

RANDALL MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISION

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Grace and Peace in the name of our Risen Savior Jesus Christ!

Welcome to the fall edition of *The Vision* newsletter! As the seasons change around us bringing cooler days and falling leaves, we are reminded of the fact that we too are in a continual process of change, growth, and transformation.

At times, change can seem challenging and perhaps even daunting. We grow accustomed to our routines, rhythms and “usual ways of doing things” and we find comfort in knowing what to expect. However, as people of faith we are called to embrace and even to expect the *unexpected*. We are not in control of even the very next minute of our lives, and therefore in all things we are called to surrender our need to control the outcomes of daily life to God alone.

It is still good and necessary to be prepared and to develop healthy disciplines that help us to create a sense of balance and wellbeing in life. It is also good and necessary to remain flexible and adaptable to the ever-changing circumstances of life.

A few weeks ago, we were reminded through a sermon that **There is No Room for Worry** (based on the passage from Luke 12:22-31). I continue to reflect upon this message; and I am gaining so much peace from the knowledge that God is aware of EVERYTHING that happens in our lives and at all times God is in COMPLETE CONTROL of what happens in and around us. So then, if God is truly in complete control, why would I attempt to control, fix, change or direct the people, places and things that are outside of *my* control?

PASTOR'S LETTER—CONTINUED

It doesn't really make sense for us to waste our time and energy in this way, does it? What a more peaceful, joyful, and content life experience we can have when we surrender ourselves, our families, our church, and our world to God's love and care.

But this type of surrender doesn't mean giving up or giving in. It doesn't mean that we no longer have any responsibility to do the things we have been called by God to do. It does however call us to realign our energy and our focus to care for that which God through Jesus Christ has given us to care for. Jesus tells his disciples in Luke 12:31: *Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*

As we enter into this fall season, I challenge us all to be about the business of striving, working, pursuing and making room in our lives for the treasures of God's kingdom (peace, love, justice, truth, hope, grace, forgiveness); and in doing so I believe you will find that there is truly very little time, space or room for worry, fear or anxiety or a false sense of control.

So then, let us embrace the change, growth and transformation that is coming our way and let us trust that God's presence and strength will continue to lead us toward victory!

Your sister in Christ,
Rev. Jessica Hayden

Pastor's Letter cont'd Ki's World



Otis and I continue to give thanks for our very best gift that is Hezekiah Amir Hayden. As I shared with you a few weeks ago, Ki was recently diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Otis and I have fully embraced this reality and we gratefully celebrate his strengths as we continue to learn and respond to his special needs. He is our pride and joy!

Ki is doing well in his early intervention program and some of his most recent celebratory comments from his therapists include:

- Making eye contact with his peers and engaging with them more during play time.
- Responding to and imitating gestures during “circle time” songs
- Sitting with and reading books (as you can see from the picture above he really enjoys books!)
- Learning to transition from one activity to another

We are grateful for this learning opportunity and that he is enjoying his time there. We look forward to him engaging more with his Randall family in the months to come and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we develop a routine that works best for us. Continue to keep him and us in your prayers as he learns, grows, and develops.

WORSHIP WITH RANDALL ON SUNDAYS AT 10AM.

In person or virtually through the following platforms:

Zoom: ID 814 0346 9704 Passcode: 355461

YouTube: Randall UMC

Facebook: Randall Umc

WEEKLY PRAYER CALL ON WEDNESDAY

Join us for a time of prayer and reflection on Wednesdays at
12noon.

