

FALL at HERNDON UMC

A Reflection on Summer

A variety of special activities filled the Summer season alongside thirteen Listening Sessions that allowed Pastor SeongJae to get to know the Herndon UMC church family.

Love and Food | Purple Bags for LINK



These purple bags offer an opportunity for the Herndon UMC church family to engage in mission with LINK. The first round bags came back the week of July 9 to be blessed after worship and then allowed our VBS students to sort and take them to the pantry.

The "Food and Love" bags will be reintroduced every two months. They became available in August, and should be returned the week of September 10.

Vacation Bible School | Ready, Set, Move!

In July, Herndon UMC hosted over 54 kids for Ready, Set, Move! Kids spent 5 days hearing Bible stories about Jesus' teachings and big love; playing games to see that love in

high-speed; praising Jesus and giving thanks for that love through music, and harnessing their creativity to express that love through crafts, and serving in mission to live out that love. With the support of their families, their 23 adult leaders, and their 8 student leaders, the kids donated, sorted, and shelved over 400 pounds of food for LINK; and donated and sorted over 150 pounds of donations to The Closet of Greater Herndon! Deepest gratitude to the many incredible leaders and helpers that made VBS 2023 a truly fantastic week for all. May we DO what Jesus says, BELIEVE in who Jesus is, LOVE who Jesus loves, SHARE what Jesus did, and GO where Jesus leads; so that we may see God's love on the move!



Student Mission | Carolina Cross Connections

Just before her departure, Pastor Jo Ann and Andrew Bowers led a small mission team of students to Wilkesboro, NC to spend the week with Carolina Cross Connections! The week was spent doing home repairs, building relationships, and learning more about the local area. The team made some connections with youth from other churches as well and are

looking forward to next year. (Youth, tentatively save the dates June 14-21, 2024. More to come!)

Summer Musical Theatre Camp | Honk! Jr.



July rounded out with Herndon UMC's second annual Summer Musical Theatre Camp. The 30 students, 2 student interns, and a whole team of volunteers had a blast! Students spent almost 40 hours over the course of 5 days, learning choreography, songs, staging, lines, culminating in a final performance on the last day of camp. What an amazing week for students to develop all the skills, confidence, and resilience that theatre brings!

Costa Rica Mission Projects

The summer trip to Costa Rica met some scheduling challenges this year, but Jay and Kylee Horstman persevered and traveled with another team. They served the people of Costa Rica and reconnected with our friends at Costa Rica Mission Projects. Herndon UMC supports Costa Rica Mission Projects both their salaries and by serving on mission projects. Look for a trip again next year.

Jump into worship on July 30 and hear more about these three summer events as testimonies. [Catch the video on Herndon UMC's YouTube Channel.](#)

Being a Neighbor

Herndon UMC showed up at Herndon Harbor House a couple of times this summer, Pastor SeongJae and Pastor Scott have served as chaplains for the Herndon Police, and Herndon UMC joined with Fairfax County and other houses of worship to bike and walk to worship.

National Night Out



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. A few volunteers from the Herndon UMC church family showed up to help set up for the event at Herndon Harbor House. Later that afternoon, Pastor Scott and Pastor SeongJae returned as part of their ride along with the Herndon Police.



Helping Hands at Herndon Harbor House

A number of teams from Herndon UMC showed up at Herndon Harbor House after worship and offered an Art Shop and helping hands to do tasks for the community—ovens were cleaned, art was hung, iRobots were programmed and more.



From Janice, a Harbor House resident and member of Herndon UMC, who helped coordinate the work. "Grateful thank yous are coming from all over the place."

Back to School



Continuing our partnership with Herndon High School, Herndon UMC served up a yogurt, granola and fruit buffet for teachers and staff on their first day back. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped out.

Community Tailgate



What a great way to end the summer and start the school year! On a very hot day the Herndon UMC church family hosted a community tailgate with Herndon High School. It was a wonderful event where we had a great group of volunteers of all ages. First, our team hosted the Herndon High School football players, coaches, and school administrators. In speaking with Principal, Dr. Liz Noto at the event, she shared how great this event has become to the community and how appreciative she was for our partnership. After the football teams returned to get ready for the game we prepared for other members of our community to arrive in preparation for "Pyramid Night." Soon we had children of all ages in our parking lot, laughing and smiling as they played games and had their faces painted. In the end we cooked some 400+ hotdogs and enjoyed being able to host members of our community. Thank you to the United Methodist Men for providing the food and water. There are too many individuals to thank by name, but thank you for your time, sweat and joy that you put into making this event a big success! There will be other opportunities to support the Herndon High School partnership coming up at Showcase of the Bands (September 30), Homecoming (October 14), and with the Christmas Orchestra.

Hello, Herndon!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I hope you had a blessed summer as you refreshed and renewed after resting and traveling with your families and friends. Welcome back from summer!

