



Orems Beacon January 2024

Orems United Methodist Church
1020 Orems Road. Middle River. MD 21220

Gail Button, pastor

410-687-9483 www.oremsumc.org

www.facebook.com/OremsUMC

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A Prayer for Epiphany - Celebrated January 6th

Oh Lord you drew the Magi to you with your Holy Light. Help us to seek that light this year. Draw us to you and out of the darkness of illness, anger and pain. We beseech you to gather us as your people. Help us to see others who need that same guidance and give us the courage and the words to reach them. Let this year be the year we truly become your disciples to the world. Jesus, in your precious name, Amen.

Anniversary News

Our Anniversary celebration is not over— while our congregation began meeting in September of 1773, the Middle River Meeting House was completed in February 1774. Imagine that group of faithful servants who were creating our congregation while their country was forming. We hope to have some more Memory displays for you in the coming months.

Please enjoy a photo of the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve 1972. Notice that there is no Stain Glass Jesus (it hadn't been made yet) or the Stain Glass on the side by the door. (the 1859 church building was still standing in 1972 and those windows were still in place in that building.)





**February
Newsletter
Deadline is
January
15th , if you
have an
article or
information
for our
newsletter,
please drop
it off to the
Church
office or
email at
oremsumc@
verizon.net**

2024 Offering envelopes are available. If you would like offering envelopes and you are not on our list, please notify the church office at 410-687-9483 and we can have envelopes available for you.

Church Offerings: To donate online follow the link

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/orem1020156>

To text your donations: Text the word **Give** to **1-410-873-1957** then follow the prompts. You may use a credit or debit card or ACH (withdrawal) or an echeck. The system charges 2.7% of your donation as a convenience fee. You do not have to pay this fee. There is a box to check if you wish to include this. If you need help, call the church office.

If you miss a Sunday and want to mail your donation or drop off your offering, we now have a locked mailbox to keep your donations secure. It is located outside the center entrance to the connecting hallway.

Food Pantry News

We were able to provide 11 families with Christmas baskets along with the Angel Tree gifts, thanks to the generous donations of this

congregation. And special thanks to those who gave Gift cards to area Food stores.

Our food pantry will be stocking up for winter, and we will need Cereal, beef stew, any type of Soup, spaghetti sauce and noodles, canned Ravioli and Beefaroni.

Thank you for all your donations of food and gift cards and financial support.

Pixie Faulkner, Food Pantry Coordinator



Streets of Hope

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

Churches for Streets of Hope is a Community Care Center and Mens' Winter Shelter. If you feel called to give to this mission: Go to their website at www.churchesforsoh.org Or you can Mail checks to Churches for Streets of Hope, P.O. Box 34073, Essex MD 21221.

Orems is serving dinner to Streets of Hope on Feb 21st and Mar 20th and April 24th at 5:30 p.m. **Meals need to be dropped off at the Boulevard Church on Essex Avenue.** We will have a sign up sheet for Meal items needed. We also need donations of water, crackers, cookies, chips/pretzels and sodas. You can drop these off to Orems on Tues, Wed or Thurs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to help serve the men, volunteers are very much appreciated. **If you have any questions, contact: Amber Hackley, Or call the church office 410-687-9483. It takes all of us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Help us serve!**

Thrift Shop News

Our Hall Closet Thrift Shop will be open on Saturday January 6th from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Invite your friends and neighbors to come shop for lots of great bargains. Come out and support Orems Hall Closet Thrift Shop.

Last year the Hall Closet thrift shop sales totaled \$24,955. We gladly take all donations of clothing, linens, housewares, books, and toys. You can bring donations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 to 2 or bring items on the Saturday the shop is Open.

THANK YOU

Dear Orem's Church:

Your church works wonders for our families all through the year, but especially at Christmas. Your generosity is a huge blessing to our children and families. Merry Christmas!

Dawn Boudier, School Counselor. Orem's Elementary School

Dear Friends at Orem's Church

The weekly church bulletin and activities papers I get each week are really inspirational. I enjoy reading the word of the Lord. I wish I could be there in worship with you. I miss you all very much.

