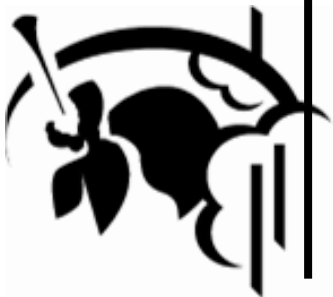


The Trumpet

A publication of Great Falls United Methodist Church, Great Falls, Virginia 22066

"Make two silver trumpets... and you shall use them for summoning the congregation." ~Numbers 10:2,10

January-February 2024



FAITHFUL GENEROSITY: GFUMC –The Congregation with A Heart, In the Heart of Great Falls

2023 was a year of *rejuvenated spirit*. After 2 years of isolation, everything came back alive, and we felt that in our church as we charted our path for the future with creation and execution of our 5-year plan. The core emphasis of this plan is the mission of making disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world (starting right here in Great Falls). We emphasized making an impact on Great Falls and its surrounding communities. We also have begun in earnest taking our church and our message into the virtual world. Our children are the hopes of our future, and we recognize we must meet them where they are, which is online, in their virtual world.

This church met this challenge head on. As a church we:

- Sent almost a dozen teenagers to Tennessee to restore houses for the poor.
- Delivered ready-to-make Thanksgiving dinners to Cornerstone Ministries in Reston, and Great Falls Area Ministries.
- Remained responsible for the cleaning and beautification of Arnon Chapel Road.
- Delivered stockings full of Christmas cheer to the Salvation Army for children who are not as fortunate.
- Streamed every Sunday service to ensure full access to anyone needing to worship with us.
- Met multiple individual needs through our pastor's discretionary fund.
- Welcomed almost a dozen new families to our congregation, the highest number of new members in five years.
- Continued to sponsor missionaries in Africa.
- Doubled down on our support of the Great Falls United Methodist Preschool. This investment returned twofold as most of our new families came from the preschool.

And this is just the start. With your generosity we met all our challenges in 2023, and while there are challenges in 2024, we have the momentum and congregation to meet all of them. If you have contributed either through financial giving or through your time, thank you. To all reading this, please consider becoming a part of a group of people who are taking action to bring light into this world, starting right here in Great Falls and surrounding communities. We need time and energy as much as we need your financial support (we will always accept both). So, if you are a member of the church, a regular guest, or a partner in the ministries of the church, together we form the body of the church, and together we work to share the love and grace of Christ Jesus.

Thank you for your faithfulness to Great Falls UMC. Your gifts are valued and very much appreciated.

Happy New Year!

Mick Fox, Chair of Finance

Livingstone Dore, Pastor



The Pastor and Church Staff would like to thank you for the many kind remembrances during this holy season. God's blessings to each of you!

Seats in the Choir Loft Still Available!!

Consider joining the choir for the spring season! This is the exciting seasons of Lent and Easter! You can't get more joyous than Easter well maybe Christmas! If listening to the choir sing the Christmas Cantata inspired you then think about joining us this spring! All voice parts are welcome.

Alice Eelman, Music Director
alice.eelman@gmail.com
571-442-0955



Thank you very much for all of your delicious food at the Christmas Potluck, as well as set-up, prep, and clean-up! Bless you all!

Photos of Children's Pageant on Christmas

Our Mission: We are the people of God called to reflect Jesus Christ and to make a difference in people's lives by:
Bringing People to God, Praising God in Worship, Learning the Word of God, Serving Others Near and Far, Caring for Our Congregation and Community

Church Office: 703-759-3705 Fax: 703-759-0466 Preschool: 703-759-2432

Pastor: Rev. Livingstone S. Dore ~ livingstonedore@vaumc.org

Editor: Nancy Craner ~ office@greatfallsumc.org Website: greatfallsumc.org

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 9 am to 4 pm; Thursday & Friday, 9 am to 12 pm



