



The
Shepherd

Weekly Newsletter
Good Shepherd UMC

May 26, 2024



**TRINITY
SUNDAY**

SAVE THE DATE

May 26 - Town Hall and Memorial Day Potluck

June 9 - Youth/Graduate Sunday

July 15-19 - Vacation Bible School

Prayers for our Family and Community

- Sue Norris
- Bruce Graham
- Claudia Sansbury
- Ken McDade
- Nancy Maguire
- Brenda Stanford
- Betty Sellner
- Addie Ward
- Pastor Sandy Taylor
- Janice Reuter
- Frank and Linda Adgate
- John Grove
- Rev. Laurie and her family
- Adelia Cardoso - Home
- Bill and Joanne Van Blarcum - Home
- Mary Welsh - Home
- Mary Calvert - Elkridge, MD
- Helen Riley - Home
- Rachel Magoon - Sagepoint Gardens
- Israel and Palestine
- Ukraine
- The ongoing COVID-19 endemic
- Educators, students, and families
- First responders in all fields
- Leaders throughout our country at all levels
- The wounds of racism in our country

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00	Youth Sunday School for Grades 6-12th Fellowship Time
10:00	In-Person Worship Service Recorded Service is live streamed on Facebook, You Tube + Subsplash + Church App
10:30	Sunday School for Grades Pre-K-5
11:30	Adult Sunday School
5:00	Fellowship at FIVE

Have a Need?

During this time, if you have a need for pastoral care, please reach out to Linda Flanagan (waldorfangel@gmail.com), Rev. Laurie (revlaurie@aol.com) or to another church member to let us know. There are other members willing to talk with you and pray for you.

Good Shepherd May 2024 Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 1

Amy Warren

May 2

Becca Ward

Bonnie Berry

Joshua Alexander

May 3

Susan & Bruce Graham Anniversary

Jim Olsen

May 11

Ray Sealey

May 12

Mark & Theresa Howard Anniversary

May 14

Barbara Richardson

May 15

Mike Carr & Dana Pase-Carr
Anniversary

May 18

Jay Bivens

May 19

Katie Paulsen

Robert & Katie Burdick Anniversary

May 20

Thomas Langrell

Ezra Warner

May 22

Kim & Robert Jameson Anniversary

Jim Winters

May 23

Julie Olsen

Dona Boice

May 24

Joan Johnson

Lisa Boice

May 25

Linda Forrest

Frank & Linda Adgate Anniversary

May 28

Quan Scott

Nancy Crouse

May 30

Jeff Ford

Nancy Maguire

May 31

Kim Sbordone

WE WOULD LOVE TO CELEBRATE YOU!!

*If your Birthday/Anniversary is missing, please contact Priscilla Rollins at 703.727.8667 or email parollins@verizon.net.

CONNECT

LETTER FROM REV. LAURIE GATES-WARD ABOUT GENERAL CONFERENCE DECISION

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

Today the General Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to remove language from our *Book of Discipline* that prohibits homosexual persons from being clergy or from being married by the clergy within our churches. This language that stated that “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching” was first placed in our *Book of Discipline* in 1972 and additional language was added in following years.

Friends, we have witnessed decades of arguing and pain over the differences that have existed within our denomination regarding the role of LGBTQ persons within our church. There has been damage and pain throughout our beloved UMC. As a lifelong United Methodist of 56 years and as a United Methodist clergyperson of 28 years, I have felt that pain keenly and seen the damage it has caused to people of good faith on all sides of this debate. That included the departure of 25% of our United Methodist churches in the last 3 years through a temporary disaffiliation process that was permitted through December of 2023.

As your pastor, I am grateful that we are now being invited to enter a new day where all of God’s children can be embraced and included. I am aware that while some of us celebrate others still have questions and concerns. But I ask two things of all of us at Good Shepherd. First, I ask that we each remember that as we talk about LGBTQ persons that we remember that they are first and foremost **persons** not an ‘issue’ to be discussed. We are called to remember the words of 1 John 4:7, “*Beloved let us love one another because love is from God.*” In all that we do, we are called to offer the love of God in Jesus Christ to all of our siblings. I believe we do that in many ways already.

The second thing that I would ask is that we remember that in many ways we determine who Good Shepherd is as a congregation. Good Shepherd is known as a caring church that reaches out to our community and we can continue to be. As it has always been, discernment about who serves our church and who is offered the gift of holy matrimony within our walls is uniquely ours as pastor and church together. It is my intention as your pastor to engage in conversation with Staff Parish Relations and with our Leadership Team regarding how we will make those decisions together in ways that affirm our sacred life together.

