



# AUMC WITNESS

*Our Mission: Love God, Love Neighbor, Serve the World*

Annandale United Methodist Church - [annandalechurch.com](http://annandalechurch.com)  
6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003 P: 703-256-8330  
F: 703-914-8896 [office@annandale-umc.org](mailto:office@annandale-umc.org)

Ministers:  
Rev. Jason Micheli  
Rev. Peter Kwon  
Rev. Chenda Lee

Vol. 17 No. 1

 We are a Stephen Ministry Church

February 18, 2020

## GOOD NEWS FOR A SIN-SICK WORLD



Exactly why do Christians begin the season of Lent by marking ourselves with a reminder of our mortality which is, at the same time, from the Bible's point of view the wage paid out for our sin? If the Gospel is the good news of God's election of us in Jesus Christ despite our rejection of God, then why on Ash

Wednesday do Christians begin with judgment?

The Apostle Peter makes the same point as St. Paul in Romans 14 when Peter writes in his letter that "Judgment begins with the household of God." The household to which Paul writes, the church in Rome, had split into factions, creating competing tribes whose divisions had calloused and calcified into contempt. Like Pink Floyd said, it's Us and Them. And to them, the Apostle Paul admonishes, "Do not judge... for we will all stand before the Judgment Seat of God."

"Judgment begins with the household of God."

When Paul implores the Christians in Rome not to cast judgment, he's instead instructing them to bear it. To bear judgment. Upon themselves. Paul isn't preaching fire and brimstone. Paul's pointing to their baptisms. He's reminding them of their calling, their commissioning. He's exhorting them to imitate Christ.

As Christians, we talk all the time about imitating Christ, about being his hands and feet, and doing the things Jesus did. Most of the time we're talking about serving the poor, forgiving another or speaking truth to power. But— think about it— if the most decisive thing Jesus did was become a curse for us, taking on the burden of judgment for the guilty, then the primary way Christians imitate Christ is by bearing judgment on behalf of the guilty.

This is what Christians do in the season of Lent, especially on Ash Wednesday.

The primary way Christians imitate God-for-us is by bearing judgment for others, and, in doing so, we become the bearers of God's good news. In a world sin-sick with judging and judging and judging, indicting and scapegoating and recriminating and casting blame, we're the good news God has made in the world. Just as Jesus said, the first will be last and the last will be first. We who are baptized and believing, we who are saved and sanctified, we who should be last under God's judgment, thrust ourselves to the front of the line and, like Jesus Christ, say, "Me first."

Rather than judge, with ash and oil, we put ourselves before

## Breakfast with the Bishop, Faure's Requiem and guest preacher Will Willimon

The First Sunday of Lent, March 1, will be a special day in our church. We'll begin with a breakfast at 9:30 a.m., followed by a single worship service at 10:30 a.m.

☐ **Breakfast with the Bishop**, 9:30 a.m. – Join us for breakfast with Rev. Dr. William (Will) Willimon, noted theologian, author, preacher and retired United Methodist bishop. Dr. Willimon will give his thoughts and take questions on the future of the church. The Annandale United Methodist Men are hosting the breakfast. To RSVP, contact Jay Morris, [jmorris@annandale-umc.org](mailto:jmorris@annandale-umc.org), by **Feb. 28**.

☐ **Single service**, 10:30 a.m. – Our adult choir and a chamber ensemble will perform Gabriel Faure's *Requiem* during this combined service. Faure composed many sacred works for chorus and orchestra, and his *Requiem* is known for its gentle reverence and peaceful beauty. Dr. Willimon will be our guest preacher.



Dr. Willimon is professor of Christian ministry at Duke University. He served as bishop of the North Alabama Conference from 2004 to 2012. He has also taught in Germany, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia at various seminaries.

More than a million copies of his books have been sold, and his articles have appeared in numerous publications. *His Worship as Pastoral Care* was selected as one of the 10 most useful books for pastors by the Academy of Parish Clergy. He also blogs at *A Peculiar Prophet* (<https://willwillimon.wordpress.com/>).

He is a graduate of Wofford College (B.A.), Yale Divinity School (M.Div.) and Emory University (S.T.D.).

the Judgment Seat.