1 605-472-5232

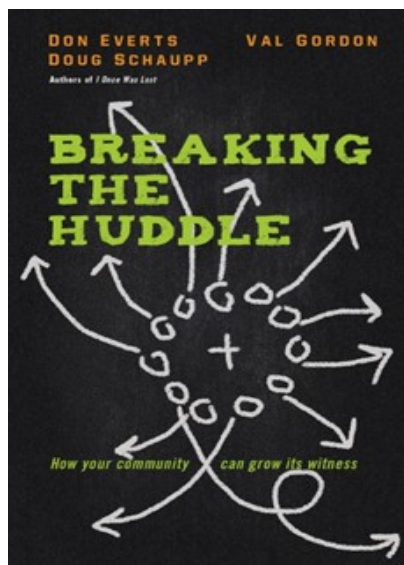
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**H.O.P.E. MINISTRY GIVEAWAYS OCCURING OCTOBER,
NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER**

**SAT. OCT. 15TH - 1PM; SAT. NOV. 19TH - 1PM; SAT. DEC. 17TH -
1PM**

We continue to support our H.O.P.E. ministry as they serve the community and expand their impact to reach even more people. Financial donations can be made online at randallumc.org as well as canned goods and non-perishable items.

**JOIN THE 20019+ CLUSTER FOR OUR FALL STUDY
ON WITNESSING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00PM VIA ZOOM
OCT. 5TH THROUGH NOV. 9TH**



Brief Overview of Study:

This study is designed to help participants develop and utilize skills in witnessing their faith in authentic ways that help cultivate and nurture relationships, leading to new disciples of Jesus Christ. This study is designed to be a *praxis*, meaning that we will both learn new information; and we will also create opportunities to apply what we learn in our communities.

Prior to the first session participants are asked to purchase and begin reading the study book, which is available on Amazon.

Breaking the Huddle: How Your Community Can Grow Its Witness.

Authors: Don Everts, Doug Schaupp, Val Gordon.

A study guide and outline will be provided via email

ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/99329213084?pwd=OUNTd2xJOWZsbUZfazdDQkJEWjR0dz09>

MEETING ID: 993 2921 3084

PASSCODE: 220971

CELEBRATING MINISTRY AT RANDALL

Randall Memorial United Methodist Church Re-Opening Committee Guidelines for Worship and Special Events

We give thanks and praise to God for allowing us to move forward in various areas of worship and ministry during these post pandemic times. Our re-opening committee continues to meet (every 3-4 months) to review our policies and make adjustments/updates as needed. Included below is our most current policy effective

September 4, 2022.

1. If you are feeling sick, have a fever, severe cough or other symptoms, please remain home to help keep others safe.
2. Masks are required at all times when entering the building. Masks must be worn as to cover the nose and the mouth.
3. Sign in procedures are **required prior to entering the sanctuary or attending any special events at the church.** Please check in with the ushers to provide your name and phone number and have your temperature taken. Persons with temperatures above 100 degrees will not be admitted.
4. We have returned to full capacity seating in our sanctuary (up to 340 persons) and most pews will be available for seating. **Certain pews will remain taped off to support our audio/visual/music ministries.** If and when our sanctuary capacity is reached, overflow seating will be made available in the fellowship room as needed.
5. During worship, the sanctuary doors will remain open to help with proper air flow.
6. During worship we will resume prayer at the altar. Please note, however that communion kits will still be distributed prior to worship and communion will be taken individually in the pews.
7. Worshippers may use the main doors at the Narthex for both entry and exit.
8. Choir members will continue to take weekly COVID tests on Sunday morning and will confirm their negative test result with the Minister of Music prior to their arrival at the church.
9. Pastor/Worship leaders will continue to take weekly COVID tests on Sunday morning and will confirm their negative test results with the pastor.
10. Our policy for managing potential exposure to COVID-19 is as follows:
 - a. Those church members/worshippers testing positive with symptoms (and in some cases their family members as well) should quarantine until they are symptom free (fever, dry cough, lack of smell or taste) for at least 24 hours.

