



Emmanuel United Methodist Church
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The Lamplighter

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!

**THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE
WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.**

JOSHUA 1:9



**DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN!
WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU.**





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SEPTEMBER 2020

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Got News? Do you have something for our newsletter? Send items to the editor, Rick Bergmann at lamplighter@eumcbeltsville.com

From the Pastor's Desk Trust and Truth



The month of September is a good time to put into action the things we considered in the sermons from August. The relationship between truth and trust is especially important as we continue to navigate the three pandemics of health, injustice, and economics, and prepare for the elections in November. We need leaders that have the qualities and abilities to do what the nation needs. No one is perfect, and all fall short, but when choosing a leader "Trust follows Truth." We cannot nullify the commands of God for the sake of a party line, old habits, antiquated traditions, or favoritism. We are looking for political leaders, health experts, and protestors to communicate in a way that gets the message across and connect to the listeners by *telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help "them" God.*

To become one nation under God, we must embrace our uniqueness while striving for equity. 1 John 4 says, "*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone into the world.*" Verses 20-21, "*If anyone says, 'I love God', yet does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whomever loves God must also love his brother*"

We need unity, plain and simple. Division has cost us. We want to trust that another person is telling us the truth no matter how difficult it is, regardless of the consequences they may face. *God is truth and can be trusted to do what is best for us – all of God's creation - man, mammal, land, air, and sea.* Someone or something that is true will stand up under testing.

Do as Theologian Karl Barth said to do, "Take your bible and take your newspaper and read both. But interpret newspapers from your bible." Add the devices, the newsfeeds, social media platforms and conference materials and interpret them from the bible.

Listen wisely to their words. Blind devotion and blind leadership will result in the blind leading the blind into a ditch (Matt. 15:14). Intentions are important. As we continue to navigate the three pandemics of health, injustice, and economics; and as we prepare for the elections, listen for the words that are *life giving, compassionate, inclusive, have good intentions, uniting, uplifting, empowering, and true.*

Do not get distracted.
In His Service,

Pastor

HOLY BIBLE

The History and Controversy of the United Methodist Cross and Flame



The official Cross and Flame logo of The United Methodist Church.
Graphic by United Methodist Communications

Since its inception in 1968, the official symbol of the United Methodist Church has been the cross and flame logo. In 1966, a commission on church union, representing The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren, was authorized to develop an official insignia. Edward J. Mikula (art director) and Edwin H. Maynard (editorial director) were appointed to develop the design. They decided that the design had to be simple, bold, instantly recognizable, obviously Christian and uniquely Wesleyan. They also wanted it to have official colors but be able to be printed in black and white as well.

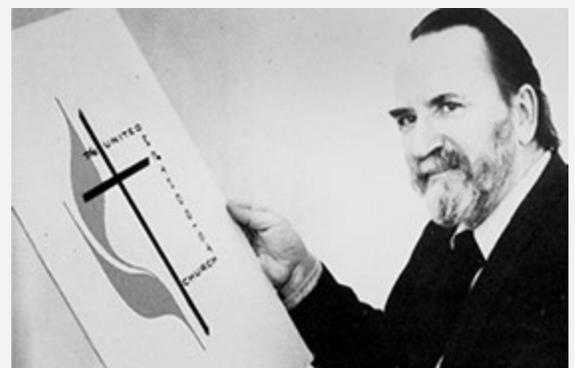
The two men came up with more than two dozen conceptualizations until they decided on the cross and flame emblem we know today. The resulting image has a rich meaning. It connects The United Methodist Church to God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame). The flame is a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit

and saw "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3). The elements of the design also recall a transforming moment in the life of Methodism's founder, John Wesley, when he sensed God's presence and felt his heart "strangely warmed." The two tongues can also represent the two bodies that united in 1968 to form The United Methodist Church. The 1968 Uniting Conference adopted this design as the official insignia of the new denomination, and so it has been to this day.

There has been some rethinking of the emblem as it is seen today. The Rev. Edlen Cowley has asked the question is it time for the cross and flame symbol to be retired. Rev. Cowley writes "I saw my first burning cross in 1979 when I was 10 years old. It was night. My family and I were on our way to Shreveport, Louisiana, from the parsonage of Miles Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Marshall, Texas, where my dad was pastor. We were comfortably talking and riding along when to our right, my mother pointed out a large burning cross just off the freeway. My mother told my brother, sister and me that the burning cross was a powerful image devised to evoke fear in black people." He continues "in this deafeningly quiet moment, that simple, terrifying and horrific image of the burning cross made the struggle personal for me. I have never forgotten it." He joined the United Methodist Church in 1992 and upon seeing the cross and flame insignia, he thought to himself "That is interesting."