Take Care, Paul Parks

Christmas Card Exchange 2023

*I bet you cannot guess how many Christmas cards were sent via the Orem's Postal Service this year. Well, the total card count for this year was **1,057!** I was astonished by the number of cards that were shared by our members. This means, as a church, we saved **\$697.62** in postage by using this method of sharing Christmas joy and love. An interesting fact is that the letters of the alphabet that got the most cards were the letter "H" followed by the letter "D" and "F"! I hope your Christmas cards brought you lots of joy this holiday season. And a HUGE thanks to everyone who alphabetized their cards - it made my job so much easier this year. If you haven't gotten your cards yet, please do so as soon as possible. They will be located on the bench in the hallway near the office. The last day for card pick-up is February 14th.*



I wish everyone at Orem's a blessed New Year.

Merlyn Campbell

Men of Orem— the MOO will meet on January 25 at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast at Essex Diner and then 7 p.m. for their January meeting.



Lydia Circle— The Lydia Circle will be going to Tea by Two in Bel Air MD on January 13. Contact Pastor Gail if you plan to join the circle for Tea.

United Women in Faith will be meeting on Wednesday January 3rd at 7 pm in Room 100. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

AMPLIFY MEDIA Is a site that offers Bible studies, devotions and especially wonderful programs for children and families to enjoy. The Church pays for the subscription but you will need to register an account so that you have your own password to access the programs. We hope you will enjoy this site. **Suggestions for Children:** Danny Go! is similar to Blues Clues. Pete and Penelope is an adventure series. Deep Blue Kids has great animated bible stories. And there is so much more available to you.

Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify> in the upper right corner click on the person logo then click on Access Code. **Orem's Congregational code is RTJLVP**



It is getting to the time of year when we need to be concerned about road safety. If the roads are icy or we have snowy weather we will most likely cancel in person Worship or church activities for that day. A One Call will go out to announce cancellations. **Even if you do not get a call, please do not place yourself in danger on the roads if you feel they are unsafe.** Winter is here and we need to be safe and healthy. Take care all!



We were able to help 24 children from 11 families in the Middle River Area. These families were thrilled that we cared enough to help them enjoy a wonderful Christmas. Thanks to everyone who sponsored a child, to those who took more than one, and to those who gave generously to fund for our shopping for angels left on the tree. I enjoyed shopping for the angels and my wrapping elves Merlyn, Sara Beth and Debbie. Love to all, Vicki Borreson, Angel Tree Coordinator

Keeping Warm in Worship



Due to the rising costs of Heating our building, we will be keeping the thermostat at 70 degrees through the winter months. We encourage you to dress warmly for worship and perhaps bring an extra sweater or small blanket with you. Thank you for helping us to manage our expenses.

Our Prayer room is open for times of meditation and Prayer in the lower level of the Education building. If you wish to use the room and do not have a key to the church building, contact the church office to make an appointment.



Altar Flowers can be ordered for use for worship by calling the Church office. Flowers are \$36 and can be paid by check to Orem's Church. Please notify the office of the dedication you wish to print in the bulletin for your flowers at least 2 weeks before the date you order flowers. If your flowers are in a glass vase you may keep the vase or bring it back to the office for future use. If the brass flower vase was used it must stay in the church. A bag or container is available to place your flowers in to take home. Thank you for helping to enhance our service with the beauty of flowers.

KEENAGERS Group (age 50 and up) will meet on Thursday, January 4th with a pizza party. Our Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Join us for pizza, beverages and desserts too! We enjoy Christian fellowship and devotions along with our lunch. Hope to see you there!

Happy New Year to All!

Judy Tolbert

UMCOR CONTINUES TO SUPPORT PARTNERS IN UKRAINE

Ekaterina* and her two young daughters fled the Donetsk region in 2022 a month after Russian forces invaded the region in March. Ekaterina packed whatever she could and left with her children, her elder relatives, a brother and sister and their families. Ekaterina found help at the center for displaced persons, supported by International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) with funding from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and run by IOCC's local Orthodox Church partner, Eleos-Ukraine. At the center, she received a humanitarian kit, which included food and nonfood items, plus psychosocial and legal support services. Ekaterina is not sure there is anything left for her and her family in the Donetsk region. As a way of giving back, her family volunteers at the IOCC center that first welcomed them.