- B. We will share current CDC guidelines (via email) regarding policies to follow regarding potential exposure to COVID-19.
- C. We will adhere to our cleaning protocols with Coverall Inc to ensure adequate cleaning of the sanctuary. Our weekly, commercial cleaning occurs on Wednesdays.
- D. We will not necessarily cancel worship due to positive COVID test results. The committee will consider the need for closure on a case by case basis, however it is our hope to avoid disruption of in person worship as much as possible.
- E. We will continue to offer HYBRID worship and members can choose to worship with us either in person or online through our various social media platforms (Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)
- F. We continue to advise and strongly encourage all of our members to be fully vaccinated and keep up with all booster shots that are available to them. We also strongly encourage members to make use of at home COVID-19 tests that are available for purchase in stores and in some areas, available for free at local libraries.
- F. We are also moving forward with resuming in person ministry meetings for our Randall ministries. If you are a committee chairperson and would like your ministry to begin meeting in person please email Rev. Hayden randallumchurch@gmail.com to indicate the day and time you would like to request. Our Admin Council will be developing a schedule to manage these requests.

111 Years of Worship and Ministry

On Sunday, September 25th we celebrated our 111th Church Anniversary and our theme was ***Rejoice in the Lord Who is Our Peace and Strength***. Our guest preacher was Dr. Wanda Duckett, Baltimore-Metropolitan District Superintendent of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Her powerful and timely message was entitled "We've Got This, Because God's Got Us".

Thank you to everyone who help to make this day a true success and we give thanks to God for allowing us to have such longevity. During our worship celebration we recalled our history together and we have included the Congregational Litany for your review and reflection. ***We've Come This Far By Faith!***

“WE’VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH”
A LITANY IN CELEBRATION OF 111 YEARS OF MINISTRY

One: We have been blessed with a rich history and gifted church leaders, both lay and clergy.

All: We are thankful to Almighty God from whom all blessings flow; and for God’s goodness to Randall Memorial United Methodist Church.

One: Today we remember and give thanks for faithful servants of God who shared a vision for the need of a Methodist Episcopal Church in the Deanwood community. We give thanks for the legacy and memory of Rev. Armstead and Rebecca Randall; John H. Snowden; John and Cynthia Smith, Georgia Gross, Eugene and Fannie Sparrow and several others.

All: We remember our founders, and we give thanks that they responded to God’s call of ministry and service.

One: We remember that on Sunday, July 2, 1911 at 8:00PM our first worship service took place.

All: We’ve Come This Far By Faith!

One: We remember that on August 4, 1912 our first church building was erected on Browning Place (now 46th Street) and our building cornerstone was laid. Our building was dedicated on July 12, 1914 by District Superintendent, Reverend W.A.C. Hughes.

All: We’ve Come This Far By Faith!

One: We remember that in 1916 our church was renamed Randall Memorial Episcopal Church in honor and memory of Reverend Armstead Randall.

All: We’ve Come This Far by Faith!

One: We remember that in 1968, when the United Methodist Church was created through the merger of previous denominations and the elimination of the racially segregated Central Jurisdiction, the church became Randall Memorial United Methodist Church, and became part of the desegregated Baltimore Conference which is now the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

All: We’ve Come This Far by Faith!

All: We've Come This Far by Faith!

One: For over a century, Randall Memorial has served as a beacon of Jesus' light in the Deanwood community. Today we pray that by the grace of God, we may continue to grow in faith and love; be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and faithful servants of God and community under the leadership of Reverend Jessica S. Hayden our twenty-first pastor appointed July 1, 2020.

One: As we move forward in ministry and service we will continue to rejoice in the Lord, who is our peace and our strength! We place our complete trust in God's provision for us.

All: We've Come This Far by Faith and We Move Forward in the Strength and Peace of God! Amen.

MISSION AND OUTREACH**H.O.P.E MINISTRY/UMM COMMUNITY GIVE AWAY**

On Saturday, August 20th, our United Methodist Men Backpack giveaway and H.O.P.E. ministry food distribution was a HUGE success. We served over 200 individuals and the number of volunteers from our congregation was TRULY AMAZING! We were able to give away a wide variety of household items, furniture, school supplies, produce, canned goods and pantry items and we also had community partners that provided health and wellness info as well as fun activities for all ages! We want to give a special "shout out" to Steven Hill for coordinating with our community partners to acquire a tremendous amount of donated goods. Your financial support also help to make these events possible. Please consider making an online gift to the ministry of United Methodist Men and H.O.P.E. by using the following link
randallumc.org

Below are just a few pictures of an amazing day:



CHURCH PLANNING RETREAT – CASTING A VISION FOR THE FUTURE!

