



MINISTRY MATTERS

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



IN THIS ISSUE:

Clergy Corner

Worship and Praise

Our Church Family

CUMC Cares

Fellowship

Justice For All

Going Green

Conference Connections

Participation Matters

Business Corner

Calendar

REV. DR. LYDIA MUÑOZ

**Moving on, but never to be forgotten,
Rev. Lydia will always be in our hearts!**



See Conference Connections for more information.



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Owen Brown Interfaith Center, 7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045
Phone: 410-381-6329 Email: admincumcobic.org Website: cumcobic.org
The Reverend Angela Wells (she/her), Pastor





CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND



Endowment Fund Progress

As promised, after the very successful kick-off for the CUMC Endowment Fund, here is an update on the steps being taken regarding the Fund, which, with the seed money, matching funds, and generous donations from CUMC members and friends, will start with a grand total of \$71,586!

The Endowment Fund will be actively managed by the Mid-Atlantic Faith Foundation (MAFF) in partnership with Fulton Financial Advisors. MAFF has received all the required paperwork from us and is in the process of opening our investment account. After the funds are transferred from our bank to the MAFF, the funds will be invested using a growth strategy (65% equities and 35% fixed income/cash), but this allocation and strategy can be changed at any time upon direction by our Administrative Board.

MAFF develops and maintains its own set of investment funds to ensure that all investments have been socially screened per the United Methodist Book of Discipline, and these funds have delivered results on a par with the largest national investment firms. A new MAFF online portal will be available soon with more information, graphs, and investment details for access by CUMC officers designated by our Administrative Board.

After the Endowment Fund account is all set up, we'll monitor the growth and make any changes needed in our investment strategy. Next year we will start getting ideas for the Administrative Board to consider how we might use the designated share of the proceeds to further the CUMC mission. What an exciting time for CUMC and the legacy we are building!

In the meantime, remember that contributions can be made at any time, and our website pages on Ways to Give and on Legacy Giving provide information about all types of gifts and the Endowment Fund.

Endowment Committee

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Angela



Hospitality 201: Next Steps in our Wide Welcome

I am delighted to report that we have a problem. Yes, you read that right. Some problems are very good signs, and this is one of them. Our attendance has been on the rise and some Sundays we've been running low on seats when visitors have arrived!!

What joy!

And also what an opportunity to practice the welcome that we preach! We have requested more chairs from OBIC, but also there are some important things you can do to help us live into our values of radical hospitality here at CUMC.

1. Consider sitting towards the front. Statistically, visitors often come either right at service time or slightly late. It can be intimidating when the only seats left are in the front.
2. Consider sitting right next to another person/family instead of leaving a seat in between you. That way the only seats left aren't just single seats but there are possibly still groupings of seats for a visiting family.
3. Consider sitting on the interior seats instead of the aisle. If you are physically able, sit towards the middle of the row to leave easy aisle access to open seats for visitors.
4. Keep your eye out for visitors. Invite them to sit with you! If there aren't more chairs available, offer them your seats and then you can work with the ushers to find additional chairs to set up. I know each of you would be more than willing to do this, so it's just a matter of keeping it on our radar so that we're aware of this opportunity for hospitality.
5. Ushers (and/or others), help new folks find available seats and introduce them to the person they're sitting next to. This is particularly important if visitors arrive during a standing portion of the service as it's much harder to tell where available chairs are when everyone is standing up.
6. Ushers, close the sanctuary doors at 10:05am. This leaves room for visitors arriving late to come in without feeling like they are closed out or interrupting from the very beginning.

Secondly, a wonderful suggestion from the Beloved Community study group at the Messengers' house this winter has led the Worship Team to re-institute the passing of the peace. We'll be starting the first Sunday of June and it will be just after the children's sermon each week. We haven't done this practice since before COVID, so we have an opportunity to start it again with intentionality for its mission, scope, and purpose.



CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Angela

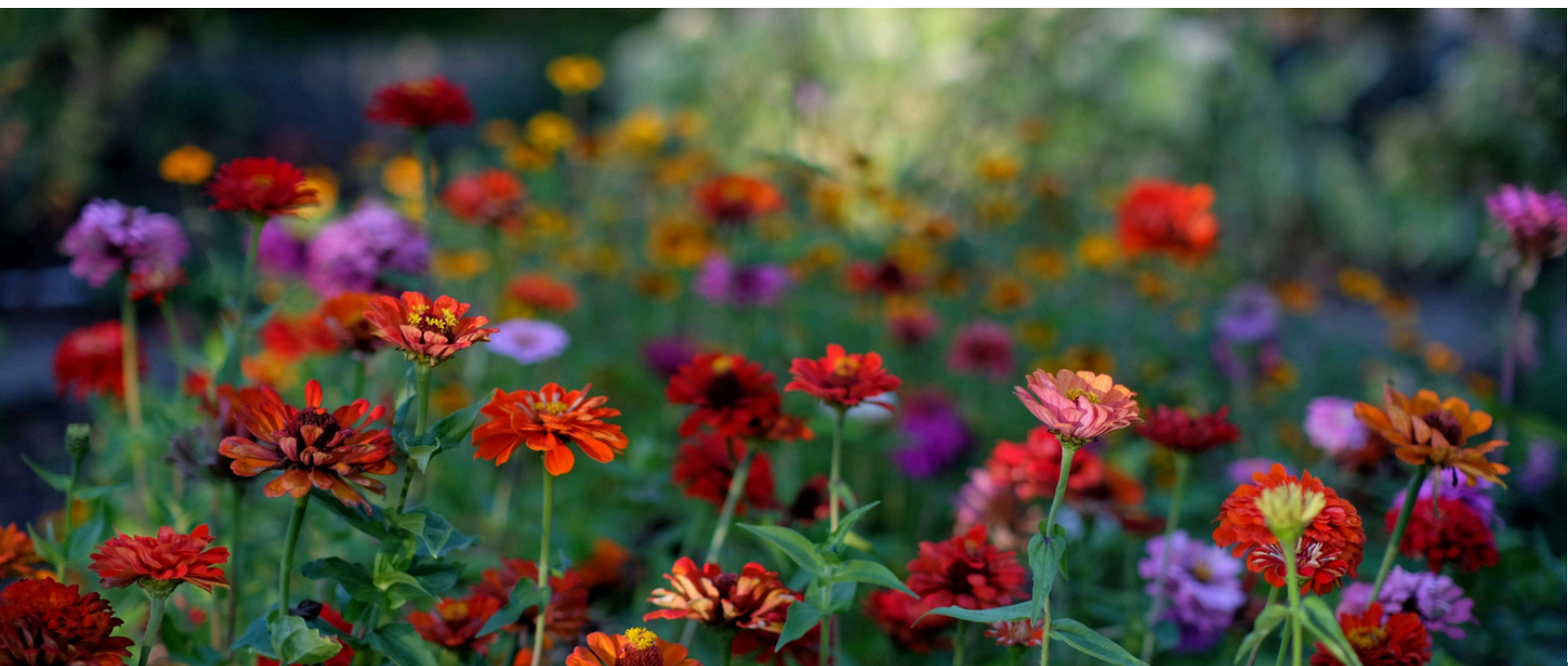


Hospitality 201: Next Steps in our Wide Welcome, continued

Passing of the Peace can be a great time to welcome visitors, but studies show it can also be an overwhelming time for visitors. So, how can we get the benefits without the disadvantages? So glad you asked!

1. The default should be contact-less passing of the peace. Not everyone likes hugs or physical contact (and that applies to both visitors and regulars), especially from strangers, and we want to emphasize consent. Furthermore, some people are immunocompromised and trying to minimize risk, and we want to respect that choice. I know, I know, we're a hugging bunch. Maybe save those (consensual) hugs for before service or fellowship time after service?
2. Focus on the passing the peace. Saying, "the peace of Christ be with you" "and also with you" (instead of general greetings or asking questions of visitors) can help it be a structured and less overwhelming time. It minimizes anxiety for visitors when there's a "script" so to speak.
3. Pass the peace to those immediately around you without journeying all over the sanctuary. This helps make sure visitors are greeted (by the people they are sitting near) without getting overwhelmed by everyone in the congregation wanting to say hi.
4. Want to greet different people each week? Mix up where you sit! I know, it's scandalous to suggest sitting in somewhere other than your usual seat. However, just remember it is an option, and you may even be pleasantly surprised at what you notice in worship from a different angle.

You'll notice I titled this article Hospitality 201, not 101. We are not new to this welcome thing. CUMC excels at being a welcoming congregation! And, there's always room to continue growing even in a strength area. Every week we declare that our welcome includes "absolutely everyone." What a privilege it is to get to live into that sacred value together!





WORSHIP

With a note of gratitude to those who participated in the Beloved Community study at the Messengers' house in Jan-Feb and offered some suggestions, Worship Team would like to share a few updates:

Passing the Peace

In June we'll re-start the practice of Passing the Peace during worship. We've talked through the purpose of this practice and urge you to read the Clergy Corner article for more suggestions on how to make this practice visitor-friendly and worshipful.

