



The Chimes

Franconians Serve Community, Welcome All for Upcoming Events

Sat., Nov. 17, 10 am - noon: Pad Project Gathering

Come to the stage room to help assemble and sew reusable hygiene products for young women in underdeveloped countries. Sewing machines and donations of specific types of fabrics are appreciated. Contact Andrea Blau (boosian@yahoo.com) for details.

Sun., Nov. 18, 5 - 7 pm: 6th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Take part in our annual gathering of hosting a free Thanksgiving meal to members of our community. Turkey, potatoes, gravy, rolls and cranberries will be provided. Please bring a favorite holiday side dish or dessert to share. If you can help set up, serve, or clean up, please see the sign-up sheet at www.franconiaumc.org/signup

Sat., Dec. 8, 5 - 7 pm: 6th Annual "A Night in Bethlehem"

See page three of this newsletter for details! Many hands are needed to make this wildly-popular and much-anticipated community event run smoothly. Help bring the wonder of the Christ child to the Franconia/Kingstowne Community!

Sun., Dec. 23, 10 am: Christmas Cantata Service

Join us for one worship service as we celebrate the birth of Christ in song and Word. Nurture and Care ministries will host a reception following the service.

Note: The full holiday worship opportunity calendar, including Christmas Eve services, is on page two of this issue.

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 sanctuary, Cokesbury
- **On the web** (www.FranconiaUMC.org or www.Facebook.com/FranconiaUMC)
- **Church-wide emails** (subscribe at: churchoffice@franconiaumc.org)

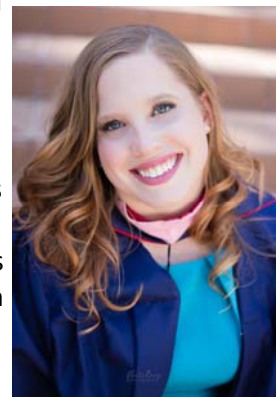
Our Music Ministry Staff Has Grown by Two!

FUMC's Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) is pleased to announce the hiring of accompanist **June Shuffett** and **Jessica Berg** as the director of children's and youth music.

June was introduced at the worship services on Sept. 2. Many already knew her since she had been providing music for us on an interim basis throughout the summer. June has served as a church organist, pianist and choir director for a number of different churches throughout northern Virginia. She earned her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees (piano performance with a minor in voice) the University of Maryland. She also holds a graduate diploma in church music from the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music.



Jessica (Jess) was introduced at the Nov. 4 worship services. Her Bachelor of Music (music education) was earned at George Mason University and she also holds two master's degrees: one in Education (curriculum and instruction) from the University of Virginia and her Masters in Music (Choral Conducting) is from the University of Arizona. Jess is a music teacher at Virginia Run Elementary in Centreville.



Editor's note: Full bios for June and Jess can be found at www.franconiaumc.org/staff

Special Worship Events in December

Make a note of the following so you'll be aware of special worship times and days:

Sun., Dec. 2, 10 am - First Sunday in Advent and Hanging of the Greens will feature one combined worship service to usher in the Advent season! Come and help us prepare for the birth of our Lord. This is a fun and kid-friendly service. **Bonus:** family devotional booklets will be distributed at this service.

Sun., Dec. 16, 7 pm - Christmas Comfort Service is to counterbalance those who struggle to find joy in this season. If you are suffering a loss, stress or just feel alone, please come and be healed by the love and hope that our Savior offers. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

Sun., Dec. 23, 10 am - Annual Christmas Cantata provides celebration of the Christmas story through music and the Word. Join us for the FUMC combined music program and enjoy the social reception following the service.

Mon., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve worship services (3):

4 pm - Children's service (with glow stick "candlelight")

6 pm - Praise and Worship Christmas Eve with communion and candlelight

8 pm - Traditional Christmas Eve with communion, candlelight and carols

Mon., Dec. 31, 11 pm - Watch Night Service to bring in the new year, focused on Christ



Open invitation - please considering being a part of the FUMC music ministry!