It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome you back into the loving embrace of our church family and community.

As you know, it has been a quite different summer for all of us and our church, especially with the pastoral transition within the church.

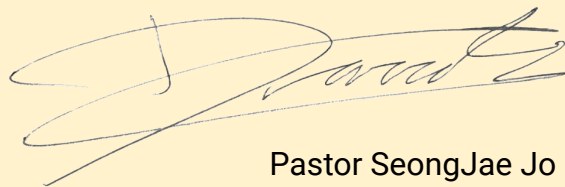
However, your warm welcome and loving support has been tremendous and has helped me to adapt and settle down slowly into the life of the church and the community. Thank you for your participation and sharing in 13 listening sessions as you helped me to get to know you better and hear from you deeper. Thank you for your willingness to share life and continue to participate in God's ministry and mission together.

As we begin this new season together, let us be reminded of how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! Therefore, let us embrace unity and strive to build a stronger, more connected church family. May our shared experiences, different backgrounds, and unique gifts and talents be woven together to create a diversity of love, support, and accountability.

We have an exciting season ahead of us, filled with opportunities for worship, fellowship, service, ministry, and mission. Let us come together in unity of purpose, seeking to grow in our faith, deepen our relationship with God, and extend the love of Jesus to the community and beyond by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

May this season be a true blessing and abundant joy as we continue to journey together as a family of believers, disciples of Jesus, and children of God.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SeongJae Jo', with a stylized, flowing script.

Pastor SeongJae Jo

Contact Pastor SeongJae, seongjae@herndonumc.org, or through the church office, 703-707-6271.

Back to Church



Worship continues together on Sundays at 10 am, in person or on [YouTube](#).

Sing, Ring, and Lead in Worship this Fall

As the new academic year starts, come and find a time of joy and connections through participation in music ministry. Music ministries provide an opportunity for people in our community to share their gifts with God and the congregation. Participating in one of our music groups is also a great way to build friendships and enjoy fellowship with other church members! Do you love to sing? Join our Wesley choir (adult/teens, 7 - 8:30pm on Wednesdays), Youth choir (Grades 6-12, rehearsals based on availability), KIDS Music (age 3-Grade 6, 11:10 am on Sundays). Do you love to play an instrument? Join our Handbells (adult/teens Sundays 11:15 am), Ukulele choir (All ages, Grade 3 and up, Mondays 6 pm), or play for our services. If you would be interested in sharing gifts in worship—greeting, reading, providing music—please contact Melissa Chávez, Director of Worship & Arts, at melissa@herndonumc.org.

Nursery Care Extended!

The Nursery will now be available after worship on Sundays until 11:50 am in Room 122. This is to support family participation in activities after worship.

KIDS CLUB (Age 3 to Grade 6)

The school year has started, which means KIDS CLUB is back, and trying a new thing! [If you prefer video introductions, watch a video at bit.ly/FallKC.] While KIDS CLUB is to provide kids with experiential Bible education, we also hope they gain a more holistic spiritual education in discipleship. In addition to Bible lessons (on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays each month), the kids will have an opportunity to serve their community during KIDS CLUB time on the 3rd Sundays of every month.



The kids will be sorting and shelving the Purple LINK Bag foods, and serving their community in a variety of other ways that have yet to be revealed! This is a wonderful opportunity for folks to plug in, serve alongside and get to know the kids who walk in the doors on Sunday! If you would like to help kids as they grow their hearts for mission, or have any service suggestions, please contact Mallory Hopper, Director of Children's Ministries, at mallory@herndonumc.org! On the first Sunday of every month, kids get to learn about being in worship as all of the Herndon UMC church family worships and celebrates Holy Communion together. This change helps create intergenerational worship experiences; and allows kids to fully experience the whole of worship and grow as worshippers.

KIDS Music (Age 3 to Grade 6)

KIDS Music will take place on Sundays in Room 103/104 from 11:10-11:40 am. Any kids who are excited about singing, dancing, and praising God are invited to stay after KIDS CLUB for a quick snack (provided) and music time! Extended Nursery Care is also available for littlest siblings in Room 122. Adults and family members are welcome to join in! Please email Mallory Hopper at mallory@herndonumc.org for more information.

The kids will share their first song of the program in Worship on October 15 before the Children's Message, so tune in either in person or online to show them some support!

Groups are resuming.
Find a group.

Missions and Ministries Fair


Sunday, September 10
after worship (11 am to 12:30 pm)
Doe Fellowship Hall

You can find a list of all Herndon UMC groups in the app and on the website (bit.ly/HerndonGroups). In the app, click Connect >> All Open Groups >> View the list. The list gives you the ability to filter results and an opportunity to join or contact the group leader. Let the leader(s) know that you are interested in learning more about the group and they will contact you back! If you would like help finding the right group or groups for you, please feel free to contact any staff member. The staff is here to support you!

