

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS at HERNDON UMC



Reflections on Fall

This Fall, there were new opportunities in KIDS CLUB, for Youth, and adults to learn about Jesus' teachings and there were new worship opportunities. Herndon UMC offered many opportunities to serve and share God's love inside the building and out in other places.

KIDS CLUB Goes Missional



This fall, the Children's Ministry made some big changes to how children experience a holistic spiritual education, especially through missions. Kids Ministry leadership knew that the kids love to serve, but wanted to hear from children, families, and Herndon UMC community directly about HOW they saw the kids serving and sharing God's Love in Community. Cue the Missions and Ministries Fair on September 10! Everyone who passed by could vote on a wide variety of outreach options using colorful pom poms, and boy did they come through!

Folks expressed their wishes to see kids assemble Bedtime Snack Packs for the Embry

Rucker Community Shelter in Reston. On October 15, they did just that...and assembled over 140 bags in just 45 minutes.

On Sunday, November 19, the KIDS CLUB kids returned for the second time to the LINK pantry, where they sorted and shelved donations from the Herndon UMC Community via the purple, Love and Food Bags for LINK.

Other outreach opportunities are on the horizon: writing holiday cards for residents of Herndon Harbor House, helping with Upward hospitality, and supporting Healing House.

Seeing the kids' eyes light up at the chance to create a positive impact in their community is a tender moment to behold. This is where we see the life values of their KIDS CLUB Bible lessons being applied: they have the confidence of knowing that with God's help, and that they are capable of great acts of kindness and compassion, meeting the expressed needs of others in the way that will help them most. Thanks be to God for this incredible group of young people!

Purple Bags for LINK

The "Food and Love" bags offer an opportunity for the Herndon UMC church family to engage in missions with LINK. The bags will become available again in December to be returned the week of January 14.

Youth Building Spirit-filled Relationships



This fall the youth have been very active, with events and activities going on every single week. These events range from an opening week kickoff youth vs. adults olympics and kickball game (pictured above), to volunteering at the Herndon High School Football Tailgate, to weekly large group discipleship meetings, to inaugural Youth Leadership Team meetings, to our most recent special event – a Pizza Masterclass where the students built their own pizza from scratch!! Later in this newsletter, check out what excitement and adventure is ahead for Herndon's Youth!

Sharing God's Love through Music with HerndonUMC Preschool



The Preschool was delighted to welcome Margaret Tobat to sing and play the ukulele with the children. We also had a visit from

Pastor SeongJae. He brought his guitar and sang songs in English, Spanish, and Korean. The Preschool looks forward to continuing and expanding on these collaborations with the church.

Special Collection: Lahaina and Maui

In August, the church family held a special collection for those affected by the wildfires in Hawaii. Over \$8,000 was collected for Lahaina UMC and UMCOR. Thank you for serving and sharing God's love with those in need. Gifts can be made through August 29.

Sharing God's Love with Talents & Heirlooms



Who knew that our congregation had so many heirlooms and varied talents to share?! An opportunity was presented in October to assist with the wedding reception for our own Pastor SeongJae and his then fiancée Ella. An abundance of creativity produced beautiful decorations, yummy cupcakes, as well as the elegant wedding cake! One of the many highlights was the heirloom china and silverware for 200 place settings lovingly shared and placed around the tables by the church family. Herndon UMC was blessed with the presence of the many friends and family

who came to witness and celebrate the very special day as well as share our community and God's love with all.



Welcoming Community at Trunk or Treat

This year's Trunk or Treat event saw creativity, so many costumes, and a whole lot of joy! With over 30 trunkers and games helpers handing out candy and connecting with guests, it was an afternoon that folks from the community will not soon forget. Not just because of Herndon UMC's efforts, but from Grace Hill Church's efforts as well! The Grace Hill Church worshipping community hosted their own Trunk or Treat across the street at Herndon High School, ending just in time for Herndon's to start and welcome any folks who were looking to fill their day with double the Halloween fun! Thanks be to God for all the folks from both communities who gave their time to make Trunk or Treat a wonderful day for all.



Heart of Blessing and Promise

This year's retreat theme was A Heart of Blessing and Promise and was led by Rev. Ali DeLeo. Here are some of the comments from the ladies attending this year's overnight United Women in Faith fall retreat November 3-4 at the beautiful Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD. "The program was wonderful- interesting and interactive.... It was a very meaningful time learning and reflecting on the women in the Bible. I learned about women I had not heard about before." "Best part was meeting some women that I had seen at worship but did not know very well. So wonderful to have an intergenerational retreat!!" "I try to go every year to refresh, study, and meet women or get to know more deeply other women that I know!!"



Stew Day 2023

Herndon's Men made 340 quarts of Brunswick Stew on November 4. Of those, 33 were donated to LINK by the men and by those purchasing stew.

The men thank the Herndon UMC for supporting them in this endeavor filled with fellowship, teamwork, and fun. In addition to stew donated to LINK, funds raised will go to support the Herndon United Methodist Men's other outreach and mission activities.

Hi, Herndon UMC!

Warm greetings to each and every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ.

I hope you are staying warm in this new season. This fall felt very short, but we still were able to see a glimpse of beautiful foliage and praised how great God's creation is.

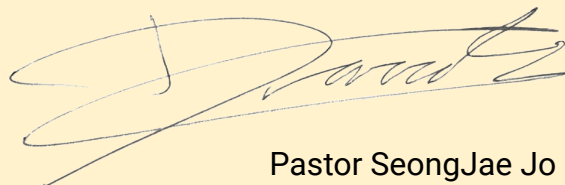
It has been five months since I came here to Herndon UMC as your pastor. It's been a great joy to get to know you more. I am so grateful for your welcoming presence and loving support since the beginning of my ministry here. I want to express our huge gratitude for praying, supporting, and helping to make our wedding possible. Thank you for your presence at our wedding and your willingness to host the guests who came to witness the day.

During the fall season, we have seen our ministries and missions keep moving forward in the midst of the pastoral and staff transition. We have seen leaves changing colors and temperatures going up and down. It reminds us that change is a natural and fundamental part of life and God always guides our steps during those times. It is certainly exciting as we are waiting for Thanksgiving and Christmas to gather with family and friends. However, let us pause for a moment to give thanks for what God has done for us and our church until today. Also, let's prepare our hearts to receive more of what God has prepared for each and every one of us in a new season.

As we look forward to the Advent season and Christmas, we anticipate being filled with hope, peace, joy, and love in Jesus Christ. What a joyful time of the year as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ! It is a season of hope as we await the coming of our Savior. So let this season be a time to deepen our relationship with God, to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, and to spread the good news and love to those around us. Together, we can get through this cold winter and any storm, and find comfort in knowing that God is with us and we have each other.

May we find peace and joy in our faith, and may our hearts be filled with hope and love. Because Jesus is the reason for the season!

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!



Pastor SeongJae Jo

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

New Worship Opportunities



In October, Herndon UMC held a blessing of the animals outside. All were welcome at this service that celebrated God's creation and our role in caring for all of God's creatures, especially our beloved pets.

Herndon UMC also reintroduced Wednesday dinners as "Worship & Fellowship Dinners." This new, interactive, monthly worship experience offers attendees the opportunity to be in conversation and fellowship with others while worshipping and then sharing a delicious meal. In December the experience will be a little different to support a special "Longest Night" worship experience (details later in this newsletter) but look for the Worship & Fellowship Dinners to continue on the third Wednesday of each month into 2024.

Sunday evening worship returned in November in a more intimate gathering with Pastor SeongJae. For the winter, the time will move to 4 pm to support those who are not comfortable driving after dark. Look for Sunday evening, communion services on the first Sunday of each month. Save the date! December 3 at 4pm.