Join us on **Saturday, October 29th** for our Church Planning Retreat which will take place in our Multi-Purpose Room from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

This will be a time of vision casting, leadership development and ministry planning for 2023. As we prepare for our time together I wanted to share with you the leadership/ vision casting focus for this year's retreat.

In accordance with the vision that our episcopal leader, Bishop Latrelle Miller Easterling has cast for congregations across the Baltimore-Washington Conference, I am inviting members of Randall Memorial to embrace the theme of
Becoming Vital through Missional Action Planning
Scriptural Focus: John 10:1-10

Below, I am sharing an overview of the content that I will be sharing on October 29th.

You will find this information and more on our conference website at <https://www.bwcumc.org/100-at-100/>

I look forward to our time together.

In one word, it's about love. We are loved by God and are living out that love in ways that create vitality and abundant life. Our response to God's love transforms us into engaged disciples, making a difference in the communities in which we live and serve.

Missional Action Planning (MAP) is a mindset and a process to enable 100 percent of our congregations to become 100 percent vital and thriving. It is a collaborative process of discernment, prioritization, and stewardship as we, together, seek to love God and neighbor and live out the Great Commission.

These **four pillars of vitality** enable congregations of any size to thrive: See All the People; Deepen Discipleship; Live and Love Like Jesus; Multiply Impact

SEE ALL THE PEOPLE

06.03.22

Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!" ~ Matthew 35-38 (MSG)

Seeing All the People drives us to build authentic relationships that create belonging as everyone feels known and valued as Children of God.

A vital church sees all the people. This relies not on eyesight but heart sight that happens in conversation and is developed through relationships. As you heard from this sampling of voices, seeing all the people is measured by the degree to which people inside and outside the walls of the church are known, accepted, respected, and valued as children of God by the church. It requires church leaders and members to experience a transformed mindset, to interrupt their fears and biases, to grow in cultural humility and to build authentic relationships instead of transactional ones.

Seeing all the people is an outward mindset that builds relationships with neighbors to create spaces of belonging, inclusion, and to learn from shifting contexts. It means actively erasing boundaries that exist in the communities that we're a part of. When we listen with love in our hearts to the community's voice--one conversation at a time--especially with those on the margins, the Holy Spirit changes us and inspires us.

DEEPEN DISCIPLESHIP

06.03.22

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." ~Mark 12:28-34

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
~ Matthew 28:16-20

Deepening Discipleship creates paths for more people to witness Jesus Christ through acts of justice, compassion, devotion, and worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The mission of each United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Members of a vital church take responsibility for growing in faith by cultivating Christian practices, through the means of grace.

Vital churches have a working definition of what a disciple is, a biblically grounded and contextually relevant understanding of who Jesus is, an understanding of what maturing in discipleship looks like and provides simple, obvious, and strategic steps for people at various stages of life and spiritual maturity to grow as followers of Jesus Christ for personal, local and global impact. In other words, churches that are

vital have an intentional plan for following Christ as we transform the world.

Since 2018, we have uplifted the Rule of Discipleship as our shared definition of discipleship– rooted in the great commandment and great commission.

When combined with our Wesleyan theology of grace it is: to Witness to Jesus Christ and to follow His teaching through acts of justice, compassion, devotion, and worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that salvation entails renewal of both individuals and the world. Our faithful response to God's saving grace has both a personal and social dimension as we grow in "holiness of heart and life." Our love of God is always linked with love of our neighbor, a passion for justice and renewal in the life of the world as we go onto perfection.