With UMCOR's support, IOCC has also reconstructed and strengthened permanent shelters for displaced families. Through this one grant, UMCOR's support has likely reached an estimated 73,000 people with emergency supplies, food, water and shelter, as well as legal and psychosocial help as they adjust to life while their country is at war.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN UKRAINE PLANS ON LONG-TERM CARE

United Methodists from the wider connection of congregations around the world have partnered directly with the Ukrainian UMC and through UMCOR to increase its capacity to serve many neighbors.

Supporting the church in establishing a permanent shelter facility will help them defray costs associated with this ministry and assure that the space can be dedicated to social programming moving forward. The most recent grant from UMCOR to the UMC in Ukraine will enable the purchase of a hotel, which will become a Methodist Center for care in the region.

International Disaster Response

United Methodist Committee on Relief International Disaster Response and Recovery (UMCOR IDR) serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance for disasters that strike outside of the United States.

UMCOR- Your gift to an UMCOR project makes God's love tangible to survivors of all kinds—be it war or conflict, hurricane, fire, famine, earthquake or flood. UMCOR is on the job to help those in need

To give: go to <https://www.umcmission.org/umcor/give>

If you want to mail your check payable to **ADVANCE GCFA**.

Write Disaster Response and Recovery and the Advance code number on the memo line of the check. Send your check to: Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068. **To Help in the USA** use the **US Disaster Advance # 901670**

Orems UMC 2024 Lay Leadership (Nominations) Report

Church Council:

Council Chair:	Jeff Dulina
Recording Secretary:	Joyce Serio
Lay Leaders:	Merlyn Campbell; Judy Tolbert
Lay Member To Annual Conference:	Clint Miller
Pastor:	Rev. Gail Button
Certified Lay Servants:	Pixie Faulkner; Clint Miller
Finance Chair:	Pat Collins
Treasurer:	Pat Collins
Assistant Treasurer (Trust Acct.):	Charlotte West
Financial Secretary:	Linda Hall
Staff Parish Relations Chair:	
Trustee Chair (elected by Trustees):	Sara Beth Dulina
Church Historian:	Karen Dull
Nurture (Worship; Christian Ed; Discipleship; Leadership Development; Congregational Care; Family Ministry; Youth)	Lydia Smith
Outreach (Missions; Community Partnerships)	Linda Hall
Witness (Evangelism; Fresh Expressions; <i>Mission Insite</i> ; Community Partnerships)	Clint Miller
Community Building (relates to Nurture & Witness)	Merlyn Campbell
Health Ministry (relates to Nurture, Outreach, & Witness)	Joyce Serio
Hall Closet Thrift Shop	Linda Hall; Lisa Hoerger
UWF President (elected by UWF):	Mary Easley
Men of Orems (MOO):	Clint Miller (MOO vice president)

Church Staff

Pastor:	Rev. Gail Button
Church Administrator:	Vicki Borreson
Music Director/Organist:	Gregory Arment

Administrative Committees

Finance Committee: (*Arena: Finance Ministry*)

Chair:	Pat Collins
Treasurer:	Pat Collins
Assistant Treasurer (Trust Acct.):	Charlotte West
Council Chair:	Jeff Dulina
Lay Member To Annual Conference:	Clint Miller
Lay Leaders:	Merlyn Campbell; Judy Tolbert
Memorial Fund Secretary/Treasurer:	Pat Collins
Financial Secretary:	Linda Hall
Trustee Chair:	Sara-Beth Dulina
Fundraising:	Pat Collins; Merlyn Campbell
SPRC Chair:	
Pastor:	Rev. Gail Button

Nominations and Lay Leadership Development Committee

(*Arena: Lay Leadership Dvlpmt*)

Chair:	Rev. Gail Button (Pastor)
Lay Leader:	Merlyn Campbell; Judy Tolbert

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Don Egner	Judy Tolbert	Kathy Cunningham

Staff Parish Relations Committee (*Arena: SPRC/PPRC*)

Chair:	
Lay Member To Annual Conference:	Clint Miller
Lay Leaders:	Merlyn Campbell; Judy Tolbert
Pastor:	Rev. Gail Button

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Ruth Shifflett	Amber Hackley	Roger Mowery

Board of Trustees: (*Arena: Trustees*)

Chair:	Sara Beth Dulina
Vice Chair:	Bob Collins
Secretary:	TBE
Treasurer:	Pat Collins (Church Treasurer)