Advent and Christmas



Worship continues on Sundays at 10 am, in person and on [YouTube](#). There are additional worship opportunities this season in the evening on December 3 at 4 pm, for Longest Night on December 20 at 6 pm (also on YouTube), and Christmas Eve services at 5 pm and 9 pm (also on YouTube). Learn more about all of the opportunities to celebrate the season below.

Tunes, Treats, and Wreaths, Oh My!

November 26 at 11 am | Doe Fellowship Hall

What better way to welcome and anticipate the light of Christ than with your very own Advent Wreath? On Sunday, November 26, after worship, you and yours are invited to Doe Fellowship Hall to enjoy some Christmas tunes, holiday snacks, and warm company as you assemble a wreath for yourself, a friend, or a neighbor. Bring greens to share; all other materials are provided. Can't stay after Worship? Grab a Make & Take Wreath Kit home with you, found in the Welcome Center.

Virginia Bronze Holiday Hits Concert

December 2 at 8 pm | Sanctuary

Herndon UMC welcomes back the Virginia Bronze. Kick off the Advent season with some festive music and make a donation to help further their mission to advance the art of handbell ringing through a community-based ensemble in Northern Virginia.

Holiday Hallelujah Concert**December 9 at 7 pm | Sanctuary**

Herndon UMC welcomes back the Herndon High School Madrigals joined by other high school and middle school instrumental groups for this concert. The concert will also include a joint performance of part of Handel's Messiah by Herndon UMC's Festival Choir and DC String's Accord Symphony Orchestra. Free-will donations from this concert will go to support DC Strings in their mission to share their love of classical and contemporary orchestra and chamber music with the community. The concert is free and open to the community.

Christmas Orchestra**December 17 at 10 am | Doe Fellowship Hall**

For over 20 years Herndon UMC has been gathering together musicians from throughout our community for this special musical offering in worship. Musicians (grade 7 and older) are invited to take part. A special collection will be made during this service to support a community-wide Rise Against Hunger event in the Spring.

Following the worship service on December 17, there will be a celebration of the good works of Shannon Wise in Herndon UMC's Music Ministry as Shannon transitions into new endeavors.

Both the Holiday Hallelujah and the Christmas Orchestra are part of Herndon UMC's music outreach program, created by Shannon to give youth outlets to engage their musical gifts in serving others, Music from the Heart. Learn more at herndonumc.org/musicfromtheheart.

Cherry Blossom Brass Band Holiday Concert**December 18 at 7 pm | Sanctuary**

Each Monday, this group of semi-professional musicians, which includes Jacob Reeves, gathers at Herndon UMC to practice their music. They are offering this concert in gratitude for use of our spaces, and in celebration of the Christmas season.

Longest Night Worship & Fellowship Dinner**December 20 at 6 pm | Sanctuary & YouTube**

December's Worship & Fellowship Dinner will have a few differences from the past two. First, the start time is 6 pm. Second, the worship service will be in the Sanctuary to help create a safe and sacred space for those who are struggling to feel the joy and light of this holiday season due to loss of any kind. It is not meant to be a service of healing, for what we lose cannot always be replaced. Instead, may this service acknowledge the hole that grief leaves in one's heart while simultaneously remembering that we worship a God who is with us, even in the darkest of times. Worship will be followed by dinner in Doe Fellowship Hall. Look for details in the eNews and worship announcements.

Christmas Eve Worship**December 24 at 5 pm and 9 pm**

Bring family and friends to worship with you this Christmas Eve, or join the 9 pm livestream from wherever you are! 5 pm will be the Family friendly, candlelight service. Look for a kid-friendly message.

Note that there will also be 10 am worship service, but this will be the fourth Sunday in Advent service.

Staff Christmas Favorites

Looking to get to know our staff better? The staff decided to share some seasonal favorites this year.

Favorite Christmas Song or Hymn?

Pastor SeongJae sang *Joy to the World* all the time as he was growing up. Pastor Scott favors anything Pentatonix and named *Mary, Did You Know?* Specifically, and he also loves *Silent Night* because seeing the sanctuary light up with candles and everyone singing *Silent Night* is breathtaking.