Rather than condemning and critiquing, we confess.

We bear the original curse ("From dust you came and to dust you shall return") rather than curse.

We do so because we Christians are the peculiar people who know we can come before God's Judgment Seat expecting to hear the first words spoken when God came to us: "Do not be afraid."

Grace and Peace,

 Jason

## 2020 Lenten Mission projects and goals



Each year, our Missions Committee selects local and international mission projects for the congregation to support — both financially and in volunteer service. Our fundraising goal this year is \$75,000. That's a realistic

figure that we think our church can reach since we raised \$73,000 last year.

It's important to note that the money you donate goes directly towards these projects. No funds are used for overhead or administrative expenses. In addition, these projects do not receive funds from our operating budget. We rely on your generous contributions to make these projects happen.

If we reach our goal, the funds will be distributed as follows:

- **100,000 Homes** – \$9,000 to help provide permanent housing in Fairfax County for those who are currently homeless.

### *Lenten and Holy Week activities*

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**, Feb. 25, 5:45 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service**, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.

**First Sunday of Lent**, March 1, breakfast, 9:30 a.m.; single service with requiem, 10:30 a.m. Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. William Willimon, noted theologian and retired UMC bishop.

**Wednesday Night Together**, March 4–April 1, 6 p.m., dinner in Wright Hall; \$8 adults, \$4 children, \$20 maximum for families.

**Lenten Communion Service**, Wednesdays, March 4–April 1, 7 p.m.

**Bi-District event**, March 11, 7 p.m., in the sanctuary. “Two Perspectives: A Conversation with Tom Berlin and Keith Boyette” will examine the LGTBQ issue and the future of the United Methodist Church.

**Pretzels & Painting**, March 27, 5 and 7 p.m., a Lenten-themed night of creative expressions for all ages.

**Palm Sunday**, April 5, 8:30 and 11 a.m. (palming of the cross)

**Holy Thursday**, April 9, 7:30 p.m. (communion service)

**Good Friday**, April 10, Little White Church open for prayers, 12–3 p.m.; Good Friday worship service, “Seven Signs at Calvary,” 7:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunday**, April 12, 6:30, 8:30 and 11 a.m.; children's Easter service/Easter egg hunt, 9:45 a.m.; live Easter animals, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

- **Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)** – \$10,000 to support local assistance programs, including the ACCA furniture warehouse next to the Little White Church.
- **AUMC Mission Center** – \$10,000 to support AUMC's food and outreach programs for Annandale families.
- **International disaster relief** – \$5,000 to support relief and rebuilding in places like the Bahamas, Haiti and Puerto Rico.
- **Hypothermia prevention** – \$3,500 towards AUMC's efforts to shelter and feed those without homes in the Annandale area.
- **Kairos** – \$4,000 to support the Northern Virginia Kairos Prison Ministry Team, which serves Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt, VA.
- **Medical Care for Children Partnership (MCCP) Foundation** – \$5,000 to match funds raised through the Janet Petty Sabo Memorial Fund for MCCP, a nonprofit that provides access to medical and dental care for children of uninsured families living in Fairfax County.
- **Poe Middle School food ministry** – \$10,000 to grant 300-plus local children the certainty of an after-school meal each week.
- **Rise Against Hunger** – \$13,500 to package dehydrated meals for those in need across 75 countries.
- **Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church** - \$5,000 towards Rising Hope's campaign to raise \$500,000 for capital improvements.

On Sundays during Lent, we'll highlight AUMC's projects during our “Mission Moment.” Information will also be available in the atrium and in the 2020 Lenten Mission Projects brochure.

You may give to Lenten Mission Projects online or use the special envelopes. Please indicate on your check that it is for Lenten Mission Projects.

The Missions Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month in Room 302 at 7 p.m. You do not need to be a member of the committee to attend. Everyone is welcome. The committee is always seeking new members and perspectives to improve our mission programs. To learn more, contact Teresa Beyer, [larachliath@gmail.com](mailto:larachliath@gmail.com) or 301-221-8321.