If you were unable to be a part of the music ministry potluck in September, it's not too late to volunteer your gifts to praise God with music!

Right now there are some specific needs:

Cantata singers - the cantata choir will perform at 10 am on Sun., Dec. 23. Rehearsal schedule:

Wednesdays, Nov. 28 - Dec. 19, 7-8:30 pm *plus* one production rehearsal on Sat., Dec. 22, 10 am - 12:30 pm

Please talk to FUMC Music Director Kevin Lackie on Sunday mornings or email him at music@franconiaumc.org

Children's Music - children's and youth voice choirs will be starting. We are excited to rejuvenate this program! Email the name(s), age(s) of your child(ren) to Jess Berg at childrensmusic@franconiaumc.org or see Kevin Lackie on Sunday mornings. *As a reminder, all FUMC music programs (chancel choir, bell choir, praise and worship singers, children's and youth music) are open to everyone; musical training is not required.*

Serving in the church's music program is a wonderfully rewarding way to praise God by helping others make a joyful noise. Come and check it out!

All God's Children (AGC) News

It's a busy time in the AGC wing. Fall brought the change of seasons, Halloween and harvest and now we prepare to celebrate the upcoming holidays and revel in the joys they bring to our little ones. During November and December, AGC's preschoolers will memorize appropriate Bible verses (thankfulness, birth of Jesus, etc.), make Christmas gifts for their family members and participate in programs and celebrations that are open to the FUMC community:

Fri., Nov. 16, 11 am - Thanksgiving chapel with acting DCYM Heather Nye, followed by a pizza lunch in Cokesbury Hall and the stage room.

Thurs., Dec. 20, 11 am - Christmas celebration and musical program with AGC music director Karen Ingle. The children have been working very hard on Christmas favorites! Lunch will follow in Cokesbury Hall and the stage room.

AGC is located in the first floor of the Cokesbury building. Feel free to stop in Tuesdays through Fridays to check out the holiday creations on our bulletin boards and to say hello! As a reminder, please check in with AGC Director Kimberly Santoro first so we know you are visiting.

Please note: AGC currently has a few openings; please contact Kim Santoro for further information (AGCPreschool@franconiaumc.org).

- Sharon Jones, AGC Liaison

AGC - 25 Years of Serving Families in the Franconia/Kingstowne area!



The FUMC Youth program provides an opportunity for all kids in grades 7-12 (and their friends) to gather for weekly study, social time and snacks. November and December's gatherings are on Sundays at the times noted below. This is a partial schedule; please visit the website,

or contact Heather Nye (Youth@FranconiaUMC.org or text 937-266-1385) for additional details:

Sun., Nov. 18, 5-7 pm: Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Cokesbury Hall

Sat., Dec. 1, 5-9 pm: Parents' Night Out Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Sun., Dec. 2, 3 pm: Whisper* - The power of a whisper

Sat., Dec. 8, 5-7 pm: 6th Annual A Night in Bethlehem community event

Sun., Dec. 9, 3 pm: Whisper* - The whispering spot

Sun., Dec. 16, 3 pm: Whisper* - The key of keys

Winter Break Dec. 23-Jan. 4

Sun., Jan. 6, 3 pm: Whisper* - The Seven Languages

Sun., Jan. 13, 4-6 pm: Dave & Buster's outing, Springfield Towne Center

**Whisper: How to Hear the Voice of God* is a study by Mark Batterson that teaches what it means to discern the voice of God in your life. God is speaking. Do YOU know how to listen?

Kingdom Heroes to Gather for Games at Dave & Buster's

The FUMC tween (grades 4-6) gatherings, Kingdom Heroes (HERO = Humble. Empowered. Righteous. Outstanding.) will gather for games and social time at the Dave & Buster's arcade in Springfield Towne Center on Fri., Dec. 14.



