



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

March 2020



14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
703-670-7834

<https://fupcdc.org>
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People of the Church, Ministers
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor
Dana Van Slyke, Chancel Choir Director
Justin Stretetz, Pianist/Organist
Rebecca & Chris Anderson, Contemporary Worship Directors
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbell Director
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director
Homer Detrich, Sexton
Kim Parker, Office Manager

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ADAM

FUPCDC Friends,

As you should know by now, we are an official “Matthew 25 church” in the PC(USA)! On October 17, 2019 the session of First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (FUPCDC) voted to become a “Matthew 25 Church” as part of the initiative of the Presbyterian Church (USA) by recognizing Christ’s urgent call to be a church of action where God’s love, justice, and mercy shine forth and are contagious.

There are three areas of focus for the Matthew 25 initiative:



- **Building congregational vitality**
- **Dismantling structural racism**
- **Eradicating systemic poverty**

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/

First, how can we work on building congregational vitality? How can we re-energize and live out our faith in our community and in the world? You see friends, vitality isn’t about numbers...**it is about passion for following Jesus**—growing in faith and discipleship, embracing people beyond our church walls, working for justice and reconciliation, and serving our neighbors in need.

Secondly, how can work to dismantle structural racism? Now, **the text of Matthew 25 doesn’t explicitly mention racism. So, how does the focus of dismantling structural racism fit?**

Good question...

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In Matthew 25 Jesus addresses the nations and focuses on “the least of these,” revealing his concern for groups of people who experience marginalization because of how others respond to their most basic needs—food, water, clothing, welcome, healing, and freedom. Harsh judgment is pronounced on those who lack compassion, and fail to act justly towards people who are marginalized. Today in our country people of color are among the most marginalized communities because of racism. Studies on racism reveal people of color are disproportionately impoverished, imprisoned, and denied access to economic and educational benefits enjoyed by white Americans.

It is also worth noting that the Greek word for “stranger” in Matthew 25 is *xenos*, the root of our word “xenophobia,” meaning hatred or prejudice toward people from other cultures or countries. **Racism violates God’s command to love one another.** Matthew 25’s principle to treat marginalized people with love and justice is the basis for the lofty goal to dismantle the sinful practice of systemic racism. When we embrace anti-racism work, we are pledging to stand up and find inspired ways to chip away at this terrible injustice in our world.

Finally, how can we help to eradicate systemic poverty? **What does “systemic poverty” even mean?** Good question...

When we describe a problem as systemic, we mean that it pervades our entire culture and is deeply ingrained in the structures of society. In our country, people who are poor tend to stay poor because the deck is stacked against them at every turn. **To embrace the Matthew 25 vision to eradicate systemic poverty means that we aspire to address the root causes of poverty in our community and the world.**

For example, we already support the ACTS food pantry, and that is a much-needed blessing for the hungry and food insecure among us. However, to address the root causes of poverty, we must work at what is creating the situation of poverty and hunger to begin with – the laws and policies that are unjust and exploitative of people who are poor. It means combatting greed. It means tackling injustices in housing, health care, education, access to food, environment, zoning and many other issues. It means appealing to legislators, community leaders, and visionaries to make a difference. It means boldly standing up for people who don’t have a powerful voice themselves. Again, Jesus urges us to open our eyes and hearts — and then take action.

So, I ask you again, as I did in my “State of the Church” address on Sunday, February 23, 2020, to think and pray about these issues and questions. How can we continue to live into this calling, as individuals and as a church? What is the next new thing that God is going to do here at FUPCDC through the Matthew 25 initiative? Think and pray about ways you can be part of this Matthew 25 initiative. How is God calling you to serve in 2020? What new thing is God about to do in your life? In this church?

On the journey with you,
Pastor Adam



Session Notes

The concurrent annual meetings of the congregation and the corporation known as the First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, Virginia were held on Sunday, February 23. The annual report was presented, and Treasurer Gary Smith gave a financial report. The Nominating committee for 2020 was elected: Claudia Cunningham (Deacon representative), Franklin Agyekum, Gail Cobb, Marianna Gooding, Sue Johnson, Rick Mitchell, and Charlotte Stultz. Elder Linda Wolstenholme is the Chair of the committee.