Compassion or compassionate service is showing kindness for another person (visiting the sick, preparing a meal for someone in need). Justice is an action that creates a change that makes things fairer and equitable and seeks to address the system/root of the concern.

LIVE AND LOVE LIKE JESUS

06.03.22

Jesus said : "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." - John 13:34

Living and Loving Like Jesus causes servant leaders to put themselves on the line as they proclaim good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, set the oppressed free and comfort all who mourn. Living and loving like Jesus moves us from the seats to the streets as we take the gospel beyond the walls of our buildings.

It means crossing the chasm by building bridges to those who may feel left out or not fully accepted by the church. Disciples who live and love like Jesus are active in the places they go; they are active in the marketplace.

Marketplace disciples:

1. Recognize the image of God in others and express reverence and worthiness of that child of God in each encounter (Wholehearted Worship)
2. Demonstrate radical hospitality and shares faith as led by the Holy Spirit (Inclusive Witness)
3. Help out no matter position or role and invite others to serve in alignment with their interests (Compassionate Service)

4. Practice inclusion, diversity, equity, and antiracism (Persistent Justice)
5. Offer a word of encouragement authentically and humbly, rooted in God's great love, mercy, and grace without being "churchy" or judgmental (Mindful Devotion)

MULTIPLY IMPACT

06.03.22

Multiplying Impact aligns our mission to God's call by listening and discerning with the broader community how we might reshape ministry and repurpose resources for the greatest good.

We talk about this fourth pillar last because we want to be sure we aren't multiplying the wrong things. The world has enough exclusion, negative stereotyping and cliques who care more about what they want than what God wants. Our picture of impact is a multiplication sign that shows that we are a gathered and sent people; gathered for centering in on God's purpose for us and sent outside the walls of our buildings for participating in God's harvest.

Connecting the why, what, and how of what we do—aligning everything with the mission and where God is calling the church in this season—is essential. Measuring impact on what matters most rather than money or participation numbers is essential as we increase our capacity to build relationships, develop leaders and partner with others.

Many churches mistake activity for impact. Churches don't need to do more things, just more of the right things; to focus on what God is calling forth.

Inputs are our activities that include our use of time, talent, and treasure. Outputs are things we immediately can track after an activity happens. This is why they are also called leading indicators. And Outcomes or lagging indicators are short-, mid- or long-term goals connected to our mission. Often the church is missing the middle column in its thinking which prevents it from getting real-time feedback on its activities.

Let's take a look at some personal examples before applying this to the church.

Let's say your long-term outcome is improved health and you have identified the need to lose weight as an important intermediate goal. So, your activity would be dieting and exercise. The leading indicator would be tracking daily calories in-calories out so that the goal of losing weight or health is achieved. Just stepping on the scale is insufficient to keep your activities in line with your desired outcome.

Dieting and exercising not your thing? How about maintaining a budget for the activity? The output or leading indicator is spending less than income. The outcome we may seek is enough money to retire at 70 or financial viability.

Let's look at a church measure using one of the pillars. A church that is seeing all the people builds authentic relationships that honor the divine and the gifts of each person. Eventually, if done well and consistently, the church reflects the diversity of its community and is inclusive, diverse, equitable and antiracist (this could be an outcome). What is the best activity to start? Let's say building relationships with new people in the community through relational one-to-one meetings. If that's our activity, a leading indicator might be how many new relational 1:1s per week.

A church that multiplies its impact has let go of its need to be all things to all people, it is ready for doing something new, has discerned and is aligned around what difference God is calling them to make in the name of Jesus and has created metrics that help them know whether or not they are making progress in that very specific area. For example, if the outcome is literacy we might track on-grade-level reading. If that is our outcome, the leading indicator could be the number of volunteer hours spent reading each week or month.

Too often we are so caught up in doing church that we don't make time to reflect on what we need to stop or start doing to **be** the church that God is calling us to be.



On Sunday, March 27, 2022, our sermon was entitled Have Hope and Speak Life. During the message, the congregation was asked to make their proclamation of hope and faith on index cards. Together we committed to *Speak Life* over the ministry of Randall Memorial UMC, and we indicated ways that God was calling us to help bring those goals/visions to pass. Listed below are the *Speak Life* goals that were captured on that day. **We will be spending time during our Church Planning Retreat to discern how we may begin to work toward these goals in 2023 and beyond.** We believe that by God's grace we will indeed *Speak Life* at Randall Memorial UMC, and we expect a new season of ministry and mission to spring forth!

Our Collective SPEAK LIFE GOALS:

- Grief Support Group (I will assist with the group)
- Effective inward and outreach bringing lost souls into the kingdom by setting the example in love. That God may be glorified in all we do.
- Education program for all ages; to be a love beacon for Deanwood; to see racism crushed; definitions altered, and history kept.
- Children/Adult Sunday School (I am willing to help teach/lead)
- Trusting God to bring God's greatest gift of "LOVE" into our hearts so that we can share that love toward one another.
- That our church will thrive and reach those who are on the streets and are in need of love.
- Provide hope for the community and increase our faithful membership
- For new and more people to worship with us to receive the word of God and be blessed by it.
- To work hard to bring hope and love to the community. (I am willing to work harder to connect with my Randall family by calling, sending cards, and praying for them).
- Willing to help volunteer around the church when needed.
- Help with the church Usher Board to get myself committed.
- To not put God in a box but to expect great things to happen here at Randall. To trust God always!
- Bring back the Youth Sunday School (I will help to recruit people who want to help the youth)
- A financial breakthrough; new members; praying for Pastor to continue to teach us a good word.
- Increase our community outreach (I will help to provide assistance to the ones who need it the most).

- Lunches for the hungry; realization that we work better together and not against each other; ability to let old hurt go.
- For the audio-visual ministry to continue to grow, for faithful members at Randall
- Praying God's blessings upon Randall that our membership might increase. Praying for our Pastor, our Minister of Music, Audio/Visual Committee; help Randall to keep bear the fruit of their labor.
- Revival of young people's ministry (I will help to recruit/train leaders)
- Revitalize the United Methodist Women's Ministry; for the congregation to seek God's presence in all our relationships; seek harmony and peace in the Spirit of love in each of us.
- I speak life into the youth ministry and the AV team.
- Elevation for the AV ministry.
- For God to strengthen our church and strengthen us so that we can do God's will. Bless our Pastor as she teaches us all of your ways so we can become mighty soldiers in your army.
- Membership growth and rebirth of the young people's ministry.

SAVE THE DATES – FALL EVENTS AT RANDALL

Church Conference – October 22nd – 10:00am-11:30am via Zoom.

Join us for our annual church meeting where we will receive reports and affirm our ministry leaders for 2023. The zoom link will be shared once we receive it from our District Office.

Men's Day - October 23rd -- Extra Mile Offering - \$500.00 for men; \$250.00 for men. 10% of proceeds will be donated to a community organization supporting men's issues.

