



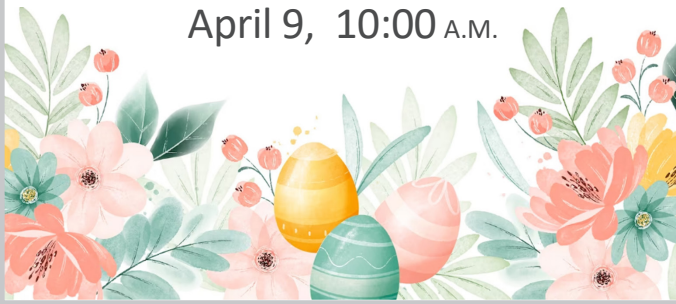
Good Friday Service of the Cross

April 7, 12:30 P.M.



Easter Service

April 9, 10:00 A.M.



Remember the Easter Offering



Dr. Maklin Eugene

For the third year, our Easter offering will support **New Hope Hospital**, founded by Dr. Maklin Eugene, and **Partners 4 New Hope**, the non-profit that supports the work at this hospital in northern Haiti.

The situation there is dire. People are suffering from malnutrition; cholera is spreading; political unrest threatens the safety and security of all, and soaring prices affect every aspect of people’s lives.

Our Easter offering goal is \$5,000.00, of which \$4,000.00 will be designated for the work of New Hope Hospital and \$1,000 for Partners 4 New Hope, Inc.

New Hope Hospital, the only hospital serving a large rural area outside of Cap-Haitien, has been dark since October because there is no electricity in the area. With the high cost of fuel (\$40/gallon), generators at the hospital are run only for emergency surgeries.

Yet, through our partnership with New Hope, life-saving medical care continues at New Hope. Praise God!

An isolation area for cholera treatment has been set up at New Hope. But more wells are needed to prevent spread of cholera. Our New Hope Partners are digging wells. One well will serve 30,000–50,000 people and costs \$3,000.00. (Contact Beth Bauman for more information.)

A feeding program at the local prison serves prisoners (mainly political prisoners who have not been tried). These prisoners often go for days without food. Feeding programs for children and families are also conducted.

God is still moving in Haiti despite all that is happening there. Through our support and the support of many other partners, those who are working to serve sick, hungry people will have the resources to survive the current crisis.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your offering for this season and **respond by Easter Sunday, April 9**. Please make checks to Mount Vernon UMC and indicate “Easter



Offering. Or give online.

And please continue to hold Dr. Eugene and his team in your prayers.



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Visioning Process Moves to Implementation Phase

February's newsletter discussed the adoption by Church Council of a series of recommendations developed through the visioning process our congregation undertook with Rev. Paul Baker (ret.). These recommendations were focused largely on embracing a new framework to help Mount Vernon operate as efficiently and effectively as possible in today's changing landscape.

In the two months since that update, our church has begun the important work of implementing the vision, which starts with identifying the leaders who will serve on the revamped Church Council. Following our standard process, these individuals will be endorsed by the Nominations Committee and then considered by Church Council. From an operational perspective, Church Council will continue in its current form through June 30, after which the individuals constituting the slimmed-down Church Council will officially take the reins.

Even before their July 1 start date, those serving on the revamped Church Council will continue the work of determining the best way to organize and prioritize Mount Vernon's ministries within our new framework. This will be an intentional and thoughtful process and is expected to continue through the end of 2023. Our success in this endeavor will require drawing on the wisdom and talents of the entire congregation.

In the coming weeks and months, the congregation will receive additional updates on the next steps in this exciting process. Please continue to pray for guidance for our church as we seek to do as much good as we can, both locally and globally. — Steven Gould

Lots of exciting things happening at Mount Vernon on Palm Sunday weekend!

Watch for photos in next month's newsletter.

- New members joining, and a reception after the service!
- Mount Vernon volunteers installing sheetrock at the latest Habitat for Humanity house!
- Easter Celebration for children, sponsored by our youth, at Wildwood!



Fresh Flowers for the Easter Cross

At Mount Vernon we have a tradition of bringing flowers from the garden to church on Easter. The cross outside the main entry to the sanctuary will be covered with wire, and you can put the flower stems through the wire to attach flowers to the cross.

Wednesday Dinners Wrap Up, for Now

Our last Wednesday dinner and program for Spring 2023 was on March 29. Jae concluded the Lenten Bible study, and as always, we enjoyed mealtime fellowship and the discussion during the Lenten study.



Thank you to Linda Sampson for the delicious pork roast dinner, to Jae Cho for the Lenten Bible study, and to all who make Wednesday dinners happen!

children & youth ministry



Parents, please mark your calendars:

Kaleidoscope Camp

June 9-11

Hungry Mother Lutheran Camp, Marion, Va.