Additional Invitations to Serve

Did you know that you can sign up to help in various worship roles any time of year? We typically collect volunteer interest in the fall during our stewardship campaign using the Time, Talent & Treasure form. However, in the coming months we will be highlighting both in worship and in the newsletter some volunteer areas that very much need new volunteers. Please prayerfully consider if you can serve in that capacity.

To get us started, we'd like to invite you to consider serving in our shared CUMC/UUCC nursery that will restart on September 13th. We need 4 additional volunteers so that folks will only be asked to serve once every 8 weeks. Contact Rev. Angela or Kevin Swanson to get started on the background check and training required. Thank you for considering this extremely important ministry!

Worship Volunteer Training

Mark your calendars! Sunday June 28th after worship in person OR Wednesday June 17 at 7pm on Zoom we will offer a worship volunteer training that is highly recommended for all current and potential volunteers. We'll cover highlights and helpful hints for serving as liturgist, reader, acolyte, usher, money counter, nursery helper, refreshments, altar set up, and communion set up. This will be an invaluable opportunity for us to have consistency and transparency in how we lead together.

Update on our Review of Hospitality Practices

Worship Team has reviewed our hospitality practices in welcoming new visitors. See some suggestions in the Clergy Corner article in this newsletter. Everyone can continue to help welcome visitors to worship by greeting them, offering them a disposable nametag, and offering a green visitor information card. You can mention that the green visitor information card has a lot of helpful info for visitors on the top half. Whether or not they choose to fill out the bottom, it is helpful for them to be at least given this information. Once someone does fill out a green sheet, did you know that they receive a follow up from Rev. Angela, a postcard from a volunteer, and get connected with the Communications Team if they requested either the newsletter or the weekly email? Repeat visitors are regularly specifically invited to First Friday and invited to engage in other activities. We regularly evaluate this process, search for ways we can continue to improve, and evaluate to make sure we're not overwhelming visitors. Thank you for your help and attention to this ministry of hospitality that belongs to the whole congregation!



WORSHIP

Summer Worship Notes

June 7th: Sermon: Priorities, Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26. Note: this is the last day of Sunday School before summer break

June 14th: Juneteenth Worship; Scripture: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7.

June 21st: CUMC/UUCC shared Pride-themed worship service in Sanctuary C and on UUCC's streaming link (will be provided in the weekly email)

June 28th: Scripture: Genesis 21:8-21. Note: Plan to stay 30 minutes after service for the Worship Volunteer Training.

July & August will highlight CUMC's favorite hymns! During the month of May, you voted. This month Rev. Angela will tally the results and use them to plan July and August worship.

July 5th & 12th: Guest Preacher, CUMC's own Rev. Jack Day

July 19th: Disability Pride Month will be highlighted in worship.

August 16th: Pulpit Swap with St. John United! Rev. Hyiwot Teshome will preach at CUMC while Rev. Angela will preach at our sister congregation, St. John United.

August 23rd: Blessing of the Backpacks



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Congratulations to **Ching- Ju Cheng's daughter, Adeline Liu** who has been our guest musician. She will graduate from Marriotts Ridge HS and attend U of MD to pursue a chemical engineering degree.
- Best wishes to **Natalie Kelley** as she begins her residency in ER medicine at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston.
- **Mike Plank** needs our support as he copes with a serious illness.
- Remember **Tyler Peryea** as he recuperates from recent illness.
- Prayers for **Siah Johnson** who is recuperating from surgery.

- Healing prayers for **Lucie Pelgrim, Lillian Lehnert, Jeanette Rosenberger and Ann Singleton** who are recuperating from orthopedic injuries.
- Prayers of gratitude for **Rev. Lydia's** time with us and best wishes for her as she transitions to her new home in Atlanta.
- Congratulations to **Daniel Klinkenberg** as he graduates from high school and looks forward to college in the fall.



Janis Battle
Sophia Burtnick
Vivian Rexroad
Andy Liu
Becky Nicodemus
Mark Endsley
Natalie Kelley
Suzanne James
Sue Jessen
Tyler Peryea
Toni Klinkenberg
Katie Swanson



CUMC CARES

Community Ministries Matter

From the Cradlerock Elementary School Newsletter:

★CRADLEROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS★

So much of what is able to happen at CRES is due to the amazing volunteer hours and multiple donated resources from our Community School partnerships. We are extremely grateful for the sacrifices of time and resources that each and every partnership at CRES has provided for us over the years and moving into our last 2 years since becoming a Community School. We will continue to reach out, celebrate their amazing work and encourage a continual reciprocal relationship! THANK YOU PARTNERS!

