

The Chimes

Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation

As you may have heard in the news, representatives of the largest and most influential caucus groups within the United Methodist Church (UMC), together with several bishops from across the theological spectrum, have reached an agreement that seeks to put an end to the conflict our denomination has over how LGBTQ+ persons are to be included in the life of the church. The agreement, the *Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation* proposes restructuring The UMC by separation as the best means to resolve our differences, allowing each part of the Church to remain true to its theological understanding, while recognizing the dignity, equality, integrity, and respect of every person. The plan will be introduced at General Conference that will meet May 5 - 15, 2020.

It is important to note that as of now, no change has happened. Some media outlets are reporting this as if a split has already happened. This is not true. The General Conference is the only body that is able to speak for the UMC. General Conference will be considering this as well as other proposals. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that this proposal has received a commitment from leaders within the major progressive, centrist, and traditionalist groups within the UMC to support this plan. If passed, the Protocol will allow

(See *Protocol*, page 3)



at FUMC, Feb. 25 and 26

Tues., Feb. 25, 5 - 7 p.m. - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser! Pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon and more to benefit Rise Against Hunger.

Wed., Feb. 26, noon and 7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Services. This short service is suitable for all ages.

Small Group Study Updates

These studies are open to all; if you'd like to know more about them or have questions, contact Libby Hall, lhall929@gmail.com

Sundays, 10:15 a.m. in Cokesbury Hall - Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name, by Max Lucado (video series) **Note: This group will not meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month due to Mission Breakfasts**

Sundays, 10:15 a.m. in the Small Kitchen - Max Lucado's *Before Amen* DVD study on the power of prayer.

Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Small Kitchen - new study for Lent begins Mar. 2: *24 Hours That Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton.

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. in the Small Kitchen - Daniel. The book of Daniel teaches us God's will is sovereign. This study is part of the Life Change Series.

Thursdays, 10 a.m. in the Small Kitchen (Mom's LIFE group) - Romans: Good News Changes Everything. Children are welcome to come and play while moms participate in the study.



The FUMC Youth Bells provide music in worship - our music ministry is growing!

Task Force on Race and Faith Meets Mar. 8

The next meeting is Sun., Mar. 8, 12:30 p.m.. Come and experience the video series, *Vital Conversations On Race, Culture and Justice*, with Dr. Robin DiAngelo. Dr. DiAngelo, a social scientist and anti-racism educator, is an engaging and thought-provoking speaker that you will enjoy. The series was created by the General Commission on Religion and Race of The United Methodist Church (GCORR). All are invited to participate in this important dialog; this group meets monthly on the second Sunday of each month. For more information, contact Jess Posey, bwjessposey@gmail.com.



Robin DiAngelo



Youth Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Sat., Mar. 21, 5-7 p.m.

Meal includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, drinks and dessert

RSVP at www.franconiaumc.org/youth



Holy Week and Easter Worship Opportunities

Make a note of the following special worship times and days:

Palm Sunday, Apr. 5, 10 a.m.: A

combined worship service for the presentation of our Palm Sunday Cantata, *A Journey to New Life*, featuring all FUMC music ensembles. Following the service there will be a potluck lunch. Congregants whose last name begin with A-I please bring a meat or main dish casserole; last names beginning with J-R are to bring a side dish, and last names beginning with S-Z should provide a dessert. Beverages are supplied. At future pot luck meals, alphabet categories will be switched for fairness. Please join us for the beginning of Holy Week worship and fellowship.

Maundy Thursday, Apr. 9, 7:30 p.m., Living Last Supper: Experience our annual presentation of what the Disciples must have felt when Jesus told them one of them would betray him.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, Apr. 10, 7:30 p.m.: This service makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial.

Easter Sunday, Apr. 12:

- **6:15 a.m.** - Sunrise Worship - Please arrive by 6:10 a.m. as we meet in front of the church to walk together to the back lawn. Immediately following service, a hot breakfast will be provided for all attendees as we celebrate the "Risen Christ" together.

- **9:00 a.m.** - Traditional Worship with refreshments to follow

- **11:00 a.m.** - Contemporary Worship with refreshments to follow

Cake, Cake and More Cake!!