Mallory (Children) finds *Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel* hauntingly beautiful, beseeching the long-awaited Savior of a community that overcomes countless hardships throughout history. While Crosby and Bowie's *Little Drummer Boy* is a Ringenbach House favorite that could be heard every Christmas Day while making breakfast. Mallory also included *We Three Kings* as a favorite, she has always loved the sounds of this tune and appreciates the way it highlights Epiphany. Andrew (Youth) loves *Christmas Lullaby (I Will Lead You Home)* by Amy Grant, and highlighted the line "or One who says follow me and I will lead you home." Anna (Preschool) favors the BareNaked Ladies & Sarah McLachlan version of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*. Rachel's (Upward) oldest son was born right after Christmas and Christmas hymns became my lullabies for him. *Away in a Manger* became her favorite song. Karen (Nursery) picked *Carol of the Bells* because she has always just loved the song. Diana (Nursery) shared that *Oh Come All Ye Faithful* and *Joy to the World* always give her

goosebumps, especially when the whole room is singing together.

Julie (Business & Communications) picked Trans-Siberian Orchestra's *A Mad Russian's Christmas* because it remixes the classical Tchaikovsky that she danced to every Christmas in high school with a rock style and orchestra. But, it was hard to pick a favorite from TSO's selections which also include *Wizards in Winter* and *Christmas Canon*. Bronson (Production Coordinator) loves traditional German carols, *Lasst uns froh und munter sein* and *Stille Nacht*. And, *Comfort Ye My People* from *Messiah* has a special place in Bronson's memory of his late voice teacher, John Aler.

Shannon (Music) loves the reverence in *What Child Is This*, and the way that the lyrics of the third verse move us into Epiphany and beyond. She loves the mystery in the melody of *Twas In The Moon*, and it's ties to Native American spirituality. *Personent Hodie* just feels so festive. Shannon loves the Renaissance nature of the melody and the instrumentation. Margaret (Music) loves the memories of my college candlelight service with a full auditorium singing *Oh Come All Ye Faithful* while the choir processed in. Luis finds the tune of *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* to be very uplifting and the poetry is loaded with so many beautiful images of the Savior. Melissa (Worship & Music) said there were too many to list but offered Handel's *Messiah*, *The First Noel*, and *I Wonder as I Wander*.

**Look for Handel's *Messiah*
at Herndon UMC on December 9.**

Favorite Christmas Tradition?

Pastor SeongJae's favorite tradition is going to church even on Christmas Day to worship and celebrate Jesus' birth.

In Danish tradition, Pastor Scott's family holds a family dinner that includes a dessert called Ris Almond (Rice Almond pudding) with chopped almonds and a warm cherry sauce. There is One Whole Almond in the bowl and whoever gets it receives a present and it begins the time of opening presents. Somehow, his Dad always handed him a whole almond if he didn't find one.

Mallory's (Children) North Carolina family has a knack for amping up the fun! While Christmas is a lovely day of gift-giving, it's actually the day after that she enjoys the most. Everyone wakes up whenever, and throughout the day and evening they snack on the leftovers and play any kind of board or card game imaginable! It's loudness and laughter and mayhem and silliness and hugs and celebration.

Diana's (Nursery) favorite tradition is going to Christmas Eve church and then dinner with the family. Her mom, sister, niece and Diana spend a day baking and decorating cookies which is so sweet and has definitely become a favorite new tradition!

Karen (Nursery) remembers that growing up she used to celebrate Christmas Eve with her mom's family and Christmas Day with her dad's. Now it's Christmas Orchestra, watching Christmas movies all month long and getting together with her brother's family between Christmas and New Years.

Andrew (Youth) would always stay up all night on December 24 watching Christmas movies, writing Christmas cards for my family, reading scripture, and meditating. Then on Christmas day he would take a loooong nap after our traditional Christmas brunch!

As a child, Rachel (Upward) got a new nativity ornament each year while her siblings got an angel, a star and a bell. Her boys now have their own special ornament collections too. She also considers looking at lights and attending candlelight service on Christmas Eve is a must!

Anna's (Preschool) favorite tradition is getting super super goofy as they decorate their Christmas tree. They crank up the music, and dress up in the silly Christmas swag that they have accumulated over the years. It's always a party!

Julie (Business & Communications) enjoys spending time with family. Jeff and her families have a tradition of alternating holidays each yer. She appreciates the quality time that comes from being together for days rather than hours, many meals rather than one or two.

Bronson (Production Coordinator) enjoys driving through Clifton with his cousin to see the Christmas lights.

Melissa's (Worship & Music) family would do a Christmas service together on Christmas morning, usually before they opened gifts, and at some point they would take out every instrument they had ever learned, no matter how long it had been since they had last

attempted to play it. There was a lot of laughter as they read the Christmas story together and sang hymns to a raucous but joyful accompaniment.

Margaret (Music) remembered that Santa always waited to put ANY gifts under the tree until the kids were all asleep. It was a fun surprise to walk down the stairs together with my brother and sister and see the lit tree with gifts underneath it!

Luis (Music) enjoyed the time when the family would come together around a big, round table to prepare “tamales”, about 100 plus of them, each person in charge of filling the dough with one ingredient before wrapping them up.

Shannon (Music) always loved putting the cookies and milk out for Santa when she was little, and it has been fun continuing that tradition with her kids over the years. For the past 10+ years, the whole Wise family will get in the car and do doorbell dash homemade cookie deliveries during the week before Christmas to a few close family friends who live nearby. It has to be after dark and one of the kids has to run back to the car and throw himself in so we can drive off before anyone sees our car outside (but they all know who it is). Every year after all the Christmas Eve services are over and the family is asleep, Shannon loves sitting alone in her living room and looking at the Christmas tree—enjoying the silence and stillness that brings me back to the simplicity of that first Christmas night.

Serving and Sharing God’s Love

There are many opportunities to serve and share God’s love with and through Herndon UMC. Here are a few to get started.

Hypothermia Dinners Begin in December

Preparing the Hypothermia Dinners for the local shelter gives our church community an opportunity to work together to prepare dinners for the homeless in our area. We can share God’s love and caring for others through a wonderful, warm meal. It gives us a great chance to work with people we may or may not know and develop and strengthen relationships within our church family. Watch for upcoming dinners December through March.



UPWARD Basketball Season Has Begun

Upward Basketball Evaluations are complete! The energy and excitement of the players was contagious and many wonderful volunteers made the whole event possible. The highlight for Rachel King, as Director, was seeing several of our church members, with little to no basketball experience, step right in and making our families feel welcome and connecting with our coaches. That's the type of hospitality love about this church. We're looking forward to a great season for these kiddos!

Hard-to-pronounce Name with a Big Purpose

A new opportunity to change lives has been evolving over the past 9 months. Early this year, we learned about a new partnership between Herndon High School and the Harraseeket (pronounced "HAIR-A-SEEK-IT") Foundation to serve our local high school students.

Harraseeket supports programs that make it easier for Northern Virginia faith communities and others to help young people imagine their future, and act on what they imagine. These programs reach youth and young adults where they are in the communities, including underserved and economically disadvantaged high school students.

Young people are often challenged to imagine their future. Harraseeket believes that being truly listened to and offered thoughtful counsel by someone with life experience can be transformative. While practical advice from parents, guidance counselors, books and videos can be useful, the new program lowers barriers between young people and community members. Church members, prospective employers, and others in the communities are often eager to share their non-judgmental, informed experience and wisdom with young people.

Herndon High school, in partnership with Harraseeket, is launching a new initiative called the Career Pathways Program. This work based learning and mentoring program helps students develop solid plans designed to improve the chances of successful post-graduation journeys to rewarding careers. The program pairs selected students with

trained mentors (Fairfax County, Herndon HS, and Harraseeket provides the training) to help participating students develop plans to imagine their futures. In addition to periodic mentoring, there will be group forums, learning sessions for students and parents throughout the school year, and opportunities for at-work experiences such as shadowing, field trips, informational sessions, internships, and vacation jobs.

Want to make a difference? Stay tuned for opportunities coming in the new year. Can't wait? As the office to connect you with Jim Seevers for more information.

Be the First to Know

For Herndon UMC's year-round missions like LINK and the Closet or even returning seasonal ones like Hypothermia Dinners and Backpack foods, you can be among the first to know when needs arise by joining the mission group for a particular mission. [Sign up for a mission group](#) to get the latest information as needs become available or contact the office, office@herndonumc.org and we will help you get connected.

Building Spirit-filled Relationships

Joining a group is a great way to begin becoming more connected at Herndon UMC. 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!

Here's more about a few to get you started:

KIDS CLUB & KIDS Music (Age 3 to Grade 6)

With the after-worship extra curricular activities going way up this fall, we decided to try a new approach to getting kids excited about music. Every Sunday we open the KIDS CLUB Lesson with music, to transition our hearts from a place of worship, to a mind of learning. So many kids have fallen in love with music all over again with this simple addition, and are excited to share one of the songs they have been learning in Worship during Advent. Can't wait for you to hear it!

Youth Group!

In true Methodist fashion, the youth are always having a blast while learning something new and eating something delicious! If you have any questions about upcoming events or how to get plugged in, please reach out to Andrew Bowers. He would love to chat with you!

Coming up, our youth group has the Angel Tree Mission Event, in place of our regularly scheduled Large Group, we will be helping out the Angel Tree Mission in our church and having a blast doing it. We will hop in a few vehicles and head to Target where the youth will be given some money to purchase gifts for an individual in need. We'll then return back to the church and wrap them while eating festive snacks and listening to Christmas music.

This is a really awesome mission opportunity, and it is also a great opportunity to bring new friends into our youth group. It will be really fun and very low key with lots of time to spend with friends. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend or two!

Coming up, our youth also have Christmas Carol-oke: It's Karaoke, but with a holiday twist. We will be singing popular Christmas Songs, eating festive snacks, and finding new ways to enjoy fellowship together. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend from school, sports team, band, or wherever. We'll be focusing on having fun together and I really hope you can make plans to be there!

Student Summer Mission Trip Carolina Cross Connections | July 14-20

Youth, grades 7-12, are invited to do home construction in North Carolina at Camp Dogwood. If you are interested in attending or chaperoning this trip.

Herndon Harbor House Lifegroup

Daytime Bible Study. A small group of residents at Herndon Harbor House Life Group meet every Thursday from 2:00-3:15 to read a chapter in the Bible. We are currently doing Roman's. Open to all. Contact Janice Watson if interested.

Opportunities to Serve in Worship or Music

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). 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.

The Christmas Greens Tradition



December 10-12, everyone is invited to participate in this Herndon UMC tradition with Herndon's Women as they create greens arrangements to sell as a fundraiser to support the missions of the women's circles.

**Arrangements will be available for purchase, while supplies last,
Monday-Friday 5:30-8 pm
Saturday 8-Noon**

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.

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 Bronson Rodriguez as the New Production Coordinator

Bronson is a musician native to the Northern Virginia area with a background in classical percussion, drumset, voice and opera. He graduated George Mason University with a



Bachelor of Music in Performance. While attending Mason, he was a student of the late John Aler, and during his time he sang with the University Chamber Singers, and performed with GMU Opera and Shakespeare Opera Theater. He is hoping to attend Graduate School in the future to pursue his Master's degree in Music. His favorite hobbies are reading books and playing video games. He is excited to be joining the Herndon UMC staff as Production Coordinator.

Annual Charge Conference | November 5

Herndon UMC's annual Charge Conference approved the pastoral compensation and benefits for the coming year. Statistical, finance and Trustee reports were summarized and the staff reported on what they are looking forward to in the coming season and what their biggest challenge is. The Charge Conference approved the nominations of Bill Odio as a Trustee and Al Meilus to the Resource Management Team. If you are interested in Charge Conference reports, please contact the office, office@herndonumc.org.

