



The Chimes

Community-wide Opportunities Set for This Fall

Sat., Oct. 5, 11 am-1 pm: Blessing of the Pets

Bring your pets (vaccinated and appropriately restrained, please) to the Manchester Lakes Pet Supplies Plus.

Sun., Oct. 6, 12:30-2:30 pm: Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event

All ages are welcome to help package 20,000 meals following the World Communion Sunday worship service. Sign up at www.FranconiaUMC.org/signup.

Sat., Oct. 26, 6-8 pm: Annual Trunk or Treat

All ages are welcome to participate in games and trunk or treating. To bring your decorated car or otherwise volunteer, contact: churchoffice@franconiaumc.org to sign up.

Fri., Nov. 1, 7 pm: S'mores and Music

Enjoy a marshmallow roast, s/mores and singing of campfire and praise songs led by our music director Kevin. DCYM Jared will lead children's activities and games.

Sun., Nov. 3, 5 pm: Music Ministry Concert Series Presents pianist Julee An, see more on page 6 and 10.



Celebration of Music and Kawai Piano Dedication, Sun., Sept 29

FUMC will host a Celebration of Music at both services to highlight the exceptional music available to humanity. Since the purchase of our new Kawai grand piano would not have been possible without the use of FUMC Memorial Funds, the piano will be dedicated to those who have claimed the gift of eternal life, and their families will be invited, recognized, and thanked. These gifts will allow music to be performed at the highest caliber at Franconia UMC for years to come. The 9 am service will have the dedication, and the 11 am service will have a blessing and performance of treasures from our contemporary music offerings. See more about the FUMC music ministry throughout this issue.



Linda Biscardo Joins Staff as Director of Handbell Choirs

Linda joined the FUMC staff as the Director of the Handbell Choirs in August 2019. A lifelong United Methodist, she spent decades at Regester Chapel UMC in Stafford, Virginia, where she managed four handbell choirs of assorted levels and helped oversee the hand chime choir. She has more than 30 years of experience ringing handbells.

A graduate of James Madison University, Linda is a devoted spouse and mother. She helped found the preschool at Regester Chapel in 2001 and still teaches there, in addition to voluntarily conducting rehearsals for the church's adult handbell choir. She was hired to lead the children's ministry at Regester in 2015, and remained in that post until relocating to northern Virginia in 2019.

If Linda asks you whether or not you can count to four, it means you're being recruited, because her motto is: "If you can count to four, you can ring bells." Linda is married to Jordan and they are the parents of two adult sons, Jordan and Anthony.

The fall rehearsal schedules for the handbell choirs can be found on pages 2 and 7.

Kingdom Heroes 'Tweens Group Now Meeting

Kingdom Heroes is a time of Biblical learning and fun for our 'tweens (ages 4th-6th grades). This age group is ready to dive deeper into Bible study and life questions and these are woven into the social time of these events. Kingdom Heroes meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, 6-7:30 pm and is currently doing a study on the *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

3rd Grade Bible Presentations Are Coming Up

On Sun., Oct. 13 at the 9 and 11 am services. Please contact the church office to make sure your 3rd grader is on the list.

At 12:30 pm on the same day, Pastor Melissa will host a Bible 101 workshop for 3rd graders and their parents. Lunch will be served.



Combined Worship Opportunities This Fall - Join Us at 10 am on These Sundays:

- **Oct. 6: World Communion Sunday:** Christians all around the globe come together: different languages, traditions and customs all celebrating the Lord's Supper
- **Nov. 3: All Saint's Sunday:** remembering our members and other friends and loved ones who died in the past year
- **Nov. 17: Children & Youth Sunday:** worship will be led by the children and youth of FUMC
- **Dec. 1: Hanging of the Greens:** This kid-friendly service will feature carols and readings on the meanings behind our treasured traditions of the Advent and Christmas season
- **Dec. 22: Cantata Sunday:** Enjoy the Word through FUMC's music ministry offerings.



Music Opportunities for Kids and Youth

All choirs are open to all in their specific age groups; no experience necessary!

