

E-BULLETIN

A BI-WEEKLY PRODUCTION FOR JAN 3-16, 2021

In an effort to keep the congregation as up to date as possible during our physical absence from the church, this medium is being provided as an additional tool along with our communication calls. If you have information that needs to be shared for the good of the faith community, please email **administrator@unionbaltimore.org**

*This document is read as a book, from left to right.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD OF GOD

Enjoy this time with God for clarity and insight into your daily life.

Go to our church website <u>www.unionbaltimore.org/devotional</u> to access our daily devotional with scriptures, stories and more!



TRUTH FOR LIFE DAILY DEVOTIONAL A Paradox

" I slept, but my heart was awake. - Song of Songs 5:2 "

Paradones abound in Christian experience, and here is one: The spouse was adeep, and yet the was awake. The only one who can read the believer's riddle she who has lived through this experience. The two points in this evening's test are: a mountful sdeepiness and a hopeful wakefulness. "I *light*: Through in that dread's in us we may become last in holy duries, party in religious exercises, add in spiritud loys, and completely indolert and careless.

This is a shameful attace for one in whom the quickening Spirit dwells; and it is dangerous in the highest degree. Even wise virgins sometimes shamber, but it is high time for all to shake off the chains of idleness. It is to be feared that many believers lose their strength as Samon lost his hair, while sleeping on the laps of carnal security. With a perhading world around us; to deep is carely, while terrely us do use thand, it is madness.

Yet none of us are as awake as we should be; a few thunderclaps would do us all good, and it may be, unless we soon stir ourselves, we will have them in the form of war or disease or personal betravements and loss. May we leave forever the couch of fleshly ease, and go out with flaming torches to meet the coming Bridgeground." *Mo hart us an awake*."

This is a happy sign. Life is not extinct, though sudly smoothered. When our renewed heart straggles against our natural heaviness, we should be grateful to sovereign grace for keeping a little vitality which his body of death, Jesus will hear our hearts, will help our hearts, will wist our hearts, for the voice of the wadeful heart is radju be work of our Belowed, sping. "Open tome: Holy early will use you like the door."

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

As you enter into your time of prayer lift up the concerns of our world, nation, city, community, congregation, especially those who have specific requests and those who simply desire for their names to placed before God at this time, as listed below.

Speak these Names Aloud into the Presence of God:

Ms. Lafaye Allen Mr. Paul Allen The Anderson Family Mrs. Sandra Anderson and Family The Atkinson, Smalley and Pulley Family Mr. Cedric Barnes & Mother Mildred Barnes Mr. & Mrs. Duke Bowen & Family Ms. Sharon Brewer and Family Alexander V. Brown & Family Ms. Eryn Brown & Family Alexander and Joan Brown Usher Johnnie Brown Rhonda Brown & Family The Buise and Gamble Families Mrs. Sophia Burrell Mr. Tony Campbell Ms. Susie Carey The Clark and Dunaway Families Lynell Colson Sunny Curtis Steve, Annette & Harrison Davis Mr. Trae English Mr. & Mrs. Steven and Diane Eisemann Lee Coleman Fuller The GBMC Family Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel & Lorraine Gray Ms. Amaiya Griffin Mrs. Cheryl Hamlin & Family Mrs. Mary Harris Mrs. Cathy Harden Katrina Howard-Reeves & Family Ms. Anne Howell Mrs. Barbara Howie Dr. Shirley Jackson Ms. Donna Jenkins & Family Mr. James Johnson, Jr. Mrs. Tiffany Jones

The Jones & Pendergrass Families Mr. & Mrs. David & LaTonya Jones Mr. George "Merv" Laney Mrs. Vivian Kee Ms. Gwen Mason Bro. Randy Nelson and Family Mr. Clifton Newman The Family of Dr. Demetria Newsome Mrs. Fran Owings Mrs. Jennifer Price Mr. & Mrs. Dontae & Claudette Robinson The Rock and Rice Families Mrs. Jennifer Ross-Gresham and Family Ms. Regina Simms Ms. Vivian Smith Rev. Dr. Susan Spears and Family The Stevens Family Mr. Clyde Taylor The Family of Mrs. Vera Taylor The Tubman Family Ms. Donna Wayman Mr. Robert Williams Mrs. Diane Williams-Payton The Wright Family



Faith Circle Leaders are asked to check-in on members of your group at least bi-weekly to keep up with of how they are doing. Our faith circle leaders will help to keep our pastor aware of concerns that may arise regarding our membership as whole. Please continue to encourage one another with calls, texts, cards and other inspirational forms of communication that let one another we are being thought of. It goes a long way in encouraging someone's soul!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers on the Virtual Altar

January 3rd - 9th

• In loving memory of those we love, but see no more, who crossed over to the other side and sent us on to keep fighting in faith

January 10th – 16th

• In honor of Union Memorial's 2021 New Year's Revival as we ready ourselves to recover anything that has been lost and be replenished to live our best lives yet

ZOOM Video & Conference Call Login Information

For video feature:

- Download the ZOOM for Cloud Meeting Application on your smart phone or tablet device.
- Enter Meeting ID: **499 924 2364**
- Enter Password: **594796**

For telephone feature:

- Dial **1-929-205-6099**
- Enter Meeting ID: 499 924 2364

Once worship begins everyone will be placed on mute except for worship participants. Please do not remove yourself from mute, as everyone will be able to hear your conversations or background noise. Thanks for your cooperation with this matter.



NEW Zoom Usage for Meetings & Events

In an effort ensure that we are able to care for the business of the church as well enjoy a time of fellowship through our various ministries, we are expanding our virtual experience through the ZOOM platform with additional Meeting ID and passwords. This will ensure that we are not limited due to scheduling conflicts. The information is as follows:

Meetings:

- Enter Meeting ID: 470 229 3472
- Enter Password: 042380

Events and Fellowship:

- Enter Meeting ID: 356 277 0525
- Enter Password: 258332

To schedule your usage of either ZOOM virtual conference room under our account, please send an email with the date and time you are requesting to our Church Administrator, Sis. Brenda Brown at <u>administrator@unionbaltimore.org</u>. Please do so at least 48 hours prior to when you need to gather, so that she can confirm the space is available.

Once the space is available, whoever is hosting will need to notify their attendees which of the above Meeting ID and Password combinations are being used to access their gather. All individuals who call in, please note that the phone number remains the same.





A Message from the Finance Team

Thank you for your faithful commitment to the financial stewardship of our church. It is so important during these unprecedented times to keep us strong so that when we return to Union we are able to do so without a negative impact on our resources. Your giving helps to not only keep us on track with our obligations, but also enables us to continue to be a church that can respond to the needs of the community at large.

To continue your support, we are asking that you utilize the Zelle giving platform by downloading this application on your smart phone or tablet device or contacting your financial institution to see if they already have this feature as part of your account. Once you are connected with this feature please select your recipient as:

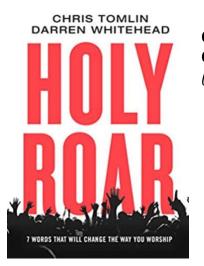
umumcfinance@verizon.net

You can then indicate your amount and whether it is for tithes, offering, the 2020 Gift to Union Project which helps to fund our communications focus area and ensures that we have technology needed to keep the church connected now and in the future.

For those sending their tithe or offering through the US Postal Service, please ensure that it arrives at the church no later than <u>Friday, January 15, 2021</u> in order to be processed for January 2021.

Spring Semester Bible Study

As we ready ourselves for 2021, we are also planning in advance for our continued Christian Formation. **Bible Study will resume the week of January 17-23.** We will have 2 back-to-back studies, which includes a Lenten Study. The books needs for these studies are



 Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week by Amy-Jill Levine (6 week study).

- Holy Roar: 7 Words that will Channge the Way You Worship by Chris Tomlin and Darren Whitehead (4 week study)



ENTERING THE PASSION of JESUS



Both books can been purchased via Amazon and will be used in the order that they appear above. We will observe a "spring break" folloing the Lenten Study before closing out the semester with a study that will be chosen by participants.