Upon seeing the symbol he didn't think about the warming of John Wesley's heart or the holy spirit connecting to Jesus or the tongues of fire as described in the book of Acts. Although the symbol didn't stop him from attending and being faithful, it reminded him of that cross burning on the side of the road in 1979. There is a lot of baggage that comes with the symbol of a cross set ablaze in the United States. It was used as a symbol to strike fear in the hearts of African Americans by groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

Rev. Cowley writes "The United Methodist Church has been and remains a world leader in so many ways. My question is, "Can the United Methodist Church again be a leader in this unique time and choose a new insignia that doesn't send an unintended message of racism and fear while it is at the same time legitimately extending the hand of Christ to the world?" There is no easy answer. Should we retire the cross and flame and create a new symbol of unity? These are questions for all United Methodist as we try to move forward to a more understanding and inclusive society today.



Artist Edward J. Mikula poses with the Cross and Flame emblem he had designed in 1968. This photo is from the book *Keeping Up With The Revolution* by Edwin Maynard. Archived Photo, United Methodist Communications.



Find us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information
www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville

Fabulous Flashbacks

September is usually the time to restart Bible Study and Sunday School. Here are some pictures from Sunday School through the years.



Another Flashback

This is a picture of the Emmanuel Methodist Church on Prince George's Avenue. This was our church building before we moved to the current address on Cedar Lane. It was built in 1892 and served as the church building until the first worship service in our current location took place on January 22, 1961.

Meet Missionaries Jane and Larry Kies

On August 30, 2020 Missionaries Jane and Larry Kies made a presentation at our 10am zoom worship. They serve in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Here is some information about these missionaries.



**Missionary
Larry Kies**

Larry Kies is a United Methodist missionary serving as the Technical Advisor to the Africa University Farm at Mutare, Zimbabwe, southern Africa.

Africa University is a United Methodist Church-related project and is being nurtured and funded by church members from all over the world. It is a consequence of the growth of United Methodism on the African continent and has its foundations in the history and legacy of the church. Africa University opened in March 1992 as the first private, international university in Zimbabwe. He teaches classes in Practical Agriculture, Crop Production and Farm Management. His duties also involve working with the farm manager in developing the Farm so as to make the university farm more efficient in its roles of teaching and research.

Reflecting on his assignment at Africa University, Mr. Kies says, “I am in mission with the African people as we manage a commercial-scale farm that demonstrates appropriate farming methods. Students, even those not studying agriculture, are exposed to sustainable practices as many work part-time on the farm to help pay their school fees. In teaching, I hope to reinforce in students a Christian outlook toward farming and business, since many of them will be the African leaders of the future. By so doing, I hope to obey Jesus’ command, implicit in Matthew 25, to feed the hungry.”

Mr. Kies was raised near Jesup, Iowa, where his parents gave him his love of farming and sense of global mission. After graduating from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Biology, he began a 15- year career in Botswana. He first served as a Peace Corps Volunteer teaching Agriculture, before becoming a missionary stationed at Maun Secondary School where he managed the farm and taught Agriculture.

He returned to the U.S. to earn his M.Sc. in Vegetable Crops at the University of California, Davis. In 1994 he returned to Africa to manage the beef, dairy, cotton and maize farm at Nyadire Mission in Zimbabwe. He began his work at Africa University in 2002.

He is married to Jane Kies, who is also a United Methodist missionary assigned to Africa University. They have four children: Ben, Andrew Pule, Carly and Michael.

Jane Kies is a United Methodist missionary teaching Intensive English to students from non-English countries at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, southern Africa.

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Reflecting on her assignment at Africa University, Jane says, “Working with young people who come to Africa University with a passion to learn English is a rewarding experience. Fluency in English equips them to study for a degree that will enable them to carry out their particular ministries and use their gifts. I am thankful for the opportunity my students give me to learn about the diversity of cultures and peoples on the African continent. I also value the opportunities there are to study and discuss the Bible together, and help the students apply its teachings to their lives and experiences at Africa University.”

Jane was born in Ndola, Zambia and grew up in southern Africa and England. After graduating, she spent two years in Uganda as a volunteer with Church Missionary Society UK, teaching in a rural secondary school after which she returned to England to earn certification in Teaching English as a Second/Foreign Language (T.E.S.O.L). After finishing, she taught English at Maun Secondary School in Botswana, where she also worked with the Art Club and the Scripture Union student group.