For today, I give thanks for the work of holy conferencing that the delegates to General Conference are engaging in together. They are seeking the best for the spiritual, emotional, and financial health of our denomination. Over and over again in the last week I have heard the phrase “the local church is the foundation of the United Methodist Church.” Decisions are being made to strengthen the local church by reducing financial burdens and increase resources for the work of ministry. We can truly celebrate that.

Please continue to pray for our General Conference as they finish their work this week. If you have questions about anything that you have heard, please feel free to ask me. I will be available after church in fellowship hall for a time to talk with anyone who might want to do so.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Laurie

Through God’s love, we will engage and empower everyone to be living disciples.

Adjusted Summer
June 3 - September 3

TUESDAY

9AM-3PM

WEDNESDAY

9AM-3PM

THURSDAY

9AM-3PM

OFFICE

HOURS



**HELP US
CELEBRATE
YOUR
GRADUATE**

**email your graduate's name,
photo, and school information to:
gsadmin@gsunc.com**

SIMPLIFIED BOARD MEETING

May 28 - 7pm

Our meeting will be focused on discussing how decisions are to be made in a modified structure as well as generating "vocabulary" and "job descriptions" should we decide to go forward with a Simplified Structure.

Join us in person or on ZOOM

(Meeting ID: 836 7717 1516 Passcode: 233938)

Join Us! **Fifth Friday Faith Talk**

WHERE FAITH MEETS FELLOWSHIP

United Women in Faith of Good Shepherd will be holding the inaugural "Fifth Friday Faith Talk" on **Friday May 31 at 9:00 AM** in the parlor.

All are invited to join us as we listen to and discuss a United Women in Faith "Faith Talk" Podcast.

Breakfast will be served. Please bring your own beverage and place setting (flatware, plate, bowl and napkin).

We will meet every month on the fifth Friday (May, August, November 2024 and January, May, August and October 2025).

If you have questions or to sign up please contact Judy Gough 301-653-3355 or Becky Weavill 301-266-1652. Please respond by May 28 if you plan to join us.

CONNECT



Town Hall & Memorial Day Potluck



MAY 26, 2024

Immediately following Worship
Service

All are invited

...and bring a dish to
share

**REGISTER
NOW**



VBS 2024
July 15- July 19



We hope to "sea" you there!

SOUBA

diving into friendship with God

For more information call 301.843.6797 or visit www.gsumc.com

Pentecost People

By Alan B. Ward

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. The passage typically read this day (**Acts 2:1–11**) describes a scene where the Holy Spirit made itself obvious to those Jews who had gathered for worship that day. Gusts of wind, tongues of flame, people speaking and understanding languages in which they were not fluent. Either they were full of the Spirit or as some suggested, they were drunk—**Acts 2:12–13**. In his first recorded sermon, Peter, the former Jesus-denier, passionately lobbied for the former position—see **Acts 2:14–36**.

At his Ascension, Jesus had told his followers to wait in Jerusalem to receive power—**Acts 1:1–11**. He explained that they would go forth and be *his witnesses in all Judaea, Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth*—**Acts 1:8**. As Luke tells the story, Pentecost (**Acts 2**) was the beginning of the fulfillment of those words. Like the dynamics of a thunderstorm, where updrafts push sinking air down and out, sometimes violently, the downdraft of the Holy Spirit poured down and propelled the early followers of Jesus outward into the world.

From that point, Luke describes how the disciples begin to experience persecution in Jerusalem, which necessitates them moving out—taking the message of Jesus with them as they relocate to various places around the Roman Empire. Because this is the story we associate with the day of Pentecost, in church we often refer to it as the “birthday of the church” and frequently will welcome new members as we will this Sunday when five confirmands and three others formally join Good Shepherd. YAY!

So, the Holy Spirit was loud and obvious on the day of Pentecost. But my experience is that in general, it is more subtle, more often speaking in a *still small voice* as opposed to loud ones and requiring attentiveness from us to hear and respond.

When John the Baptist baptizes Jesus in the Jordan, the scripture tells us that as Jesus comes up out of the water, a voice speaks (God), a man is in the water (Jesus), and a dove descends (the Holy Spirit). The three *persons* of the trinity are all present simultaneously.

