



Ashland Church News January 2021



Ashland Presbyterian Church
 116 Ashland Road
 Cockeysville, MD 21030
 Phone: 410-527-1844
 The Rev. Shannon Meacham, Pastor
 On the web at: www.ashlandpc.org



Pulpitshenanigans

New Years always seems to prompt lists of various types. Most of them look back and do a “year in review” or the “most important moments.” My preferred list is

President Obama’s most favorite books of the year (Check it out. There are some really good ones on there!)¹

There were two lists this year I decided to put side-by-side. The first was CNN’s “20 Things to Look Forward to in 2020” a list published on January 2nd 2020.² And the second was “2020: Watch the Year in Review” in Time Magazine (more of a visual list).³ I had almost forgotten 2020 was the start of a new decade (okay, technically, not, but you get the idea...) and we began the year looking forward to the summer Olympics in Tokyo, new movies debuting in theatres, and concerts by our favorite artists.

All this anticipation was met by the barely on our radar screen impact of a tiny virus spreading half way across the world. One year ago we had no idea how it would upend our daily lives and kill 1.6 million people worldwide (at least as of when this article was written in mid-December, the number is certainly higher by the time you read this). We had seen in years past the deaths of Black and Brown men and women at the hands of white police officers. The summer of 2020 would be a boiling over point for the injustice as uprisings and protests blanketed the streets of our cities, including here in Baltimore. Our planet has been telling us for years that human impacts on the climate will continue to have disastrous consequences. We saw that play out this year with the wildfires in the west and hurricanes across the globe.

Clerk of Session
 Bob Williams

Church Treasurer
 Pamela Caras

Financial Secretary
 Cathy Griffiths

Session Members
 2020

Debbie Berlin
 Bonnie Clarke
 Rene Florendo
 Tom Griffiths
 Will Nassau
 JoAnn Ruther
 Betsy Segelken
 Fred Wagner

Pre-school Director
 Anne Auwil

Organist & Music Director
 Sheila Slade-Lee

Office Manager
 Cecil Weber



Ashland Presbyterian Church
 @AshlandPresbyterianChurch

Pulpitshenanigans (continued)

Prior to the birth of Jesus, the Gospel writer of Matthew makes his own kind of list. In Chapter 1 we read a list of names, a genealogy of sorts, spanning the years all the way back to Abraham. The actual birth of Jesus is barely a blip of a verse at the end of the chapter, before moving on to look toward the future. Even the gifts of the magi, gold, frankincense and myrrh, foreshadow the future of Jesus death.

As the calendar turns to the New Year, I am making my own side-by-side mental list of sorts, as it relates to God's call to us to be the church in the world. I wonder what we would include in our "2020 Year in Review" and "Things to Look Forward To In 2021?" More than just a list of dates, names and events, but reflecting on what these mean for our life going forward.

- How have these last ten months changed who we are as a church?
- What was bubbling up that we weren't paying attention to that is impossible to ignore now?
- Where are we listening and holding space for the stories and pain of our collective experience through this pandemic?
- How will we engage with one another and our neighborhood when we are safely able to be in the same room and around tables together?

We still have challenging times ahead of us, before everyone is vaccinated. And the New Year promises an end to this insight. In the meantime, Ashland community, what New Year lists are you making?

Peace,
- *Pastor Shannon*

1. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/celebrities/2020/12/17/obama-2020-pop-culture-favorites/3943271001/>
2. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/28/world/20-things-to-look-forward-to-2020-upcoming-events-releases-trnd/index.html>
3. <https://time.com/5919837/2020-year-in-review/>



Thank you to all who sponsored a poinsettia at Christmas!!

Nancy Starr, Peter & Kimberly Kaestner
Penny & Jerry DeBoer sponsored poinsettias in honor of:
Priscilla Barrett, Bev Becker, Bonnie Cox, Betsy Steele,
Jennefer Thomas

Bonnie & Bill Clarke sponsored poinsettias in honor of:
Rev. Shannon Meacham, Sue Ruhl, Sheila Slade-Lee,
Cecil Weber

Meg Williams sponsored a poinsettia in honor of:
Peg Patterson

Congregational Care sponsored poinsettias in honor of:
Sara Carney, Ken Hutcherson, Rev. Paula Whitacre