In 1994, Jane went with her family to live and work at Nyadire Mission in Zimbabwe, teaching English at the mission high school, and working with women to establish a Sunday school for children at the Nyadire UMC church.

In 2002, she moved with her family to Africa University where she assists in teaching in the Intensive English program for students from non-English speaking African countries. She is married to Larry Kies, who is also a United Methodist missionary assigned to Africa University. They have four children: Ben, Andrew Pule, Carly, and Michael.



Missionary Jane Kies



WE ARE THE CHURCH



This month's member is Andrew (Andy) Onukwubiri

How long have you been a member of Emmanuel?

I have been a member for the past 29 years

Who was the Pastor when you began attending Emmanuel?

The Pastor was Richard Karpal

What is your fondest memory of being a member?

There are several fond memories. They include the baptism of two of my children, Joelle and Ikenna.

What are some of the ministries you have been involved in over the years?

I have been a member of the Trustee, SPRC and Finance. During these periods, I served as chairperson for the SPRC and Finance committees and remain a member of the finance committee. Some of the ministerial accomplishment includes the construction of the handicap ramp, the construction of the breezeway connection between the Sanctuary and Education building and lately, the carpet replacement of the sanctuary, etc.

What is your favorite thing about Emmanuel?

My favorite thing is the food distribution ministry. Although, I do not serve in the food ministry, I remain amazed with the commitment.

What is your favorite scripture or Bible verse?

My favorite Bible passage is John Chapter 3, verse 16

Anything else you would like to say?

I enjoy my membership at Emmanuel for all the nurturing provided to my children through our youth ministry program. The summer recess at camp Manidokin and evangelical trips to Ocean City. I also enjoyed my leadership role in the hiring of Pastor Daniel Mejia as pastor and drafting the Church only Financial Policy and Procedure.



Andy and his late wife Therese on the day they became members of Emmanuel.

How Can I Give?

Online: You can now give online through Emmanuel's website at www.eumcbeltsville.com/giving or scan the QR Code below. This is a great way to keep up with your giving if you are out of town, are sick or if you can't come to church. If you have any questions, contact Kemi Oluwafemi.

Through the Mail: You can mail your offering to the church. The address is 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.



Memory Verse number 9 2 Corinthians 9: 10-12 Common English Bible (CEB)

¹⁰The one who supplies seed for planting and bread for eating will supply and multiply your seed and will increase your crop, which is righteousness. ¹¹You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way. Such generosity produces thanksgiving to God through us. ¹²Your ministry of this service to God's people isn't only fully meeting their needs but it is also multiplying in many expressions of thanksgiving to God.

As we are looking at re-opening strategies, please remember that we are watching case studies closely. The graphic below shows the dangers of opening too soon.

Preventing the spread of COVID-19

COVID-19 SPREAD: CASE STUDY



Prevent the spread of COVID-19

Ohio Department of Health



The Pastor is available for appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Email office@eumcbeltsville.com or call 301.937.7114 to make arrangements.



Attention Members of Emmanuel, If you are in need of food and were not able to make it during our normal distribution times you can contact Mary Ann Vaughan at mvaughan@ipcmclean.org to set up a time to pick some up. Sincerely, The Food Ministry

A hymn for this season: 'How Right it is For Christians'

Originally printed in the August 10 edition of the United Methodist Church E-Connection

The Rev. Fred Crider wrote and shares this hymn in response to the controversy sparked by the death of George Floyd and the "Black Lives Matter" movement. "During this time," he said, "some have insisted on refusing to say that phrase, preferring only 'All Lives Matter.' That is clearly true, but as in the case of the parable of the Lost Sheep, it's the one outside the group who needs the Shepherd's help right at the moment."

"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?" ...rejoice with me.. (Luke 15:4,6b)

(Sung to the tune, "The Church's One Foundation")

How right it is for Christians
to speak for those oppressed,
and challenge those with privilege
to see the dispossessed.
Come, stand with those excluded
by race or place of birth,
and walk beside the suffering
to bring God's joy to earth.

The sheep in Jesus' story
all matter to their Guide,
those thriving in green pastures
and those shut out, denied.
The latter need attention
the others may not need;
God's ear is fixed on hearing
those cries we may not heed.

So if we are among those
whose lives seem safe and blessed,
be glad for the attention
now given to the rest!
Reach out to those now asking
"How long, O Lord, how long?"
Hold hands with love and justice,
delighting in God's song.

