



E-BULLETIN

A BI-WEEKLY PRODUCTION FOR **FEB 13-27, 2021**

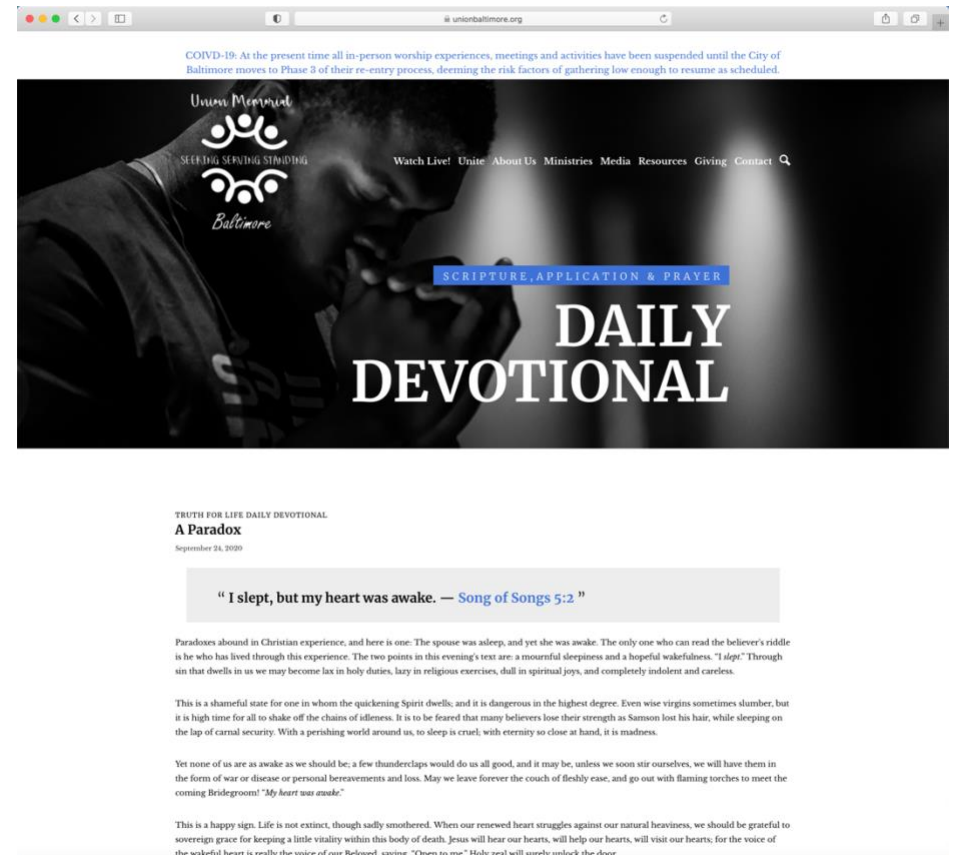
*In an effort to keep the congregation as up to date as possible during our physical absence from the church, this medium is being provided as an additional tool along with our communication calls. If you have information that needs to be shared for the good of the faith community, please email **administrator@unionbaltimore.org***

**This document is read as a book, from left to right.*

REFLECTING ON THE WORD OF GOD

Enjoy this time with God for clarity and insight into your daily life.

Go to our church website www.unionbaltimore.org/devotional to access our daily devotional with scriptures, stories and more!



SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

As you enter into your time of prayer lift up the concerns of our world, nation, city, community, congregation, especially those who have specific requests and those who simply desire for their names to be placed before God at this time, as listed below.