A dove is an interesting choice of birds to symbolize the Holy Spirit. They are fairly common birds, but they are quite skittish and elusive by nature. Sometimes, when I run through my neighborhood, I hear the flutter of their wings and may or may not see the bird itself. Other times, I hear their distinctive mournful call in the trees nearby but I’m never quite sure where it originates. Sometimes it seems close, other times further away. If I want to find the source, I’d really have to search carefully. Usually, I don’t take time to.

Similarly, the Holy Spirit is always near but elusive. It flutters and dances about the periphery of our consciousness, making us aware of its presence, luring us toward it. However, if we really want to follow it, at least at first, we’re going to have to concentrate on finding the Source. With time, as with anything we practice, it becomes easier to connect and we can carry on our daily lives while simultaneously being in touch with the Spirit.

In his book, *The Eternal Promise*, in an essay called “Have You Ever Seen a Miracle,” Quaker author Thomas Kelly describes this dual consciousness like this: “*At one level of our mental life we can be talking with people, dealing with problems, carrying the burdens that our calling in time puts upon us. But beneath all this occupation with time we can be in prayerful relation with the Eternal Goodness, quietly, serenely, joyfully surrendering ourselves and all that we are to [God].*”

I must confess that when I read this, I think: “Sounds wonderful Tom,” quickly followed by, “Now try living *my* life and doing it.” But keep in mind Kelly wasn’t writing from a cloistered monastery. He had been part of the Quaker movement in Germany, so he saw Nazism up close. He first spoke these words in 1940, as the storm clouds of World War II were engulfing the world. While he recognized the elusive quality of the Holy Spirit, he was equally adamant that it was possible for “ordinary people” to live their lives in “relationship with the *Eternal Goodness*.” In fact, given the state of the world, he felt it was all the more urgent that those who profess Christ as Lord be connected to the Eternal Goodness. The prophetic voice behind these words resonates as we read them today when the future of our world seems as perilous and uncertain—if not more so—than it was in Kelly’s day.

Kelly used numerous metaphors for the Holy Spirit, but his favorite seems to be the *Inner Light*. Much like the Dove in nature, this Inner Light within each of us is elusive and fleeting. It is often hidden, nearly snuffed out entirely at times by the “worries of this life.” Thus, we must intentionally work to rediscover and rekindle the Inner Light within us and then tend the flame regularly to keep it burning bright to guide our way in this world.

Closer to our Methodist roots, John Wesley also used a flame image when he spoke of the Holy Spirit—which is why the flame is part of the United Methodist Church’s logo along with the cross. During a time of worship at Aldersgate, Wesley spoke of having “his heart strangely warmed.” What began as “just another routine service” for Wesley turned into something more. It wasn’t just a single moment in time anymore; it was an *experience*. Wesley obviously *believed* in God and was being faithful to his call to ministry prior to going “rather reluctantly” to Aldersgate, but during that time of worship he seems to have *experienced* God in a way he hadn’t before. The best evidence of this is what happens after he leaves Aldersgate. From his preaching and writings, we see that Wesley went on to have a more “on fire”, Spirit-filled life from that point on. Wesley would likely see it as an example of God’s *threefold grace*—*prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying*—all working together in his life. Kelly would probably say Wesley truly experienced the Inner Light at Aldersgate, which propelled him forward to more effective ministry to others. Or, if you prefer our bird metaphor, he was changed by a firsthand encounter with the Dove. Whatever metaphor you choose, the Holy Spirit was clearly at work in Wesley’s life.

In a similar manner, the experience of the day of Pentecost clearly impacted the lives of the early followers of Jesus. It made them more aware of the Spirit’s active presence than they had been before. But if it had stopped there, would we be worshipping as a community of Christ followers more than two millennia later? I doubt it.

Whatever happened that day, from then on, the early followers of Christ seem to have expected it to happen again. They were open to the possibility that the Spirit could—and would—show up wherever they were. A quick read through Acts really makes this point clear. Luke tells us that Peter, Paul (himself a post-Pentecost convert), and the other apostles did many great and miraculous things, but he is equally clear that the Source for all their achievements is God working through them via the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost should be more than a day when we sing happy birthday to the church and wear red, rather, as it did for the early followers of Jesus, and for Wesley and Kelly, it should launch us out into a lifestyle of Holy-Spirit expectancy.