## **AUMC Scholastic Book Fair and Silent Auction**

Our Weekday Children's Program will hold its annual book sale and silent auction, March 1–5, in the Youth Room (Room 105). Come choose from a wide selection of books for young people, plus participate in a silent auction and win gift certificates, tickets to events and children's handmade art.

The hours are: March 1, 9:30–10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.; March 2, noon–1 p.m.; March 3, 8:30–10 a.m., 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., 2–3 p.m.; March 4, 8:30–10 a.m., 11:30–1 p.m., 2–3 p.m., 4:30–6 p.m.; and March 5, 8:30–10 a.m., 11:30–1 p.m., 2–3 p.m.

## AUMC begins 3-year program leading to church growth and innovation



AUMC has partnered with the Alexandria/Arlington UMC Bi-District to participate in a three-year program called Next Level Innovations (NLI).

NLI is designed to help larger, healthy churches reach their next level of potential. It's a program that has been used successfully in other conferences to grow churches. AUMC is one of six local churches to begin the program in 2020.

A team of lay members will be part of the multi-year program. Our team includes Debbi Iwig, Pam Jones, Katy Padilla, Brad Todd, Kristine Grow, Scott Fleming and Michelle Robinson. In addition, Rev. Jason will be part of a clergy peer learning group for senior pastors.

The NLI process involves continual prayer for discernment and a detailed, church-wide self-study. In the first year, The NLI team will be seeking input from the congregation in a variety of ways, including an Innovations Weekend and town hall meetings.

The goal in the second year is to develop three to five innovations tailored to AUMC. The congregation will then vote on whether to move forward with these innovations. To pass, the entire group of innovations must be approved by 70 percent or more of those voting.

Assuming the innovations are approved, AUMC will work on implementing the initiatives in the latter part of year two and in year three. A mentor will be assigned to our church to help us with the process.

Our team is excited to be partnering with the District, but it wants to reassure the congregation that NLI is not intended to replace any existing programs or limit new ideas from church members. Nor is it in response to last year's Special General Conference and the Way Forward Task Group.

NLI gives us a framework for developing new ways to grow and reach more people in our community. Everyone can help by thinking and praying about ways we can improve our church.



### Pretzels & Painting, March 27, 5 and 7 p.m.

Everyone is invited for a fun evening of pretzels and painting on March 27. We'll start with a snack of pretzels and learn why they are a Lenten food. Then we'll start painting!

Participants will follow along on their canvases as an instructor guides the group in a Bible-themed painting. The event is open to all ages, and the cost is \$5 per person. There will be two times to choose from: 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Each time slot is limited to 25 people to ensure everyone can see and follow the instructor.

RSVP by March 22 to Meredith Bond, 703-256-8330, ext. 104, or [mbond@annandale-umc.org](mailto:mbond@annandale-umc.org). Be sure to indicate how many will be in your party. Light snacks will be provided.

## AUMC Way Forward Task Group supports Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation



The AUMC task group formed last year to study and make recommendations to our church regarding LGBTQ clergy and same-sex marriages has been reviewing proposals that will be taken up at the 2020 General Conference in May.

One of those is the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, which you may have read about in the news. The work of a geographically and theologically diverse group of United Methodist leaders, the Protocol would allow traditionalists to form a new Methodist denomination. The United Methodist Church would continue but with a revised Book of Discipline that repeals all restrictions related to LGBTQ persons.

In a recent letter to the congregation, the task group said it strongly supports the Protocol, viewing it as the "best solution for resolving the diverse viewpoints related to full inclusion of

the LGBTQ community in the church." Copies of the letter are in the atrium and can be found at <http://annandalechurch.com/human-sexuality/>.

The task group will be urging Virginia's delegates to the 2020 General Conference to support the Protocol. If you would like to write to the delegates, you can get a list of email addresses from Bill Iwig, the task group chair, at [bethesda.duo@verizon.net](mailto:bethesda.duo@verizon.net).

The group also encourages everyone to attend a Bi-District forum at AUMC on March 11 at 7 p.m., where Revs. Tom Berlin and Keith Boyette, who helped draft the Protocol, will give their differing perspectives on the LGTBQ issue.