Pastor Adam presented the "State of the Church" sermon covering the activities and achievements of 2019 and where we are headed in 2020. Included in his sermon was an explanation of what it means to be a Matthew 25 Church.

At their meeting on February 18, the Session approved the hiring of a Student Music Intern to play the keyboard and drums for the contemporary worship service three Sundays per month and all Thursday rehearsals. Justin Stretetz will play one Sunday a month. This will allow for more varied accompaniment for the Praise Team at the 11:00 worship.

Session also approved updates to the Stewardship committee charter and several additional fund-raising and donation requests for 2020 including the Seder dinner, Sight & Sound Movie Night, the bus trip to the National Cathedral, an Earth Care outing in April, and a bake sale on Election Day by the Boy Scouts. Details of these activities will come from those groups.

Cathy Albrecht and Pam Cox were elected as commissioners to the March 26 meeting of National Capital Presbytery. The Clerk's Annual Statistical Report was approved and is included in the Annual Report to the Congregation.

The Session also elected the members of the 2020 Session as the 2020 trustees of the FUPCDC corporation.

Session approved funds for repairing several of the church's outer doors as part of updating safety and security needs.

Session also approved the FUPCDC Earth Care Mission Statement:

"LET THE TREES OF THE FOREST SING, LET THEM SING FOR JOY BEFORE THE LORD."
1 Chronicles 16:33

In answer to God's calling to care for all of creation, First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City strives to promote more sustainable living, practice environmental stewardship and by our actions, be witnesses to the need to lovingly care for our beautiful earth so that future generations may enjoy the bounty that God has provided for us.

Submitted by Sara Porter

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee would like to again express our sincerest appreciation to all who made their pledge, a commitment to God, in support of His work at FUPCDC, in our community and across the world. During the Stewardship campaign, you were asked to prayerfully consider adding Per Capita of \$42.64 to your Church pledge. Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church. Per Capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. The Office of the General Assembly encourages the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be a people of hope - Seeking together the mind of Christ; working for justice and mercy in the world; and participating in God's continual reformation of the church. Your Per Capita contribution provides the Office of the General Assembly with the means to strengthen the connections of our work, and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry. We are blessed to have a generous and giving church family. In considering Per Capita contributions we are reminded of our Stewardship theme, "God is the artist and He is weaving the fabric of our lives"; together we will make 2020 a special year in our lives, in the lives of other Presbyterians and in support of the work of churches everywhere. For more information about Per Capita, please see http://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/per_capita_overview_2019_color.pdf

Blessings and Joy,

Your 2020 Stewardship Committee

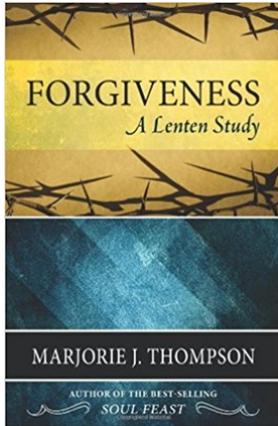
"That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ."- Colossians 2:2 ESV

Easter Flowers

Please consider purchasing Easter flowers (azaleas, tulips, or hydrangeas) to adorn our church on Easter Sunday. The cost is \$15.00 per flower. Please make the check out to FUPCDC and write Easter flowers in the memo line. Order envelopes will be in a basket in the Narthex Welcome Center. Please indicate the type of flower that you would like, how many, who they are in memory/honor of, and if you wish to keep the flowers or donate them to the church. Orders and money are due no later than Monday, April 6. Please pick up your flowers after the 11 AM Easter service on April 12. Thank you so much!



Adult Christian Education



FORGIVENESS: A LENTEN STUDY

Beginning March 8 (schedule change) at 9:45 AM every Sunday through March 29, FORGIVENESS: A Lenten study will be offered in Room 22. This study is based upon the book Forgiveness: A Lenten Study by Marjorie Thompson. The book is available from the instructor. Forgiveness is a Christian virtue, but what does it really look and feel like, and when is it “appropriate” to forgive or not to forgive? Very well-known Bible scripture is offered for very lively and thought provoking discussion in the light of forgiveness. Each session is independent of the others. Our study guide is a quick read, so homework is painless and fast!