Special thanks to those stepping away from leadership positions: Jay Horstman (Trustee Chair), John Selmer (Trustee), Patrick Evinger (Trustee), and Charlie Hurlocker (Resource Management Team). Rachel King has also stepped away from Resource Management to take on the staff position of Upward Director.

Snapshot of Finances <i>(fiscal year to date as of October 31)</i>	
Tithes/Offerings	\$ 236,914
Other Income	30,126
Total Operating Income	\$ 267,040
Operating Expenses	\$ 282,690
Net Income	(\$ 15,650)
Total Assets <i>(cash and investments)</i>	\$616,098

The above numbers give you a feel for the financial health of Herndon UMC, how we are doing with income and expenses, and how

spending is impacting our total assets. We continue to run at a deficit. RMT continues to monitor this and work towards a balanced budget while better aligning all of our resources with our mission and vision.

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

About UMC Pastor Preference Process.

Each year clergy in the United Methodist Church provide input regarding their appointment. The key to an effective appointive process is open communication and consultation between and among pastor(s), church leadership, Bishop, and the Appointive Cabinet.

There is a form, along with an annual appointive conversation with their Staff-Parish Relations Team. At Herndon UMC, that team is the Resource Management Team (RMT). The RMT met with Pastor Scott and Pastor SeongJae in November to begin this process for the coming year. Other ad hoc conversations with the District Superintendent or Bishop may also help pastors provide input into their appointment.

Please note that this is a confidential process, and input from the pastors is not shared beyond the RMT, but those interested in offering input may reach out to the Resource Management Team at resourcemanagement@herndonumc.org. RMT will be completing their process in the next few weeks.

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

Senior Pastor
SeongJae Jo seongjae@herndonumc.org

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Music, Handbells & Ukuleles
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Organist
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Business & Communications
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Production Coordinator
Bronson Rodriguez bronson@herndonumc.org



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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.

Advent and Christmas at Herndon UMC

HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE



There are many ways to celebrate the season with Herndon UMC

Sunday, Nov 26	Make Your Own Advent Wreath at 11:15 am/ Hanging of the Greens at 1 pm
Friday, Dec 1	Kids' Christmas Holiday Pajama Party at 5:30 pm (registration required)
Saturday, Dec 2	Virginia Bronze Holiday Hits Concert at 8 pm
Sunday, Dec 3	HOPE: Worship with Holy Communion at 10 am and 4 pm (1st Sunday in Advent)
Saturday, Dec 9	Holiday Hallelujah Concert at 7 pm that includes the Herndon HS Madrigals, Herndon Pyramid Orchestra students, and Accord Symphony Orchestra from DC Strings
Sunday, Dec 10	PEACE: Worship at 10 am (2nd Sunday in Advent)
Monday, Dec 11	Holiday Greens Sale starts (inside Door 2)
Sunday, Dec 17	JOY: Christmas Orchestra in Worship at 10 am in Doe Fellowship Hall (3rd Sunday in Advent)
Monday, Dec 18	Cherry Blossom Brass Band Holiday Concert at 7 pm
Wednesday, Dec 20	"Longest Night" Worship Service at 6pm followed by Fellowship Dinner
Sunday, Dec 24	LOVE: Worship at 10 am (4th Sunday in Advent)

**On Christmas Eve,
celebrate the birth
of the Savior with
Candlelight.**

5 pm | Family Friendly

Kid-friendly music and message,
battery powered "candles"

9 pm | Traditional

Holy Communion, carols, candlelight,
and everything you look for on
Christmas Eve.
Come early to get a seat.

God's love is for everyone.

At Herndon UMC, we believe that God's love is real, active, and for everyone. In addition to the events listed above, there are also many ways to engage in serving and sharing God's love-- Hypothermia Dinners, The Closet, Angel Tree and LINK Toy Distribution, socks for Cornerstones, and more. Find more information about the events and opportunities at:

herndonumc.org/christmas



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