Christ United Methodist Church

Our partnership with Christ United Methodist Church began in May of 2025. Since that time their amazing members have contributed to our Rock Resources Bin which holds our students basic hygiene items and needs such as child size rain coats. They also have donated all of the bins in our staff bathrooms that hold sanitary items as well as hygiene needs, complete with fresh flowers and bathroom signs on the door. Additionally, they avail themselves through volunteer hours within our Media Center each week and lend

their hands to support our Dental and Vision clinics which we are able to host free of charge in partnership with our School Health Center! CUMC was an active participant in our Career Day. They donated gift bags towards our Battle of the Books student showcase and are always present to support and donate resources to any and all of our school-wide activities including our CRES Musical. We are extremely grateful for the many ways that this Church under the leadership of Mr. Kevin Swanson, Ms. Deadra Atkins, Ms. Karen Olrich, Ms. Sissy Plank, and Rev Angela Wells along with their many members have supported our school!



CUMC CARES

Missions Matter

SECOND SUNDAY STOCK-UP FOR JUNE 14

A Plan in the Can to Beat the Heat!!

Take the heat off cooking this summer with canned chili and other quick meals! Summer food preparation can be even more challenging than in winter. Oven cooked meals can heat up the kitchen and use a lot of electricity or gas. Easy planning and cooking is the answer!

- Some chili choices are quick and easy including **Hormel Chili**, which offer tons of varieties! Other chili brands include **Campbell's**, **Bushes** and **Amy's Kitchen**.
- We think "soup" when we think of **Progresso**, and they offer hearty meal-like options such as lentil and meat-based soups that are robust classics that can function like a full meal!
- Who can resist **Chef Boyardee** or **Campbell's spaghetti** in a can, **Dinty Moore** or **Beefaroni**? And let's not forget beloved nostalgic **Spaghetti O's** meal?

Why meals in a can? They require no extra ingredients, don't need to be refrigerated, are shelf stable, and are easy to prepare. They don't heat up a home and offer a lot of protein and essential carbohydrates. And for those facing food insecurity, these calorie-dense options are super important for sustaining energy. The Howard County Food Bank thanks you in advance for helping to ease the burden creating meals during the hot months, and for easing the fear that accompanies food insecurity. **June 14 is YOUR day** to bring donations for the bin at the rear of our sanctuary.

Lillian Lehnert



COLLECTING...DONATING IS ONGOING!

Yes, CUMC asks for many things. Some like food bank items cost money; but some surplus items for specific collections don't cost donors a penny! As a congregation that has been so blessed with material resources, it seems sharing is part of our practice. Containers are available every Sunday so please consider donating:

- Used batteries: Staples gives CUMC credit for office supply purchase.
- Metal tabs from canned beverages: Ronald McDonald House gets gas credit for their vans transporting guest families to the hospital.
- Prescription Eye-Glasses: Lions Club distributes to those who cannot afford needed glasses.

FELLOWSHIP

Matters

FIRST FRIDAY

"JUNE IS BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER."

Your summer will be enhanced while enjoying First Friday with CUMC friends and enjoying the gardens at the Messengers' home. June 5 at 6:30pm with your potluck dish; dine indoors or out. Please RSVP to the Messengers by Tues. June 2.



JUNE LUNCH BUNCH

Lucky Ladies will enjoy CUMC's monthly **Lunch BRUNCH** (or Brunch Brunch) on Thurs. June 11 at 11am. Mary Jo Messenger will host us and share her beautiful gardens. Consider quiche, fruit salad, deviled eggs, scones, biscuits, sliced ham, cheese grits, French toast casserole etc. as you bring a favorite brunch dish to share. Please RSVP to Mary Jo by Mon. June 8...and remember because its brunch, **we'll gather at 11am.**



FELLOWSHIP

Matters

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES IS EXCITED TO PRESENT CUMC SUMMER SOCIALS!

You may be asking yourself, "What exactly is a summer social?" well, read on friend! Throughout the summer there will be events outside church in which small groups will get together and do a fun activity. Each event has a host as well as a sign up. We are trying to keep groups small so we can socialize more easily, so please sign up by the Sunday before the event so the host can plan appropriately. Sign-up sheets will be on the counter in the sanctuary. Folks are responsible for bringing their own materials and paying their own way, though many events are free.

Look at the various exciting events and mark your calendars!

Date	Activity	Host	Capacity	Notes
June 13	Baltimore Pride March			Meet at OBIC AT 10 am to carpool. Direct questions to Rev. Angela .
June 20	Robinson Nature Center	Christine Hagan		Time: 10 am -12 pm Where: 6692 Cedar Lane Columbia
June 27	Hike at Wincopin	Karen Olhrich	12 - 18	Meet for a 4-mile hike at Wincopin Trails parking at Vollermerhausen Rd. Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 am
July 4	Fireworks!			Park at Phil's house, the walk is 1.5 miles. Folks with accessibility needs (2-3 cars) may park at Karen's house, for a shorter walk. Time: Meet at 8:00 pm
July 19	Poolside Ice Cream Social	Lillian Lehnert	25	1:30 – 4:30
Aug 1	Bowling	Rev. Angela	5	Where: Mt. Airy Lanes Cost: \$12 per person What time: 10:45 am – 12:00 pm
Aug 14	Glen Mar Summer Concert	Judy Pittman		Air Force Blue Aces Concert Where: Glen Mar Church 4701 New Cut Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21043 Time: 6:45 pm Cost: Free
Aug 16	Fishing at Lake Elkhorn	Katie Weston	5 - 8	Will need to bring own bait and tackle, fishers over 16 years of age need a valid fishing license, children need an adult with a valid license. See Katie for assistance if needed. Time: Meet at the pier at 1:00 pm.
Sept 13	Church Picnic			Potluck after the service

JUSTICE FOR ALL

Matters

A Victory for Sacred History: The Restoration of the Pride Flag at Stonewall

On April 13, 2026, a powerful symbol of hope and history was reclaimed when the federal government agreed to permanently restore the Pride flag to the official flagpole at the Stonewall National Monument in New York City. For those of us in the United Methodist Church (UMC) committed to “Justice for All,” this is more than a news story—it is a reminder of the resilience required to protect the dignity of all God’s children.



The Struggle for Visibility

The controversy began in February 2026, when the National Park Service removed the Pride flag, citing federal guidelines limiting displays to the U.S. and agency flags. To many, this was not simply procedural but an “act of erasure” aimed at the LGBTQ+ community at the very site where the modern movement for equality began in 1969. The Stonewall National Monument is often called “sacred ground.” In our Wesleyan tradition, we believe God’s grace restores what is broken and lifts up the marginalized. When symbols of struggle are removed, the history of those who fought—and continue to fight—for human rights and dignity is diminished.

The Power of Persistence

The restoration resulted from a determined coalition that included the Gilbert Baker Foundation, Lambda Legal, and local advocates. They argued the flag was not a political statement but an essential part of the monument’s historical context. The settlement guarantees that the Rainbow Flag will fly officially and permanently between the U.S. flag and the National Park Service flag—a visible reminder that LGBTQ+ history is American history.

Why This Matters to Our Church

Following the 2024 General Conference, the UMC has begun removing discriminatory language and embracing a more inclusive future. Our Justice for All Team sees the restoration at Stonewall as a parallel to our own spiritual journey:

- Refusing Erasure: We seek to ensure LGBTQ+ voices are fully welcomed in our services and leadership.
- Sacred Worth: Our Social Principles affirm that all people are of sacred worth.
- The Work of Justice: Justice is rarely a single moment; it requires persistence, courage, and community.

Moving Forward in Faith

The events of April 13 remind us that progress is not always linear. It requires vigilance and a refusal to let history be rewritten by the political pressures of any era. As we approach Pride Month, may we carry the spirit of the Stonewall restoration into our own community. We celebrate this victory not only for a flag, but for the people it represents—those who have too often felt excluded from both their country’s monuments and their Creator’s Church. May we continue to fly the flags of love, inclusion, and justice, ensuring that no one is erased from the story of God’s grace.

How You Can Help

- Educate: Learn more about the 1969 Stonewall Uprising and its role in civil rights history.
- Advocate: Support local efforts that protect the dignity and rights of LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Pray: Join us in prayer for those who still face discrimination and for our church as it continues to grow in love.

Wendy Newton

GOING GREEN

Matters

Creation Care: A Better Way to Heat Water

If you're looking for a simple way to reduce your home's environmental impact, a heat pump water heater may be worth considering. A recent article in The Washington Post highlights how this newer technology is quickly becoming a smart, energy-efficient alternative to traditional water heaters.

Unlike standard gas or electric models that generate heat directly, heat pump water heaters pull heat from the surrounding air—much like a refrigerator running in reverse. This makes them remarkably efficient, using three to six times less energy than conventional systems, while still providing reliable hot water.

That efficiency translates into real benefits:

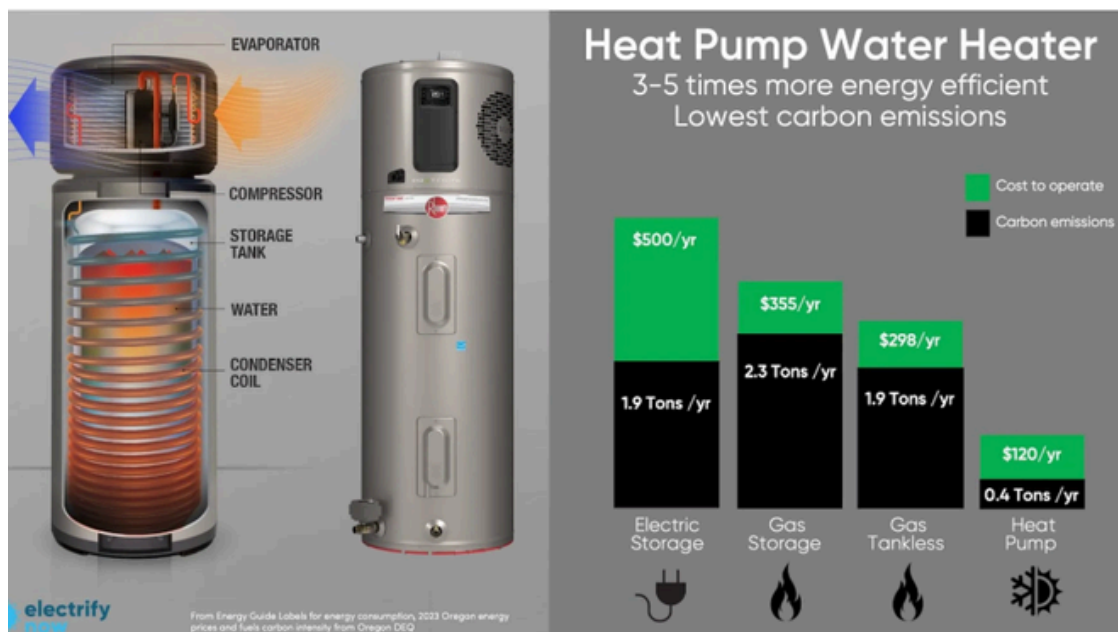
- Lower energy use and emissions, helping care for God's creation
- Reduced utility bills, often saving hundreds of dollars per year
- A bonus: they can cool and dehumidify nearby space, such as a basement

Here in Maryland, there are also strong financial incentives that make this upgrade more affordable:

- Utility rebates (BGE, Pepco, Delmarva, Potomac Edison):
- Often \$1,000-\$3,600+ for a heat pump water heater, with higher incentives when switching from gas, oil, or propane
- EmPOWER Maryland / Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®:
- Whole-home projects (including water heaters) can qualify for up to \$10,000-\$15,000 in rebates
- Federal tax credit (Inflation Reduction Act):
- Up to \$2,000 for qualifying heat pump water heaters
- Additional income-based rebates (coming/expanding programs):
- Some households may qualify for extra upfront discounts through newer federal and state programs

While the upfront cost of a heat pump water heater can be higher than a traditional system, these rebates and tax credits can significantly reduce the price—and many households find the system pays for itself in just a few years.

Choosing a heat pump water heater is one practical step households can take to live more sustainably—reducing both energy use and pollution while still enjoying the comfort of hot water every day.





CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Matter

Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz Appointed to Neighborhood Church in Atlanta



El Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry and the broader United Methodist connection celebrate the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz to serve at Neighborhood Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Neighborhood Church has shared its excitement about welcoming Rev. Dr. Muñoz into this new season of leadership.

Rev. Dr. Muñoz has served faithfully as Executive Director of El Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, offering visionary leadership, pastoral care, theological depth, and a deep commitment to developing lay and clergy leaders. Her ministry has strengthened Hispanic/Latino communities across The United Methodist Church through leadership development, intercultural ministry, theological formation, and congregational acompañamiento.

“Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz brings extraordinary gifts of leadership, wisdom, pastoral care, and prophetic vision,” said Bishop Robin Dease. “Neighborhood Church is receiving a faithful servant leader whose ministry embodies grace, courage, and hope.”

As Rev. Dr. Muñoz begins this new chapter, El Plan remains committed to supporting lay ministries, leadership development, and the vitality of Hispanic/Latino congregations and communities throughout the connection. She will assist with the transition so that current congregational initiatives, partnerships, and leadership formation efforts continue with strength and purpose.

Please join us in celebrating Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz and praying for both Neighborhood Church and El Plan during this exciting time of transition and ministry.

The above is a summary of an article from



for the complete article click [here](#).



PARTICIPATION MATTERS

June 2026

Date	Events
6/1	Education Team* 7:00 p.m.
6/3	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
6/4	Justice for All* 7:00 p.m.
6/5	First Friday at the Messengers'. Please contact Mary Jo to RSVP by 6/3.
6/7	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.
6/8	Community Ministries Team* 7:00 p.m.
6/9	Green Team* 7:00 p.m.
6/10	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
6/11	Lunch Brunch 11:00 a.m. hosted by Mary Jo Messenger. Please RSVP by 6/8.
6/13	Baltimore Pride Parade
6/14	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m. Second Sunday Stock-Up: Meals in a Can
6/17	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m. Zoom Worship Volunteer Training*7:00 p.m.
6/18	Ad Board* 7:00 p.m.
6/20	Robinson Nature Center 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. Small group outing, contact Christine Hagan
6/21	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m. Joint Pride themed service with UU's in Sanctuary C
6/23	OBIC Board Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. Newsletter deadline
6/24	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
6/24	Community Ministries Team* 7:00 p.m.
6/27	Hike at Wincopin Trail 9:00 – 11:30. Contact Karen Ohlrich
6/28	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m. Worship Volunteer Training (in person) after the service

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

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

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

	Jun 7	Jun 14	Jun 21	Jun 28
Liturgist	Tracy Klink	Phil Lindberg	Kevin Swanson	Katie Weston
Reader	Katie Swanson	Warren Kelley	Jeanetter Rosenber	Dea Atkins
Acolyte	Emily Walker	Sophie F-W	Miguel Llano	Emily Walker
Altar Flowers	Klinkenberg's	Messengers	Planks	
Tech				
Ushers 1	Greg Swirdovich	Kevin Swanson	Dea Atkins	Bob Kobayashi
Ushers 2	Natalie Swirdovich	Tracy Klink	Jeanette Rosenber	Greg Swirdovich
Altar Set-up	Messenger	Klinkenberg	Kelley	Ohlrich
Communion & Set-up	Kelley			
Counters 1	Delvin Daniels	Becky Nicodemus	Phil Lindberg	Lee Klinkenberg
Counters 2	Kevin Swanson	Lee Klinkenberg	Austin Duggan	Natalie Swirdovich
Refreshments	James	Gomez	Weston	Duggan
Sunday School Assist MS	Kevin Swanson			
Sunday School Assist ELEM	Don James	Don James	Don James	Don James

BUSINESS CORNER

Financial Information - April 2026

Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget
Revenue	\$ 39,207.50	\$ 36,687.33
Expenses	\$ 39,555.45	\$ 43,564.63
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (347.95)	\$ (6,877.30)
Surplus or (Deficit) Per Week	\$ (6.69)	\$ (132.26)

*“Spring being a tough
act to follow, God created
June.”*
— Al Bernstein

[Ad Board Minutes: April 30, 2026](#)

[Ad Board Minutes: May 21, 2026](#)

[Council of Ministries Minutes: May 13, 2026](#)

OBIC Community Labyrinth Project

The labyrinth at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center continues to grow as a place for reflection, prayer, and peace. We invite people of all ages to help strengthen the path by bringing stones approximately 3-5 inches in diameter and placing them in the labyrinth to fill gaps between existing stones.

A stone may honor someone special, come from a meaningful place, or simply represent your participation in our shared community space.

The labyrinth is open year-round for walking, reflection, and quiet enjoyment.

“Every stone helps shape the journey.”

A Special Invitation

Glen Mar UMC has once again invited CUMC to its FREE summer concert series. All are at 7pm on Fridays at Glen Mar Church, 4701 New Cut Rd., Ellicott City, 21043.

June 28 will feature Patagonia Winds, a woodwind quintet. On July 24, Radio King Orchestra highlights the “Big Band” era of music and August 14 the Air Force Blue Aces, one of the Air Force’s musical performance teams will present country, pop, and jazz music. These free community concerts fill up fast so plan ahead!