Words: R. Frederick Crider ©2020 Scriptural Source Luke 15:1-7 AURELIA
Suggested Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley 76.76 D cf. "The Church's One Foundation"



"Stoking racist fears and slandering sisters and brothers of color are indeed evil sins that we are called to resist."

 Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
The United Methodist Church
Commission on Religion and Race

The 23rd Psalm for the Work Place

Submitted by Elsie Cline



The Lord is my real boss and I shall not want. HE gives me peace when chaos is all around me. HE gently reminds me to pray before I speak, and to do all things without murmuring or complaining.

He reminds me that HE is my source and not my job. HE restores my sanity everyday and guides my decisions that I might honor HIM in everything I do.

Even tough I face absurd amounts of mails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, cutbacks, and gossiping co-workers every morning.

I will not stop for HE is with me! HIS presence, peace, and power will see me through. HE raises me up, even when they fail to promote me. HE claims me as HIS own.

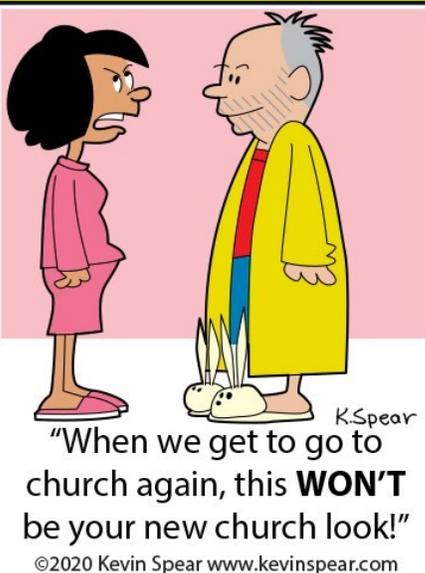
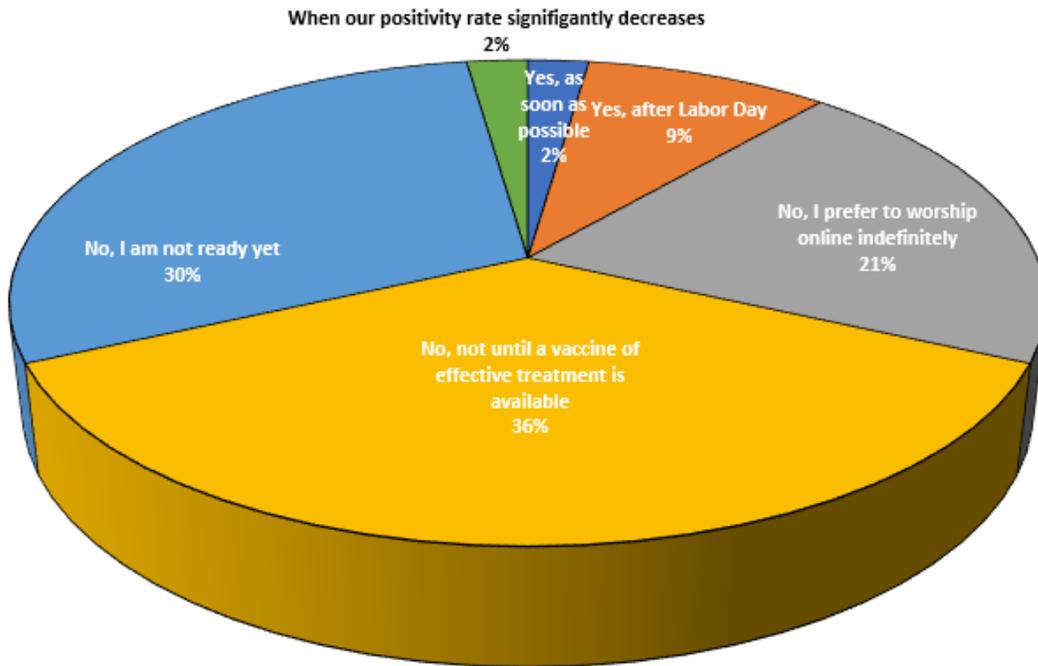
Even when the company threatens to let me go, HIS faithfulness and love are better than any bonus check, and HIS retirement plan beats every 401K there is.

When all is said and done, I'll be working for HIM a whole lot longer and for that, I bless his name.