Youth Group (Grades 7-12)

Youth Group has resumed with a new Youth Leadership Team helping in the planning. Join the youth after worship on Sundays. Contact Andrew Bowers at youth@herndonumc.org to learn more about the plans for youth this year.

Meet Andrew!




MEET: ANDREW BOWERS
HERNDON UMC'S NEW INTERIM YOUTH PROGRAM LEAD!!

Fun Fact:
My 2 front teeth are fake

Favorite Musical:
Tie between Mama Mia and Hamilton

Spirit Animal:
Golden Retriever, 100%

Hobbies:
Tennis, F1, hanging with his nephew, making pizza, board-games, singing in the car, hiking, climbing, & more



↑
Wife (Olivia) & Dog (Scout)

Andrew is the new interim youth program leader. He is originally from Knoxville, TN, and moved to Virginia to go to school at Virginia Tech. There he met his wife, Olivia, and eventually went to graduate school in North Carolina at Wake Forest University. Andrew and Olivia moved to the Herndon/Reston area 2 years ago after getting married and have been attending and helping out with the youth program at Herndon UMC ever since. Andrew has a day job as a data and analytics consultant for CapTech Consulting, and will be helping out in a part-time volunteer capacity. He is very excited to get started leading the program and diving deeper into relationships with the youth. If you see him in worship or around town, please say hey as he would really love to get to know you.

The youth have changed their Instagram account to [@herndonumcyouth](https://www.instagram.com/herndonumcyouth).



From the New Upward Coordinator:



Hi there! My name is **Rachel King** and I'm excited to introduce myself as the Upward Coordinator this season. My husband Brent and our 3 teenage boys have been a part of Herndon UMC for nearly 6 years. If we seem like new faces to you, it's because our time here was interrupted by a 3 year stint in Brussels. We have had the pleasure of calling 5 different countries "home". I enjoy traveling abroad, visiting national parks, cooking, and spending time with our puppy, Mac. And did I mention basketball?! I have loved basketball my entire life. Growing up just outside of Oklahoma City, my siblings and I spent countless hours on the court. Now I spend countless hours cheering and supporting my own son. My favorite teams are the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Herndon Hornets. I have been an Upward parent, an Upward coach and often joke that I live in the gym, so I should feel right at home! Here at Herndon UMC we have so much to offer not only with our facility, but with our open hearts and gifts of discipleship. I'm excited to lead this outreach program that is such a huge part of our church and community. I'm looking forward to filling that gym up with kids and adults, coming together and fulfilling the Upward mission of "promoting the discovery of Jesus through sports". Be on the lookout for how you can help make this program a success, I'm going to need your help!

Serving and Sharing God's Love

In addition to Herndon UMC's year-round missions like LINK and the Closet. Fall brings back school year opportunities. We have already experience some outreach opportunities with Herndon High School. Coming soon will be Backpack Food packing for Dranesville Elementary School. You can [sign up for these groups](#) to get the latest information as needs become available or contact the office, office@herndonumc.org and we will help you get connected.

UPWARD BASKETBALL Registration | Oct 1

Spread the word! Kids in Kindergarten through Grade 6 are invited to play basketball in Herndon UMC's UPWARD league. Registration opens on October 1. Player evaluations will be in early November (one evening). Practices will start after Thanksgiving and games will run in January and February.

Special Collection: Lahaina and Maui



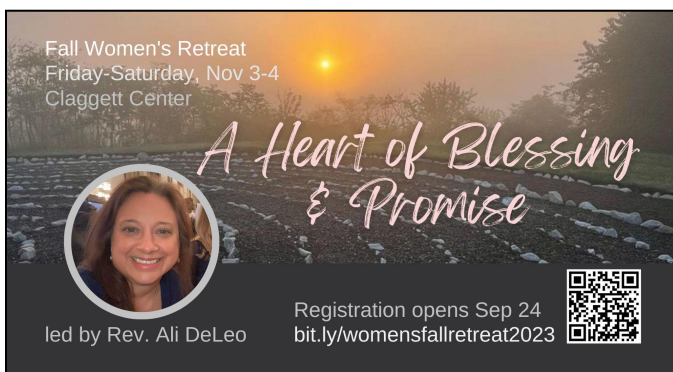
The church family was invited to share in a special collection for those affected by the wildfires in Hawaii, and in particular Lahaina UMC. At the time of publication we had already collected over \$1500. Thank you for serving and sharing God's love with those in need. Gifts can be made through August 29.

NAMI WALK | Sep 23

If you have a passion for the mental health of our community, Shannon Wise is coordinating a team to walk and fundraise for the Northern Virginia chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). If you are interested in walking or in supporting the walk or in supporting Herndon UMC's partnership with NAMI in other ways, please contact Shannon at shannon@herndonumc.org.