Kingdom Heroes will return on January 11 and the focus will be on the Fruits of the Spirit. Attendees will learn why God wants us to work each of these fruits into our personalities and daily life. Meetings are the second and fourth Fridays at 6:00-7:30 pm. Contact Heather Nye (text 937-266-1385 or Youth@FranconiaUMC.org for additional details.

Prayer
IS WHEN WE TALK TO GOD.
Meditation
IS WHEN GOD TALKS TO US.

NEW! Weekly Prayer & Meditation Service
Wednesdays, 6:30 -7:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Come and get your mid-week spiritual vitamin!

FUMC's 6th Annual "A Night in Bethlehem" Needs Your Support!

Our annual "A Night in Bethlehem" community event needs "shopkeepers" (no experience necessary!) who will be onsite in costume (provided if you need it) to engage with the citizens of Bethlehem (our community) who have been called back to complete the census. We know that Mary and Joseph are among them and the inn is full...help re-create and celebrate the meaning of the season: the birth of our Lord and Savior. Help create the magic of this night by helping. We'll have ten shops, live nativity, animals, etc. Sign up at www.franconiaumc.org/signup or in Cokesbury Hall or contact Heather Nye, churchoffice@franconiaumc.org to see how you can help.



Support the Youth's White House Christmas Ornament Fundraiser



On sale now: Sundays in Cokesbury Hall. Proceeds benefit the 2019 Youth Mission Trip

\$23 cash/check or \$25 credit
Ornaments make great gifts!



Sat., Dec. 1, 5-9 pm Youth Fundraiser for Summer 2019 Mission Trip

Support the youth fundraiser by dropping your kids off for a fun evening with their friends.

Who: kids aged infant through 12

What: A fun night **out** for them, and a fun night **off** for you!

Where: Franconia UMC Stage Room

When: Sat., Dec. 1, 5-9 pm

Why: So you can have a quiet time, a date or movie night, or get some Christmas shopping done

How: Kids will be entertained, fed, and ready to crash when you pick them up (pizza, movie, crafts, fun)

ACT NOW. Space is limited, so RSVP to Heather Nye via email:

churchoffice@franconiaumc.org or sign up in Cokesbury Hall and pick up your registration packet.

Thanks for supporting the youth's upcoming mission trip!

Date Change for Nov. Phoenix Rising

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the November meal assembly and packing will take place on Tues., Nov. 20 at 6:30 pm instead of Thurs., Nov. 22 (which is Thanksgiving). Meals will still be delivered on Fri., Nov. 23.

If you haven't been a part of Phoenix Rising, come and check it out. We provide bagged meals for those with food insecurity on the Route One corridor.

Report from the Board of Trustees

The horrific shooting at the synagogue in Pittsburgh once again raises the issue of church security. The FUMC Trustees have a few thoughts on the matter. First of all, each one of us shares responsibility for our own safety as well as that of our brothers and sisters in the church. Be observant, be mindful, be decisive.

Security for church events and meetings:

- Do not prop open the door or unlock it if you are alone. An open door is an invitation for entry by any and all. Don't put yourself in the situation of having to deal with an unexpected and perhaps, unwelcome, visitor.
- Remember that visitors after normal hours should be handled with special prudence.

Remember our child safety policies:

- Never leave one adult alone with children. Our child safety policy requires that children are to always have two adults present, and security suggests two adults be available before unusual visitors are admitted to the building after hours.

Opportunities for lurkers: our landscaping:

- Following previously-reported advice from the Fairfax County Crime Prevention Officer, we are taking steps to remove the large spruce trees in front of the church to open the area for security and visibility
- The trustees have received two landscape designs proposing a new look to the front of the church following removal of the trees, and will present their preferred option to the Church Council, who will then represent the church leadership and congregation in selecting the final design. Due to the seasonal changes, we may simply remove the trees within the next month or so and cover the area with mulch until the spring.

Summer rains - flooding in our buildings—an update:

- All drains around the church have been cleaned. All save one were intact.
- The broken downspout drain (under the sidewalk by the iron staircase/ John the Baptist window) will be addressed this coming spring. For now, those downspouts have been diverted into the parking lot, which we hope will reduce the likelihood of further flooding.

The trustees thank you for your support and your generous contributions to the Capital Improvement fund.

-John Nicholson, Chair
FUMC Board of Trustees

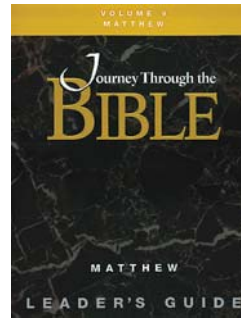
Are you handy? To volunteer your labor or skills for various Trustees projects, email Trustees@FranconiaUMC.org



13-Week Study Opportunity Begins Soon

There are two opportunities to be a part of a new 13-week study on the book of Matthew. This is part of the "Journey Through the Bible" series, which studies each book of the Bible on its own. This study:

- Highlights pivotal points in the Scripture
- Lifts up the book's most significant stories, themes, events and people
- Features thought-provoking questions
- Describes the historical and cultural setting
- Includes the original language and what the passage meant for its first readers
- Gives insight into possible life applications



Contact Barb Lawrence to receive your copy at education@franconiaumc.org.
Study days and times:

Wednesdays, 10 am - begins Nov. 14

Mondays, 7 pm - begins Nov. 26

"Rites of Passage:" 3rd Grade Bibles Presented

The Education ministry is has established "Rites of Passage" for our children and youth, beginning with Bible presentations at these appropriate milestones:

- 3rd grade: youth Bible
- Confirmation: teen Bible
- High School graduation: adult Bible

On Sun., Sept. 23, at 11:00 am, these current 3rd/4th graders were presented with their youth Bibles:

Anna Blau ■ Jayden Nye ■ Noah Nye ■ Maya Tanner ■ Mira Stanish

A Bible basics class was held following worship that allowed the kids to get acquainted with their new Bibles. They received tabs to make finding the books easier.

All children are encouraged to bring their Bibles to children's church each Sunday for a treat and to help read during the lesson. Games will be played to help the children hone their skills in finding scriptures.



Adults Needed to Support Our Growing Children's Ministry!

Volunteers are needed in two time slots (9:45-10:45 am and 11:00 am-12:00 pm) each Sunday for:

- Kingdom Kids (ages 3-7)
- Young Disciples (ages 8-12)

Lessons are pre-planned, just pick them up the Sunday prior to look over. Supplies will be ready for you the next week. Sign up at www.FranconiaUMC.org/signup/ or in Cokesbury Hall on Sundays.

Church Email Updates

Here's an updated list of church staff emails. You can also call 703-971-5151 to reach the Pastor or Heather; but the rest are easier to reach via email.

PastorMelissa:

PastorMelissa@franconiaumc.org

Heather Nye, Office Manager,

Interim DCYM:

ChurchOffice@franconiaumc.org

Kevin Lackie, Music Director:

Music@franconiaumc.org

Jess Berg, Children's/Youth Music

Childrensmusic@franconiaumc.org

June Shuffett, accompanist

Organist@franconiaumc.org

Reminder: Training is Needed to Safely Use the Kitchen

With so many ministry teams currently using the church kitchen for events, FUMC team leaders have found a need for kitchen training updates to be provided to all involved with food preparation and service.

Although it may look and feel like your home kitchen, FUMC's kitchen is very different in several important ways, including Fairfax County rules limiting what can be prepared using its appliances, and the safe use of the appliances themselves.

When serving groups at the church, safety and sanitation are the priorities. The Kitchen Task Force is updating usage guidelines and offering training sessions. All involved with the church kitchen should be proactive in setting up a training time. The training takes about 30 minutes. Please contact Courtney Reed, task force chair, for further details at court94@gmail.com.



Photos by Sharon Sheldon



Rise Against Hunger: Following our one worship service on Oct. 7 (World Communion Sunday), we had a light lunch provided by Nurture and Care and Missions Ministries. With the help of lively and fun music, and the ringing of a gong every time 1,000 meals were packed, volunteers packaged the 10,152 meals in just two hours! The meals were shipped to Madagascar on Nov. 8 as part of a shipping container holding a total of 285,120 meals. Thanks to all who donated the \$3,100 (raised via donations and breakfast fundraisers) to purchase the meals packaged by FUMC through Rise Against Hunger (www.riseagainsthunger.org)
 -David Blau, FUMC Missions

No Photos Means Reading a Report...

This is perhaps a not-so-subtle way to remind participants at FUMC's events to pull out their smartphones, take photos, and share them with the communications team! Many times the individuals running the events do not have

time to take photos; you will help preserve the history of our events and of course will make the newsletter that much more enjoyable to read. We know we can count on your upcoming support!

6th Annual Backyard Barbecue, Sept. 8

The weather did not cooperate, so the event was moved indoors. Seventy-five people enjoyed games, music and the food! The Outreach Ministry had Mission BBQ cater this event and attendees brought delicious side dishes and desserts.

Nurture and Care Ministries Hosts Second Family Movie Night

Following the success of the summer family movie night, the second was held on Sept. 30. Thirty-two people enjoyed the movie theatre-style foods and the inspirational movie, "I Can Only Imagine." The DVD, reflection journal and even the autobiography of Bart Millard, the movie's subject, are available for personal use; contact Heather, churchoffice@franconiaumc.org

Bart Millard is the lead singer of the Christian rock band MercyMe. His story is one of a childhood filled with brokenness due to abandonment by his mother and life with an angry, abusive father. The power of this film is its testament to forgiveness and God's abundant love for us.

Help Wanted: Prayer Shawl Ministry

FUMC's prayer shawl ministry meets twice a month on Saturday mornings, 10-11:30 am in the church parlor. You can come during that time and work along side others, or simply pick up a free prayer shawl kit (includes needles, yarn and pattern/instructions) and take it home to work on at your leisure. The Prayer Shawl Ministry's mission is to provide warmth and emotional comfort to those who are ill, hospitalized, recovering from an illness or are in crisis.

If you don't know how to knit or crochet, don't let that stop you! There are people who would love to help you learn. The completed prayer shawls are displayed on the altar and blessed at all services prior to their distribution. Shawls are free to anyone who could benefit from one; if you have a friend, coworker, loved one or neighbor who could benefit, contact Suzanne Ackley, xackleysue@cox.net or (703) 980-3708.



October 20 Trunk or Treat



This year's Trunk or Treat set an attendance record with 359 guests. We had twelve creative trunks and the Franconia VFD brought over a fire truck for the kids to see. Following trunk or treating, attendees were invited to Cokesbury Hall for Halloween-themed games and seasonal crafts.



Attendees were able to vote for their favorite trunk and this year's winner was the Sheldon's "Candy Machine" (above at the far right) which was operational and kids could receive candy from it by turning the giant key on the back of the trunk. More photos are on Facebook. Thanks to all who participated in this wonderful community event that provides a safe environment for kids in costumes to trick or treat. (Photos courtesy Heather Nye, Pastor Melissa, and Jeff Sheldon)

Stewardship Update

The sermon series in October was “Loving Large” and on Stewardship Sunday, Oct. 25, the sermon focus was “Loving is Giving,” which fit in perfectly for us to bring our pledges to support the 2019 budget.

The charts at the right show the budget breakdown which was approved by the Oct. 14 Charge Conference, and also what has been pledged since Oct. 25, either through the paper pledge cards or the on-line forms. We’ve surpassed the amount pledged in 2018 and have funded about half of the 2019 budget (minus AGC, which is self-funded). It is a great start! If you know your pledge is not represented in the numbers at the right, please prayerfully consider how you can support the vision, ministries and missions of our church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Remember that pledges can be adjusted any time by contacting Frank Ackley, Finance Secretary, at finance@franconiaumc.org

As a reminder, we have several ways to give:

- Sunday worship offering. Please pick up a packet of offering envelopes for your personal use (located at the narthex and in Cokesbury Hall)
- On-line contributions. See details at www.franconiaumc.org/e-giving

On-line pledge forms can be filled out at www.franconiaumc.org/2019-giving

- Cindy Langan, Chair, Finance Ministry

Total 2019 Budget: \$710, 781		
AGC Preschool (7%)		\$191,048
Apportionments (11%)		\$ 78,660
Church Office (2%)		\$ 15,800
Ministries (6%)		\$ 43,350
Payroll (41%)		\$287,323
Property Expenses (10%)		\$ 71,100
Rental Property Expenses (3%)		\$ 21,500
FUMC Pledges—Comparison		
	2018	2019*
Number of Pledges Received	42	37
Amount Pledged - Budget	\$236,946	\$260,658
Amount Pledged - Capital Fund	\$ 25,360	\$ 33,480
Total Pledged	\$262,306	\$294,138
<i>*2019 Pledge numbers reflected two weeks of receiving pledges for 2019; the 2018 totals are for the year</i>		

FUMC Charge Conference and Prayers for “A Way Forward”

At the Oct. 14 annual Charge Conference, FUMC leaders approved the 2019 church budget and leadership slate. Attendees also heard reports from various ministries and presentations by Alexandria District Superintendent Jeff Mickle and District Lay Leader John Meeuwissen. John also mentioned that his wife, Pam, recently received an FUMC prayer shawl, but yet it was not directly sent by anyone in our congregation who know her. What a testimony to that ministry and to those it reaches!

A short video focused on the upcoming Special Session of the General Conference (GC) of the UMC, scheduled for Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis, MO. The purpose of that conference is to act on a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of **the Commission on A Way Forward**, the 32-member Commission appointed to a) examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality, and b)

explore options to strengthen the unity of the United Methodist Church.

There are at least three plans that will be presented to the GC for consideration. To review each plan and other documentation, visit the UMC website: www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward

What else can you do? Pray! The UMC asks for prayers at 2:23 am/pm each day as we head toward this Special Session of the General Conference. The 2:23 reference ties in with the start date of the session (2/23).





We're into the final quarter of the year, and FUMC continues to be in a strong financial position. As of October 31, we have a surplus of \$6,811. This is probably the result of reduced payroll costs due to

continued staff vacancies this fall. We have filled several of the Music Ministry positions. If we include All God's Children's numbers in with our offering and expense numbers, we would have only a small surplus of \$262. Our cash position is healthy with capital funds of \$44,323 and reserve funds of \$37,501. This is a good position as we move into our busiest time: the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas season. Please continue to pray that God provides the right people to lead us to live into the vision God has for FUMC.

- Cindy Langan, Chair, Finance Ministry

Financial Snapshot as of October 31, 2018

YTD Budget Offerings	\$352,515
YTD Expenses	\$345,705
YTD Difference (minus AGC)	\$ 6,811

Account Balances

Checking Account	\$ 12,342
Money Market & CD	\$ 99,805
Total Cash	\$112,148
Capital Fund	\$ 44,323
Reserve Funds	\$ 37,501



Join the FUMC Tech Team!

The Worship Team has immediate openings for individuals who already have technical skills or are willing to be trained to run the slides/videos in worship on Sunday mornings. We'll create a rotating volunteer schedule so you don't work every week. Contact Lisa Dickinson to volunteer at Lisa.Dickinson2@usdoj.gov - include your worship service preference as well as the best way to be contacted.

Church Leaders:
SAVE THE DATE

January 12, 2019
Bi-District Training Day

Workshops
Speakers
Networking
Training

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION OPENS NOV. 15
www.novaumc.org/bdtd

Engaging Our Community

Keynote:
Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath
Professor of Missional and Pastoral Theology
Duke Divinity School