PRAYER REQUESTS

Health Concerns

Tori Kalinsky
 Danny Bassette
 Herb Griffin
 Don Palmer
 Karen Palmer
 Derek Hawk
 Michael Burr
 Diane Marinos
 Sue Spencer
 Christina Cockrell
 Jackie Simpson
 Carol Anne Perkins
 Robert Moore
 Steve Wright
 Sandy Long
 Jack White
 Emmett Brumley
 Sara McLaughlin
 Jean Lee
 Jorene & Arland Carroll
 Joy Shaw
 John Amorosa
 Beverly/Brittany Geserick
 Peggy Keller
 Connie & Jack Costello
 Susan Stevenson
 Edin Najarro
 David Ekkel
 Debbie Nicol
 Gabi
 Mike Smith
 Maxine Turner
 Emma McLaughlin
 Joe Marshall
 Neil Hubbard
 Reagan Bischoof
 Mike Whitaker
 Mrs. Pyo
 Larry Birts
 Peggy Woods
 Tric Deaton
 Dottie Sills
 Bill & Carol Wright
 Mary Miller
 John Northrup
 Dorothy Harsher
 Shari Murphy
 Scott Gossard
 Sheila Lowery
 John Keller

Sophie Deck
 Susan Newhall
 George Scott
 Travis Lynn
 Michael Adams

Homebound

LuCee Canelias
 Marion Custer
 Sylvia Phillips
 Jean Miller
 Barbara Powell

Other Needs

Those Grieving
 Frontline Workers
 Mental Health
 Norma Christian
 Jasper Marks
 Unspoken Prayers
 Ukraine
 Tommy Graham
 Disaster Relief
 Rev. Roger Phillips
 Ruth & Tony
 Middle East Peace
 Bob Kirschner & Family
 See Family
 James Keeling Family
 Scott Family
 Montgomery/Horlacher
 Family

Missionaries

Lisa Nichols, TN
 John Nday &
 Florence Kaying, Moz.

Please email office@greatfallsumc.org with updates and changes to the Prayer List.



Faith & Fellowship Circle ~ "Christmas Fun"

The Faith & Fellowship Circle will meet **Thursday, January 11th at 11 a.m.** in the parlor. Following a devotion and some short business, they will construct pillows for the Mended Hearts Cardiac Recovery program. Bring your fabric scissors for cutting out the shapes, the hearts will then be sewn, and we will stuff as many as time permits. Don't forget to bring your sack lunch and beverage for our fellowship time together following the project.

Please mark your calendar for the February 8th Faith & Fellowship meeting. Their program will have a guest speaker, Karen Kostreba, share her most unique experience of 40 days of Lent.

Questions? Please contact:

Amy Miller at 703-444-2826 or
admpurr@hotmail.com ~or~
 Karen Deaton at 703-450-1875 or
deatonkaren76@gmail.com



You are invited to click on the link below to choose an open Sunday to sponsor flowers on the altar. Great Falls Florist (703-759-4778) delivers flowers directly to the church. Please pick up your flowers during the week (9am-4pm Mon-Wed) and enjoy them at home. If you have questions, please contact Sandra Musser at mussersandrah@gmail.com or 703-581-3390.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dafa928a4fd0-gfume>



News from the Preschool

It has been a busy and festive time of year in our preschool the past couple months. Days were filled with learning, adventures, and lots of fun.

An exciting addition to our Preschool this year has been Pastor Dore meeting with our Preschoolers monthly up in the Sanctuary to share age-appropriate biblical stories. The children love his warm, welcoming, and kind demeanor and very much enjoy their time spent learning and deepening their faith with him. We are grateful for his time spent with us.

We kicked off the holiday season with a “walking field trip” to the Great Falls Fire Station. The children brought unwrapped gifts to drop off in the Toys for Tots collection and sang Christmas carols to the fire fighters to spread holiday cheer! The generous families filled more than two huge boxes of presents for children in need.

The following week almost the entire preschool, and its teachers, gathered on a Sunday afternoon at the Great Falls Celebration of Lights Tree Lighting Ceremony. Our little preschool kicked off the event by singing carols for our community. It was a great warm up for our big Christmas Pageant!