Maundy Thursday Christian Seder

If you plan on attending the Maundy Thursday service on April 9, 2020 you are in for a real treat. This year the service will be a Christian Seder; you will experience a Passover Seder that Jesus experienced at the last Supper, a simple but nourishing meal will be offered, and Communion will be offered. What you need to do is sign up in the Narthex Welcome Center for attendance planning purposes on March 22. Are you going to be in town? The spiritual value of this service puts the entire Lenten season into perspective.

Fair Share Community Speaker program March 21 at 7 PM



The Good News Community Kitchen (TGNCK) of Occoquan will be at the heart of our March Fair Share Community Speaker Series. Mercedes Kirkland-Doyle, their Executive Director, will be our featured speaker. Her goal is to rebuild and strengthen communities by fighting hunger one meal at a time. Hunger robs children of a chance to learn, undermines health, and makes obtaining and retaining good employment even more difficult.

The goal of TGNCK is to enable citizens throughout Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Columbia, SC to unite together to facilitate clothing drives to assist women and men transitioning back into the workforce, distribution of hygiene bags and meals-to-go to the hungry, collection of coats and blankets for the unsheltered. TGNCK is always looking for volunteers to assist with meal preparation, meal deliveries, drives, and production of hygiene bags. They are a 501(c) 3 organization that provides hunger relief to Veterans, students, senior citizens, survivors of domestic violence, and families who identify being food insecure and/or in need.

For more information, their website is <https://www.tgnck.org/>.

Our program begins at 7 PM on March 21 in the Triple Room.

**ADULT
MINISTRY**

Congregational Connections

We are trying something new.... A showing of the Sight and Sound DVD "NOAH" is scheduled in our sanctuary on March 13 from 7- 9 PM. This is a free event for the FUPCDC congregation and friends. We will have a free-will offering to off-set the DVD site license fee. Any additional money collected will be added to the FUPCDC Scholarship Fund. We hope you will join us.



A group will be going to the National Cathedral in Washington, DC on March 23. Attendees will have a one-hour guided Extended Highlights Tour of the Cathedral and one hour on their own to explore. Following the tour, the group will have lunch at the Pentagon City Mall.



The Earth Care group will meet at Merrimac Farm in Nokesville on April 11 from 1 - 4 PM for the Bluebell Festival. This is a FREE family-friendly event open to the congregation and friends of the church. Sign-up dates are March 29 and April 5 in the Narthex Welcome Center. This event supports FUPCDC's commitment to the Earth Care pledge and its efforts to become an Earth Care Congregation.



Wednesday Night Alive

Wednesday Night Alive is an opportunity to connect and grow while enjoying a dinner each Wednesday night followed by Pastor's Bible Study and Chancel Choir rehearsal. The first Wednesday of each month is a potluck, and on the following Wednesdays enjoy a delicious homemade meal. Salad, drinks and dessert are also provided each week. There is no charge for the dinner, just a donation to help cover the cost of the food. Please join us for **FOOD, FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!**

MARCH

- 4 Potluck Theme "Breakfast for Dinner"
- 11 Porcupine Meatballs with Mashed Potatoes
- 18 Skillet Chicken and Artichokes
- 25 Chili and Cornbread





FUPCDC Earth Care Group

“Just One Word: Plastics”

In the 1967 Mike Nichols film The Graduate Benjamin Braddock, played by Dustin Hoffman, receives some advice about his future from one of his parents’ friends: “There’s a great future in plastics”. These words were certainly prescient, as the plastic industry has exploded since the release of The Graduate. While plastic can serve many useful purposes, from artificial limbs to lightweight automobile body parts, it is important to remember that plastic is not biodegradable. Discarded plastic overwhelms our landfills, pollutes our oceans, and threatens wildlife. Inexpensive toys, plastic food and beverage containers, single-use plastics (such as plastic wrap, plastic bags, plastic straws and plastic drink lids) are all purchased, used and thrown away with little thought. We need to change this destructive behavior.

Do some research about plastic pollution. Did you know, for instance, that there are at least five major plastic patches in the world’s oceans, the largest of which is the size of Texas? Did you know that the amount of plastic in the oceans (by weight) is projected to exceed the amount of fish in the oceans within the next thirty years? Did you know that the average time a plastic bag is used is just 12 minutes?