For rising 6th-12th graders

Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip

July 16-22

For rising 9th-12th graders

For more information, contact Beth Bauman.

Church Choirs Matter

By Juliet Cho (Third in a Series)

According to the most recent National Congregations Study (2018/2019) from Duke University, 21% of evangelical churches and 40% of mainline churches no longer have choirs in their worship services – but approximately 70,000 churches in the U.S. continue to have choirs. Many Christians still consider church choirs essential in their worship services.

The Old Testament tells us David set apart 288 skillful Levite singers and commanded them to sing in the temple of the Lord (1 Chronicles 25). In Western history, church choirs began by singing Gregorian chant in services in the Middle Ages.

Many continue to believe church choirs are vital in leading services and inspiring congregations to lift their hearts and minds to God. Church choirs offer choristers spiritual experiences and discipline, leading to their spiritual growth. Joining a choir in itself has benefits. While singing together, singers produce hormones (endorphins and dopamine) that make them feel more pleasure and less pain. Singing stimulates brain function by connecting the left (memorizing words) and right sides (processing music) of the brain. Singers unite for the same purpose and experience a sense of belonging, which promotes community and fellowship.

Gary Benefield is a long-time member of our Aldersgate Choir. His comments confirm that church choirs are essential to church worship and what benefits they can bring.

1. How long have you been in the choir?

I have been in the Mount Vernon choir for twenty-two years. I have been in choirs nearly all of my life.



The Aldersgate Choir

2. What was your most memorable choir experience?

At our previous church, in Atlanta, we would hire members of the Atlanta Symphony to play with us for special worship services, such as at Christmas and Easter. They would be with us in the choir loft, so you felt like you were in the symphony. When they began to play, it was a magical moment.

3. What has kept you singing in the choir in the long term?

Choirs are small groups that are very important in church life. You get to know everyone, and members come from all areas of the community, so you see them and interact with them outside of church. I'm prejudiced, but choir members are some of the most interesting folks around.

4. What are the physical, mental, spiritual, or social benefits of being in the choir?

Some research shows that singing complex music such as choir anthems (or playing an instrument) is good for your brain. It is also a good stress reliever, as I can come to choir practice tired and drained and then leave feeling fresher than when I arrived.

5. Have you experienced any development or felt a change in yourself in the choir?

Being in a choir changes you. Working toward a common goal with people you like and respect improves your character. I have come to appreciate what I think is a vital role choirs play in worship. We are singing our praise directly to God, hopefully leading the congregation to sing their praise to him as well.

6. What advice would you give to someone considering joining a choir?

If you are considering joining our choir, if you can sing on pitch please come and join us. You don't have to be a great musician to be a good choir member. It's fun, rewarding, and good for you. What's not to like!

Knitting Group Sends Hats and Scarves to Henry Fork



Left: *Fifty hat-and-scarf sets!*

Right: *Gayle Barkley, Carolyn Hegnauer, Kitten Meador, and Eli Woodson*

Below: *Kitten Meador & Judie Turbiville*



Have Questions? "Ask The UMC" Has Answers

Can I be confirmed online? What's the United Methodist position on rebaptism? Can a lay servant wear a robe in the pulpit? What countries have United Methodist churches? How do you get to heaven?

These are only a handful of the thousands of questions received by **Ask The UMC**, a ministry of United Methodist Communications, the information service for all things United Methodist.

Weekly, the staff answers questions that run the gamut from beliefs and theology, to church structure, to what's going on in The United Methodist Church at large. They are a trusted and unbiased resource for members, leaders, and seekers alike.

When individuals submit questions, the **Ask The UMC** team members research the answer and respond or direct the questioner to the best agency or contact in the entire denomination who can assist them.

The team also keeps track of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and creates content for UMC.org based on those inquiries. "We've found that if we get two or three questions about something, it may mean there is interest in it by many hundreds or thousands more," notes the director for **Ask The UMC**, the Rev. Taylor W. Burton Edwards.

The **Ask The UMC** webpage includes links to many articles that answer frequently asked questions. This self-serve option makes the information readily available to anyone interested in learning about the denomination. The FAQs touch on a wide range of topics in relation to the UMC overall – including hot topics centered on issues impacting society. In 2020, the **Ask The UMC** website section received more than 660,000 page views.

For those who prefer one-on-one assistance, the team can provide personal interaction with those seeking help via a live chat, email, or telephone call. The group also provides information as needed to the UMC Facebook team as it responds to messages.

On average, the team fields 600 to 1,200 questions per month, with much higher volumes around the time of General Conference and when social issues dominate the news.

"Our team is dedicated to getting people details quickly and in the way that best meets their needs," Edwards says. "We want to alleviate fears that can be caused by lack of information by helping people find information, gain clarity, educate themselves, and be equipped to better inform others."

No church-related questions are off-limits for the team. The team members will answer questions about Christian beliefs, living out their faith, what the church believes and practices, as well as how the church does its work at every level. They'll even help people work through deep personal needs and concerns about things going on in society, how the church responds, and how the church can help them think through things.

Their frequently asked questions are, over time, being made available in multiple languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Korean.

"We want to alleviate fears that can be caused by lack of information by helping people find information, gain clarity, educate themselves, and be equipped to better inform others."

No matter your question or means of communication, when you reach the **Ask The UMC** team, you can be confident that you'll get a prompt, accurate, thoughtful, and caring response grounded in the official positions, theology, and polity of The United Methodist Church.

 Birthdays 

April

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 Von Cannon
John Gibbs, III | 12 Tom Underwood |
| 3 Kathryn Elizabeth
Blachura
Harry Lea | 15 Ellen Joyce
Suzanne Miller
Anne Powell
Judie Turbiville |
| 5 Ken Larking | 16 Brian Cuthrell
James Howard Ebel
Leslie Shreve
Kathryn Waters |
| 6 Lee Shreve
Jack Spainhour
Morgan Wall | 17 Frank Davis
Verla Wall |
| 7 Rebecca Daniel
Beth Payne | 18 Betty Turner |
| 9 Mary Ellen Dean | 19 Cameron Booker
Townes Lea |
| 11 Stuart Bray | |

May

- | | |
|---|--|
| 22 Susan Davis
Marshall White
Hazel Alexandria
Zakhary | 2 Harper Mitchell
Meredith Ashby
Ramsden |
| 24 David Fuquay
Alex Womack | 3 Jessica Austin |
| 25 Dennis Porter | 4 Phillip Wright |
| 27 Alysia Alber
Frank Wickers | 5 Tom Darkis |
| 28 Kevin Miller | 6 Anne Thomas |
| 29 Lude Labieville | 7 Rita Doggett
Bill Fuller
Beth Ranson |
| 30 Max Glass, Jr.
Vicki Williams | 9 Shirley Bray |
| | 11 Fran Ramsay |



In Our Prayers

*Phillip Blackmon, Don Cairns,
Helen Cheyney,
Mary Ellen Dean, Pat Giles,
Peggy Handy, Bill Hardy,
Rev. Joyce Johnson,
Dorothy Stephens, Donald Turner, Betty Yates*

*Gifts in memory of
Frances McMillan
have been received from
Jan & Howard Lester
and
Ann & J.G. Hurt.*

Danville Area Choral Arts Society (DACAS) Concert
Sunday, April 23, at 3:00 p.m.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
3090 N. Main Street, Danville

The Danville Area Choral Arts Society will present *Eternal Light*, a requiem composed by Howard Goodall for the bereaved, using poetry and sacred texts, that offers everlasting light as an image of resurrection.

The concert will be under the direction of Dr. Christopher Swanson with orchestral accompaniment. Matvey Lapin, concertmaster; Robert Sutter, pianist. Soloists: Carolyn Smith, soprano; Brian Hobbs, tenor; and Raul West, baritone.

Members of the Danville Boys and Girls Club chorus will open the concert with several pieces including the Howard Goodall setting of *The Lord Is My Shepherd*.

Admission is free. No tickets required. Reception to follow concert.

Pastor and Staff

Rev. Jae Cho: 678.770.9060;
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Beth Bauman, Children & Youth: 434.489.6514;
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Juliet Cho, Music: 770.377.1871;
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Jessica Saunders, Office Admin.:
434.793.6824; church@mtvernonumc.org

Don Haymore, Financial Secretary: 434.793.6824;
businessoffice.mtvernonumc@gmail.com

You may leave a message on the church
office phone at any time: 434.793.6824.

Or send an email message. PLEASE NOTE OUR
NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: church@mtvernonumc.org

Send U.S. mail to:
107 W. Main St., Danville, VA 24541



Sunday nights are hopping at Mount Vernon!

After dinner, provided by parent volunteers, there are three groups:

Our new **Children's Fellowship** is for children in Kindergarten through Grade 4. Children hear a Godly Play story, do art projects, and have music.

Leaders are Shelly Barber, Sandra Morales, and Juliet Cho.

Younger Youth Fellowship is for Grades 5–8, and **High School Youth** is for Grades 9–12. They have programs that help them explore their faith as followers of Jesus, along with recreation, and service projects.

Leaders are John Ranson, Leslie Mantipl, Dent Holden, and Beth Bauman.

All children and youth are welcome!

For more information, contact Beth Bauman at bethwbauman@gmail.com