The Pageant is more than just a time for children to sing and perform for their families, it is an opportunity to introduce them to the Nativity story in a way they can truly understand. It is a special annual event, and we were blessed to be introduced by Pastor Dore. Nancy Craner was instrumental in helping to get the programs printed efficiently and the music flowing for the Pageant. Following the performance, cookies, cocoa, and coffee were shared on the playground during our cast party. We even had a surprise guest visit from Santa Claus! It was a special event and really helped prepare the children and the GFUMP community for Christmas.

As we prepare to return in January, we look forward to continuing our learning adventures and deepening our friendships. Registration begins for currently enrolled families, as well as GFUMC families on January 8th. Registration can be found on our website www.GFUMP.org or by stopping by the preschool. The preschool really is a happy and loving place, and we encourage you to stop by and visit anytime!

Warmly,
Melissa Whitson
GFUMP Director



SEEKING INTEREST IN 2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Christ the King Lutheran Church has invited us to partner with them to conduct Vacation Bible School the week of **August 5-9, 2024**. They are asking for a commitment from us to supply adult volunteers to work each day from 9 am to 12:15 pm. Someone from our church would also need to coordinate our volunteers and work with the coordinator at the Lutheran Church. The expectation is that GFUMC would lead VBS in 2025 and they would partner with us. If you are interested in volunteering/ coordinating, please contact Karen Kelly at karen45kelly@verizon.net.



**The United Methodist Men will meet
Thursday, January 18th at Noon
and**

Thursday, February 15th at Noon
in the Fellowship Hall for their lunch meeting. All men are invited to attend. Please bring a bag lunch and beverage.

Questions?

Please contact Hubert Deaton
at 703-450-1875.



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>*Sunday Worship: In-Person, Church Online & Facebook Live</i>	1	2	3 9:30a Undecorate 7p Choir Rehearsal	4 12p GFAM @ ACUMC	5	6 11am Edward See Memorial Service
7 9a Agape Class 10a *Worship/ Communion & Children's Church 11:15a Teachers Mtg	8	9 7p Troop 673 8:30p AAs (13)	10 10:40a Prayer Time 7p Choir Rehearsal	11 11a Faith & Fellowship Circle	12 8p AAs (FH)	13
14 9a Agape Class 10a *Worship & Children's Church 11:15a Admin Council	15 MLK Bday <i>Church Office Closed</i>	16 7p Troop 673 8:30p AAs (13)	17 10:40a Prayer Time 7p Choir Rehearsal	18 12p UMM Mtg	19 8p AAs (FH)	20 NOVA District Training Day @ FlorisUMC
21 9a Agape Class 10a *Worship & Children's Church	22	23 7p Troop 673 8:30p AAs (13)	24 10:40a Prayer Time 7p Choir Rehearsal	25	26 8p AAs (FH)	27
28 9a Agape Class 10a *Worship & Children's Church	29	30 7p Troop 673 8:30p AAs (13)	31 10:40a Prayer Time 7p Choir Rehearsal			

January Birthdays

Emily Follin..... 1/1
 Angela Osgood 1/7
 Drew Callahan..... 1/9
 Jesslyn Lumb 1/10
 Elizabeth Blakely..... 1/10
 Deiadre Tucker..... 1/10
 Mark Terrell..... 1/10
 Spencer Paulsen..... 1/10
 Jennifer Follin..... 1/11
 Shane Murphy..... 1/11
 Sandra Musser..... 1/11

Coty Dickson..... 1/14
 John Chamberlain..... 1/15
 Mike Bynum 1/15
 Christina Pugh 1/17
 Charles Pugh 1/17
 Steve Pretanik 1/18
 Michael Bowie..... 1/18
 Amelia Smith..... 1/19
 Amy Leone..... 1/19
 Fory Musser..... 1/20
 Michael Wilt 1/20
 Ben Leone 1/21
 Lauren Malan Wilt..... 1/22

Amy Miller 1/23
 Owen Dankworth 1/23
 Kia Abrey Gum..... 1/23
 Scott Bynum 1/24
 Liz Hoffinger..... 1/25
 Margaret Hoffinger 1/25
 Megan Long..... 1/26
 Josila Smith 1/27
 Delaney Ross 1/27
 Erin Pierce 1/27
 Michele Dore..... 1/27
 Richard Haver 1/30

If you have a January birthday and do NOT see your name on the list above,
 please contact the Church Office to add your special day to our database. Thanks!