- **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 pm
- **"Bella Voce" Children's Choir** – *Open to all children Pre-K to 5th Grade.*
Meets in the Stage room, Sundays, 12:30-1:00 pm. Serves the first Sunday of every month at the 9:00 am traditional service.
- **Children's Chimes** – *Open to all children 2nd through 5th Grade.*
Meets in the Sanctuary, Sundays, 1:00-1:30 pm. Serves the first Sunday of every month at the 9:00 am 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

Preparing the "Padawans" for Fall Growth



On Aug. 25, school backpacks were blessed to prepare the kids for a good school year. FUMC also launched its Discipleship Plan for the children and youth; in the photo at left, "Master Jared" prepares our children for their start on the path to true Discipleship. The term "padawan" is a Star Wars term for young student, which played into the theme of the sermon series for this particular Sunday.

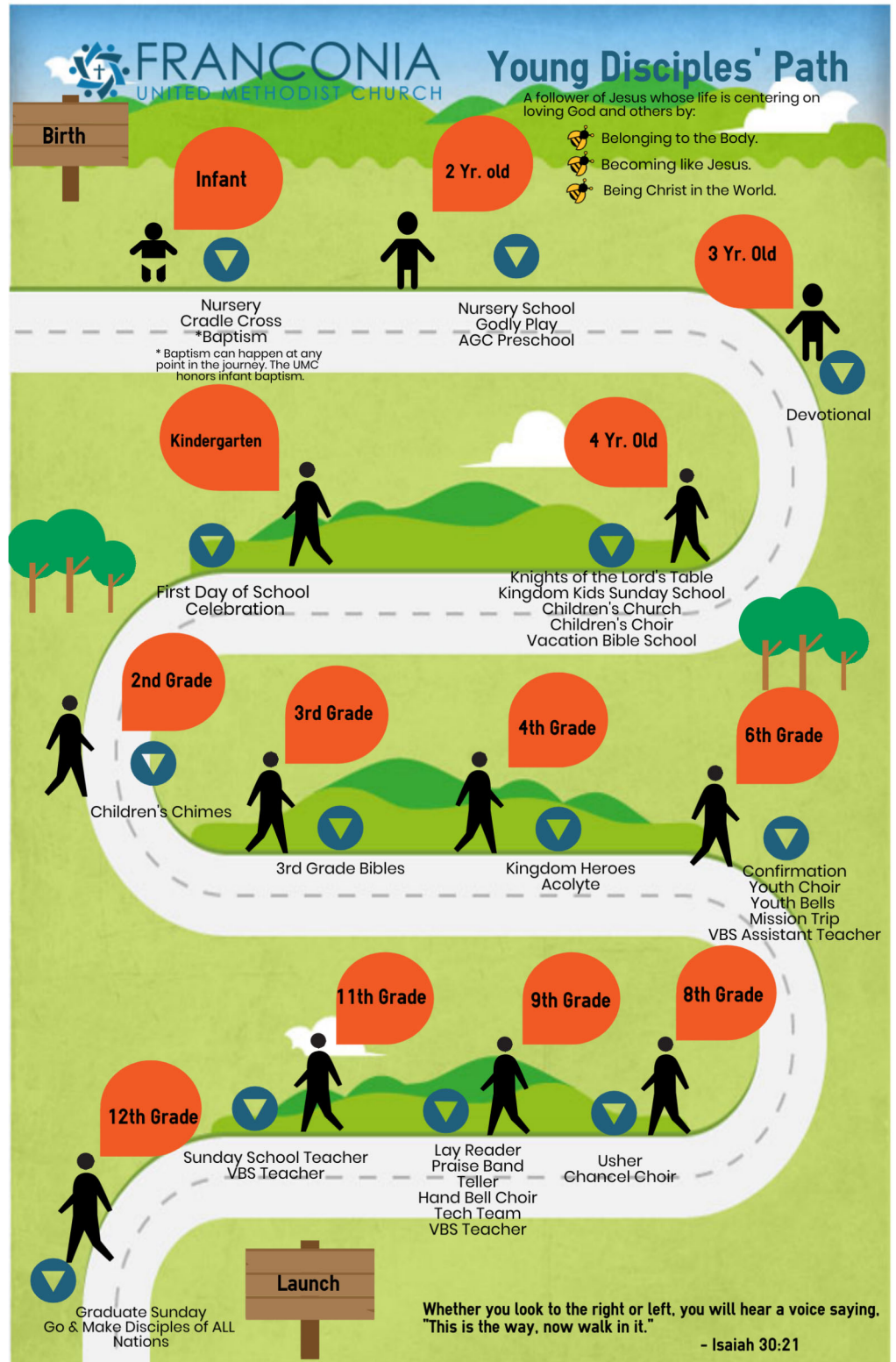
The children and youth ministries Discipleship Plan