Speak these Names Aloud into the Presence of God:

*Ms. Lafaye Allen
Mr. Paul Allen
Isaiah and Bernice Anderson
Mrs. Sandra Anderson and Family
The Atkinson, Smalley and Pulley Family
Mrs. Velma Bailey
Mr. Cedric Barnes & Mother Mildred Barnes
Ms. Jackay Bee-McGlotten
Mr. & Mrs. Duke Bowen & Family
Ms. Sharon Brewer and Family
Alexander V. Brown & Family
Ms. Eryn Brown & Family
Alexander and Joan Brown
Rhonda Brown & Family
The Buise and Gamble Families
Mrs. Sophia Burrell
Mr. Tony Campbell
Ms. Susie Carey
The Clark and Dunaway Families
Lynell Colson
Sunny Curtis
Steve, Annette & Harrison Davis
Mr. Trae English
Mr. & Mrs. Steven and Diane Eisemann
Lee Coleman Fuller
Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel & Lorraine Gray
Ms. Amaiya Griffin
Mr. Odell Griffin, Sr.
Mrs. Cheryl Hamlin & Family
Mrs. Mary Harris
Katrina Howard-Reeves & Family
Ms. Anne Howell
Mrs. Barbara Howie
Dr. Shirley Jackson
Ms. Donna Jenkins & Family
Mr. James Johnson, Jr.
Deborah Johnson-Ross*

*Mrs. Tiffany Jones
The Jones & Pendergrass Families
Mr. & Mrs. David & LaTonya Jones
Beatrice Kinyua
The Family of George "Merv" Laney
Mrs. Vivian Kee
Ms. Gwen Mason
Bro. Randy Nelson and Family
The Family of Clifton Newman
The Family of Dr. Demetria Newsome
Mrs. Fran Owings
Joyce Pearson
Brenda Pittman
Dr. Ruth J. Pratt
Mrs. Jennifer Price
Mr. & Mrs. Dontae & Claudette Robinson
The Rock and Rice Families
Mrs. Jennifer Ross-Gresham and Family
Ms. Regina Simms
Ms. Vivian Smith
Rev. Dr. Susan Spears and Family
The Stevens Family
Mr. Clyde Taylor
The Family of Mrs. Vera Taylor
The Tubman Family
Ms. Donna Wayman
Mr. Robert Williams
Mrs. Diane Williams-Payton
The Wright Family
Edna Woods*

In the days we are living in, ALL of God's children are in need of prayer. As a faith community, we recognize the desire to list everyone in need of prayer here, but the reality is that is not always possible. Please understand that from time to time this list will need to be revised. It does not mean that anyone person is more important than the others, however primary consideration will be given to members of Union. Thank you for understanding and continue to have a praying spirit!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers on the Virtual Altar

February 14th - February 20th

- *In honor of Sis. Ethel Corrinne Honemond's 100th Birthday from her grandson, Pastor J, Lady Sherron and the Fantastic Four, Noah, Amari, Sincere and Riley*

February 21st – 27th

- *In honor of our Evangelism Team and the amazing work they do in preparing us for the Season of Lent.*

ZOOM Video & Conference Call Login Information

For video feature:

- Download the ZOOM for Cloud Meeting Application on your smart phone or tablet device.
- Enter Meeting ID: **499 924 2364**
- Enter Password: **594796**

For telephone feature:

- Dial **1-929-205-6099**
- Enter Meeting ID: **499 924 2364**

Once worship begins everyone will be placed on mute except for worship participants. Please do not remove yourself from mute, as everyone will be able to hear your conversations or background noise. Thanks for your cooperation with this matter.



NEW Zoom Usage for Meetings & Events

In an effort ensure that we are able to care for the business of the church as well enjoy a time of fellowship through our various ministries, we are expanding our virtual experience through the ZOOM platform with additional Meeting ID and passwords. This will ensure that we are not limited due to scheduling conflicts. The information is as follows:

Meetings:

- **Enter Meeting ID: 470 229 3472**
- **Enter Password: 042380**

Events and Fellowship:

- **Enter Meeting ID: 356 277 0525**
- **Enter Password: 258332**

To schedule your usage of either ZOOM virtual conference room under our account, please send an email with the date and time you are requesting to our Church Administrator, Sis. Brenda Brown at administrator@unionbaltimore.org. Please do so at least 48 hours prior to when you need to gather, so that she can confirm the space is available.