Great Falls UMC Administrative Council Minutes ~ December 3, 2023

WORDS TO DIGEST

"In the stillness of the quiet, if we listen, we can hear the whisper of the heart giving strength to weakness, courage to fear, hope to despair."

~Howard Thurman



Offering Envelopes available to pickup...

Packets of 15 offering envelopes are available in the narthex, reflecting that many church members have changed to monthly giving. If you want more envelopes, please take another pack. Please note, there are no longer names or numbers on the envelopes.

Questions? Please email Jennifer Steffy, our Financial Secretary, at steffys@verizon.net. Also email her if you would like a packet left in your mailbox.

Attendees: Pastor Livingstone Dore, Sandi Green, Hubert Deaton, Carol Haver, Anne Montgomery, Mick Fox, Karen Kelly, Steve Pretanik, and Garnett Weiland. Sandi Green called the meeting to order at 11:20 am and Pastor Dore opened with a moment of quiet prayer.

Finance: Mick Fox and Anne Montgomery presented our financial picture. Our Income for November was above budget. Expenses for November were slightly above budget. Overall, we are in good shape and our deficit is shrinking.

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations: Karen Kelly reported that Jamie Bowie will join SPPRC next month. The search to fill the Digital Ministry position continues. An ad has been posted at a couple of local colleges. Will Jackson will continue to fill in until the position is filled.

Lay Leader: Hubert Deaton reported that the disaffiliation process is complete. The Annual NOVA District Training Day is coming up on January 20, 2024. Registration is required. The fee to attend is \$40.00 until December 20. After that, the fee will be \$60.00. You can attend either in person at Floris UMC or online. More information is available at <https://2024.novatrainigday.com>.

Children's Sunday School: Karen Kelly reported that the Church continues to invite Preschool children and parents to Sunday worship and special events. The next special event is a birthday party for Jesus during Sunday School on December 10th. Four new Sunday School teachers are starting in January which brings the total to 7.

Margaret Brown is heading the Live Nativity this year.

The Children's Education Director and Preschool Director of Christ the King Lutheran Church contacted us about doing Vacation Bible School together next summer. They have ordered curriculum for the August 5 – 9 session and they need a commitment from several people at GFUMC to help out if we join forces with them. Karen will get with Nancy Craner and send out information to the congregation to see if folks are interested in helping.

Trustees: Steve Pretanik reported that the new granite slab and bronze plaque were installed in the Memorial Garden. There are six burial plots by the Columbarium. One plot was recently purchased so five are available.

John Callahan is going to repair the stairs that lead from the back of the Fellowship Hall to ground level. The stairs are used mostly by the Boy Scouts and need to be usable. Steve Pretanik is the new Boy Scout Charter Organization Representative for the church and has attended the required training.

New Business/Pastor Shares:

In January, Pastor Dore will contact the District to begin the Simplified Accountable Structure process. A single leadership board will replace the existing committees. More information will be shared as the process evolves.

Pastor Dore shared that he believes it is time for a targeted capital campaign. The two largest line items in the church budget are Staff and Trustees. A discussion took place about moving the Trustees budget out of the church budget so they have a separate budget. No decision was reached.

The church organ requires a service call this week. It is old and the service calls are occurring more frequently.

The next Admin Council meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2024 at 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall.

