

- Open Hearts
- Open Minds
- Open Doors

Inside this issue:

Summer Worship	2
Best Stuff Sale	2
Strawberry Festival	3
Missions	4
Bless	5,6
Dates	6
Bible Study	7
Chair Yoga	7
Summer Sermons	8
Activity Page	9
Prayers	10
Calendar	11

the HIGHLANDER

Volume 15 Issue 4

July-August - 2024



Dear Bergen Highlands Family,
How is your summer going on?

Are you planning any vacation
or staycation this summer?

The street where the church is
located seems quiet as three
schools near the church are
closed for a summer break.
Many students will attend
diverse camps, visit family and
relatives, and go to summer
vacation this season.

July and August can be just a
normal season for many of us,
but we can make this season
special by exploring God in all
the things we do.

Joy Dawson shares the way to
listen to the voice of God in
her book *"Forever Ruined for
the ordinary: The adventure of
hearing and obeying God's
voice."* She says, we can hear
God's voice through the Bible,
all things we see (dreams,
rainbows, creatures), and all
things we hear (music, poetry,
the voice of others, one's inner
voice).

The gospel of John 10:3-4
says, *"The gatekeeper opens
the gate for him, and the*

*sheep hear his voice. He calls his
own sheep by name and leads
them out. When he has brought
out all his own, he goes ahead of
them, and the sheep follow him
because they know his voice"*

As God's sheep, we need to listen
to the voice of God in all things
we do and in all places we go.

Whether you stay away from
home to enjoy the beautiful
ocean or sit in your backyard,
God speaks to you through all
things you see and hear.

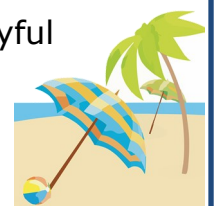
This summer, we will take an
adventure of listening to the
voice of God through Dr. Seuss'
books and songs from Beatles. It
will be a fun way of hearing God's
voice each Sunday. I hope you
join our summer worship and
take this adventure together!

I do not know where you will
spend your summer. Wherever
you will be, do not miss the
opportunity to listen to the voice
of God through nature, the
people you will meet, books you
will read, movies you will watch
and songs you will listen.

God is everywhere and is ready
to speak to us. Therefore, make
this ordinary summer season
extraordinary by listening
attentively to the voice of God.

Have a healthy and joyful
summer

Love you in Christ,
Pastor Miso





July 7th 9:15am Worship

July—Traditional worship service in the sanctuary.

NEW!

August—Café style service in Fellowship Hall

Let's look together at the of the Word of God as it relates to our lives in this ever changing and challenging world. Summer is a hard time to get together, but lets let's come together whenever we can. We're family.



BEST STUFF SALE SUCCESS

A lot of work by a lot of people,
but that's why we cleared
\$5651. Thank you all for your
donations and hard work.

Strawberry Festival 2024



The Pickers



The Shortcake



30 baskets =
120 quarts



The Cashiers



The Grillers &
the Silent Auction



The Servers



This year has been one of our biggest Strawberry Festival successes in recent years. After subtracting the cost of the berries we made a profit of \$4132.56 .

Our Latest Missions

A SUMMER PICNIC



Spring Valley Homeless Mission

A delicious filling dinner is cooked and delivered every other month to Spring Valley UMC to help them with the mission. This month we had a picnic with hot dogs, veggie sticks, watermelon and cookies.

Our next dinner will be on July 11th when we will be making a chicken and pasta salad for a hot weather dinner. If you can help, meet us at 2:30 pm in the kitchen at the church.

We have a lot of laughs, join us!

The BLESS model for evangelism

Posted by the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the UMC on May 19, 2024

By Bill Brown



Evangelism is a word that often elicits mixed emotions, especially for those of us who are United Methodists. For many, it conjures memories of encounters with judgmental zealots, overly aggressive preachers, and individuals who seem more focused on converting others than on genuine connection. Consequently, it's not surprising that some of us, and particularly millennials, feel hesitant about embracing evangelism. In a society where sensitivity towards diverse beliefs is paramount, the idea of proselytizing can feel uncomfortable and even offensive.

The reluctance to evangelize within The United Methodist Church stems from a variety of factors, both historical and contemporary. One significant influence is the negative perception associated with evangelism, shaped by encounters with aggressive forms of evangelization. Many have experienced instances where evangelism felt more like coercion than an invitation to explore faith.

