

St. John's Grace United Church of Christ

PATHWAY TO PURPOSE NEWSLETTER

P2P Keeping YOU informed.



February 2023 – Issue 002.2023

Website: www.stjohnsuccmd.com

We Welcome New Covenant UCC!

Article: Rev. Jennifer Knighton

Pathway to Purpose helped us realize the need and desire to reach out into the community. The opportunity is here, and we opened the door to invite New Covenant in to share our worship space. Our worship community now includes New Covenant UCC, worship at 8:30AM every Sunday, St. John's Grace worship at 11:00AM and Living Water Inclusive Catholic Community worship twice a month at 1:30PM. Sunday is a busy day.

Let me introduce New Covenant UCC to you.

New Covenant's founding pastor, Rev. Brian Murray, in discernment and promise with God began to focus on a community that could share the gospel in a welcoming space. A church where interracial membership would be the first step in the fight against racism, where the ministries wrestle with the complexities of the here and now, where the worship is not dead and traditional but lively and contemporary. The idea was to reach out to people in a nontraditional way.

In 2012, New Covenant Community United Church of Christ launched as new church with 11 attendees at Owings Mills High School cafeteria. They are the first African American led church founded by the United Church of Christ in the Baltimore region since the 1960s. Eleven years and three locations later they are a full standing church in our denomination and striving to set an example as a non-traditional yet relevant and effective church. With sacred music set to jazz, they continue to strive to be "a new solution for contemporary believers." God is still working on New Covenant, and they are excited about God's plans for their future. Worship begins at 8:30AM Sunday mornings and everyone is welcome.

Staff

Rev. Brian Murray, Pastor

Rev. Antoinette Gatewood-Sykes, Assistant Pastor

Minister Lois Carrigan, Minister of Outreach

Mission Statement

We strive to be a church where everybody is somebody. A church ordained by God where His children gather to worship and to be inspired by the preaching and teaching of His Word. We believe that the Bible is the inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God. Our primary goal is to present the full Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe in prayer, fasting, healing and great deliverances. When you enter the sanctuary, come expecting a miracle. It is with pleasure that we extend to you a cordial invitation to join us in worship services.

P2P Reorganized Subcommittees Up and Running

Last month we reported the creation of three subcommittees under the P2P Implementation Committee: Communications, Community Outreach, and Missions. These are now up and running. We also asked for some new volunteers since the committee had shrunk to seven. Several people answered the call and we now have 12 people pitching in on P2P. Thank you to those who stepped up! See page 2 for names of volunteers. We can always use more help. If you are willing and able, please reach out to any subcommittee chairperson.

St. John’s Grace Pathway to Purpose: VISION, PURPOSE, AND MISSION

What is our goal? **A legacy of Christ’s love and justice.**
This is our vision.

Why? **We are called by God’s love.**
This is our purpose.

How do we reach our goal? **Seek God. Listen. Love. Do.**
This is our mission. Details of our mission are as follows:

Seek God.

God is our rock.

- Ask for God’s guidance.
- Pray
- Worship
- Study.

Listen.

God is still speaking.

- Be open to hearing what God has to say.
- Work to discern what God is telling us.

Love.

God is love.

- Love God in return
- Love ourselves
- Love all people – in our congregation, in our community and in our world.
- Love God’s creation

Do.

God asks us to put our faith into action.

- Welcome all
- Seek justice for all
- Determine community needs
- Be good stewards of the earth’s resources for present and future generations
- Serve others
- Teach
- Spread God’s love

P2P Implementation Committee:

Paul Rowley, Committee Chair & Communications Subcommittee Chair
Rev. Jennifer Knighton, Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair
George Knoerlein, Missions Subcommittee Chair

P2P Community Outreach Subcommittee:

Rev. Jennifer Knighton, Chair
Will Caldwell, Jan Austell, Jay Fuller, Nancy Gardner

P2P Missions Subcommittee:

George Knoerlein, Chair
Krista Bayne, Connie Heasley, Tina Hamilton, Charlene Mowery

P2P Communications Subcommittee:

Paul Rowley, Chair
Laura Prinn