Once the space is available, whoever is hosting will need to notify their attendees which of the above Meeting ID and Password combinations are being used to access their gather. All individuals who call in, please note that the phone number remains the same.



A Message from the Finance Team

Thank you for your faithful commitment to the financial stewardship of our church. It is so important during these unprecedented times to keep us strong so that when we return to Union we are able to do so without a negative impact on our resources. Your giving helps to not only keep us on track with our obligations, but also enables us to continue to be a church that can respond to the needs of the community at large.

To continue your support, we are asking that you utilize the Zelle giving platform by downloading this application on your smart phone or tablet device or contacting your financial institution to see if they already have this feature as part of your account. Once you are connected with this feature please select your recipient as:

umumcfinance@verizon.net

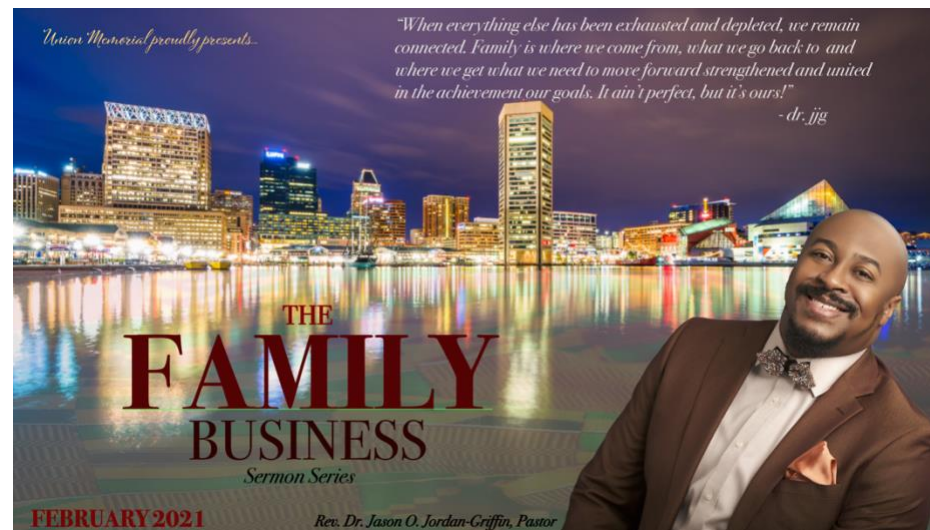
You can then indicate your amount and whether it is for tithes, offering, the 2020 Gift to Union Project which helps to fund our communications focus area and ensures that we have technology needed to keep the church connected now and in the future.

For those sending their tithe or offering through the US Postal Service, please ensure that it arrives at the church no later than Friday, February 19, 2021 in order to be processed for January 2021.

Worship & Arts Focus Area



As look ahead to returning to Union for In-Person Worship, we will be in-need of individual willing to serve as our worship leaders. Responsibilities will include providing the greeting, morning prayer and scripture lesson for the day. The timeline for this projected to begin in late March 2021, with local government and CDC guidelines being taken into consideration. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact our Worship & Arts Focus Area Coordinator, Lay Servant Cathy Harden for more information, via charden8@aol.com or by calling her at 443-388-1373.



The strength of the African American community is rooted in family ties. This intimate and intentional new sermon series speaks to the generations and reminds us of the importance of coming together to deal with “**The Family Business**” for the success of our individual and collective futures. Meet us the entire month of February at 11:15 am for a word of remembrance that puts us on track to move forward in unity!



Evangelism Team

Lent is the 40-day season of preparation in the life of the Church that is observed prior to Easter, excluding Sundays, which are Holy Days. The 2021 Experience at Union will kick-off this **Wednesday, February 17th at 12 NOON** with a special **Ashes-to-Go Drive Thru**. Members will be invited to pull up to one of our PPE safe stations, where one of our masked and gloved volunteers will impose ashes, extend a blessing and provide each individual with a Lenten package equipped with the 6-week fasting guidelines, spiritual formation tools and a 3- month supply of Communion. This will afford us an opportunity to come gather together as we begin this journey of reflection, repentance and renewal.



