



GOOD NEWSLETTER

Clarendon United Methodist Church ————— January 2019

Next Level Innovation Weekend: 1/25–1/27

For over a year, CUMC has participated in Next Level Innovations (NLI), an exciting program to help us identify where we can reach more people in our community in order to profess the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are one of 8 churches chosen to be a part of this self-examination to learn how we can grow stronger in our engagement with those in and outside our church. The **first phase** involved Pastor Tracy and extensive training on leadership, prayer, vision and other topics with clergy colleagues. That phase is completed.

We now begin the **second phase** which involves the leadership and membership of the church on the weekend of January 25-27. A Weekend Innovation Team (WIT) from the District and others outside the church will come to facilitate this phase. Childcare will be provided throughout.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 6:30–9:00 PM: YOUNG ADULTS, NEWCOMERS, AND YOUTH INTERVIEWS WITH THE PASTOR, STAFF, AND CHURCH LEADERSHIP

These will be scheduled in 30-minute time slots. Pizza will be served. Then they will breakout into smaller focus groups to talk with the WIT. **Please RSVP for this event.**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 9:30 AM–3:30 PM: ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

All those interested in attending, including staff and leadership, are encouraged to participate. There will be presentations on results from “mystery shoppers” who have attended as well as other important statistics to help us reach more people. (Breakfast, snacks, and a lunch are included). **Please RSVP for this event.**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 10:00–11:30 AM: COMBINED WORSHIP

The service will include a presentation on the findings of the WIT and the recommendations they have for CUMC. A written report will be made available at the end of the service.

The **third and final phase** involves Town Hall meetings during the month of February (2/3, 2/6, and 2/17) where questions will be answered and opinions voiced. A Congregational Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19 at 7:30 pm in which CUMC Members will vote on recommendations by the WIT. If adopted, we will begin the work of implementing the innovations with help from clergy mentors, NLI resources, staff, and members.

If you care about our church, you will want to come...

If you have invested time and talents in our church, you will want to participate...

If you want to serve our Lord as a disciple as we move forward, you will want to learn...

January Events

SHORT STORIES BY JESUS

MONDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

10:00 am-12:00 pm

The Monday Morning women's bible study will begin *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* by Amy-Jill Levine. This 6-week DVD-led study examines the parables Jesus told in the context of life in first century Palestine versus today. We meet every Monday (except holidays) in the Youth Room. A welcoming group of women would love to have anyone join as we explore our faith. Contact Jane Dixon (jdixon580jd@gmail.com) for questions. Books are \$15.

FAITH, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, January 10, 12:00-1:45 pm

Themes in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Sermons by Don Boileau, a retired Professor of Communication at George Mason University. Most of our knowledge of MLK is through his political speeches. This presentation gives us a broader view of themes from his sermons while a minister. For more information, contact the church office at office@clarendonumc.org.

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK GROUP

Sunday, December 16, 9:45 am

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in an American City by Matthew Desmond (Date TBD). Join this informal group to discuss this brilliant, heartbreaking book as we enter the lives of eight families living on the edge. The fate of these families is in the hands of the landlords. As evictions rise in our country, Desmond provides insight into one of the most urgent issues today. If you would like notification of date and time, contact Laura Bishop (ljbishop1@gmail.com).

GET IN THE KNOW!

Sign up for the church email distribution list. To be added, contact (office@clarendonumc.org).

December Recap

MESSIAH SING

The Annual Messiah Sing was very well attended with 220 filling our Sanctuary in song. Thanks to Cherie and Jim for coordinating a beautiful reception that filled Corry Hall. Our gratitude goes to Lisa for continuing this important tradition that J. Reilly Lewis began 47 years ago.

SPECIAL CONCERTS

The Music & Words Concert and the Virginia Bronze Handbell Ensemble brought new people from the community into our church as we celebrated the music of Christmas.

COOKIE EXCHANGE

Over 35 women gathered to enjoy a time of fellowship and share cookies on Saturday, December 8. "Each year is a little different, and this year we had over 10 guests of regular members come share this time. It was so rewarding to have women bring others into our fellowship," said host Jane Dixon.

LIVING LOVE HOLY CONVERSATIONS

Thanks to all who participated in the four evening sessions of *Unity in the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful Witness*. It was a powerful and enlightening time to share our thoughts, our hopes and our faith with one another. More information to come in 2019.





Patrick Lee.....	01/01
Josh Meyer	01/01
Kevin Scannell.....	01/03
Carolyn Uscinski	01/04
Julie Froom	01/07
Amanda Tarpley.....	01/08
Erin Boyle.....	01/11
Jasper Dennis.....	01/11
Diana Gray	01/11
Jean Hedges.....	01/11
William Michalowski.....	01/11
Brian Hunt.....	01/12
William Miller	01/13
Lillian Alexander	01/15
Evan London	01/17
Mae Miller	01/17
Riley Dennis	01/18
Emma Edelbrock.....	01/18
Susan Howard.....	01/18
Barbara Demetron.....	01/19
Annabel Brown.....	01/21
Rusty Smith.....	01/21
Bob Stamps	01/24
Samuel Brown.....	01/25
Sandra First.....	01/26
Craig Cook.....	01/27
Seth Whitmore	01/28
Jeff Blanton.....	01/29
Bill Hunt	01/31



Previous page: the CUMC cherub choir performing during the 12/2 service. Clockwise from top left: six of the CUMC "Lauras" at the ladies cookie exchange, happy Christmas tree customers, youth baking cookies, youth making cards, the Virginia Bronze Handbell Ensemble, *Messiah* Sing, the cookie exchange.

Outreach Updates

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

Our Christmas Tree sales team leaders Erin, Josh, Lindsey, Adam, Jen, and Gage, plus lots of volunteers, successfully led us to sell 244 Trees and 30 wreaths to our members and neighbors. We had several “repeat customers” who raved about the trees. All proceeds go to support Arlington THRIVE, Rise Against Hunger and Wings of Caring.

YOUTH CARD & COOKIE EXTRAVAGANZA

Our Youth met on Sunday night, December 9, to make holiday cards for participants at Insight Memory Care Center and prisoners at the Arlington Correctional Facility. Additionally, another group was making cookies for first responders in our area as a Christmas Gift. Thanks to Lisa Gibbs-Smith and Laura Watson, plus parents that provided food.

AFAC FEATURES CUMC

CUMC was featured on the AFAC website for providing 365 pounds of fresh veggies this summer. Read the **CUMC Garden Report** to see what wonderful work Catie Christiaanse and her team are doing.

Heartfelt Thanks!

Our church was alive and very busy during December with concerts, outreach efforts, social gatherings, and much more. This would not be possible without lots of support from staff, dedicated members, and willing participants. Thank you one and all!

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27
10:00-11:30 AM
NLI WEEKEND CELEBRATION



Clarendon UMC

Pastor Tracy McNeil Wines
606 N. Irving Street
Arlington, VA 22201

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:30 am Informal Service

11:00 am Formal Service