We too should become more adept at noticing the movement of the Dove (or tending the Inner Light) in our midst. We should expect God to show up not just “in church,” but each and every day in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. Living with such an awareness would make those rare occasions when the Spirit decides to make itself more obvious during corporate worship—as it did on the day of Pentecost—even more impactful.

As a Quaker, Kelly regularly experienced silent worship. He stresses the importance of the disciplines of silence and solitude for creating an environment where we can quiet the cacophony of our day-to-day lives enough to hear the spirit—or if you will, tend to our Inner Light. He also emphasized that the point of experiencing Inner Light is not simply to have a touchy, feely private spiritual experience during worship. No, it's meant to empower us as we are sent forth from worship to meet the pressing needs of a suffering world.

The Inner Light and the Outer Life are two sides of the same coin. On this, the Methodist Wesley, the Quaker Kelly, and the early Apostles would've agreed.

Wesley emphasized *acts of piety* (personal growth) being practiced alongside *acts of service* (helping others). Both Wesley and Kelly firmly believed that we should be what I will call *Pentecost People*, who expect to see God do great things in and through us. While we cannot and should not try to manufacture it—and Kelly is clear in *The Eternal Promise* that “successful” worship is not contingent on having an extraordinary influx of the Spirit—we should be open to it happening anytime we gather as a community to worship.

So, what about it, Church? Is this who we are? Or is it who we aspire to be? *Saying* it is a good start, but *doing* it is the harder part. In the case of the early church, John Wesley, and Thomas Kelly, the proof of the Holy Spirit's work *inside* them was made evident in what they accomplished for God and for the common good of this world. May it be the same for the people called Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. Let it be said of us, that we were *Pentecost People*.

*Join Us for lively
discussion & fellowship*

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

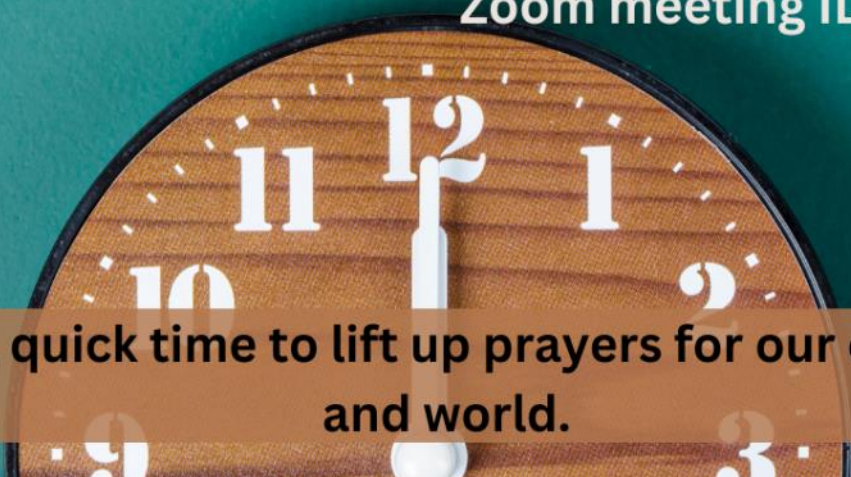
**Every Thursday @ 9:30am
in the Parlor**

Contact Carolyn Sauer or Dottie DiPoli for questions



WEDNESDAY PRAYER NOON ON ZOOM

Zoom meeting ID : 420 015 979



**Join us for a quick time to lift up prayers for our church family
and world.**

La Plata United Methodist Church

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT FUNDRAISER

Please consider buying a planter box, bench or picnic table to support the La Plata UMC ASP team as they prepare for their annual summer mission trip.



- 3 ft planter box \$125
- 6 ft planter box \$200
- 16 inch Square planter box \$100
- 4 ft Bench \$100
- 6 ft Picnic Table \$200

These items are perfect for porches, patios, yards, decks and parks.