Update on Re-Entry By the Emmanuel Re-Entry Team

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to fill out our re-entry survey. It is not too late if you haven't done it yet, you can still give us your feedback at <https://forms.gle/4zyPYYgDDNH77tiCA>. Based on the feedback we have received so far, most of you do not feel comfortable returning to in-person worship yet. This is understandable and we are listening to your feedback. As of this article, 66% prefer to wait until a vaccine or effective treatment is available or they are not ready yet and 21% prefer to continue with online worship. Although we are working to eventually return to in-person worship, based on what you have said, it will not be anytime soon. We will continue to hear from you as well as monitor the health reports from the CDC, Maryland and Prince George's County in order to make well informed decisions.

When would you feel safe attending church at Emmanuel UMC?



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Update from Nan and Miguel (from March 2020)

Dear GYTTE friends,

We hope you are well and finding spring arriving or just around the corner.

In February, we enjoyed a wonderful group from four churches in Pennsylvania that included two women who have been here many times, as well as eight wonderful new friends. Unfortunately, Bob Campbell hurt his hand and had to stay behind in PA, but wife Donna made up for him with her sunny personality! We had a wonderful 16-yr-old, Caleb Kashner, with us who worked hard, loved the dogs and the staff and kept us laughing!

They worked on compacting mud/straw walls on the home of Veronica, Roberto and kids Brian and Kevin. The home is just about finished. The January Virginia team helped get it started.

On rural reality day, they learned how important corn is to the people as Lore, head cook, gave an impassioned lesson. They watered a lot of plants since it is dry season, cleaned goat/sheep stalls, collected eggs, learned to use a machete to collect fire wood and cleaned beans!

They went to a village to see and participate in a class with children and parents on dental hygiene. Some of you know former staff-member Miguel Quintana - he teaches in this village. The team loved spending some time with him and playing with the kids.

On the Tree of Life Farm they helped Carlos, Sal and Ray extend the cement floor for the workshop. It sounds nuts, but mixing cement was kind of fun. They also began the rock wall for an herb garden.

Becky gave the message at church and all enjoyed making new friends and seeing Sal's baby and Liborio's grandkids. With pastor Marian, we had an unconventional Ash Wednesday service around the bonfire!

The staff planted radishes, watermelon and a little corn this year that they are irrigating and hope to have some in April. We enjoyed the radishes!

We hope to see you here in Mexico sometime soon.

In God's love, Nan, Miguel, Clara, Cata and the rest of the staff



Update from Mutare

Dear friends and family,

Greetings from Zimbabwe, where along with most of the world the disruptions caused by covid-19 continue. We are slowly emerging from winter, circles of wheat are being irrigated on the AU farm, and students and staff are preparing for online lessons for this coming semester. Campus has been in partial lock down since March, and it has been quiet. About 150 students have remained in their dormitories due to travel restrictions within Africa, and have been engaged in Vacation Relief Work.



**Vacation Relief Work- Students
Clearing Invasive Bee Bush and
Lantana on Campus**

Farm News

Mr. Mupofu, the Farm Manager, and his team have made sure that the AU Farm continues producing despite the restrictions caused by covid-19. A bumper crop of wheat, including two circles under the center pivot, is now flowering. Plans are underway to finish lining the fish ponds and stocking them with tilapia fingerlings. A target of fundraising is a new 4-tonne truck for collecting inputs and marketing produce. A successful crop of cabbages means a lot of truckloads!

Please pray for:

-a smooth opening of the semester as students and staff alike transition to online teaching and learning, protection for Zimbabwe as a nation as it faces Covid-19 cases increasing despite a partial lockdown, and missionaries carrying out online itineration

We are grateful for your faithful support and care over the years. Africa University is nurturing young men and women who will be among the future leaders and decision makers in the continent of Africa. Your partnership is helping to mold them into Christ-centered leaders in the church, education, agriculture, business, health and government. Larry and Jane Kies

Labor Day Facts (from history.com)

Submitted by Jane Grays



Why Do We Celebrate Labor Day?

Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters. In the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages.

People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks. As manufacturing increasingly supplanted agriculture as the wellspring of American employment, labor unions, which had first appeared in the late 18th century, grew more prominent and vocal. They began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and compel employers to renegotiate hours and pay.

Many of these events turned violent during this period, including the infamous Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed. Others gave rise to longstanding traditions: On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first Labor Day parade in U.S. history.

The idea of a "workingmen's holiday," celebrated on the first Monday in September, caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in American labor history brought workers' rights squarely into the public's view. On May 11, 1894, employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives. On June 26, the American Railroad Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, called for a boycott of all Pullman railway cars, crippling railroad traffic nationwide. To break the Pullman strike, the federal government dispatched troops to Chicago, unleashing a wave of riots that resulted in the deaths of more than a dozen workers.