Worship & Arts Focus Area



If you were scheduled to record during our December session, which was postponed; please confirm you are still available with Lay Servant Cathy Harden. We will be recording for January and February this day so if you were interested in being part of our Black History Month

Celebration please make us aware as soon as possible.

In addition, we are still collecting pictures of family that are from the early period of photography that you would like shared during the opening segment of worship, please send a digital copy to Cathy Harden at <u>charden8@aol.com</u>. We will also showcase our historical pictures of Whatcoat-Union Memorial. Please share yours also!



If last year drained you and just about took you all the way out, then 2021 needs to be when you get everything that you have lost and need back! Join Pastor J, as he kicks off the new year with an exciting sermon series, **"Replenishment is Required"**. Meet us the entire month of January at 11:15 am for a word of restoration!



RECOVERY MODE IS IN FULL EFFECT at Union Memorial as we ready ourselves for 5 powerful, prophetic nights of praise, prayer and preaching during our first ever New Year's Revival! Join us nightly at 7 PM Monday, January 11, 2021 through Friday, January 15, 2021 as we welcome these gifts to the kingdom to bring us a word to ready us for the year about to unfold:

Rev. Keisha Dukes

Mt. Zion and St. James United Methodist Churches in Pocomoke, MD

Rev. Michael A. Carrington Jr. Eastern United Methodist Church in Baltimore, MD,

Rev. J. Kevin James Jr. Macedonia Baptist Church in East St. Louis, IL

Rev. Michael A. Parker II United Methodist Church of the Redeemer in Temple Hills, MD

> **Rev. Marissa R. Farrow** Greater Allen AME Cathedral in New York, NY

Don't miss this mighty move of God! Let the spirit revive you again!



A Time of Prayerful Reflection for the 2021 Vision

Our vision for the new year has been cast. **At Union Memorial 2021 will be The Year of Replenishment: Restoring Intangibles to their Rightful Place.** As a faith community we will be entering a time of consecration for that which is to come. All members are asked for the next 21 days to pause at 12 noon for 21 minutes of prayer and meditation. During this time, we will be listening to God to hear the steps we must take individually and collectively in order to be ready for our divine replenishment throughout this year!

Members of Union are also asked to consider their 2021 Membership Accountability Forms and pledge their commitment to the faith community in the areas of prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness at this time. These forms will be mailed out this week and should be returned to the church by **Sunday, January 24, 2021**, which will be our official **Consecration Sunday**. In an effort to go green, those who have access to the internet can also fill out the form via our church website and it will be added to your member profile. Thanks in advance for your dedication to being disciples of Christ and your faithfulness to the godly success of Union!



Strategic Planning Focus Group

In 2021, our faith-community will engage in a new practice of inviting a diverse group of individuals, who represent cross

sections of our membership to gather for heartful conversation and to participate in think-tank sessions that will be used to charter our path forward. At the conclusion of these sessions, 4 initiatives will be announced for the Church to endeavor to do. The participants will be different annually to allow a variety of voices to participate. We ask that you are in prayer for their work as they get underway.



Evangelism Team

The Evangelism Team has initiated a Pen Pal Program at the Maryland Baptist Aged Home. The home is located near the church and our team has conducted worship services at the facility for a decade. Since we cannot see them in person, we are writing residents notes on colorful cards which they share with as a group activity assisted by the Activities Director.

In January, our Team will provide snacks and personal grooming items to the residents. We ask the congregation to support this effort by designating Evangelism on your envelope or electronic church offering. Contact a member of the Evangelism Team if you have questions or wish to become a member of our ministry.

Children & Youth Focus Area

There will be a meeting of the Children & Youth Focus Area on **Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 7 PM** to begin the planning for how we will engage with the next generation in the summer months. While the school year continues to be virtual, as educators are making plans to safely return our children to school, we want to look at the best way for us to provide them with programming that will continue their academic growth, allow them to tap into their God-given talent and potential!

We have applied for a grant to help fund our efforts through the Baltimore Summer Youth Collaborative and are beginning the process of considering partners for this endeavor. Please keep it in prayer as this is a way in which we are called to be the church for our community and especially our young people!

BWC CONFERENCE & COMMUNITY INFORMATION