For more information about our task group, feel free to contact Bill or any of the other members of the group: Pam Adams, Elvira Arteaga, Bill Chambers, Harry Day, Bill Harrod, Jan Harrod, Sophie Luckenbaugh, Chenda Lee, Art Pond, Christi Schwarten, Pat Sherfey, Peter Snitzer Jr. and Terri Ruhter.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Feb. 25



Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is next week. Christians around the world recognize Shrove Tuesday as a time for feasting on pancakes, doughnuts and all things

fattening. During the Middle Ages, this was the day households were expected to use up all milk, eggs and fat to prepare for the strict fasting of Lent.

So come celebrate Shrove Tuesday with us next Tuesday, Feb. 25. There will be pancakes with all the fixings, activities for the kids, a children's parade, king cupcakes and pancake races. The serving line will be open 5:45–6:30 p.m. To make a reservation, contact Dottie Rogerson at drogerson@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330, ext. 112. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children and \$20 maximum per family. Make checks payable to AUMC.



### Live Easter animals at AUMC

AUMC will host live animals again this year on Easter Sunday, April 12, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. The animals will be on the Columbia Pike side of the church, near the front parking lot. We'll have chicks, bunnies, sheep and goats. Make plans to bring the kids for Easter service, and stop off and see the animals!

## MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Feb. 18	Church Council	7 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Feb. 25	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Mar. 3	Trustees	7 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., Mar. 4	Stephen Ministry	7 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., Mar. 10	Finance Committee	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Mar. 10	Missions Committee	7 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Mar. 17	Church Council	7 p.m.	Room 302

### Be a member of the Caring Ministries team

The Caring Ministries team makes personal visits to AUMC members who are homebound, in a nursing or retirement home, or in the hospital. If you would like to join the team and are available to make visits about once a month, please contact Barbara Gordon at barbarag2308@gmail.com or 703-300-5184. You may also contact Dottie Rogerson in the church office, drogerson@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330, ext. 112.

### Stephen Ministers are there for you in tough times

People get divorced, loved ones die, cancer strikes, people lose jobs...stuff happens. Whatever is happening in your life, there is someone who can walk with you through your grief, uncertainty or sadness.



AUMC is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers have received training to listen without judgment. Our mission is not to "fix" you. We "listen, listen, love, love" as you heal and move forward.

Maybe you need someone to walk with you through a season, or maybe you are looking for a more long-term relationship. Whatever your need, we are available so no one ever has to walk through the valley alone. Talk to one of our pastors or contact Pat Sherfey at psherfey@yahoo.com. All conversations are confidential.

## WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

### Sunday, February 23, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

**Door greeters:** 8 J. Beyer, C. Cox;

10:30 J. Houston, S. Houghton

**Fellowship Hours:** Kairos Prison Ministry

**Ushers:** 8:30 G. FitzGibbon, B. Herbst, A. Powell, E. McKenney (c);

11 S. Fleming, F. Madill, D. Robinson, P. Adams (c)

### Sunday, March 1, 10:30 a.m. ONLY

**Door greeters:** S. Fleming, S. Naugle, D. Johnson, E. Jones

**Fellowship Hours:** United Methodist Men

**Ushers:** W. Annan, J. Clarke, A. Cogswell, S. Fleming, S. Chase, N. Robjhon, G. Rothman, R. Gordon

### Sunday, March 8, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

**Door greeters:** 8 M. Pearson, D. Ruhter;

10:30 L. Riley, P. Snitzer

**Fellowship Hours:** Finance Committee

**Ushers:** 8:30 W. Ferrebee, C. Jones, C. Jones, E. McKenney (c);

11 N. Bentsi-Bansah, D. Robinson, G. Rothman, P. Snitzer (c);

### Sunday, March 15, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

**Door greeters:** 8 J. Vance, J. Beyer;

10:30 A. Snyder, C. Stephens

**Fellowship Hours:** Missions Committee

**Ushers:** 8:30 A. Powell, M. Robinson, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey (c);

11 S. Fleming, F. Madill, A. Underwood, R. Gordon (c);

## NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday, Mar. 6, is the deadline for the Mar. 17 Witness, which covers Mar. 22 and 29, and Apr. 5 and 12.