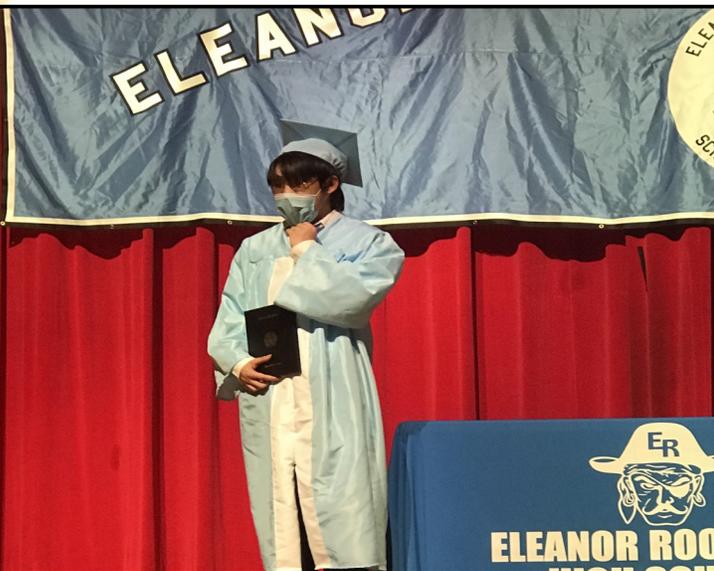
Who Created Labor Day?

In the wake of this massive unrest and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. More than a century later, the true founder of Labor Day has yet to be identified. Many credit Peter J. McGuire, cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, while others have suggested that Matthew Maguire, a secretary of the Central Labor Union, first proposed the holiday.

Labor Day Celebrations

Labor Day is still celebrated in cities and towns across the United States with parades, picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays and other public gatherings. For many Americans, particularly children and young adults, it represents the end of the summer and the start of the back-to-school season.





Congratulations to Emmanuel Sound Tech, William Mo, who graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt

Share your talents at Emmanuel by Sharing the Word as a Scripture Reader during our Sunday Zoom Service! Help for a single Sunday or choose several. You choose how many Sundays you are able to help. To volunteer to serve as a Scripture Reader during our Zoom Sunday Service, just email the office at office@eumcbeltsville.com and they will let you know which weeks are available!

**No experience needed!
We will train you on the job!**



1. Mary Ann Vaughan
4. Dottie Gilbert
6. Jody Hammond, Isaac Oluwafemi
8. Don Hammond
9. Jessica Leatherman,
10. Charlie Deegan, Ester Hatton
11. James Mackey, Jr.
12. Tracy Fuller
14. Evelyn Adkins
15. Elsie Cline,
18. Robert Galloway
21. Bob Miller, Carol Lee, Lois Schulze, Len Weston
22. Beverly Ward
23. Dela Martin, Chinasa Onukwubiri
29. Victoria Galloway, Carolyn Hicks, Ascenna Scotland
30. Kathryn Griffin, Jennifer Embrey



1. Carrie & Roy White
2. Don & Mary Ann Roberts
4. Donna & Jim Tock
5. Bobbie & Charlie Deegan
6. Barbara & Jim Butcher
8. Priscilla & Chrispin Wray
27. Ann & Ted Ladd

Happy Anniversary



Start your week off with Virtual Worship at Emmanuel!



Join us on Sunday mornings in virtual worship through Zoom. Join us for 30 minutes of fellowship from 9:30-10:00 am followed by worship at 10:00. Use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/98922434032> or go to zoom.us and click join a meeting. The meeting number is 989 2243 4032. Don't have a computer to use? You can call in on any telephone (cell or landline) at 1.301.715.8592!

**HOLD FAST
TO DREAMS
FOR IF DREAMS DIE,
LIFE IS A
BROKEN-WINGED
BIRD THAT
CANNOT FLY.**



LANGSTON HUGHES

Please pray for our sick and shut in

Homebound:

Evelyn Adkins, Harry Cottman, Norma Hall, Carolyn Scarcia

Out of state:

Lil Mizzer

In Memoriam

Christian love and sympathy to the families of:

The Family of Ruby Beaver (sister in law of Sally Rhodes)

The family of Rita Driver (volunteer at camp with Pastor Lenora Whitecotton)

The Family of Nick Daly (friend of Rick Bergmann)