

# ADVENT/CHRISTMAS at HERNDON UMC

## Trunk or Treat | October 31



Over twenty trunks showed up to host families from throughout the community. It was nice to see so many new faces in our parking lot!!

## “The One I Was Created to Be” | November 5-6

Herndon’s United Methodist Women gathered for fellowship and grew closer to God at an overnight retreat at the wonderful Claggett Center. The retreat was based on Psalm 139, and Pastor Flor helped the over 20 women explore how experiences and memories make us who we are today, spiritually. The women also shared God’s love by writing Christmas cards to missionaries around the world.



## Reflecting on Fall

As we came back together this fall, there was a focus on returning to the familiar and on strengthening relationships with each other and with our community. Many groups began to meet in-person and took advantage of the equipment available to link in those not able to be there in-person.

## We Are Herndon



Our church family has had some fun times supporting the students and teachers at Herndon High School (HHS) and throughout the pyramid. Tutoring continues online. We’ve hosted coffee for teachers and a tailgate that fed all the football teams too. We supported the Showcase of the Bands and, for the first time, marched in the Homecoming parade. We loaned chairs and supplies to support the drama production of Tony and Tina’s wedding, and provided the moving services. And, this season, we welcome the HHS Madrigals and the community into our Sanctuary for the annual Christmas concert.

Friends,

Over the last three and a half years, I've come to understand that we are a **highly collaborative, lay-driven church**. We are called to seek a wide variety of input on key decisions and directions, and we are at our best when our laity are at the forefront of church leadership, being supported and connected through our church staff. This sense of collaboration and lay leadership is both unique and essential and is something for us to celebrate!

The last two years have created some shifts in our community. People who were once a part of our community have moved away, and others have moved in. Our church has embraced a hybrid approach, which means there can be a sense of fragmentation at times between the in-person and digital, as much as we try to allow those to be fully immersive and shared experiences. Many of you are aware of a number of staffing transitions that have taken place in 2021. We've said farewell to employees such as Sheri Fairchild, Patrick Tugwell, the Ayala family, and, most recently, Pastor Flor Hoydilla. We've welcomed JoAnn Batteiger, a new custodial service, and in the new year we'll be welcoming our new Director of Music and Worship Ministries, Dr. Melissa Chavez.

In all of this, it can feel like things are turned upside down. What was familiar and constant has evolved in the last two years, but what is core to our community remains the same: we are highly collaborative and lay-driven. To state it with abundant clarity, let me be bold enough to say that **this is your church**.

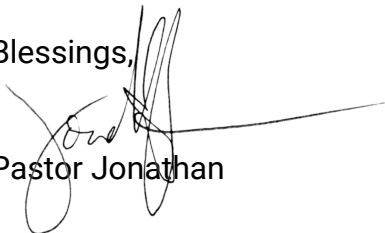
This is God's church that has been entrusted to us all to share and shepherd into all that is to come. So let me encourage you this Advent and Christmas season to be asking some questions:

- How am I embracing Herndon UMC as my church?
- Where am I using my unique gifts to collaborate and lead in my church family?
- Who is missing from our community that I can reach out to?
- What can I be doing to serve and share God's love in community in the coming year?

Something I've articulated from my first day here that I continue to believe is that our **best days are ahead of us**. We will live into that as we commit to being intentional in our praying, our presence, our giving, our serving, and our witnessing. This is an "all in" season for us! My earnest hope and prayer is that we might continue coming together to be a people of hope on a mission to share God's love in all we say and do.

It is my highest privilege to serve alongside you. God bless you as you celebrate the coming of Christ in the days and weeks ahead!

Blessings,



Pastor Jonathan

Contact Pastor Jonathan [jonathan@herndonumc.org](mailto:jonathan@herndonumc.org), or through the church office, 703-707-6271

## More Fall Reflections

### United Methodist Men | Brunswick Stew

Each year, Herndon’s men come together in fellowship and teamwork to raise money for serving and sharing God’s love. The stew becomes a church family project as the men invite our whole community to donate ingredients or funds to buy the ingredients. Ingredients were prepped Friday night and this year four kettles of stew were prepared, packaged and sold. People from the church family and from throughout the community bought the stew, yielding over \$2,800 which will help with various church and community needs. The men would like to thank all who donated, bought stew and helped in so many other ways!



## Worship through Advent

Please note that there are special service times for December 19, 24, and 26, otherwise:

### 9:30am Traditional Worship\*

This worship features traditional hymns, choir, handbells, organ, and liturgy with life-giving messages. Held in the Sanctuary, this service also **livestreams on [YouTube](#)** each week.

### 11:00am Modern Worship Conversation



Held in Doe Fellowship Hall on the stage, this is a different kind of worship with dialogue around Scripture and theme.

### 5:00pm Relaxed Traditional Worship

This service features a traditional “hymn sing” each week, weekly Communion, and relevant, life-giving messages in a relaxed atmosphere in the Sanctuary.

Look for the \* to indicates **digital/hybrid opportunities!**  
Alternative modes of gathering (i.e. outdoors, expanded digital offerings) continue to be offered.

## Special Events for the Season

This season brings special opportunities to connect with our community through music, service, and worship. Spread the word about these events and invite your friends and neighbors.

### Saturday, December 11 at 7pm | Concert by Herndon High School Madrigals

Each year, the HHS Madrigals come and perform a special concert in our Sanctuary for the community. It is a wonderful evening of holiday music performed in Renaissance costumes by some of the most talented singers from the high school.

As a special treat, following the concert, a **Hershey food truck** will be outside the church serving hot chocolate and ice cream to all of the singers and audience members. It is exciting to be able to provide this opportunity for community fellowship in a safe way.

**Sunday, December 19 | Christmas Orchestra\* Combined Morning Worship Service at 10am**

Each year, middle and high school students and adults of all ages join together in providing orchestral music in worship on the last Sunday before Christmas. Not only does this allow instrumentalists in our congregation to share their musical gifts, it also opens our doors to students and families outside our church community.

A special **10am worship** service will be held in **Doe Fellowship Hall** for the **Christmas Orchestra** on **Sunday, December 19**, to give the musicians the space to play safely distanced, and to provide room for the congregation to be more comfortably distanced.

**Sunday, December 19 | Christmas Pageant**

The HUMC KIDS love to share the Christmas story. Everyone is invited to join them for their 2021 presentation. Enjoy the show after the 5pm worship service on December 19 at 6pm.

**Monday, December 20 | Blue Christmas\***

Christmas is not an easy time for some, and Herndon UMC wants to give space to those feelings. All are invited to join in this in-person worship on Monday, December 20 in the Sanctuary. The service will also be shared on YouTube and Facebook afterwards.

**Friday, December 24 | Christmas Eve\***

Kids & Family Worship  
Pop up Pageant at 5pm  
Doe Fellowship Hall

Traditional Candlelight  
Communion Worship at 9pm  
Sanctuary

Relaxed Blended Candlelight  
Communion Worship at 11pm  
Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 26 | One Service\***

Look for more information to come about Sunday, December 26. There will only be one service at 10am.

**Guidance on Community Gathering**



The basis for determining appropriate community activity protocols at any given time is the CDC Level of Community Transmission for Fairfax County, VA. Find the current level: <https://www.cdc.gov/TemplatePackage/content/widgets/covidcountycheck/>  
Learn more at [herndonumc.org/hct](http://herndonumc.org/hct).

## Serving and Sharing God's Love

### Feeding People



In the Fall, we began delivering food to Afghan refugees once a month as a partnership with other area United Methodist churches and the Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. December brought back the North County Hypothermia Prevention Program. There are about ten dinners that will be hosted by Herndon UMC, now through March.

### LINK Against Hunger

Herndon UMC supports LINK Against Hunger year round as a collection site in many ways including as host to the food pantry. At Christmas, we enjoy hosting the LINK Toy Distribution. Angel Trees appeared again this year encouraging unwrapped gifts and filled stockings in support of the toy drive. The distribution looks a little different this year with three different distribution days.

### Upward Basketball Season 2022 Starts Now

The Upward Basketball league is open to kids in Kindergarten through grade 6. There are over 100 kids registered for the 2022 league starting mid-January. Learn more at [herndonumc.org/upward](http://herndonumc.org/upward).

Check the website for key dates for the season.

This ministry offers many opportunities to serve and share God's love with area families. You could coach or ref, run music between games, offer devotions or just be a welcoming presence in the building. No basketball skill is required. If you are interested in helping, contact JoAnn Batteiger at [upward@herndonumc.org](mailto:upward@herndonumc.org).



See all current needs and sign up at [\*\*bit.ly/HerndonUMCNeeds\*\*](https://bit.ly/HerndonUMCNeeds)

If you sign up online, you will receive a confirmation email (to make sure that it is not a bot signing up). Please follow the instructions in the email to confirm your sign up to complete it.

Or, sign up in the Herndon UMC App. Go to **Love > Sign up to serve!** Choose where you want to help!

If you don't like either of these options, look for the clipboards on the **Connection Corners** or call the office, 703-707-6271.

## Discipleship Opportunities Continue

### Ongoing Discipleship Opportunities Include:

Monday Morning Men\*, Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study\*, Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study\*, and the Esther Women's Bible Study\* (Wednesdays at 1pm, all digital).

**KIDS CLUB (Preschool - grade 6)** meets in-person on Sundays during 9:30am worship.

**Youth Group (grades 7-12)** continues to meet on Sunday afternoons at 3:45pm to gather in community and learn about God. Youth and their families are encouraged to worship together at the 5pm service too!

**Young Adults** should contact JoAnn, [joann@herndonumc.org](mailto:joann@herndonumc.org), for more information on what's up next!

Find **Read. Ponder. Pray.** weekday devotions on Instagram, Facebook and [herndonumc.org](http://herndonumc.org).

## Growing Spirit-filled Relationships

In addition to worship, serving, and discipleship growth, there are opportunities within the life of Herndon UMC to be connected with people, to grow in faith, and to discover God's love in the midst of us all. Some of the opportunities for gathering and growing this fall include:

**Vocalists and musicians** have many opportunities at Herndon UMC, including the **Wesley Choir, Voices of Truth** (youth choir), **Handbells** (Now Mondays @ 6 pm), **Herndon UNTD** (praise band), **Ukulele Group** (grades 5-8), and **One Accord** and **Joyful Noise** (children's choirs).



There are also opportunities for making special musical offerings in worship. If you are interested in any musical opportunities listed above, please contact Shannon Wise, [shannon@herndonumc.org](mailto:shannon@herndonumc.org).

Opportunities abound and many gather monthly. Here are some more that are continuing/returning this fall:

- **Top of the Hill** retirees (1st Thursday)
- **United Methodist Men** breakfast (1st Saturday) and other evening opportunities. Contact [men@herndonumc.org](mailto:men@herndonumc.org) for information.
- Four **United Methodist Women (UMW)** circles. Times, places, and missions vary by group. For information, contact [women@herndonumc.org](mailto:women@herndonumc.org).

### Have an interest that you like to share?

There are other groups for a number of interests--history, book clubs, knitting, crafts, and just being together.

If you need help identifying how you might serve and share God's love through Herndon UMC, please speak with a staff member or email [welcome@herndonumc.org](mailto:welcome@herndonumc.org).

We are a community of prayer.  
Share your prayers with the church family  
at [prayerchain@herndonumc.org](mailto:prayerchain@herndonumc.org).

## In Pursuit of Our Vision

The vision of Herndon UMC is **to live the teachings of Jesus so that everyone may know God's love and grow in Spirit-filled relationships.**

To work towards this vision, our Strategic Planning Team discerned three "pursuits" for our church family to focus on over the next three to five years-- *Intergenerational Ministry, Resilience Education, and Music Outreach.* These pursuits are already a part of who we are, and the hope is that with focus, we can extend our impact for God's kingdom by growing our strengths. As these pursuits get rolling, look for more to come in the new year. Learn more at [herndonumc.org/vision](http://herndonumc.org/vision) and Contact [spt@herndonumc.org](mailto:spt@herndonumc.org) if you want to get involved.

Pursuing our vision helps us grow from our core beliefs that God's love is real, active, and for everyone.

Are you interested in helping our church be welcoming to everyone? If you are interested in being a greeter or in learning more, contact [office@herndonumc.org](mailto:office@herndonumc.org) to get plugged in.

Are you interested in learning more? There are lots of sources out there. One recent article from Carey Nieuwhof is [5 Tell-Tale Signs Your Church is Not Outsider-Friendly.](#)



There are many ways to know what's going on. Visit [herndonumc.org](http://herndonumc.org), or check the **Herndon UMC app**. Follow or subscribe on social media. (To get it, text "herndonumc app" to (833)-841-6111.)

### Herndon UMC's Staff

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*Children's Music*

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*Music & Worship*

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*beginning 1/1/2022*

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