Who doesn't love cake? Please note the following dates in which we'll will serve sheet cake and beverages in celebration of these events following both services:

May 10: Mother's Day Fellowship Reception

May 31: Confirmation Sunday and Reception

June 7: Graduates and Teachers Recognition and Reception

June 21: Father's Day Fellowship Reception





News from the Trustees

With the new year we welcome the 2020 Trustee team of Michael Coltrin, Dr. Charles Dankwah, Mike Finch, Brian James, Dana Kauffman, Blythe Norris, Andy Nye and Jess Posey is the chair. Due to some anticipated early transitions, we need to recruit three more members for the Board of Trustees. Please discuss your interest with Jess Posey.

The trustees are also putting together a **GO TO** handy person list. The **GO TO** list is a list of our church members who have special skills and talents that we can approach to help us with various projects in the church. Some examples of skills include plumbing, electrical, carpentry, HVAC or painting. We could also use you if you wouldn't mind escorting a vendor or service technician through the church during the business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you would like to join the Trustees or be on our **GO TO** list, please contact Jess Posey at Trustees@franconiaumc.org.

Upcoming Special Sundays: One Worship Service at 10 a.m.

The following Sundays will feature combined worship services so all may join together for these unique experiences:

Apr. 5 - Palm Sunday Worship and Cantata, A Journey to New Life will be presented by the FUMC Music Ministry. A potluck luncheon will follow. Bring a favorite dish to share!

Apr. 26 - Children & Youth Sunday FUMC kids will run all aspects of the worship service, to be followed by a hot dog and root beer float reception.



PROTOCOL, continued from pg. 1

for ongoing continuation of the UMC, and anticipates the formation of a new traditional Methodist denomination. The new church would receive \$25 million over the next four years and give up any further claim to the UMC's assets. An additional \$2 million would be allocated for potential additional new Methodist denominations which may emerge from the UMC. It will include a process for Annual Conferences and local churches to withdraw from the UMC and join the newly created denominations. It would also include the removal of restrictive language related to LGBTQ identity and practice in the U.S. post-separation UMC following the May General Conference. There would also be the creation of a fund (\$39 million would be allocated over eight years) to strengthen Asian, Black, Hispanic-Latino, Native American and Pacific Islander ministries, as well as Africa University. You are encouraged to read for yourself information about the Protocol. I encourage you to use our United Methodist News Service at umnews.org or our District Website (www.novaumc.org).

In times of uncertainty, it is important for us to remember who we are as individuals and as a church. Franconia UMC remains committed to being a welcoming and inclusive church, focused on being a Christ-centered community in the Franconia/Kingstowne community. Our welcoming statement is on our bulletins and our website for you to read. Franconia UMC is a church that values diverse opinions – we want to be a safe space to wrestle with hard questions and struggle with what we think/believe about all sorts of topics. This means that you don't have to agree with me, or with any particular stance, in order to be part of Franconia UMC. As long as you are willing to welcome all people, share God's love with everyone, and respect the beliefs of others, you are welcome at Franconia UMC. No matter who you are, no matter where you are from, and no matter what you believe, you are welcome at Franconia UMC.

Please be in prayer for the UMC and for the General Conference that meets in May. We will continue to keep you informed as things develop. Know that our leadership will be diving deep and prayerfully discerning what/if any developments at General Conference may mean for our congregation. If the protocol is adopted, know that we do not have to make any decisions right away. We will host congregational informational sessions and give an opportunity for the congregation as a whole to ask questions and share as we determine our faithful pathway forward. We have a lot of work ahead of us, and nothing is settled yet. But, this provides a hopeful path forward – an opportunity to move past the conflict and to move towards healing; an opportunity to reduce the harm that is being done, repent of the harm we have done in the past, and move forward in God's work in this and other ways.

YOU'RE INVITED!
Two Perspectives: A Conversation with Tom Berlin and Keith Boyette
Mar. 11, 7 p.m.
Annandale UMC
 Revs. Tom Berlin and Keith Boyette will offer their remarks about the Protocol. FREE. To register and submit a question for the speakers, go to <https://novaumc.org/two-perspectives/>

-Pastor Melissa



Wear a Cardigan and Join Us for A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

**Sun., Mar. 15, 5-7:30 p.m.
Cokesbury Hall**

This currently released feature, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, (PG, runtime 1:49) features Tom Hanks as Fred Rogers. In honor of Mr. Rogers, please wear a cardigan sweater! Refreshments: hot dogs, chips, pretzels, tiger cupcakes, fruity traffic light kabobs, the chocolate fountain for dipping, animal crackers, rainbow fish and popcorn. Join us for fun and fellowship at the movies!