CONTACT: John Carns 301-848-0060 carns@comcast.net

Go to asphome.org to learn about the Appalachia Service Project

SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary

Please pray for the students, teachers, & staff



Make Time to Pray for Schools

- ▶▶ MAKE PRAYING FOR SCHOOLS A REGULAR PART OF YOUR DAILY PRAYER TIME
- ▶▶ IF YOU DRIVE BY A SCHOOL, SAY A PRAYER
- ▶▶ IF YOU CAN, STOP IN FRONT OF A SCHOOL BUILDING AND PRAY FROM YOUR CAR
- ▶▶ AFTER SCHOOL HOURS WITHOUT INTERFERING IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, GO TO A BUILDING AND LAY HANDS ON THE FLAGPOLE OR BUILDING AND PRAY
- ▶▶ PRAY FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, STAFF, ADMINISTRATORS
- ▶▶ PRAY FOR SAFETY, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, PRODUCTIVE LEARNING, PATIENCE AND RESPECT FOR ALL
- ▶▶ PRAY FOR PARENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

WORSHIP

Please make time to pray these individuals all year... maybe one each day.

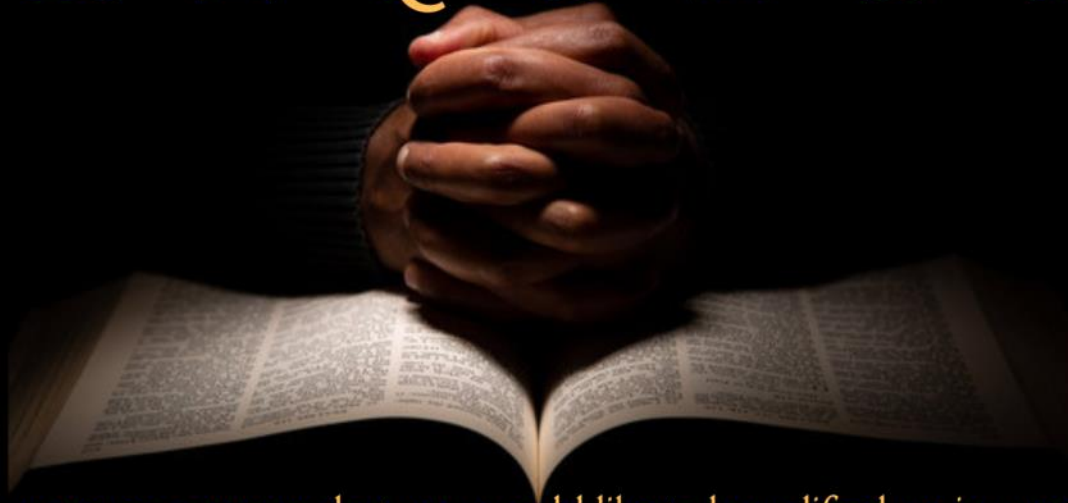
Good Shepherd in the Schools*: A Prayer Ministry

Name	School	Position
Judy Addison	Central Office (Charles County)	Research & Assessment Dept.
Kim Casto	Barnhart ES	Reading
David Cook	Spring Ridge MS, (St. Mary's Co)	Social Studies
Jonathan Cotugno	Thomas Stone HS	Math Teacher/Football Coach
Kim Donnelly	College of Southern Maryland	Professor; English, Communication & Lang
Paul Donnelly	Grace Lutheran School	K-8 Music
Linda Forrest	College of Southern Maryland	Early College Coordinator
Michael Forrest	Matthew Henson MS	Science
Kim Jameson	St. Peter's School	School Nurse
Elliott Lopez	Westlake HS	Science Teacher
Rose Trinidad Lopez	St. Charles HS	Spanish Teacher
Marc Perella	Poe MS (Fairfax County)	Technology/Computers
Rachel Perella	Central Office Fairfax County	Behavior Interventionist
Alana Quiles	Childtime of Waldorf	Assistant Teacher
Kim Sbordone	JC Parks Elementary	Elementary Teacher
Elizabeth Steele	Billingsley ES	Special Ed
Shannon Suban	Milton Somers MS	Math Teacher
Amy Warren	Baden ES (PG County)	Special Ed