***And a big thank you to Rev. Shannon for
delivering all of the poinsettias!!***



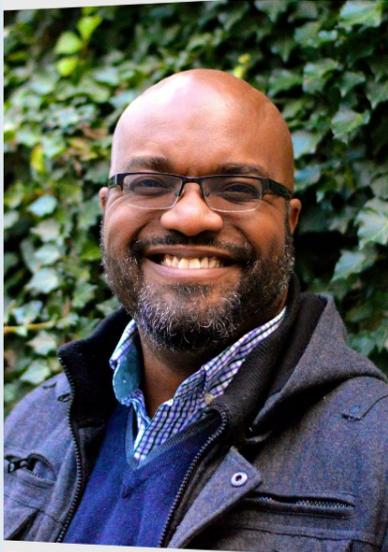
Congrats and continued prayers for our frontline worker Sara Carney! Each day at work you do the work of God caring for those vets with Covid.

Baltimore VA Medical Center's Medical ICU frontline nurse Sara Carney was among the first front line workers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. VA Maryland Health Care System began vaccinating its front line today.

The Baltimore VA Medical Center, a division of the VA Maryland Health Care System, began administering COVID-19 vaccinations to frontline health care employees, Veterans residing in long-term care units and inpatients with spinal cord injuries today.

The Baltimore VA Medical Center is part of the initial group of 37 VA medical centers across the country that began receiving and administering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine this week.

*-Published by VA Maryland Health Care System
December 16, 2020*



In late November, ***Derrick Weston*** was informed he was a recipient of the 2020 Pastoral Study Grant from the Louisville Institute. The PSP grant offers pastoral leaders the gift of time and the resources to investigate issues related to Christian ministry and leadership, North American religious practices and institutions, or major challenges facing wider, contemporary society. These grants of up to \$15,000 are awarded to pastors and pastoral leaders to pursue a pressing and significant question for the life of faith.

This is the summary of Derrick's project: Garden Churches. Farm Churches. Faith-based community gardens. Dinner Churches. All across this country people are reorienting their faith communities to be centered around food production and consumption. Even before the pandemic of 2020, local congregations were recognizing the need to care for those who were living food insecure lives. Churches were abandoning the idea of food "deserts" and recognizing there are instead food apartheid, human-made, systemic issues that keep people from having access to healthy nutrition. People are recognizing issues of food touch on all of the major justice issues the church cares about from racial justice to immigration, to income inequality, to

environmental justice. All have a connection with food. Moreover connection is what people are looking for. Connection to God, connection to others, and connection to creation. Faith communities are finding bonds that may not be not be achievable in the context of traditional worship can be achieved over gatherings that center meals as a part of communal identity and worship. Derrick is proposing building a hub for these stories and people and communities they represent. Ministry is isolating in the best of situations, more so for those who do unconventional ministry. I want to create a space where more stories can be told through the podcast, but also in writing and in film, and in this space, I believe the subjects of those stories can connect with another, support each other, and work together to help congregations rethink their land use and the ways they engage in feeding their communities.

Congratulations Derrick!!

All Are Welcome!!



Conversations on Faith

Join in the conversation! We will meet on the third Wednesdays of the month from 4:00-5:00 pm on Zoom. Upcoming dates and topics are:

1/20/21 Polemic Thinking, A Conversation Stopper

To join the conversation, here is the Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting from your computer or smartphone, use this link!

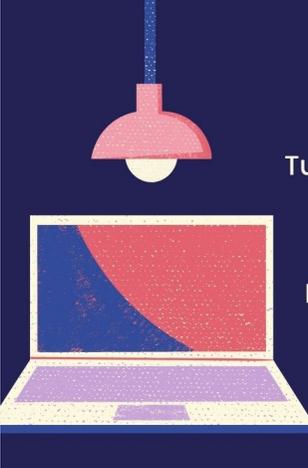
<https://zoom.us/j/8619402634>

Enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 861 940 2634 Password: 268801

To join over Phone Call (301) 715 8592 Enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 861 940 2634 Password: 268801

Or you can go to the Ashland website and click on the link there: <http://www.ashlandpc.org/conversations-on-faith/>

These meetings are held using Zoom and most join using a computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone. If you don't have a computer, ***you can join in by just using your phone.*** Dial (301) 715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 861 940 2634. You can do the ***same thing*** for the weekly bible study.