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Bob Collins	Jeff Dulina	Lisa Hoerger
Terry Alexander	Sallie Tyner	Ernie Hoerger (non-member)
Sara Beth Dulina	Dottie Daiger	

Ministry Areas or Teams

Nurture (*Arena: Membership Ministries*):

Nurture Chair:	Lydia Smith
Pastor:	Rev. Gail Button
Music Director & Organist:	Gregory Arment (Church Staff)
Certified Lay Servants:	Pixie Faulkner; Clint Miller
Lay Leaders:	Merlyn Campbell; Judy Tolbert
Worship Team:	Clint Miller; Lisa Hoerger; Joyce Serio; Merlyn Campbell; Judy Tolbert
A/V Tech Team:	Mike Walters; Clint Miller; Rev. Gail Button
Choir Representative:	Judy Tolbert
Liturgists:	Recruited as needed
Communion Assistants:	Recruited as needed
Worship Hospitality	(Greeters; Ushers; Attendance; Elevator; etc.): Kathy Cunningham; Linda Hall; Dottie Lay; Joyce Serio
Children's Worship Coordinator:	
<i>Faith Boost</i> Lunch & Worship:	Rev. Gail Button
Bible Study / Spiritual Growth / Discipleship:	Rev. Gail Button; Clint Miller
Family Ministry:	Amber Hackley; Clint Miller; Judy Tolbert; Rev. Gail Button

Continured: Nurture (*Arena: Membership Ministries*):

Keenagers (50+ Group):	Judy Tolbert
Lunch Bunch:	Judy Tolbert
Orems Movie Goers (OMG):	Vicki Borreson (Church Staff)
Men Of Orems (MOO):	Butch Frank, President
Lay Visitation:	Terry Alexander; Pixie Faulkner; Lay Leaders
Grief Ministry:	Merle Vickers
Mailings to Home Bound Members:	Ruth Shifflett

Community Building (relates to Nurture & Witness): Merlyn Campbell

Health Ministry (relates to Nurture, Outreach, & Witness) Joyce Serio

Outreach (*Arena: Missions Ministry*):

Team Leader:	Linda Hall
Angel Tree:	Vicki Borreson (Church Staff)
Disciples of Yarn/Prayer Shawls:	Dottie Daiger
Food Pantry:	Pixie Faulkner
Little Feet (Local Schools):	Kathy Cunningham; Vicki Borreson (Church Staff)
Streets of Hope:	Amber Hackley (Point of Contact); R.J. Hackley; Pixie Faulkner
Samaritan's Purse (OCC Shoeboxes):	Michelle McNeal; Sallie Tyner
Scouting Liaison:	Pat Collins
Hall Closet Thrift Store:	Linda Hall; Lisa Hoerger
UWF President (elected):	Mary Eisley

Health Ministry (relates to Nurture, Outreach, & Witness) Joyce Serio

Witness (*Arena: Evangelism Ministry*):

Team Leader:	Clint Miller
Fresh Expressions:	Clint Miller
Mission Insite:	Clint Miller

Community Building (relates to Nurture & Witness): Merlyn Campbell

Health Ministry (relates to Nurture, Outreach, & Witness) Joyce Serio

Communications:

Church Administrator:	Vicki Borreson (Church Staff)
Facebook Page:	Nita Hatcher
On-Line Worship:	Mike Walters; Clint Miller; Rev. Gail Button
Website:	Mike Walters; Vicki Borreson (Church Staff)

Cemetery Committee (reports to Trustees):

Chair:	Carl Horst
Vice Chair:	Sallie Tyner
Secretary & Historian:	Karen Dull
Treasurer:	Charlotte West (Trust Fund Treasurer)
Additional Members:	Elaine Masson; Butch Frank (MOO representative)
Church Administrator:	Vicki Borreson (Church Staff)



Prayer for the New Year

Gracious God, we come before you seeking renewal for a new year. Renew our minds, hearts, and spirits. May we leave behind the old worries and troubles and look to you for guidance and renewal through your Holy Spirit.

As 2024 brings us new challenges, grant us strength and courage. Help us to turn to you for refuge and to lean on your mighty power. May we hold-fast in our faith, knowing that you are our rock and our salvation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen,