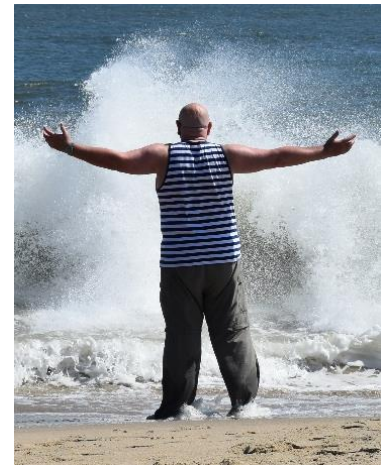




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From the Office of the Pastor

Autumn is a time of change, and change can be difficult. As beautiful as the fall foliage is, it reminds us that the leaves are going to fall, trees will stand bare for the winter, and the days will get cold, wet, and grey.



What helps me to get through the seasons of autumn and winter is the realization that God created the cycles and seasons of nature. While in the fall the leaves are getting ready to fall off the trees, we are blessed with a beautiful fusion of vivid colors. It is a reminder that although winter is coming, there is going to be renewal and regeneration on the other side.

In Psalm 23 there is a line, "*though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.*" The beauty of autumn foliage reminds me that though I have to journey THROUGH the dampness of a chilly winter, the light and warmth of spring is going to come. The trees will sprout new leaves and flowers, animals will get busy having and rearing

babies, and a new cycle of renewal and regeneration will be here soon.

In Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4 we hear, “*To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:*

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant,

and a time to pluck what is planted;

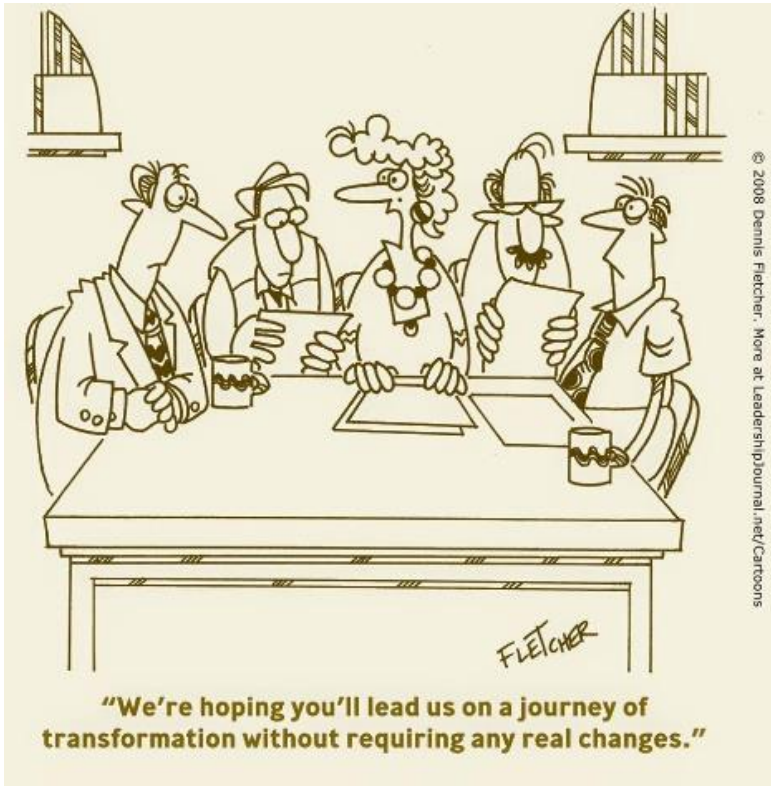
... A time to break down,

and a time to build up....”

Every church must also live through cycles. Every church must take time to experience “the theological season of fall” when we intentionally reevaluate the direction of our congregational lives and ministry, when we rethink our ministries and outreach. Without such processes in place, we will outreach to populations in a way that was needed 10 or 20 years ago, instead of ministering in the way that is appropriate today or for the future.