Ashland Mid-Week Gatherings

Tuesday Check-in and
Evening Prayer
7:30pm
Thursday
Morning Bible Study
10:00am
Zoom Meeting ID:
861 940 2634
Passcode: 268801

Friends, we finished the Gospel of Mark in December during Morning Bible Study. We will begin again on January 7. We will study the Book of Micah. Micah is a minor prophet and spending some time with him will give us insight to Jesus's ministry and perspective on the world. For a summary of Micah, please watch this short video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFEUEcylwLc>



Virtual
Town Hall
Meeting

Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, January 31 2021

11:30 am

A virtual town hall meeting to discuss the budget and other updates will be held via Zoom and Facebook Live. More details will be sent prior to the meeting.



Kasupe News

In December, Ashland wired a \$13,000 donation to Kasupe towards the purchase of their new truck. This was made possible through the help of a major donor and the Mission Committee. We also sent an additional \$690 in donations towards COVID and other health-related health efforts that are ongoing.

Fletcher Paduko responded to Ashland:



Am short of words!!! There are no proper words under the sun to describe how excited I am!!! Many thanks to you all for this timely gift. And yes, we will be able to top up the balance and sort out the transportation issues. Isn't it unbelievable that the first truck Kasupe bought in 2005 was funded by Ashland. Your generosity has helped us to function for 16 years! And today, the same generosity will keep us moving on into the future!

In my joyfulness, I should take you down the memory lane. Here is a picture of the original truck. It has covered over 200,000 miles!

God bless you all. Fletcher

JoAnn Ruther also reminded us that the old truck also served as a recharging station for every cell phone, computer and electrical device in the village for many years!

Here's hoping the new truck will last just as long!



Dear Annette Merrill and the Prayer Shawl Ministry,
Thank you for the prayer shawl. I am so touched that an effort was made to create space for me in this time to be wrapped in the arms of compassion as evidenced by this shawl. Grace & Peace to you and the members of this ministry.

- Rev. Paula Whitacre

Rev. Paula is serving as Chaplain at York Hospital. She is providing pastoral care to family members and friends of those hospitalized with COVID as well as to the staff who are caring for them.

God, source of life, help us to live in your peace. May we be your healing presence for those who are suffering, your welcoming presence to those who are strangers. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.



From the Church Office...



Happy New Year!

I hope all had a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year! Let's pray 2021 brings an end to the pandemic so we can gather together safely. In the meantime, we will continue to have online worship, weekly check-ins and bible study via Zoom. There is a virtual Town Hall Meeting scheduled for January 31. I will be sending out year end statements as well as an updated directory. If you have changes for the directory (i.e., address, phone numbers, email addresses, etc.) please send them to office@ashlandpc.org or call the office at 410-527-1844 and leave a voice mail.

Thanks! Stay safe & well!

-Cecil Weber

ASHLAND CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/8 Grey Benzak | 1/22 Brenda Holland |
| 1/10 Cerys Beckwith | Thomas Weston |
| 1/12 Sue Ruhl | 1/23 Trish Deimel |
| Derrick Weston | 1/25 Zachary Ciemian |
| 1/15 Andrew Bednarik | 1/26 Morgan Hensley |
| 1/18 Will Sasser | 1/31 Kathy Aspden |
| 1/21 Butch Zink | |

No Wedding Anniversaries this month

Deacon/Elder Ordination Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/1 Barb Porter | 1/14 Sandy Losemann |
| Gene Ruhl | 1/16 Bill Kobokovich |
| Kim Aspden | Bonnie Clarke |
| Sue Ruhl | 1/17 Carla Ulgen |
| 1/2 Dick Uhler | Will Nassau |
| Priscilla Barrett | 1/19 Tom Griffiths |
| 1/3 Bob Williams | 1/22 Bill Kobokovich |
| Kim Aspden | Penny DeBoer |
| 1/4 Jerry DeBoer | 1/23 John Walter |
| Kim Bednarik | 1/24 Jennefer Thomas |
| 1/6 John Walter | Sue Ruhl |
| Nancy Starr | 1/25 Butch Zink |
| Peg Paterson | 17 Amy Cavolo |
| 1/7 Lillian Holland | 1/25 Debbie Berlin |
| 1/8 Nancy Stickles | 1/30 JoAnn Ruther |
| 1/13 Deb Miller | 1/31 Fred Wagner |
| Jacquie Sasser | |

Do we have YOUR family's important dates to share and celebrate? Have we made any mistakes? Please contact the Church Office at 410-527-1844, or office@ashlandpc.org with additions and/or corrections for the database.