In addition, the Evangelism Team invites all to join on next Thursday, February 25th and **every Thursday** thereafter at **11 AM** for our **Lenten Hour Worship Experience**, featuring an amazing message from our 6 speakers and a time to commit ourselves to walking more closely with Christ. Let's prepare the way of the Lord!

Congregational Engagement

After planning monthly since August 2020 with our phenomenal and dedicated servants: Readia Nelson, Anita Taylor, Wendy Berry, Helen Copeland, Paul Mills, and Willie Coley, we are excited to announce the relaunching of Union's Prayer Line and the launching of the UMUMC Chapter Chat Book Club. We pray that all participants will engage in both initiatives and make the shift to being active disciples of Jesus Christ through Christian formation groups and ministries. We look forward to launching more opportunities for congregational engagement in the future.

In God's Service,
Patra Jones, Director of Congregational Engagement

Union's Prayer Line

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving, present our requests to God.
- Philippians 4:6

Join us **Wednesdays at 6:30 PM** on Union's Prayer Line. Bring your prayer request and petitions or your praise reports as our prayer leaders take us to the throne of grace.



ENTERING
THE PASSION
of JESUS

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK



Spring Semester Bible Study

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7 PM and Thursday afternoons at 12 NOON as we engage in a Lenten Study with **Amy-Jill Levine's "Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week"**. Books can be purchased via Amazon.

This will be a 6-week session. We will observe a "spring break" following the Lenten Study before closing out the semester with a study that will be chosen by participants.

Union Memorial United Methodist Church presents....

CHAPTER CHAT

Book Club

Sponsored by the Congregational Engagement Team



Are you an avid reader? Do you read for relaxation...recreation?

We have an outlet for you! Join in with your Union friends for our Chapter Chat...

Purpose: To read about fundamental Christian concepts in our changing world

Who: Open to All! | **Frequency:** Every Other Month

Where: Zoom – **Meeting #:** 356 277 0525 **Code:** 258332

Materials: Participants purchase their own books (Audible or Kindle)

Titles: Selected from United Methodist Women's Reading List

First Meeting: February 8, 2021 | 6:30pm to 7:30pm (2nd Mondays)

Contact: Reada Nelson (rnelson102@aol.com or 410.971.5583)

Join us...
Feb. 8!

United Methodist Women



United Methodist Women:
Faith • Hope • Love in Action

We are Women with a Purpose!

Hello Ladies, Visitors and Guests of Union!

Please join the United Methodist Women (UMW) for our exciting Monthly Meeting. We are exploring service through Programs, Worship, Social Action and Missions!

When: Monday, February 1, 2021, March 1, 2021, April 5, 2021, May 3, 2021 and June 7, 2021

Where: The Zoom platform for meetings

For video feature:

- Download the ZOOM for Cloud meeting application on your smart phone or tablet device.
- Enter Meeting ID: **470 229 3472**
- Enter Password: **042380**



For telephone feature:

- Dial **1-929-205-6099**
- Enter Meeting ID: **470 229 3472**

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Just remember to come back on the first Monday of every month, so set up a monthly reminder! We are continuing to focus on ministries with women, children, and youth. Share the Zoom call-in information with a family member, neighbor or friend. Lifting up each other on our journey. We are excited about you joining us in service to others! The entire program and organization of UMW focuses on mission. Our initiatives include:

- Providing opportunities to grow spiritually
- Equipping women & girls to be leaders
- Providing transformative educational experiences
- Organizing for growth & flexibility
- Working for justice through service & advocacy

We meet the first Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m., except holidays. If the meeting date falls on a holiday we meet the following Monday. Visit the United Methodist Women website at: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and/or social media on Facebook: www.facebook.com/UMWomen.

Veronica Tubman, UMW
Membership



Faith Circle Leaders are asked to check-in on members of your group at least bi-weekly to keep up with how they are doing. Our faith circle leaders will help to keep our pastor aware of concerns that may arise regarding our membership as whole. Continue to reach out each other. It goes a long way in encouraging someone's soul!

