

November 2021

# Magothy Messenger



## Pastor's Corner

People often think of ministry as something that only happens in a church building, such as worship or Sunday school. But other forms of church ministries can take place inside or outside of a church campus, such as mission trips, small groups, or Bible studies. I challenge you to consider how all of these - even worship and Sunday school - can take place outside of the church building.

It is important to note that the church is not a building; the church is a people, called by God to share the good news of Jesus's radical love, compassion, and forgiveness for all people. In fact, while he occasionally preached in the temple, Jesus himself did most of his ministry outside of a church building, traveling to places where people needed to hear about God at work in their lives.

Indeed, for the church to stay relevant, we need to be a people willing to go into the community to places where you might not expect worship or Sunday school to take place. Ministry and worship can happen anywhere! As the pastor of Magothy United Methodist Church, I tend to think of my work as ministry

to God's people wherever they are.

I suspect that many of us think of our work in or outside of the church, be it paid or volunteer, as ministries as well. And we would be right! God gives us the opportunity to welcome people to Magothy and to demonstrate to them that they can be in ministry to the community wherever they are as well.

A church building does not have to be the only place we worship, and Sunday does not have to be the only day we give our attention to God. Indeed, the church plays an important role as a vehicle of Christian ministries throughout the local community and the world. By giving service to God, however, in venues other than where we normally worship, we can live out that role of sharing the Gospel with the community.

Let us pray that God invites us to serve and worship every day!

Pastor Martin

**The mission of Magothy United Methodist Church is to:**

- Share Christ's Love**
- Hear the Word of God**
- Serve People**

## Doorstep Mission



We send blessings to all of our Doorstep Mission supporters. In the month of September, our pantry assisted 29 families with vegetables, beans, canned meats, pasta and sauce, fruits, butter, cheese, coffee, milk, juice, meats, etc. Altogether, 90 people received our help. We thank you for making this possible.

Our next **Foodbank trip will be November 18th**, at 9:30 a.m.

That will require our Foodbank Drivers and Helpers to leave Pasadena at 9:00.

We will be distributing our **Thanksgiving Baskets** on **November 20th**, starting at 9:00, and **putting them together on November 19th**. If you can help with any of this, please let us know.

If you know anyone in need, please inform us. We will be glad to provide food and a kind word to anyone in need.

Thank you again, and God bless our church, and all who enter.

## Meals on Wheels Opportunity

Can Magothy hit a home run again to feed the hungry? Magothy has secured a slot for eight volunteers at the local Meals on Wheels (MOW) facility on Wednesday, **November 17** to work the **1:30-4:30pm shift**. We will meet at the church, and leave by about 12:45pm. We will be carpooling for those who need a lift.

### MEALS ON WHEELS



If you'd like to volunteer for this time or in the future, please contact Pastor Martin. After sign-up, there will be easy online paperwork

that must be completed in advance, and we can assist you with that part.

Magothy visited MOW previously, in early August 2021, and helped to complete 546 boxes of food. This means that 3,372 individual meals went out to needy families and senior centers all over Anne Arundel County. The MOW's Volunteer Support Services Specialist was very impressed with how Magothy worked together as a **team**.

If you are curious about how MOW works its magic using an assembly line of volunteers, please **swing into action** by contacting Pastor Martin, (410) 255-2634 or by email at [pastor@magothy.org](mailto:pastor@magothy.org)

## Profiles of Our Church Leaders

In this feature, we'll get to know a **different member of our church leadership team each month. This month's interview was with Pastor Martin.** Here's what we learned:

**[Hint: Just for fun, cover the answers column and try to guess possible answers in each category. How well did you do at guessing? What surprised you?]**

Favorite Books (outside of the Bible)	<i>The Clan of the Cave Bear, The Valley of Horses, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire</i>
Hobbies:	Comic books collecting (1980 – 1987); writing short stories; camping; board games; playing guitar and singing in 2 different rock bands
Favorite TV Shows:	<i>The Greatest American Hero</i> and <i>Space: 1999</i>
Favorite Movies:	<i>The Warriors, The Blues Brothers</i>
Favorite Sport:	Ultimate Frisbee
Favorite Football Team:	The Chicago Bears
Favorite Baseball Team:	The Chicago White Sox
Grew up in:	Chicago, IL; Poughkeepsie, NY; Vestal, NY
Sibling:	Brother, Thomas R. Brooks
Something you may not know about me:	After high school, I hiked down the east coast of the United States and worked for Habitat for Humanity International
Favorite bands:	The Beatles, Donna the Buffalo
Favorite indiv. Musical Artists:	Sheena Easton; Cui Jian
Complete the phrase, "I love... "	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lu Lan, Clara Lu, and all of my family</li> <li>2. Leading Bible study</li> <li>3. A good workout</li> <li>4. Chicago pizza</li> </ol>

## Street Care Ministry

Magothy United Methodist Church is embarking on a new ministry in partnership with Bright Mind Enrichment: Street Care!

This ministry will involve offering necessities (socks, hygiene items, small nut-free snacks, etc.) to homeless people in the community, and beginning to build relationships with this vulnerable population. We will

begin outreach for this on-going ministry in Pasadena and plan to gradually move into the rest of Anne Arundel County.

We are now in need of:

- Socks
- Hygiene items (especially female products)
- Nut-free snacks
- Deodorant
- Shampoos
- Soaps

More volunteers are needed to join an outreach

team led by Magothy members to spend 2 – 4 hours per month in this ministry.

There is a bin in the Fellowship hall to collect the needed items or they can be dropped off in the Office. Please contribute any of the listed items as you are able.

For more information, please contact Pastor Martin ([pastor@magothy.org](mailto:pastor@magothy.org))



## United Methodist Women



*The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative and supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

All women who feel the need for Christian fellowship and desire to make a difference in their relationships through spiritual growth are welcome to join us at the UMW gathering on Tuesday, November 9th at 10:45 in the church library. Please bring a sandwich/salad/ yogurt for your lunch. Beverages and desert will be provided.

The study for the next several weeks will be *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*. This is a series of lessons based on The Serenity Prayer.

If this sounds like you, please come join us!! You will be welcomed with open arms! We can't wait to see you at the meeting.

## Community Breakfast

**Our community breakfast is back!** This fresh, all-you-care-to-eat hot breakfast is \$8 for adults; free for children 11 and under. Breakfast is served each 3rd Saturday of the month, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.



Mark your calendar to join in for the next breakfast on November 20th.

We welcome volunteers for roles before, during and after each breakfast. If you would like to volunteer please contact Robin Bartlett at [robinbartlett1518@gmail.com](mailto:robinbartlett1518@gmail.com)

## Adult Sunday School

Come and bring your friends!!

Adult Sunday School meets each Sunday, in-person in the church Library, starting at 10:15 most weeks..

All Adults interested in sharing ideas and personal reflections on the Holy scripture are welcome to attend. The fall study is entitled "Belong;" relying on the biblical narrative which makes it clear that "we belong to God."

Please grab your coffee and donut during fellowship time in Fellowship Hall and then join us—we want you to belong!



### Magothy United Methodist Church

3703 Mountain Road

Pasadena, MD 21122

[www.magothy.org](http://www.magothy.org)

[www.facebook.com/magothyUMC](https://www.facebook.com/magothyUMC)

Church Office: (410) 255-2420

Pastor: The Reverend Martin P. Brooks

Office (410) 255-2634, Cell (410) 739-1488

Email: [pastor@magothy.org](mailto:pastor@magothy.org)

Weddings and Event Coordinator

[admin@magothy.org](mailto:admin@magothy.org)

### Regular Worship Schedule (except 5th Sundays)

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in the Historic White Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes for Adults (September—June)
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Praise Service in the Fellowship Hall.
  - ◇ Sunday School for children and youth following Children's Time at 10:30 service
  - ◇ Holy Communion is shared the first Sunday of every month

### 5th Sundays:

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Classes for Adults
  - 10:00 a.m. One Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday School for Children follows children's time in the service

## 2021 Annual Conference

*“We Are Still One: Standing, Transforming and Rising”* was the theme of the 237th session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Because of COVID-19 precautions, the Conference was held online again this year. The guiding Scripture for Annual Conference was Galatians 3:23-29.

*Reprinted on the next two pages is an excellent summary of the Conference, written by Melissa Lauber, of the Bishop’s Staff. This summary currently appears on the BWC-UMC website.*

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### ***Stand. Transform. Rise: An overview of the Baltimore- Washington Conference Session***

Posted to BWCUMC.org on Oct 27, 2021

*By Melissa Lauber*

In a culture of anxiety, cascading crises, and a denomination rife with uncertainties, the people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference joined in holy conferencing Oct. 25-27 to proclaim that “We are Still One: Standing, Transforming, Rising.”

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, the presiding episcopal leader, gavelled the online 237<sup>th</sup> session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference to order from the Mission Center in Fulton, gathering laity and clergy representing 615 churches in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and the panhandle of West Virginia.

During the opening worship service, the bishop addressed the challenges faced by church leaders during the 84 weeks since the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and institutional racism prompted congregations into new ways of being church.

“We have not cowered, we have not collapsed, we have not conceded. No, we rise!” Easterling proclaimed in her opening sermon. “We are rising to claim a new day, rising to model what it really looks like to live, love, and liberate as one. We’re rising to leverage our gifts, blessings, and resources to help others rise as well; rising to grow in grace as we heal the wounds of the past, and in that healing, join hands as the Beloved Community. We are rising, Baltimore-Washington Conference, and don’t you let anyone with a contrary, contorted, or conflicted message tell you otherwise. We rise united! ... The state of our conference is strong. We are still one!”

During the session, members worshipped, uplifted by 87 music videos provided by individuals and churches throughout the Conference. Bishop Easterling commissioned and ordained 27 Deacons and Elders; members celebrated the ministries of 29 clergy retirees, 10 certified lay ministers and 13 licensed local pastors; remembered the saints of the

conference who died in the past several months; and were inspired by a wide variety video reports of ongoing BWC ministries.

Speaking at the laity session, David Teel of Discipleship Ministries cited words from Methodism’s founder, John Wesley, that summed up the spirit of the Conference: “I want you to be all love. This is the perfection I believe and teach,” Wesley wrote.

‘All love’ is a two-word definition of deep discipleship and spiritual maturity,” Teel said. “All love means: grow deep in love with Christ so you can love all – until all love God. ... Grow deep to love wide.”

The depth and width of God’s love was expressed throughout the session by the actions of the members, which included work that was interwoven in the areas of stewardship, discipleship, and leadership.

### **Stewardship**

At the recommendation of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the conference members passed a [2022 budget](#) of \$18.1 million, including a mission share income budget of \$13,104,912. To account for financial circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, members also adopted a new way of calculating Mission Shares that uses a three-year average of spending from 2018-2020, rather than just spending from 2020.

In other business, the conference Trustees were granted a green light to create a BWC Cemetery Association that will oversee funds for the upkeep of three historic cemeteries: Mount

Auburn and Mount Olivet in Baltimore, and Mount Hebron in Keedysville.

And, in more sober deliberations, members voted to close nine churches. The property or proceeds from these churches will be used as a legacy to begin new ministries.

## Discipleship

Building on the BWC's five areas of ministry — Leadership Development, New Faith Expressions, Action and Advocacy, Wellness and Missions, and Young People's Ministries — members heard a number of reports on growing in discipleship so that [100 percent of churches can become 100 percent vibrant and vital](#).

Reports from the [Discipleship Council](#) and the [We Rise United](#) initiative undergirded the conference's commitment to becoming an inclusive, diverse, equitable, and anti-racist church, and provided information about resources for those involved in this work, which remains a conference priority.

During the online session, a \$1,000 denominational [One Matters award](#) was presented to Elderslie St. Andrews UMC in Baltimore. The award honors churches that have brought at least one new member into their churches last year by profession of faith.

Members also passed three social action-related [resolutions](#) calling for the BWC to become a green annual conference, to endorse an amendment to Maryland's constitution on environmental human rights,

and to declare gun violence a public health emergency. A resolution for the conference to endorse the General Conference legislation on the [Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation](#) was also approved.

## Leadership

During the session, members honored Joyce King for her more than 30 years of administrative service on conference staff and recognized the contributions of the Rev. C. Anthony Hunt who is stepping down as the chair of Board of Ordained Ministry. A [scholarship is being created](#) in Hunt's honor.

Greg and Delila Parham of Queens Chapel UMC in Beltsville were tapped by BWC Lay Leader Delores Martin to deliver the laity address. The couple encouraged United Methodists to claim their stories of faith and share them with others.

This message was amplified by David Teel during the laity session. "Laity in the Baltimore-Washington Conference continue to adapt communication strategies — deed and words — that are helping to manifest scriptural wholeness or holiness," he said. "It's about love in public, justice and mercy born from life-mending, and reparative grace."

This message of love, justice, mercy, and grace was echoed in a report by the BWC's [delegation to General and Jurisdictional conferences](#). While the 2020 General Conference has been postponed to September 2022, the delegation has continued its work and issued a [statement on racial justice and creating beloved community](#).

## 'We are Still One'

While the Baltimore-Washington Conference is one of the most diverse in the denomination, its leadership and members draw strength from diversity and the differences in theology, geography, race, and culture of its members.

As the Rev. Mark Gorman of Centre and Forest Hill UMCs said during one of the debates during the session, "Unity in Christ is a cross-shaped work of love."

Being united in love is one of the strengths of United Methodists and all people of faith, Bishop Easterling said.

With the cross and resurrection, "God's purpose was, and is, to create a single new people who are one in Christ Jesus, bound together in faith and love — bound together by the Holy Spirit," she preached. "The Holy Spirit leads beyond the borders of our finite imaginations and into a realm and reality only possible with God."

The people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, Bishop Easterling said, "are standing under the unction and power of the Holy Spirit. ...

Together, we have prayed, planned, strategized, learned, lifted, resourced, rebounded, and re-entered well together. We are still one!"

*[Learn more](#) about the 237<sup>th</sup> session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference at [BWCUMC.org](#).*

*The 238<sup>th</sup> session is planned for Wednesday through Friday, June 1-3, 2022, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel.*