The Work of Christmas Begins

*When the song of the angels is silent
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are again tending their sheep
When the manger is darkened and still
The work of Christmas begins...
To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To bring peace among people
To befriend the lonely
To release the prisoner
To make music in the heart.
~ Howard Thurman ~*

Maybe the surprising work of stewardship this year will be exactly what he urges, to do this vital work of the Kingdom of God, which we may not think of as stewardship, but it is the stewardship of the gospel. And practice generosity! Always practice generosity!

Rev. David A. Rash

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info@StewardshipMattersVa.org

www.StewardshipMattersVa.org

Stewardship: It's Not What You Think.

It's What You Believe...and Do!

Thanks to each of you for your financial and prayerful support of the missions and ministries of Franconia UMC in 2019; we look forward to an even stronger year in 2020!

- The FUMC Finance Ministry

**All Church Birthday Party and Potluck Dinner
Sun. May 16, 5-7 p.m.
Cokesbury Hall**

Back by popular demand - the Annual Church Birthday Party! The event will be a potluck dinner with attendees seated at their birthday month table. Noah's Ark is this year's theme; each birthday month will be decorated with chosen animal theme and coordinated cake.

Attendees whose surnames begin with A-M, please bring a side dish, N-Z, please bring a main dish.

Interactive games add to the fun, food, and fellowship and those wishing to participate in a fun guessing game should contact Suzanne Ackley at Missions@FranconiaUMC.org if you'd like to submit a baby photo/photo of you in your younger days for other attendees to guess who's who.



**Church Family Can Participate in Community Clean Up
May 16, 9 a.m. - noon**

Decluttering for Lent? Inspired by Marie Kondo? Bring your castoffs to the community clean up hosted in the church parking lot on May 16. The program, hosted by a local civic association, is intended to provide



collection of large appliances, furniture, lawn mowers (with gas and oil removed), tires (limit four, off rims), etc. *The following items will not be collected as part of the community clean-up: normal household refuse, brush, yard waste, rocks, bricks, concrete, stone, dirt, motor oil, car batteries, paint, roofing shingles, drywall, asbestos, glass, hazardous chemicals and pesticides, toxic waste, animal waste, and explosives.*

- Items not listed may be subject to approval by the County
- Scavenging/salvaging by anyone is strictly prohibited

Upcoming Sermon Series

Lenten Worship Series: Entering the Passion of Jesus

The events of Christ’s Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus’ life, often don’t receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus. And yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take in the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will “freeze-frame” moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby “Entering the Passion of Jesus.” How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message?

Ash Wednesday, February 26: Preparing the Canvas

Mar. 1: The Parade: Risking Reputation

Mar. 8: Temple: Risking Righteous Anger

Mar. 15: The Teaching: Risking Challenge

Mar. 22: The First Dinner: Risking Rejection

Mar. 29: The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

Palm Sunday, Apr. 5: The Garden: Risking Temptation (Cantata; one service at 10 a.m.)

Easter Season Worship Series: Just As He Told You

Don’t be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised... Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you.- Mark 16: 1-8

The subtitle of this series could be, "When in Doubt, Read the Instructions!" Jesus’ time with His disciples was short. But from the beginning he began to prepare them to continue his ministry once he was no longer with them. This Easter season we will encounter teachings of Jesus that end up coming in handy as the early church struggles and thrives... ultimately handing on the instructions to us. What will we do with them?

Easter Sunday, Apr. 12: Go, Tell!

Apr. 19: Stay, Witness

Children & Youth Sunday Apr. 26: Sermon provided by FUMC’s children (one service at 10 a.m.)

May 3: Beware, Don’t Worry

May 10: Don’t Argue, Agree to Disagree

May 17: Love, the Main Thing

May 24: Live, Now and Forever

Pentecost, May 31: Be One in the Spirit

FUMC Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt Open to ages 3-12!

Saturday, Apr. 11, 10 a.m. - Noon

Join us for breakfast (donations support the Rise Against Hunger meal packaging program), crafts, games and of course, the Egg Hunt! Bring your Easter basket!



Brought to you by the following ministries: Children and Youth, Missions, Outreach and the United Methodist Men

Photographers Needed!