In the metaphor of autumn foliage, the fallen leaves will blanket the ground, and release their nutrients back into the soil so that new seedlings can be nurtured in the spring. Ideally the fruit of St. Georges’ United Methodist church ministries from 10 or 20 years ago sustains and fosters today’s outreach. Today we strive to nurture

younger generations on their journey of emotional and spiritual growth and prepare to carry the message of the love of God into the future.



The reason this cartoon is humorous is because the characters are talking about "a journey of transformation," but they do not want to invest any energy into that journey. They fear transformation that requires "any real changes."

Outreach requires our engagement, it is that

simple. To be meaningful, outreach must also facilitate transformation in us, as well as in the people we outreach and minister to; otherwise we are just enabling the status quo.

I want to leave you with a few questions to think about:

- How do you facilitate emotional and spiritual growth in others?
- How do you enable others in their old habits and encourage them to stay stagnant? How do we stifle growth in others?

- How has this outreach renewed and continue to renew you personally? How does it renew our church – St. Georges United Methodist Church?

Philos,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Asher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pastor Asher

Churches in decline often think in terms of what they can get from people – money, time, growth, etc. Churches that will make an impact on the future will be passionate about what they want for people – financial balance, generosity, the joy of serving, healthier families, and of course, Christ at the center of everyone's life.

~~ Carey Niuewhof, Contemporary Canadian Theologian

What Does It Mean to Me That Jesus Came to Dwell Among Us

a reflection by Asher (**Example # 1**).

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10).

“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32).

On Christmas Eve Christendom celebrates Jesus’ birth. By taking human form and being born of a human mother and nurtured by a human father and family, God in the person of Jesus took a drastic turn in God’s relationship with humanity.

Being one of us, Jesus understands our human plight, emotions, and our fallenness. Living among us, the Holy Spirit helps us stay on the straight and narrow (Matthew 7:14) that leads us to God.

It all started on that night when Jesus was born: Son of God and Son of Man.

I wonder how many celestial and demonic beings said, “We’ve never done it that way” on the night that Jesus was born? And what about you? When was the last time that you complained that somebody changed all the questions just as you learned all the answers. When was the last time that you complained, “We’ve never done it this way?”

Loving and Gracious God! As you made a choice to be flexible, adaptable, and patient with humanity and even came to dwell among us in the person of Jesus, I pray that you help me to be flexible, adaptable, and patient, and to strive to understand my neighbors. Amen.

What Does It Mean to Me That Jesus Came to Dwell Among Us

a reflection by Asher (**Example # 2**).

“You are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Recently I was looking at a lamp that stands in the corner of our living room. For this lamp to provide light,

- Someone had to build an electric plant (hydro, nuclear, solar, or wind) to generate electricity.
- Someone else has to manage and maintain the plant that produces the electricity.
- Someone had to build power lines to bring the electricity from the plant to my apartment.
- Someone has to maintain and manage these power lines.
- Someone had to manufacture the lamp and the light bulb.
- Someone had to transport the lamp and the light bulb to the store where I bought them.

My point is that for the lamp in the corner of my living room to provide light, countless men and women (my neighbors around the world, whom I do not even know) have to do their part. Just like that, each of us is “the light of the world.” When we are connected with each other through God, our lights shine brighter and further.

Jesus came to dwell among us to help each of our lights shine brighter.

Loving and Gracious God! I pray that with every day that I live I love you more, see you better and clearer, and follow you closer. Amen.

What Does It Mean to Me That Jesus Came to Dwell Among Us

a reflection by Asher **(Example # 3)**.

“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them” (Luke 2:6-7)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...” (Colossians 3:23)

“Serve the LORD with gladness” (Psalm 100:2)

Jesus was born 2000 years ago in a tiny village, in the insignificant province of Judea on the outskirts of the Roman Empire. Most of the world was oblivious to the outcome of Jesus’ birth, life, ministry, death on the Cross, and of course, the Resurrection that followed with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

None of us living in 2023 were privileged to be at Bethlehem at the time of Jesus’ birth. All of us ARE privileged to re-visit the events of that night and to remember Jesus’ impact on our personal lives.