OWEN BROWN INTERFAITH CENTER (OBIC) ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY 5/22/26

It is my joy, as President, to bring the Annual Report of the Board of Directors to the owning congregations of OBIC, The Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia (UUCC) and the Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC). I have been a director for just over two years, a retired United Methodist pastor, who has her Conference Connection to CUMC (it's way too complicated to explain but ask Rev. Angela if you have questions).

Current Directors include: CUMC - Clara Fitzgerald, Secretary
Rev. Debbie Scott, President
Lee Klinkenberg
UUCC - Linda Adcox-Kimmel, Vice President
Scotty Scott, Treasurer
Lindsay Thompson
Gregory Seidman (outgoing)
Richard Yocum (outgoing)

I am grateful for those who have served as a director, those who continue to serve and those who are willing to serve in the future. This past year has been an intentional year of transitions. Moving from a Building Manager to an Executive Director was a business decision to help lead our interfaith center into the future. We had reached a very critical moment concerning finances and future sustainability.

I am pleased to say that Kevin Buker, who was hired as the Executive Director, has brought much needed guidance, a wealth of information & experience, attention to detail, hands on skills in repairs, a personality that is gracious & focused that has allowed us to move from a board that was doing a lot of firefighting, putting out fires as they crept up, very operationally focused, to a board who can trust the Executive Director with the daily details and allow us to be more strategic and visionary. We have worked with Jennie Fitzpatrick to develop a multiple year Strategic Plan, and we are diligently trying to live into established goals.

Some of the highlights of this past year include the following by the Executive Director (with the support of the Board) and the Board:

Actions by the Executive Director:

1. Minimal information was transferred from the outgoing Building Manager. The Executive Director is bringing order out of chaos by developing a filing system, reviewing all contracts with supporting documentation, organizing policies and practices, completing yearly inspections, scheduling seasonal maintenance, marketing our facilities while eyeing the need for scheduled upgrades in appearance (new carpet in Sanctuary C has been ordered), a plan for painting, landscaping, etc.
2. Reduced duplications in expenditures, reviewed our relationship with our now former CPA (we have filed a complaint with the State of MD), restored our 501.c3, brought many external operations back in house including cleaning and much of our financials (which are being reconciled with the Treasurer). With reduced expenses our financial position is improved, not great, but moving in the right direction.
3. Worked closely with staff to support and grow which has led to retention, better relationships, an increase in wages and for the first time a health benefit. They have received training in first aid and CPR, as well as basic janitorial tasks, hazardous materials communication, and Maryland Occupational Safety and Health regulations to help them grow in their positions. All background checks are current, and yearly reviews were completed for the first time in the Boards awareness.
4. Developed relationships with owning congregations, building users and all who come to OBIC. Much positive feedback from Pastors to congregation members to building users has been received.
5. Sought and signed with a new insurance company to better serve our mission.

6. Managed long term building users and marketing to future users. Cradlerock Children's Center will be leaving this fall as they are renting more space at a larger facility, and we hope to fill with a similar non- profit organization that aligns with our mission. The Muslim Family Center is also transitioning to their own building.

Actions by the Board:

1. Unfortunately, the Board had to respond to a EEOC complaint filed by the former Building Manager, which was denied after our response was filed including answering lengthy questions by the investigating officer. There is still the opportunity for a suit to be filed.
2. A grant has been secured to install two EV Charging Stations in the parking lot.
3. The board worked diligently to support our Executive Director in all aspects of operations. We are grateful for all his hard work.

Kudos to Gregory Seidman and Richard Yocum who have served the Board faithfully and are stepping off the Board. Blessings on Linda Adcox-Kimmel, our past president, who has stayed informed as she has been challenged with health concerns...it was so good to have her at our last meeting in person.

We feel the Owen Brown Interfaith Center is on a much more solid financial footing... we are eager to see what the future holds! Thank you all for your interest, support and concern.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Debbie Scott, OBIC President





CALENDAR

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

Jun 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 • 10am Wor	Jun 1 Sunday Sch	2	3 • 8:15pm Pr	4	5	6
7 • 10am Wor	8 • 7pm Com	9	10 • 7pm Cour • 8:15pm Pr	11 • 12pm Lun 2 more	12	13
14 Second Sur 2 more	15	16	17 • 8:15pm Pr	18	19 Juneteenth	20
21 Father's Da • 10am Wor	22	23	24 • 8:15pm Pr	25	26	27
28 • 10am Wor	29	30	Jul 1 • 8:15pm Pr	2	3 Independer	4 Independer

Christ United Methodist Church, Columbia, MD GMT-04

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!