Sunday Worship is held online. A link to the worship video is sent out by email early Sunday mornings. The link can also be found at the Ashland website at: www.ashlandpc.org

Weekly Online Gatherings

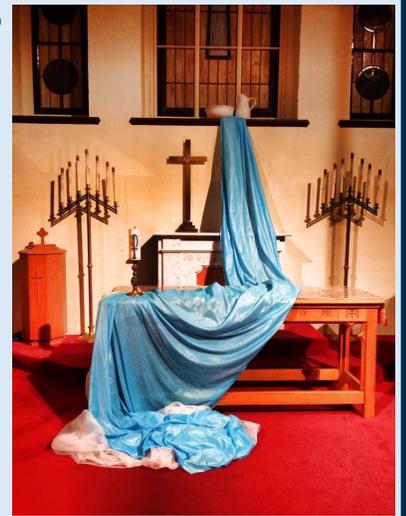
Tuesday Check-In and Evening Prayer 7:30 pm
 Thursday Morning Bible Study with Rev. Harry Cahill 10:00 am

These online gatherings are held via Zoom. If you have never used Zoom, Pastor Shannon has a walk-thru video on the Ashland website to get you started.

If you don't have computer access, you can call in on your phone:

Call (301) 715 8592 Enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 861 940 2634

Please join us! All are welcome!



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|-----|
| | | | | | 1 New Year's Day  | 2 |
| 3 2nd Sunday of Christmas Online Worship | 4 | 5 Check-in & Evening Prayer 7:30 pm | 6 Epiphany of the Lord  | 7 Bible Study 10:00 am | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Baptism of the Lord Online Worship | 11 | 12 Session 6:30 pm Check-in & Evening Prayer 7:30 pm | 13 | 14 Bible Study 10:00 am | 15 | 16 |
| 17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Online Worship | 18  Martin Luther King Jr. Day | 19 Check-in & Evening Prayer 7:30 pm | 20 Conversations on Faith 4-5 pm  let's talk | 21 Bible Study 10:00 am | 22 | 23 |
| 24 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Online Worship | 25 | 26 Check-in & Evening Prayer 7:30 pm | 27 | 28 Bible Study 10:00 am | 29 | 30 |
| 31 4th Sunday after Epiphany Online Worship  | | | | | | |

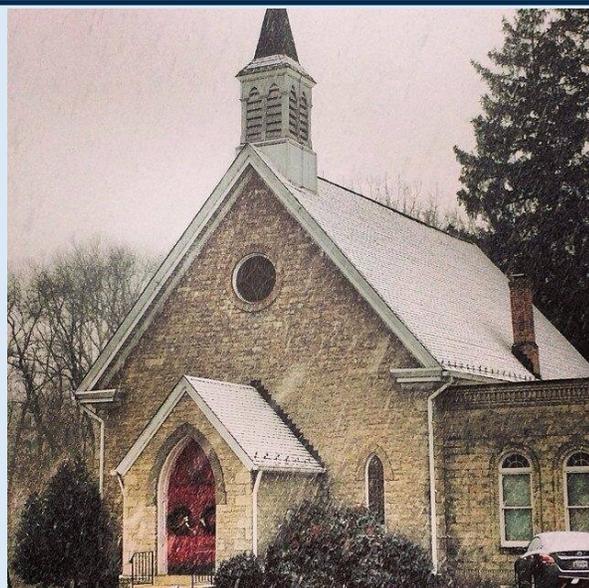
Tithes and Offerings can be mailed to the church at:

**Ashland Church
116 Ashland Road
Hunt Valley, MD 21030**

**The mail is delivered to a secure and locked mailbox.
The church treasurer checks the mail daily.**

**You can also donate online at:
www.ashlandpc.org/donate**

You can make a single donation or set up a recurring donation directly from your bank to the church account or by using a credit card. Electronic giving as a way to give any time and to automate your regular offering as well as a convenient, safe, and simple way to provide much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.



On December 4, we held our first ever Ashland Virtual Christmas Party on Zoom. Here are a few screenshots of some of those who attended. It was a lot of fun catching up with each other. And Neil Ruther played Christmas carols for the sing-a-long!