Ella and SeongJae's Wedding

The entire Herndon UMC church family is invited to the wedding on October 7 at 11 am. Ella and SeongJae are requesting RSVPs by September 6. [RSVP through this link](#) or on one of the paper copies located in the box outside of the church office.

Fall Women's Retreat | Nov 3 & 4

More information will be coming soon about the Fall Retreat at the Claggett Center in Maryland. Registration opens in September so

stay tuned for details. This year's theme is "A Heart of Blessing and Promise."

Stew Day 2023 | Nov 4

Herndon's United Methodist Men will be making and selling Brunswick Stew at the start of November. Men are invited to attend breakfast on September 9 at 8:30 am to learn more about how to be involved, or you can contact Larry Greenfield at men@herndonumc.org. Information about sign ups and preorders will be available in October.

In Pursuit of Our Vision

The **Missions and Ministries Team** meets monthly (on the second Monday) and fosters collaboration and community across generations, interests, and activities. Contact the Missions and Ministries Team by email at missionsandministries@herndonumc.org.

The **Resource Management Team (RMT)** is our Council, Staff-Parish Relations, and Finance Team all-in-one. This team meets monthly (on the third Monday). You can email the team at resourcemanagement@herndonumc.org. RMT is currently working on the staff transitions, some results of which are noted throughout this newsletter..

Please Welcome Nii Commey as the New Production Coordinator

Nii Commey is an accomplished and innovative creative professional with a wealth of experience spanning various aspects of media production and creative leadership. Nii's journey in the world of media grew into a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Television Production from the National Film and Television Institute. He has won multiple awards, including recognition for his final year production in Film School. Nii spent twelve years collaborating closely with legendary African film director Kwaw Paintsil Ansah. His leadership extended to TV Africa, where he not only conceptualized and produced award-winning productions but also helped shape Ghana's television landscape. (Ask him about being the creative lead for the African team on Steve Harvey's Family Feud filmed in South Africa.) As a Creative Coordinator and Producer at Media General, he has led marketing and media efforts across a diverse portfolio of subsidiaries. Nii also completed the Professional Certificate in Entrepreneurial Leadership program from Henley Business School in the UK. Nii brings a comprehensive and versatile approach to every project he undertakes and Nii now is looking to turn all these skills into helping Herndon transform ideas into impactful media experiences.



Called Charge Conference | July 30

This Community Update and Called Charge Conference approved the budget for July through December 2023. We continue to work from 6-month budgets as we transition and restructure. A copy of the budget and the Annual Report for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year were made available at this community update and copies are available from the church office.

If you have questions about Herndon UMC finances, please feel free to ask Julie Albanus, Director of Business and Communications, julie@herndonumc.org.

Next Community Update | September 17

If you are curious what was heard in the 13 listening sessions that Pastor SeongJae held in July and August, stay after worship on September 17 for the next Community Update. We will look at the responses and talk about next steps. All are welcome and the session will be offered in person and over Zoom.

Trustees Update

While continuing on the punchlist on the parsonage the Trustees have also overseen HVAC maintenance and repairs. They have greeted students in the parking lot as the new school year began, and worked on painting the lines in the parking lot. Your eyes may not be failing, our parking lot lines are fading. If you would like to help repaint them, please contact Cathy McCranie through the office, office@herndonumc.org. Supplies are available and your time can be flexible. Let's do this.



You may have noticed a new door in the Courtyard near Doe Fellowship Hall. The Trustees have worked with the Preschool to make this door happen. It helps Herndon UMC Preschool boost enrollment for

2-year-olds. Learn more about Herndon UMC Preschool at herndonumcpreschool.com.

Calendar and Connections

The full calendar is in the app (**More >> Check the Calendar**) and at herndonumc.org/calendar.



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

There are other groups connected to our Facebook page as well. HUMC KIDS post information on the [KIDS](#) group. There are other groups for [music](#) and [youth](#) families, the [women](#), and a [Herndon UMC Community](#) group for sharing community information with our Herndon UMC church family. Many of these groups are private to protect the privacy of minors and members, but joining the group is easy if you are a part of the Herndon UMC church family.

Similarly, on Instagram, the youth ([@herndonumcyouth](#)), Preschool ([@herndonumcpreschool](#)), and UPWARD ([@herndonumcupward](#)) ministries have accounts.

The Herndon UMC Staff loves to hear from you! Please share your prayers, joys and concerns, and especially your faith stories. We are here to support you!

Herndon UMC's Staff

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Associate Pastor
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Office Hours are officially Monday-Thursday 9 am - 4 pm, and Fridays 9 am - Noon. Staff members work a variety of hours and places throughout the community. If you would like to catch up with a staff member, it is best to reach out first, to arrange a time and place to meet.