BWC CONFERENCE & COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Baltimore City area Clergy and Churches:

Your voices and action are urgently needed in order to help your community's children in foster care. The Maryland House of Representatives and Senate will soon vote on a bill to help reform Maryland's Foster Care System. HB893 seeks to change Maryland law to give judges more information about children in foster care by allowing the people most knowledgeable about the children — their full-time caregivers like foster parents, kinship parents and other caregivers — to be part of the court process. The voices of people in Maryland's District 40 (Baltimore City area) are particularly needed right now to help ensure the passage of this legislation. Along with the voices of people of faith, testimonies from foster or kinship parents in this district are also needed.

The info sheet for this bill is attached as well as the text of the bill itself. Those who are interested in advocating for this bill or have any questions, please contact Rev. Tiffany Patterson at pastortiffany@gmail.com

Fact sheet: HB-893

Allowing foster parents, kinship parents, and other caregivers to be part of the court process

HB 893 will change Maryland law to **give judges more information about children in foster care** by allowing the people most knowledgeable about the children—their full-time caregivers—to be part of the court process.

Proposed changes to current law:

- ☐ Applies to all caregivers, including foster and kinship parents, who have had a child in their home for 12 months
- ☐ If they opt in, caregivers may...
 - Rebut incorrect or incomplete evidence that is presented to the court
 - Not be forced to leave court proceedings that relate to a child in their care
 - Present evidence to the court
 - Call an expert (such as a psychologist) to provide a professional opinion
 - Hire a lawyer to assist with ensuring the court has up-to-date information
 - Ask the court to consider options in the best interest of child

Under current Maryland law, federal guidelines, and common practice:

- ☐ Foster parents may make a statement to the court, but cannot present evidence to back up their comments. Maryland foster parents are routinely discouraged from coming to court or denied that right altogether.
- ☐ Caregivers may be escorted out of the court proceedings—regardless of how long a child has been in their care.
- ☐ Federal guidelines require that child welfare identify a permanent home for a child (return to family, guardianship, or adoption) when they have been in care for 15 months out of 22 months. Maryland is the 4th worst state in the nation in finding homes for children in a timely manner, according to a federal report. A child lingering in care is not good for birth families or foster children, who can be permanently damaged by extended periods in care.

Reasons foster parents and other caregivers should be a party to their foster child's court case:

- ☐ **Better information for judges:** Full-time caregivers have first-hand knowledge of a child's wellbeing and can best attest to a child's behavioral, emotional, educational, and physical needs. Social workers are only required to see foster children once a month, and children's lawyers or other advocates see the child far less. Foster parents can verify, enhance, or, if necessary, correct the record.
- ☐ **Better care for foster children:** Giving caregivers access to more information about a child's case can help them, as the primary caregiver, tailor healing interventions to better meet the children's specific needs. Foster parents are often purposefully not given information about the foster child's family situation that impact the child's health and behavior.
- ☐ **More accountability for counties:** The high turnover for case workers can result in important information about birth parents and foster children not being recorded at all or "forgotten" in the written issues. Caregivers are not allowed to see court reports and other documents so they cannot report any misinformation to judges. Allowing foster parents to comment on reports generated by child welfare provides a level of accountability.
- ☐ **Improved foster parent retention:** Research shows that foster parents who feel included in the process and informed about what is going on are more likely to continue working as foster parents.
- ☐ **Party status is common nationwide:** More than 20 states allow foster parents to be part of the court process.

HB 893 is based the current, successful law in Washington, DC: "If the child has been living with a person other than the parent, the person shall receive notice of the neglect or termination proceedings and, if the child has been with them for 12 months or more, the person may, upon his or her request, be designated a party to the proceedings. If the child has been living with the person less than 12 months, upon the person's request, the judge may, at his or her discretion, designate the person a party to the proceedings which pertain to the determination of neglected child."