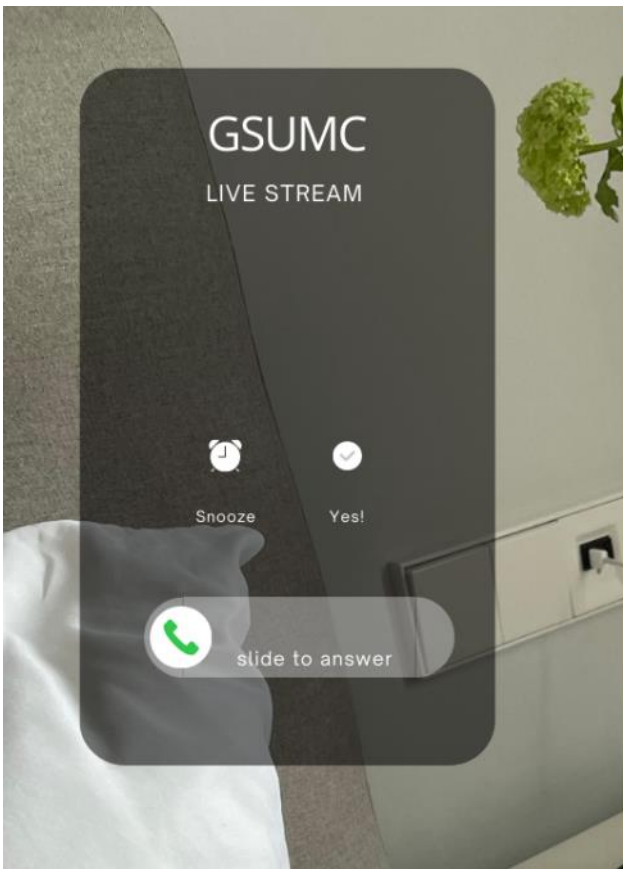
*Revised 9/5/23

WORSHIP

PRAYER REQUESTS



If you have a prayer concern that you would like to have lifted up in worship on Sunday, you may submit it to Linda Flanagan by email (waldorfangel@gmail.com) or by phone/text (301-643-0549) by 8pm on Saturday evening.



OUR LIVESTREAM HAS BEGUN

Our worship is now live streamed on Facebook, SubSplash, YouTube, and Our Church app.

Subsplash :

[https://
goodshepherdunitedmethod.subspla.sh/7zgzzcz](https://goodshepherdunitedmethod.subspla.sh/7zgzzcz)

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/gsumcwaldorf

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@GSUMC.waldorf/streams

ONLINE GIVING

Scan the QR Code with your phone or tablet's camera to get a link to our online giving.

Thank you for supporting the work of Good Shepherd!



Schedule for the week of May 26, 2024

Sunday, May 26:

GSUMC Worship Service
10AM Worship In-Person & on [Facebook](#),
Youtube, Subsplash, and our Church App
11:30AM Adult Sunday School (P)
5PM Fellowship at Five
1-6PM Korean Church

Monday, May 27:

Church Office
Office Closed

MEMORIAL DAY
3-7PM Our Place (FH, K, 7)
7PM GSEC Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 28:

Church Office
Ameera 9-3

10:30AM Korean Ladies Prayer (P)
7PM Simplified Board Model Meeting
7:30PM Scouts of America - Troop 1780 Patrol Leader Meeting

Wednesday, May 29:

Church Office
Linda 9-3

9:40-11AM GSEC Chapel (S)
11AM PreK Promotion and Lunch (S, FH)
12PM Midday Prayer

Thursday, May 30:

Church Office
Ameera 9-3

9:30AM Morning Bible Study (P)
3-7PM Our Place (FH, K, 7)
6-7PM Women's Emmaus Reunion (Zoom)
<https://zoom.us/j/98727947660> Passcode: BibleStudy
7PM GSEC End of Year Program (S, FH)
7-8:30PM Ladies Bible Study (Zoom)
<https://zoom.us/j/98727947660> Passcode: BibleStudy
7:30-9PM Scouts Troop 1780, 1781 (FH, 7)

Friday, May 31:

Church Office
Ameera 9-3

9AM Fifth Friday Faith Talk
7PM Korean Church Bible Study

Saturday, June 1:

7PM & 10:30PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting (F)

305 Smallwood Dr.
Waldorf, MD 20602
301-843-6797
gsadmin@gsumc.com

Website: www.gsumc.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/gsumc.waldorf
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@GSUMC.waldorf

Lead Pastor	Rev. Laurie Gates-Ward	revlaurie@aol.com
Minister of Connection	Linda Flanagan	waldorfangel@gmail.com
Coordinator, Youth & Children's Ministry	Mars Roberts	mroberts@gsumc.com
Director of Music	Brian Turnmire	brianturnmire@mac.com
Organist	Sue Norris	norrise@hotmail.com
Director, GS Education Center	Cyndy Baker	educationcenter@gsumc.com
Church Administrator	Ameera Andrews	gsadmin@gsumc.com
Multimedia Specialist	Ally Malaquin	gsumc.waldorf@gmail.com