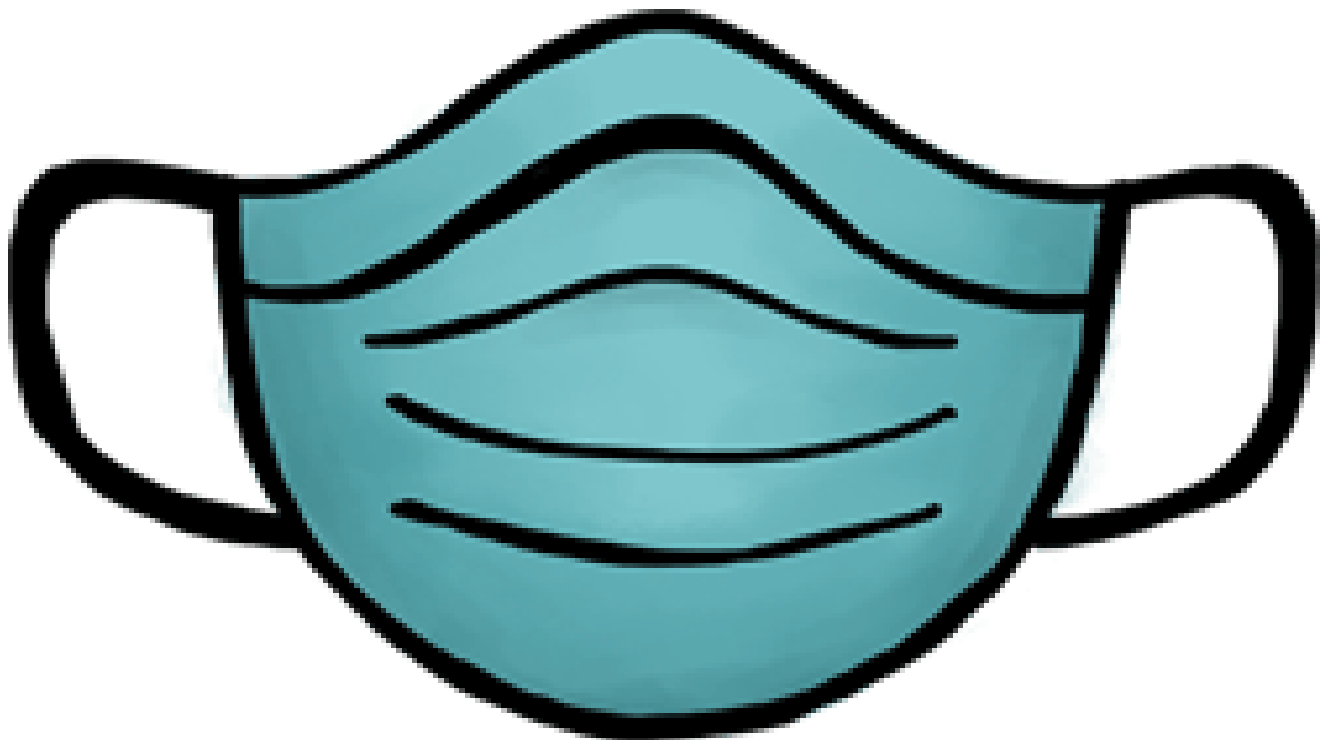
Church Planning Retreat – October 29th – 10am to 3pm in our Multi-Purpose Room

Toby's Dinner Theatre – October 30th

Thanksgiving Baskets – November 19th – 1pm

1st Sunday of Advent – November 27th

Christmas at Randall – Sunday, December 18th



COMMUNICATIONS



Submitting Articles

It is preferred that articles for *The Vision* be submitted to Communications Committee, Cynthia Smith and Deborah Payne by email. If submitted by email, your text can either be attached as a Microsoft Word document (the preferred method) or set out in the body of the email.

If you are unable to submit an article by email, you may mail or deliver on Sundays, your article to:

Cynthia Smith, Communications Committee
3124 O Street, SE
Washington, DC 20020-3621

To minimize reformatting in the desktop publishing program used to produce *The Vision*:

Single-space your article, single-space between paragraphs, and start each paragraph with a tab indent.

At the end of each sentence, use only one space after the period before the next sentence. Use Times Roman or Times New Roman for the font.

Deadline (Published quarterly by Randall Memorial UMC)

Articles are due by the third Thursday of the previous month for publish date of *The Vision*.

Articles should be as short as possible consistent with conveying the necessary information.

A general guideline is that articles should be no longer than 75 to 200 words (use the word count feature in Microsoft Word to determine how long your article is).

If you believe you need more space, please consult with Cynthia Smith before submitting an article longer than 200 words. The minister's columns are exceptions to this guideline.

Editing Permission

When you submit an article, you agree to allow editing for clarity and conformity with these guidelines, as well as shortening if necessary to fit the space available.

Send Us Your News! Next Months Published will be JAN-MARCH, 2023

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