When I think about aspects of my relationship with Jesus, and which is the most important to me personally, I have to say that Jesus challenges me to be a better human being, a better man, a better husband, and a better citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven.

And what about you? How does Jesus challenge you personally?

Loving and Gracious God! As we celebrate the Holidays that encompass the Advent Season, Christmas Day, Christmas Season, and Epiphany, we thank you for friendship with you in the person of Jesus, and your guidance in the person of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Donna Goes Walk About...

And now, it's officially Fall. No more 90 degree temps with 80% humidity (at least we hope). The temps have come down a bit and we get the opportunity to spend time in the back yard around the firepit. Have the neighbors over for s'mores and a friendly chat. Sit on your patio and watch birds and hummingbirds while appreciating the flowers in the yard. And when it's time for dinner, still being able to walk to the garden and pick some fresh tomatoes for a salad. As you can tell, Fall is my favorite time of year. Sweater weather. A crispness in the air. The feeling that something new is coming just around the corner. The excitement of the holidays approaching fast. God is good. And I find myself feeling His blessings even more during this time of year. We should take time to see the blessings around us every day but most of us fall short (I know I do). Being thankful is not just for Thanksgiving! Be thankful for family. There will be a time when they will not be there. Be thankful for the roof over your head. Many people don't have that blessing. Food on your table. Friends at your door. God is a great provider when you trust in Him.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever."

1 Chronicles 16:34

That's all for this month. I will see you Sunday morning!

Donna



Prayer for October (based on UMH 366).

Loving and Gracious God of all seasons!

We thank you for autumn. We thank you

- for the touch of coolness in the air
that gives us a new burst of energy,
- for the coloring of the trees
that shows your creativity as the Divine Artist,
- for the falling leaves
that reveal the strength of the branches,
- for the hues of the fields
that bring peace to our souls,
- for the smiles on pumpkins
that bring joy to children,
- for the fall harvest which that brings us
gratitude for the bounty of our land,
- for this change of seasons
that reveals the circle of life.

Loving and Gracious God of all seasons! As you transform the earth, transform us by your Spirit.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Young Disciples Page and Activities



Autumn
Word Search

B U G U N T L C Z M A D A O F
M Q A E A T Y I Q U R P E A L
E T A U H S P S T K P E M G F
A C N A N A N U E L O I W N E
Y J N Z Y R M I E R L I G F T
S K G V O N D C P Y O G Z U A
S M X C M Y I D S U X M B V T
H Y A K S D S C D A M O S E X
J E R Q E H A G B L E P U C U
C K G R L R W S I L M A K S W
K R U X E J I K K E B V E I J
J U M C V V D D C A O Q S P N
S T R K A C D P D V T J O S X
O O B O N F I R E E L U T A I
W E D I R Y A H R S S O M D U

ACORN
APPLE CIDER
AUTUMN
BONFIRE

FAMILY
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
PUMPKIN

SCARECROW
SMORES
TURKEY
THANKS

ASAX, INC. ©

Young Disciples Page and Activities



In Autumn every leaf
turns into a flower



Community Board

On September 10th we held a special service to bless the quilts made by the ladies of our quilting circle. Also on that day, everyone who made a tie-dye shirt in August, and everyone who is a tie-die fan and aficionado, came wearing their shirts. Below are some of the pictures from that day.



Special thanx to Donna Cavender for taking such great pictures during the worship service.



Women's Society/UMW

The ladies of the church met on Thursday September 14th for their first meeting after their summer break. There were 10 in attendance. After the reading and acceptance of a resignation letter by President Kris Foltz, the first order of business was to choose new officers.