Furthermore, the changing landscape of religious pluralism has contributed to the reluctance to evangelize. In a multicultural and diverse society, there is a growing awareness and appreciation for different faith traditions. Millennials, in particular, tend to value inclusivity and respect for diverse beliefs. The fear of causing offense or alienating others by imposing one's faith can hinder evangelistic efforts.

However, despite these challenges, there are compelling reasons for United Methodists to reconsider their approach to evangelism. At its core, evangelism is about sharing the transformative power of God's love and grace with others. When done authentically and respectfully, evangelism can foster meaningful connections and inspire individuals to explore their faith journey.

One way to overcome the reluctance to evangelize is by reclaiming the term and reframing its meaning within the United Methodist context. Instead of viewing

Cont. on pg 6

BLESS evangelism, cont.

evangelism as a confrontational or coercive act, it can be understood as an invitation to bless others in our communities.

In their book, *Bless: Everyday Ways to Love Your Neighbor and Change the World*, authors Dave and Jon Ferguson have developed an innovative approach to evangelism based on the practices of Jesus. I invite you to B.L.E.S.S. those in your community who may not yet have a vital relationship with God. We do this by remembering Jesus' command to "love your neighbor as yourself." The BLESS Practices are a series of practical ways you can begin to love and serve your neighbors, friends, co-workers, or relatives who don't have a relationship with Jesus. Together, the steps form an acrostic for the word "bless."

Begin with prayer: Ask God to show you three to five people in your life who do not know God, and pray for them each day.

Listen: Pay attention to people's dreams and pain. Listen for evidence of God's work in their lives.

Eat together: Share meals together. There is an epidemic of aloneness and invisibility in our world, and time over a shared meal or cup of coffee is remarkably connective and a simple way to be part of overcoming it.

Serve in love: Be attentive to opportunities God provides you to care for people and attend to their needs without superiority or devaluing their agency.

Share your story: Once you build a relationship and earn trust, wait for the Holy Spirit to make a way for you to share the story of how Jesus is transforming our life and the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 7—First Sunday of Summer Worship; 9:15am

Sept. 8—Back to Fall Worship; 10:15am.

Sept. 8—Back to Church BBQ; 11:15am

Sept. 28—USR Cares Day at Lions Park; 12 –6pm





Adult Bible Study

Tuesdays ~ 7PM

Bible Study is taking the summer off and will be back to reading and exploring the Bible in September. So keep an eye out it, we will begin again on Tuesday, September 10.



Senior Gatherings



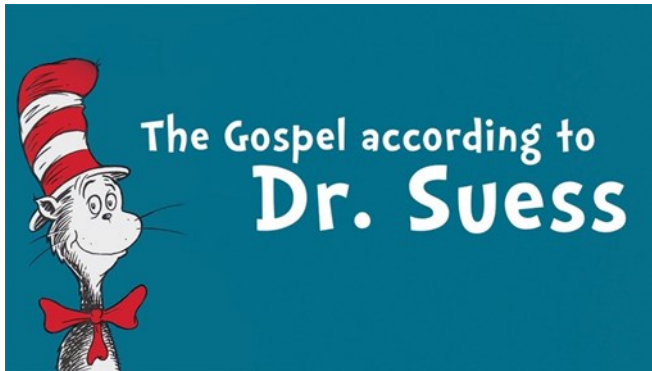
Senior Meeting Chair Yoga



aaahhhh.....that feels so good!

Senior Meetings will be taking a break for the summer,
see you September 12th!

Summer Sermon Series

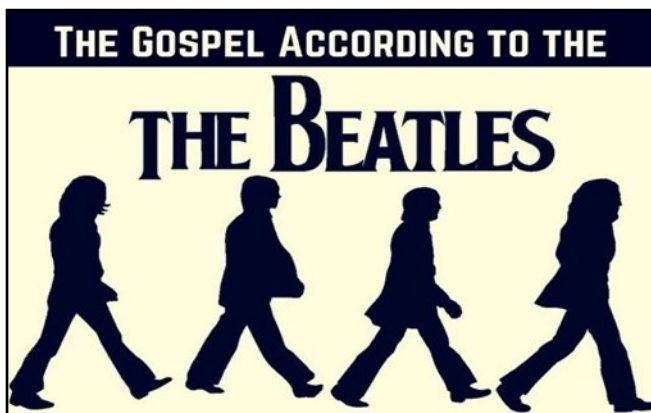


July 7 "Green Eggs and Ham" John 1:43-49

July 14 "Horton Hears a Who!" Romans 8:18-25, Psalm 24:1

July 21 "Yertle the Turtle" Matthew 7:24-27

July 28 "the Cat in the hat comes back" Isaiah 1:15-20



Café Style Worship

August 4 "You Can't Do That" 1 Samuel 17:32-49; Mark 4:35-41

August 11 "All You Need Is Love" Mark 6:1-6; 1 John 4:7-12

August 18 "In My Life" Psalm 130; 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