We have many events coming up at the church in the next couple of months, and we would love to have photographs to use in future newsletters and on our Facebook page.

If you are willing to take some photos with your cell phone at upcoming events, please let Kathy Henry know (khenry1313@gmail.com).



Becoming Disciples by Growing in Faith

As we begin a new year, I am excited to be working with the leaders of adult education offerings at FUMC. Barb Lawrence has been an outstanding leader for all of us and I continue to consult with her as we move forward. Work is underway to develop the adult Discipleship Plan for our congregation with hopes of rolling this out in Fall 2020. Using the goals presented in the Charge Conference report and in consultation with Pastor Melissa, we will continue our current offerings with an eye toward additional

opportunities in the near future. If you are not yet plugged into the current offerings, I encourage you to review them in: The Happenings insert in each Sunday's bulletin, the calendar at FranconiaUMC.org, and the screens in the Sanctuary and Cokesbury Hall. Many thanks to the leaders of our current small groups including Pastor Melissa, Heather Nye, Frankie Todak, Tom Hostetter, Bruce Bartolain, Peggy Brown and Barb Lawrence. You may contact me at lhall929@gmail.com if you have any questions, suggestions, and/or want to know more about future possibilities.

-Libby Hall

Opportunities To Serve Others in 2020

Monthly Mission Events

- *Second Sunday Mission Breakfasts* – breakfast served from 10 - 11 a.m.
- *Rising Hope Second Sunday Lunch* – help needed with the purchase and delivery of frozen lasagna, salad and dressing the Friday before the second Sunday of each month.
- *Phoenix Rising Sandwich Making* – Meal sack delivery on the fourth Friday of every month, with meal prep the night before. *We need another coordinator!* See Suzanne or Cindy to help. Responsibilities include shopping, help with meal prep and delivery.

Special Events

- **June 14** – Kits for Conference Assembly and potluck lunch. During May we'll fundraise to purchase the supplies needed for the UMCOR kits in bulk so they are uniform for the specifics of the kits. However, if you

can start collecting individually-wrapped toothbrushes to put into each kit that would be a great help. Note that we cannot use toothbrushes for UMCOR kits that have names/addresses of companies or dentists on them, but if you have some of these we can still give them out to those in need locally.

- **October 4** – Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event. Please support our fundraisers for this great project, such as the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner and various mission breakfasts.
- **November** – 400 canned goods for Rising Hope UMMC, our United Methodist Mission church, serving the least, the lost and the left out on the Route One Corridor.
- **November/December** – Holiday food baskets for Koinonia; we'll have several families to provide holiday meals for in advance of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Monthly Mission Dates to Note:

MISSION BREAKFAST		PHOENIX RISING		RISING HOPE MEAL DELIVERY	
January	12	January	23-24	January	10
February	9	February	27-28	February	7
March	8	March	26-27	March	6
April	11 *	April	23-24	April	10
May	10	May	21-22	May	8
June	14	June	25-26	June	12
July	12	July	23-24	July	10
August	9	August	27-28	August	7
September	13	September	24-25	September	11
October	11	October	22-23	October	9
November	8	November	25/27	November	6
December	13	December	23/25	December	11

* Special breakfast on Saturday, not Sunday.

Music Opportunities for All

2020 is your year to be a part of our music programs; no experience necessary! FUMC can provide childcare if you need that support to participate. Simply inform the ensemble's director or Kevin Lackie, Director of Music Ministries.

Chancel Choir - Open to all adults. Jr. and Sr. High School singers are welcome with approval from Kevin Lackie. Meets in the Choir Room, Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. They serve the 9 a.m. traditional service.

Praise Band - Open to all singers and musicians, including high schoolers. Approval is required from Kevin Lackie. Meets in the Sanctuary, Mondays, 7 - 8 p.m., and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. They serve the 11 a.m. contemporary service.

Handbell Choir "The King's Ringers" - Open to all adults and high schoolers; NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Meets in the Seekers Classroom (3rd floor, Cokesbury building), Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m. Serves the third Sunday of every month at the 9 a.m. traditional service.

Teen Handbell Choir – Open to all students in Grades 6-12. Meets in the Seekers Classroom (3rd floor, Cokesbury Building) Sundays, 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

"Bella Voce" Children's Choir – Open to all children Pre-K to 5th Grade. Meets in the Stage Room, Sundays, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. Serves the first Sunday of every month at the 9 a.m. traditional service.

Children's Chimes – Open to all children 2nd through 5th Grade. Meets in the Sanctuary, Sundays, 1 - 1:30 p.m. Serves the first Sunday of every month at the 9 a.m. traditional service.

Questions? Contact our music ministry team:

Kevin Lackie, Music Director: Music@FranconiaUMC.org

Jess Berg, Children's/Youth Music:

ChildrensMusic@FranconiaUMC.org

Linda Biscardo, Handbell Choirs:

Handbells@FranconiaUMC.org

Upcoming Music Ministry Programs

Sun. Mar. 1, 5 p.m. - FUMC Music Ministry Concert Series #2 - Charm City Baroque ensemble concert (see flyer on last page of this issue)

Sun. Mar. 22, 4 p.m. - 7th Annual Choirs Sing for UMCOR with the local United Methodist choir members combining their voices for one great cause, hosted at St. John's UMC, Backlick Rd. in Springfield (see box below)

Sun. Apr. 5, 10 a.m. - Palm Sunday Cantata, A Journey to New Life, featuring all FUMC music ensembles

Sun. May 31, 5 p.m. - FUMC Music Ministry Concert Series #3 presents all FUMC ensembles in concert

Thank you for supporting the FUMC Music Ministry !

7th Annual United Methodist Choirs Sing for UMCOR



RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS

(Hosted at St. John's UMC
5312 Backlick Rd., Springfield)

Mar. 22, 4 p.m.

This concert will include the voices of the Franconia UMC choirs and in addition to those from many other UMCs throughout Northern Virginia. Concert will feature professional soloists and a chamber orchestra, performing Gabriel Fauré's famous *Requiem*

FREE; love offering will support UMCOR

Finance Update

Financial Snapshot as of Jan. 31, 2020	
YTD Budget Offerings	\$ 46,446
YTD Expenses	\$ 33,563
YTD Offering vs. Expense	\$ 12,883
Account Balances	
Capital Fund	\$ 49,265
Reserve Funds	\$ 15,847
AGC Income vs. Expense	\$ 5,581

Please remember that your financial contributions are vital to the work of our church. Thanks to those who responded with offerings totaling \$8,865 so we could pay the remaining balance of \$8,581 due on our 2019 District and Conference Apportionments. The remaining funds from this special plea will be applied to the 2020 Apportionments.

Pledge cards for 2020 help the Finance Committee gauge support of FUMC and its programs and ministries for this year. If you haven't sent in your pledge, it's not too late. More information is online at www.FranconiaUMC.org/stewardship or contact Finance Secretary Sandy Ross at Finance@FranconiaUMC.org

Youth Ministry - Fundraising for Summer 2020

The youth continue with fundraising for their July mission trip to Vermont:

Now through September, 2020 - Rada Cutlery Fundraiser.

This fundraiser returns 40% of the cost of all items purchased to the youth group. Shop online at www.FranconiaUMC.org/youth

Mar. 1 - 29 - Youth Mission T-shirt Sales. Watch for sales table in Cokesbury Hall as well as an online link, coming soon to be posted at www.FranconiaUMC.org/youth and on the Franconia UMC Facebook page. Sizes available will include children and adults up to 3XL.

Mar. 7, Apr. 4 - Parent's Night Out Opportunities. Sign up quickly! A limited number of spots are open for you to drop your kid for an evening of pizza, movie, games and crafts while you get to do your own non-kid things. \$15/child. Email Jared at youth@FranconiaUMC.org to receive the registration form.

The Youth group meets each Sunday at 5 p.m. for a time of study, games and conversation and also participates in churchwide events. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are encouraged to attend and bring their friends.

Questions about the youth ministry and the fundraisers can be directed to Jared, Youth@FranconiaUMC.org.

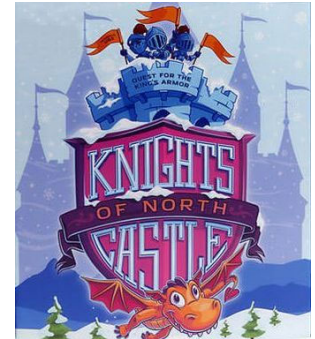
FUMC to Host Cokesbury Workshop for Area Christian Educators

Our church was selected as a host site for a Cokesbury Publishing workshop that will provide area Christian Educators with an overview of the 2020 VBS curriculum *Knights of North Castle* as well as other Cokesbury programs. We need volunteers to help us host this program for the people who will be attending. A short training day will be provided for our volunteers so they can get the overview of what the day will entail; contact Heather at churchoffice@franconiaumc.org or sign up in Cokesbury Hall.

Important dates to note in the coming weeks:

Mar. 14, 10 a.m. - Volunteer Training in the Stage Room

Mar. 28, 9 a.m. to noon - Cokesbury VBS Workshop (will use the whole church to set up stations for our guests)



The Chimes is published quarterly by the Franconia United Methodist Church

Pastor: Melissa Porter-Miller

Chimes Editor: Sharon Sheldon (next deadline May 1)

Staff

Director, Children and Youth Ministries: Jared Lorraine

Director, Music Ministry: Kevin Lackie

Office Manager: Heather Nye

AGC Director: Kim Santoro

Church Hours (M-Th, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Fridays by appointment only)

Sunday Worship

9 a.m.: Traditional with Children's Church

11 a.m.: Contemporary with Children's Church

Adult Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

Sunday Nursery: 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer & Meditation/Communion: 6:30 - 7 p.m.

Wednesday Breakthrough Prayer: 7 - 7:30 p.m.

Missing Important Church News?

If you don't know the answer to that, stay in touch with the latest through these FUMC communication channels:

Sundays: "Happenings" insert, slides in the sanctuary and Cokesbury Hall

On the web/social media:

www.FranconiaUMC.org or www.Facebook.com/FranconiaUMC

Churchwide emails:

churchoffice@FranconiaUMC.org

Church prayers e-list: www.FranconiaUMC.org/epayers

If you've moved, changed email addresses, etc., contact the church office or complete a Connect Card, found in your bulletin each Sunday.

Children and Youth Ministry Updates

Confirmation Classes Begin Mar. 1

Confirmation is open to kids in grades 6-12. We will meet weekly through May 17 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Parlor, (exceptions of Palm Sunday, Apr. 5, Easter, Apr. 12 and Mother's Day, May 10). Confirmation Sunday will be celebrated May 31. Please let me know if your kids will be attending; Youth@FranconiaUMC.org.

Family Bowling Night

On Apr. 19, 6-8 p.m., join us at Bowl America Shirley, 6450 Edsall Rd., Alexandria, VA 22312, for a youth bowling night. This event is open to all current youth, and any interested youth. Parents are also invited to attend; we will have a lane or two for the youth, and a lane or two for the parents. We are asking for \$5.00 per person for the event; please bring additional funds for snacks/food. RSVP to Youth@FranconiaUMC.org.

Children and Youth Sunday is Apr. 26, 10 a.m.

Last November's Children and Youth Sunday focused on Fruit of the Spirit. It went very well and the kids enjoyed serving in this way, so we've added a spring edition as well. Join us for one 10 a.m. service on Apr. 26 as our kids present the worship service on the story of Jonah.

Children and Youth Sundays feature the children and youth leading the worship service as lay readers and also provide

the message. A reception will follow in Cokesbury Hall. The menu, which was requested by our youth and provided by the Nurture and Care Ministry, will be hot dogs, chips, pretzels, and root beer floats. Join us as we celebrate the leadership, energy, and faith displayed by our children and youth! Our fall Children and Youth Sunday is Nov. 8. We look forward to seeing you and your kids involved in both of these opportunities to serve.

Upcoming Children and Youth Events

- Parent's Night Out, Mar. 7, 6-9 p.m.
- Youth Fundraiser T-Shirt Sale, Mar. 1-29
- Youth Spaghetti Dinner, Mar. 21, 5-7 p.m.
- Youth Ghost Tour, Mar. 29, 7 p.m.
- Parent's Night Out, Apr. 4, 6-9 p.m.
- Egg Hunt, Apr. 11, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- VBS Registration Opens, Apr. 19
- Youth Bowling Night, Apr. 19, 6-8 p.m.
- Children & Youth Sunday, Apr. 26, 10 a.m. followed by reception
- Youth Ice Cream Night, May 3, 5 p.m.
- Youth Group Escape Room, May 24, 5 p.m.