Nominations were opened to the members and a motion was made to have Donna Cavender move from Vice President to the office of President. There was discussion and Donna accepted. Carol McGlothlin expressed interest in the office of Vice President and the members accepted. Sue Tobin will remain as Secretary and Anita Mokienko will remain as Treasurer. The members would like to express our sincere thanks to Kris Foltz for her dedication and service to the women's group for the past 15 years in her role as President. Under her leadership, we accomplished a great deal and we are grateful.

After the decision on the officers we proceeded to discuss some upcoming activities and missions. We will be organizing a Halloween Party after church on October 29th. There will be hot dogs, chips, drinks and dessert.



Depending on the weather, there may even be some roasting of

marshmallows! We'll be playing games and having fun. Costumes are encouraged!

We also discussed the In Gathering before Thanksgiving on



November 19. We would like to encourage the congregation to bring in non-perishable items/canned goods which will be donated to Our Daily Bread in Middletown.

Sue Gestwicki is looking into a date for us to visit The Seaman Center and participate in the Christmas At Sea program. That date TBD.

We also discussed a winter clothing drive to begin immediately which



will benefit the local homeless. Carole Jaques will take the lead on the clothing drive and can give you suggestions on what to buy if you are undecided.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 12th at 7pm. All the ladies of the church are invited to join us.

Friendship Quilters

Friendship Star Quilters recently presented 25 quilts to be blessed during Sunday service at St. Georges. These quilts have been passed on to "Quilts for Comfort" to be distributed to local hospitals and hopefully they will bring comfort and peace to



patients in need. Our next quilt day will be Tuesday, October 3 from 9:30am to 4pm. All are welcome and you don't have to be a member of the church to help. Bring a sewing machine if you can.

Junior Church

Young people of the church are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for Junior Church during the time of the sermon. We will be reading and learning about a variety of stories from the Bible.



Scout Update

Isaiah and Roman selling popcorn, earning money for summer camp.



Christmas At Sea/Seaman Center

For many years, the St Georges UMC family has been happy to participate in the Christmas At Sea program. As volunteers, a group travels to the Seaman Center at the Port of Wilmington to wrap ditty boxes filled with a variety of items for the sailors like toiletries, wool hats, gloves and more. For those who are not able to go with the group to the center, donations of the toiletries etc would be much appreciated. This year, the date for going to the Seaman Center is October 28th from 10am to 12 noon. If you would like to go to the Seaman Center on the 28th, please put your name on the sign up sheet located at the back of the sanctuary or speak with Sue Gestwicki.



Happy Birthday to...

Sophie Johnson.....Oct 1

Nicole Carrico.....Oct 2

Earl Jaques.....Oct 5

Collin Draper.....Oct 7

Milo Molina.....Oct 7

Doug Cavender.....Oct 8

Happy Anniversary to...

Kim & Jamie Tobin Tobin.....Oct 9



How to Reach our Bishop and District Superintendent

Our Bishop



Rev. Latrelle Easterling

Peninsula-Delaware Conference

Bishop Felton Edwin May

Resource Center

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Dover, DE 19901

Website: www.pen-del.org

Phone: 302-674-2626

Toll Free: 1-877-736-3351

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference
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Monday thru Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Our District Superintendent



Rev. Joseph Archie

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Phone: 302-655-8873

e-mail:

delawaredistrictumc@gmail.com

The District Office is open:

Monday thru Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



Our Pastor: Rev Asher F. Tunik

Email: pastorasher@gmail.com

Cell Phone / Voice Mail / Text: 443-350-5077

I am in the Church office on Friday mornings and by appointment. The rest of the week I work from my home office and can be reached via phone or e-mail/text.

St Georges United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 145
St. Georges, DE 19733



Please Mark Your Calendar

- Wednesday, October 25 – HOPP Outreach Food Packing at Asbury UMC
- Sunday, October 29 - All Saints Sunday
- Wednesday, November 1 – All Saints Day
- Saturday, November 11 – Veterans Day
- Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving