: reach out to your neighbors, learn who may need support, and build networks of care that ensure no one faces fear or uncertainty alone. Our congregations and communities remain committed to working together to affirm that Maryland is strongest when we uphold the dignity, safety, and belonging of every person who calls this state home.

The Rev. LaTrelle Miller Easterling

Bishop

Baltimore–Washington & Peninsula–Delaware Area,
United Methodist Church

The Rev. William J. Gohl, Jr.

Bishop

Delaware–Maryland Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Most Rev. William E. Lori

Archbishop

Archdiocese of Baltimore,
Roman Catholic Church

The Rev. Freeman L. Palmer

Conference Minister

Central Atlantic Conference,
United Church of Christ

The Right Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent

XV Bishop

Diocese of Maryland,
The Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Jacqueline E. Taylor

General Presbyter

Presbytery of Baltimore,
Presbyterian Church USA



PARTICIPATION MATTERS

March 2026

Date	Events
3/1	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.
3/4	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
3/5	Justice for All* 7:00 p.m.
3/6	First Friday 6:30 p.m. at the Messengers' home RSVP by Mar. 2
3/8	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.
3/11	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
3/12	Lunch Bunch 12:30 p.m. hosted by Dea Atkins contact Dea by Mar. 9
3/12	SPRC* 7:00 p.m.
3/15	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.
3/18	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
3/19	Ad Board Meeting* 7:00 p.m.
3/22	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.
3/23	Newsletter Deadline
3/25	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
3/26	Community Ministries Team* 7:00 p.m.
3/29	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.

*To join services or meetings connect through Zoom link on the front page of the CUMC Website: cumcobic.org

March 2026

Please find the new updated Worship Volunteer Instructions on the CUMC website at this link:

<https://cumcobic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/volunteer-instructions.pdf>

	March 1	March 8	March 15	Mar 22	Mar 29
Liturgist	Daniel	Lillian	Phil	Kevin Swanson	Katie Weston
Reader	Dea Atkins	Toni Klinkenberg	Karen Ohlrich	David Burtnick	Delvin Daniels
Acolyte	Miguel	Emily	Miamor	Luke	Miguel
Altar Flowers					
Tech					
Ushers 1	Phyllis	Greg	Sissy	Dennis	Lee Klinkenberg
Ushers 2	Warren Kelley	Natalie Swirdovich	Hilda	Lillian	Toni Klinkenberg
Altar Set-up	Messenger	Kelley	Klinkenberg	Ohlrich	Duggan
Communion & Set-up	Duggan	Kelley	James	Gomez	Kelley
Counters 1	Greg Swirdovich	Becky	Natalie	Delvin	Kevin Swanson
Counters 2	Austin	David Burtnick	Kevin Swanson	Kevin Swanson	David Burtnick
Nursery Volunteer					
Refreshments	Pam Wilt	James	Gomez	Weston	Duggan
Sunday School Assist MS	Karen	Dea	Kevin	Karen Ohlrich	Lisa
Sunday School Assist ELEM	Don James	Don James	Don James	Don James	Don James

BUSINESS CORNER

Financial Information - January 2025

Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget
Revenue	\$ 7,071.22	\$ 9,171.83
Expenses	\$ 9,462.97	\$ 10,891.16
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (2,391.75)	\$ (1,719.32)
Surplus or (Deficit) Per Week	\$ (46.00)	\$ (33.06)

Ad Board Minutes: February 19, 2026

Council of Ministries Minutes: January 14, 2026

*"There is always light,
if only we're brave enough
to see it. If only we are
brave enough to be it."*

—Amanda Gorman

NOT TOO SOON!

Easter is right around the corner! We'd like to decorate the sanctuary with beautiful spring potted plants that you can take home after the Easter Sunday Service. You may also make a donation to the flower fund and we'll purchase what is needed. See Becky Nicodemus or Phyllis Kelley.

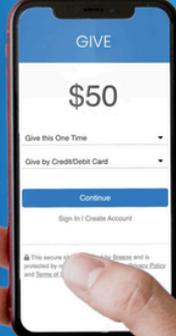
Order forms will be available March 15 on the side counter and PLEASE return by Sunday March 29th. Tulips are \$10 & hydrangeas for \$22.



**GIVE.
ANYWHERE.
FROM ANY
DEVICE.**



cumcobic.org





CALENDAR

Click on the calendar to go to the interactive calendar on the website.

< > Mar 2026 📅 🗓️						
SUN Mar 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
• 10am Wor			• 8:15pm Pr		• 6:30pm Fi	
8 Second Sun 2 more	• 7pm Com	10	11 • 7pm Cour • 8:15pm Pr	12 • 12pm Lun • 7pm Staff	13	14
15 • 10am Wor	16	17 St. Patrick's	18 • 8:15pm Pr	19	20	21
22 • 10am Wor	23	24	25 • 8:15pm Pr	26	27	28
29 • 10am Wor	30	31	Apr 1 • 8:15pm Pr	2	3	4

Christ United Methodist Church, Columbia, MD GMT-05 +

At Christ United Methodist Church, all are invited to experience God’s love, build beloved community, and pursue justice for absolutely everyone. We welcome, celebrate, and affirm the sacred worth of people of every race, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, nationality, physical and mental ability, level of education, family structure, and every economic, immigration, marital, and social status. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed; as such, we have committed to being an Anti-Racist church. At CUMC, believers, seekers, and doubters join together to grow in our love for one another, creation, and the Divine through worship, small groups, advocacy work, and mutual support as we strive to be the church God calls us to be!