August 25 "Carry That Weight" Jeremiah 23:1-6; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

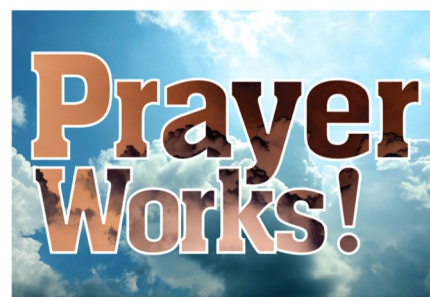
September 1 "Let It Be" 2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 3:14-21

O Lord, Father of Light, from whom comes all good and perfect gifts. We are ever thankful for your love and presence in our lives and want to show our love in return by sharing our gifts with those of your children in need. Look upon us with mercy and grant us the health and courage we need to carry out our service to you and those in need. In Jesus' name. Amen

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

(NIV)



Keep Them In Your Prayers

- **Dorothy Baker**—as she fights pneumonia.
- **Aleta Adler and family**—for the loss of a loving and faithful husband and father.
- **Jean and Marie Alphee**—on the loss of Marie's father.
- **Andy**—(Matt's friend) on the loss of his mother
- **Ed**—(Julia's brother) - as he battles cancer
- **Susie**—(Jean's sister-in-law) for her *full recovery*
- **Sally** (a friend of Ken Gabbert) - for a fast recovery from back surgery.
- **Jude Walker**- (Matt's grand nephew)-prayers for this 17yr old who is still bed ridden after a car accident on May 12.
- ♦ **Joan Clifford**—as she goes through chemo treatment.
- ♦ **Baby Jackson and Stacey and Dan, his parents**—(Lorraine Meyer's grandson) - who had a very difficult birth and have now all moved to Texas.
- ♦ **Eva**—a friend of Rachael who is battling blood cancer.
- ♦ **Elaine Kozen**—for health reasons (family friends of Carla).
- ♦ **Dorothy Ladwig**—for her battle with cancer and keeping strong, and positive.
- ♦ **Allen and Pamela Silverstein**—(Russell's parents) for recovery from difficult health issues.
- ♦ **Georgia Greiner**—for more strength and health that matches her spirit for life.
- ♦ **For all those in pain** today who need our prayers but have not yet asked.

Bergen Highlands
United Methodist Church

**318 West Saddle River
Road**

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Join Us!



Important BHUMC Dates for 2024

Jan. 6 —Epiphany

Feb. 4-Valentine Packages –for
college students

Feb. 13—Pancake Supper; 6pm

Feb. 14—Ash Wednesday
Service; 6:30pm; BHUMC

March 12– Soup Supper; 6pm

March 21—cook for Spring Valley
Mission Diner

March 24 -Palm Sunday Service

March 24—Easter Egg Hunt after
service (ages 12 and under)

March 28-Holy Thursday Service;
7:00pm

March 31– Easter Sunday Ser-
vice; 10:15am

April 27—Best Stuff Sale;
9am-2pm

May 6—Best Stuff Sale Day 2

May 12 - Mother's Day

TBA—Church Clean Up

May —USR Memorial Day Parade

June 14—Strawberry Picking,
8:30am.

June 15 —Strawberry Festival, Rain
or Shine

June 16—Father's Day

July 7—Summer Worship begins-
New service hours 9:15am

Sept. 8—Back to Fall Service Hour;
10:15am and BBQ after church

Sept. 28—USR Oktoberfest, noon-6p

Oct. 6—World Communion Sunday

Dec. 1 —Hanging of the Greens

TBA—Toy Drive drop off

Dec. 24—Candlelight Service, 5:30pm

Dec. 25- Christmas Day

If you have a suggestion for the
newsletter, send an email to:
bergenhighlandsumc@gmail.com

- **Adult Bible Study**-Tuesdays beginning at 7:00; call for more info 201-327-3960
- **Adult Choir**-TBA
- **Children's and Youth Choirs**-Thursday at 3:30pm
- **BHUMC Youth Group**– TBA
- **Executive Leadership Team** –as needed after church,
Contact person-Pat Hiler or Pastor Miso Park 201-327-3960



Put these dates on YOUR calendar!

Dates and times can occasionally
change, for more info call
201-327-3960, thanks.