See DISCIPLESHIP(Continued on page 3)

DISCIPLESHIP

(Continued from page 2)

includes rites of passage, programs, curriculum plans, and parental resources for the different stages of development for our children and youth. There is a Facebook page that parents can join as well; search “Franconia UMC’s Parent 2 Parent” in your Facebook app. At right is the family map that highlights our programs and rites of passage for our children and youth. Anyone wishing to help guide our youngest disciples should contact Jared at Youth@FranconiaUMC.org.



Upcoming Phoenix Rising Dates:

Oct. 24 and 25

Nov. 27 and 29 (Thanksgiving)

Dec. 26 and 27

Thursday dates are meal packaging at 6:30 pm, with

the exception of Thanksgiving week; the meal packaging will be that Wednesday. Friday dates are meal deliveries at 5:15 pm. Both days are suitable for participation of all age groups. Scout and school groups are welcome! Email BVikki123@aol.com.

Youth Ministries

In July, the four members of the youth group and four chaperones traveled to Harrisburg, PA as part of a YouthWorks program.



Fall Fundraisers: We are starting out the youth season with some fundraisers to get a good start on the 2020 trip, planned for Vermont:

Now through Sun., Oct. 13 - 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/ or see the display in Cokesbury Hall.

Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 14 - Parents Night Out. Sign up quickly! A limited number of spots are open for you to drop your kids for an evening of pizza, movie, games and crafts while you get to do your own non-kid things (especially important with Christmas just around the corner). \$15/child

Nov. 10—Dec. 15 - White House Christmas Ornament Sales. An FUMC tradition, purchase these ornaments while supplies last.

The Youth group meets each Sunday at 5 pm for a time of study, games and conversation and also participates in churchwide events. All youth in grades 7 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.

All God's Children Weekday Program Update

School has started and that means the sounds of little feet, lots of laughter and big learning going in All God's Children Weekday Program!

The staff worked hard the last few weeks in August to prepare for our old friends to return and new friends to join us, as we continue "Leading Kid's in God's Light."

Music and Story Time classes are back in full swing and everyone is thrilled to have Ms. Heather and Mr. Jared leading our weekly Chapel Time!

All of our preschool openings are filled, and it's going to be a great year!!

- Kim Santoro, Director, AGC

Annual Trunk or Treat is Oct. 26, 6-8 pm

This event traditionally reaches more than 300 children in our community, so volunteers in family-friendly costumes are needed to make it a great success! To



volunteer, contact the church office (churchoffice@franconiaumc.org) :

- Decorate your car and handing out candy (an outdoor job)
- Run a game or help with a craft (in Cokesbury Hall)

Donations of individually-wrapped candies and treats are also welcome. Car (trunk) decorations can be as elaborate or simple as you prefer. Find creative ideas at this link:

www.franconiaumc.org/events/trunk-or-treat/

FUMC Charge Conference in Oct.

Our annual charge conference is Oct. 17, 7 pm in the sanctuary. Join FUMC's leadership and Alexandria District Superintendent Jeff Mickle to hear the state of the church reports, FUMC's vision for 2020 and an update on General Conference matters from DS Mickle. A reception will be held following the conference. Come and hear where God is calling Franconia in 2020!



Thanks for Feeding the Kids!

Many of the children who attend Franconia Elementary School (next door to our church) were at risk for food insecurity during the summer when the free/reduced school meal program was not in effect. This summer, we partnered with Olivet Episcopal Church to provide food for seven families during summer break.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Set for Oct. 6

Gather with community and FUMC members to package 20,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger, following our 10 am joint World Communion Service and lunch. All ages can easily participate. To sign up, visit www.franconiaumc.org/signup or just show up!

Mark Your Calendars for “A Night in Bethlehem”

Many volunteers will be needed to help with our annual A Night in Bethlehem, Sat., Dec. 7. Whether you can come in costume on the day of and run a booth in the “marketplace,” or help behind the scenes with costumes, set building, providing props, cookies, etc., we have a place for you to serve. This FUMC signature event has grown each year and brings in many from the community. Please help out!

What We Did During the Summer

Annual VBS and Summer Carnival

At VBS, 80 children, 25 volunteers and five days in July went beyond with God, and in late August, we celebrated the close of summer with a carnival.



End of Summer Carnival



FUMC will host a Cokesbury VBS Workshop on Mar. 28! FUMC is one of ten churches selected in the US to host training for the 2020 VBS module, *Knights of North Castle*. If you can help out on that day, please contact Heather at church office@franconiaumc.org to learn more.

Let's face it. Life is better when you're in a small group! These groups are open to anyone to join at any time. To learn more or if you have ideas for a study, contact Adult Education Chair Barb Lawrence, bclawrence5717@gmail.com.



Mondays:

-7 pm - **Now through Oct. 14:** *Reckless Love* by Tom Berlin; **Oct. 21-Nov. 25:** *Practicing Extravagant Generosity* by Robert Schnase, Room SK

Wednesdays:

-10:30 am - **Now through Nov. 21:** *Twelve Ordinary Men* by John MacArthur, Room SK

Thursdays:

- 9 am - **Mom's LIFE** - *Praying Circles Around Your Children* by Mark Batterson, Room P

Sunday School, 10:15-10:45 am

- Seekers Class, Room C304 - *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine
- Span of Ages, Room SK - *Mere Christianity* by CS Lewis
- Coffee and Conversations, Room CH - Video and discussion
- SALT Class, Room SR - Basic Scripture study and conversation

2nd Sunday meetings 12:30 pm

- Race and Faith Discussions, Room SK

4th Saturday meetings, 8 am

- Men's Study and Breakfast, Room CH



Get in the Picture! The Communications Ministry will be creating short (30 seconds - one minute), fun, informational videos for use during worship. If you want to share your thoughts on FUMC or about an activity or ministry, let us know! Videographers also welcome. Contact Sharon at communications@franconiaumc.org



Update

The Race and Faith group has merged with the FUMC Task Force on Ethnicity as a way to move from conversations to tangible actions. This group meets on the second Sunday of most months at 12:30 pm in the Small Kitchen (sanctuary wing). To learn more about this group, contact Jess Posey (bwjessposey@gmail.com).

ACCESS UMC RESOURCES: Keep up to date on connectional (UMC) news and training at the Alexandria-Arlington Bi-District website, www.novaumc.org

Contacting the Church Staff

Need to touch base with a member of the staff? You can also call 703-971-5151 to reach the Pastor or Heather; but everyone else is easier to reach via email.

Pastor Melissa:

PastorMelissa@FranconiaUMC.org

Jared Lorraine, DCYM:

Youth@FranconiaUMC.org

Heather Nye, Office Manager:

ChurchOffice@FranconiaUMC.org

Kevin Lackie, Music Director:

Music@FranconiaUMC.org

Jess Berg, Children's/Youth Music:

ChildrensMusic@FranconiaUMC.org

Linda Biscardo, Bell Choirs:

Handbells@FranconiaUMC.org

June Shuffett, accompanist:

Organist@FranconiaUMC.org

Kim Santoro, AGC Director:

AGCPreschool@FranconiaUMC.org



Watch Sunday Announcements for Opportunities to Give!

FUMC will be collecting food and gift cards to create holiday baskets and will also be hosting a "Mustang Tree" for gift cards for children at Franconia Elementary School. Please watch the Sunday *Happenings*, website and church Facebook page for details.

Trustees Update

The Trustees continue the hard work of maintaining our church property. In late September, landscaping trustee Blythe Norris oversaw two cleanup days to make the grounds ready for winter. Mike Finch has signed the contract for snow plowing and we also have a contract with Kingstowne Landscaping to put in a French drain at the west edge of the back parking lot (i.e., along the grassy edge between Koinonia and the AGC back entrance). The drain is part of our continuing effort to prevent flooding in the building. (We have had one flooding episode in AGC so far this year.) The trustees have also let a contract to replace the rusty, leaking (and expensive) air scoop component of the boiler system.

As reported earlier, FUMC will receive (on a reimbursable basis) \$60,000 from FEMA to upgrade our security-related systems. This will include 12 hi-def video cameras networked together so that the ushers, as but one example, can view who is in the parking lot and who is approaching the main entrance. Similarly, the staff - who

have no windows directly onto the parking lot - can see what is happening outside during their work hours. Coverage of the cameras will include Koinonia and the former parsonage. The other main aspect of the grant is to improve access control. Nearly every door is going to receive security enhancements which will allow us to move from the keypad-type door security and onto a more modern system, such as key fobs. Control of access will be greatly enhanced since fobs cannot be easily shared like codes have been.

The Trustees are always interested in your thoughts and ideas on any matter related to care of the property, and of course, we are interested in your thoughts about the security upgrades. We are one body in Christ. The hands and feet need to hear from the brain and eyes and ears, so don't hesitate to contact us at trustees@franconiaumc.org. Thank you. God bless you all.

-John Nicholson



Keep Alert for Email Scams!

Scammers have discovered they can create fake email accounts that look similar to official accounts from Pastors and use those accounts to trick unsuspecting church members into purchasing gift cards, etc. Please remember: no one from our church will ever send you an email requesting money or gift cards. Contact the church office for clarification.

Celebration of Giving Sunday: Nov. 10

United in Christ's love, the church shapes and transforms hearts and lives in powerful ways. As we bring our gifts together, we truly make a difference in our church, our community, and the world. On Nov. 10 we will hold our Celebration of Giving Sunday. On that day, we ask all who call



this church their home to fill out and bring their Estimate of Giving card for the coming year. Generosity does not happen by accident, but it requires planning and prayer. Between now and Nov. 10, please pray about your giving, reflect upon your goals for generosity, and prayerfully consider what offering you plan to give to God through our church in the coming

year. We will also have a time of anointing as we are sent out to use our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in service as together we continue Christ's mission in the world.

FUMC Concert Series Begins Nov. 3

The Music Ministry is hosting a concert series that will bring in nationally recognized and internationally acclaimed professional musicians to perform at FUMC. These concerts are free to the public and are entirely unique. This experience will be unparalleled by any other in the Franconia/Kingstowne area.

Nov. 3, 5 pm: Julee An, internationally acclaimed classical pianist will perform in our sanctuary. There's a flyer ("page 10") in this issue to share with your friends!





End of Summer Blues

Summer came and went too fast and now we are entering fall, one of the busiest times of the church year. Summer is usually a time of transition at FUMC as we say goodbye to families who are relocating and welcome new families to our community. Summer is a time when FUMC offers special programs such as our community barbecue, VBS, pop-up youth gatherings, and other opportunities for fun and fellowship. Summer is also a good time for our Trustees to undertake bigger projects to maintain and upgrade our facilities, most of which were built between 50 and 60 years ago. Unfortunately, summer is also the season when weekly offerings drop below average because many people are traveling and fall behind in giving. As I write this, we are running a deficit of about \$25,000 in expenses over collections for the year.

Fall brings a renewed spirit at Franconia as our Sunday Schools and Bible studies reform, our music ensembles regroup, and our staff and volunteers plan for the many special services and events between now and the end of the year. We are excited that we now have a full staff for our Children and Youth Ministries and our expanding Music program. The staff and their volunteers are already far along into planning some wonderful things for the rest of this year.

As noted above, it's not unusual for the church to be running at a deficit during the summer months. However, this year we are running at a deeper deficit than in many prior years. The Finance Committee, our church staff and the other ministry team leads, are paying extra attention

Financial Snapshot as of Aug. 31, 2019

YTD Budget Offerings	\$ 280,540
YTD Expenses	\$ 303,695
YTD Difference (minus AGC)	\$ -23,155
Total FUMC Deficit (including AGC deficit)	\$ -25,424

Account Balances

Checking Account	\$ 3,348
Money Market & CD	\$ 67,247
Total Cash	\$ 70,595
Capital Fund	\$ 44,263
Reserve Funds	\$ 6,535

to remaining good and faithful stewards of your gifts in service to the Lord. Our draft budget for 2020, which will be submitted for approval at Charge Conference on October 17, reflects an overall reduction of over 3% from 2019's budget.

Nevertheless, we cannot significantly reduce spending without jeopardizing the many programs and services that allow FUMC to reach out to the greater Franconia community. We are blessed to be located in one of the most affluent communities in the country, yet we also have many neighbors who struggle. FUMC takes pride in reaching out to everyone in the community with our signature events, like our community Thanksgiving dinner, A Night in Bethlehem, Advent and Christmas programs, our special music programs, and more.

We hope that everyone will continue to support FUMC to the best of his or her ability so that we can quickly eliminate the deficit and rebuild our finances to share the love of Jesus and spread God's word to our community and the world. Thanks be to God!

-Cindy Langan, Finance Chair

The FUMC Music Ministry Welcomes All!

Currently, we are seriously looking for men to join Chancel Choir and youth to join the Children and Youth ensembles!

Chancel Choir (serves 9 am service): Open to all, junior high through adults. Meets in the Choir Room, Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm, and Sundays at 8:30 am.

Praise Band (serves 11 am service): Open to all singers and musicians, High school through adults. Meets in the Sanctuary, Thursdays 6:00-7:00 pm, and Sundays at 10:30 am.

Handbells: (serves third Sundays at the 9 am service) No experience necessary! Open to high school through adults. Meets in Sanctuary, Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm.

Upcoming Worship Series *The Tie That Binds* to Begin Oct. 13

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." - Col 3: 14-15

Relationships form us. One of the most treasured hymns of Christianity in the last century was "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." As we gather for worship in this series, we will be invited to consider how our relationships with the Holy Spirit and with each other form, and transform, us. And we will affirm the power of God's presence in our worshipping community to inspire us to "go and do likewise" in relationship to the world.

Oct. 13: Formed
 Oct. 20: Woven
 Oct. 27: Poured
 Nov. 3: All Saints Sunday: Lifted
 Nov. 10: Celebration of Giving Sunday: Anointed
 Nov. 17: Children & Youth Sunday: Moved (one 10 am service)
 Nov. 24: Christ the King Sunday: That's My King

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

Church-wide emails:
churchoffice@franconiaumc.org

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

The Chimes is published quarterly by the Franconia United Methodist Church

Pastor: Melissa Porter-Miller

Chimes Editor: Sharon Sheldon (next deadline Oct. 31, 2019)

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, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Fridays by appointment only)

Sunday Worship

9:00 am: Traditional with Children's Church

11:00 am: Contemporary with Children's Church

Adult Sunday School: 10:15 am

Sunday Nursery: 8:45 am - 12:15 pm

Wednesday Prayer & Meditation/Communion: 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Wednesday Breakthrough Prayer: 7:00 - 7:30 pm



Celebrating World Communion Sunday at FUMC: Oct. 6

10 am: One worship service, followed by a light lunch

12:30 pm: Package 20,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger

All parts of these events are suitable for all ages.

Celebrating our 123rd Year in Community Ministry! 1896-2019



FRANCONIA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Music Ministry

Presents

Julee An, Pianist

Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019, 5:00 PM

Franconia United Methodist Church

6037 Franconia Road

Alexandria, VA 22310



Performing
**Beethoven's *Pathetique*
Sonata, Scriabin's *Sonata*
Fantasy, and works by
Rachmaninoff, Bach,
Scarlatti, Granados, and Albeniz**

Regarded as an artist of great depth and virtuosity, pianist Julee An has appeared as a soloist in numerous prestigious venues, including the Grand Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia, with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra.

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