All kids in grades 6-12 are welcome to participate in youth activities. FUMC kids are encouraged to bring a friend or two to weekly meetings or these special events!

Dear FUMC Family:

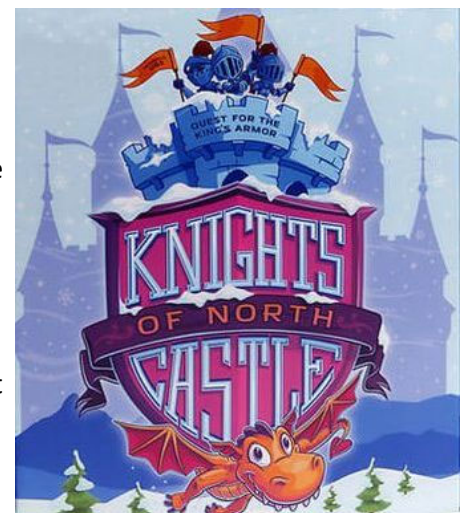
On behalf of my girls and me, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your kind words, prayers and loving support as we adjust to life with Tom in Glory. There are not enough words; thank you so much. Our church family is an incredible blessing. - Peggy Brown, Margaret Brown, Beth Brown Johnson, Laura Brown Spota and their families

Vacation Bible School 'Storms the Castle' July 6-10

This year our knights (children) will be on a quest in search of the King's Armor with Cokesbury's newest VBS program, *Nights of North Castle*. This quest will invite them to be strong in the Lord by exploring how we put on the armor of God. FUMC's VBS is July 6-10, 8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. Registration for 90 knights will open on Apr. 19; link to follow.

Adults—volunteer today by contacting Heather (churchoffice@franconiaumc.org) Training will be hosted on June 6 and 20, 9 am in the Stage Room.

Can't help during the event? Take heart! Opportunities for congregational support through prep work days, including decorating, set up and take down, and supply donations is always appreciated. Please watch for details in Cokesbury Hall, on our VBS Facebook page (Franconia UMC Vacation Bible School) and the weekly *Happenings* or contact Heather, churchoffice@FranconiaUMC.org



Reflecting on November and December, 2019

On Nov. 24, FUMC hosted its 7th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. We had 273 people in attendance, nearly doubling our attendance from last year. There was great food and fellowship enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone that brought a dish to share.



December 24th at 4 p.m. we held our annual Children's Christmas Eve program. Families filled the pews to watch 32 little ones act out the birth of Jesus. Candlelight was provided by glow sticks. Worshippers also attended our 6 p.m. Contemporary and 8 p.m. Traditional worship. Christ is born!



7th Annual A Night in Bethlehem, December, 2019

FUMC hosted the 7th Annual *A Night in Bethlehem* signature event on Dec. 7. A Night in Bethlehem is an interactive family event that transports attendees back to what that holy night may have been like. Guests were greeted at the Bethlehem gates by Roman guards and were invited to register with the Roman census and pay their taxes to Caesar. They witnessed shepherds tending their flocks, visited the manger and heard the angels proclaim the birth of the Christ child. They also visited various artisan shops and had snacks and hot beverages. This year we had 263s guest join us in this family Christmas tradition.



Do you have photos of any past events you can share? Please contact Vikki Beaty, FUMC History Committee. Thanks!

Celebrating our 124th Year in Community Ministry! 1896-2020



Music Ministry
Presents

Charm City Baroque

Sunday, Mar. 1, 5:00 PM

Franconia United Methodist Church

6037 Franconia Road

Alexandria, VA 22310



Featuring Michael De Sapio, Baroque violin, and John Armato, Baroque lute and theorbo

Charm City Baroque is a chamber ensemble dedicated to the glorious Baroque style of western music, bringing the music of the 17th and 18th centuries to vivid life through the use of period instruments and insight into historical performance techniques. CCB was formed in 2008 by several friends who met while studying at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and has been solidified by true friendship and camaraderie among its players.

The Music Ministry of Franconia United Methodist Church is sponsoring a community concert series that will bring nationally-recognized and internationally-acclaimed professional musicians to perform. These concerts are open to the public and are entirely unique, providing experiences unparalleled in the Franconia/Kingstowne community. These concerts are free, but will include an opportunity for free-will offering.

www.FranconiaUMC.org | Music@FranconiaUMC.org | 703.971.5151