January/February newsletter articles are due December 18, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Garnett Weiland



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**Sunday Worship: In-Person, Church Online & Facebook Live				1 12p GFAM at KtCLutheran	2 8p AAs (FH)	3
4 9a Agape Class 10a *Worship& Children's Church	5	6 7p Troop 673 8:30p AAs (13)	7 10:40a Prayer Time 7p Choir Rehearsal	8 11a Faith & Fellowship	9 8p AAs (FH)	10
11 9a Agape Class 10a *Worship& Children's Church	12	13 7p Troop 673 8:30p AAs (13)	14 Ash Wednesday 10:40a Prayer Time 7p Ash Wednesday Service	15 12p UMM Lunch Mtg	16 8p AAs (FH)	17
18 1st Sunday in Lent 9a Agape Class 10a *Worship & Children's Church	19 Presidents Day~ Church Office Closed' Mar-Apr Newsletter Articles Due	20 7p Troop 673 8:30p AAs (13)	21 10:40a Prayer Time 7p Choir Rehearsal	22	23 8p AAs (FH)	24 11am Lois Scott Memorial Service
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9a Agape Class 10a *Worship & Children's Church	26	27 8:30p AAs (13)	28 10:40a Prayer Time 7p Choir Rehearsal	29	March 1 8p AAs (FH)	2 11am D. Horlacher Memorial Service

February Birthdays

Daniel Jackson 2/1
 Katherine Inglesby..... 2/3
 Todd Fredrick 2/4
 Amanda DiGiammarino .. 2/4
 Mitch Mitchell..... 2/4
 Olivia Economou 2/4
 John Callahan 2/5
 Betty Kearns..... 2/6
 Faith Osborn 2/8
 Frank Giove..... 2/8

Matt Allison..... 2/8
 Mary Anger..... 2/9
 Brenda McGuiney..... 2/9
 Thomas White 2/10
 Lauren Treacy 2/10
 Emily Treacy..... 2/10
 Luke Foreman 2/11
 Caroline Musser 2/12
 Kristi Shaw 2/13
 Carol Haver 2/15
 Alexander Murphy 2/16
 William Smyers..... 2/18

Marissa Mallon 2/18
 Kennett Virdin..... 2/19
 Shelley DiGiammarino.... 2/20
 Terrie Mohrmann..... 2/24
 Nathan Stanfield..... 2/25
 Carolyn See 2/26
 Monica Morgan 2/26
 Bonnie Young..... 2/26
 Pamela Williams..... 2/26
 Luke Musser..... 2/27

If you have a February birthday and do NOT see your name on the list above,
 please contact the Church Office to add your special day to our database. Thanks!

The Last Word...



This year's church calendar is off to a big start. The year begins with the first Sunday – January 7th as Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Then the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14 (also Valentine's Day).

At our first Administrative Council meeting in January, I will share with the council a purpose focus theme plan for 2024 – "Be Still and Know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Part of this plan is to offer a special Bible Reading plan for the year. It will be a thematic, easy to follow reading plan, based on the seasons of the church year.

We are all invited to **Take the Plunge** and begin *A Journey thru the Bible*. You will discover that as we read the Bible together, we deepen our personal faith in our worship and thanksgiving to God. Look for more information in the upcoming weekly Mail Chimp notes and announcements in worship services.

As we *Journey thru the Bible*, we will also begin our first worship and sermon series during Lent. The series will be based on the book – "Questions Jesus Asked," by Magrey R. De Vega.

The Lenten season plays a significant role in our faith. It is a wonderful time of the year to start one's spiritual journey. So, my hope is that we will use the start of the new year to truly reflect on who God is to us in every aspect of our lives. Happy New Year!

Grace and Peace,

Livingstone Dore

Church Staff

Rev. Livingstone S. Dore, Pastor
Alice Eelman, Music Director
Melissa Whitson, Preschool Director

Nancy Craner, Administrative Assistant
Riffat Hassan, Nursery Attendant
Bellarmino Bonilla, Custodian

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9AM to 4PM ~ Thursday & Friday: 9AM to 12PM (*unless otherwise noted*)