Once you realize the magnitude of the problem you are ready to take the next step: reduce the use of plastic in your life and in your home. Refuse plastic drinking straws (if you must use a straw, purchase reusable straws and bring them with you). Bring reusable bags to grocery stores (and other stores). Invest in reusable food storage containers and sandwich keepers. Don’t buy bottled water: use your own water bottle. Bring reusable containers to restaurants for leftovers. Consider using bamboo, rather than plastic, toothbrushes.

Talk to others. Become an emissary for the earth. Explain to friends, neighbors and relatives what you are doing, and why. Support companies that are environmentally-conscious.

I would like to close this month with an excerpt from Aldo Leopold’s essay, “Goose Music” (Copyright 1953):

“What value has wildlife from the standpoint of morals and religion? I heard of a boy once who was brought up an atheist. He changed his mind when he saw that there were a hundred-odd species of warblers, each bedecked like the rainbow, and each performing yearly sundry thousands of miles of migration about which scientists wrote wisely but did not understand. No ‘fortuitous concourse of elements’ working blindly through any number of millions of years could quite account for why warblers are so beautiful. No mechanistic theory, even bolstered by mutations, has ever quite answered for the colors of the cerulean warbler, or the vespers of the woodthrush, or the swansong, or – goose music. I dare say this boy’s convictions would be harder to shake than those of many inductive theologians. There are yet many boys to be born who, like Isaiah, ‘may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this’. But where shall they see, and know, and consider? In museums?”

Lighthouse Drama Camp

Dates: June 29 - July 10, 2020 - Monday through Friday. Performances July 10 (Friday) & July 11 (Saturday)!

Music, Art, and Drama all afternoon!

Ages: Kindergarten - 12th graders

Full Day and 1/2 Day Options!

About the Musical: The Phantom Tollbooth JR is based on the venerated children's book in which a young boy's magical journey proves that life is the greatest adventure of all. Transported to the Land of Wisdom, Milo is thrust into adventure when Princesses Rhyme and Reason need rescuing in order to bring peace between two kings. Read the book and you will fall in love with this story!

**THE PHANTOM
TOLLBOOTH JR.**



Deacons

The ministry of a Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ (Mark 9:35). It is the duty of Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any others who may be in distress. The role of Deacons at FUPCDC is designed to be a ministry of compassion and care manifested by Deacons developing caring relationships with assigned members encouraging those members to be active participants in the life of the congregation. Deacons once ordained or installed serve a three-year rotation with the church. Feel free to reach out to any of the Deacons on the 2020 Board with questions or encouragement.

2020 BOARD OF DEACONS

A Ministry of Compassion and Service

Class of 2020

Agnes Fokwa
Lisa Fortner
Kathy McNeely
Carol Schwalm
Celine Sonkwa

Class of 2021

Amy Bean
Karen Elliott
Liz Goolgasian
Peggy Heins
Therese Same

Class of 2022

Bob Albrecht
Sandy Chamberlin
Claudia Cunningham
Pam Emert
Ellen Nuernberger

Carol Schwalm, Co-Moderator..... 703-680-7673

We love to hear from you. If you need to be connected with your Deacon, please contact Carol Schwalm by calling the number listed above or the church office (703-670-7834).

Mission and Outreach

RISE AGAINST HUNGER - SAVE THE DATE!

On April 25 at 9:00 AM we will host the sixth Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event at FUPCDC. This year we have extended an invitation to Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Dumfries Methodist Church. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting event.



ACTS Domestic Violence Shelter

The ACTS Domestic Violence Shelter informed the Mission and Outreach Committee of a need for specific household items. In response to their request, the Committee purchased and delivered the following items to ACTS: pillows, toilet paper, paper towels, brooms, mops, laundry detergent, Lysol wipes, toilet bowl cleaners and electric pencil sharpeners.

“that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love...” Colossians 2:2

One Great Hour of Sharing

So what is One Great Hour of Sharing? Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People, all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

One Great Hour of Sharing lets us come together as a Matthew 25 Church to open our door as well as our hearts to share the love of Christ through our ministries of justice, compassion, and joy. It is the church saying, “We’ll be there when you need us.”

Stay tuned for more information about how you can participate in One Great Hour of Sharing.
“You shall be called repairers of the breach” – Isaiah 58





It's that time again. Registration for the 2020 – 2021 school is here!

Priority registration will be from January 7 – January 31.

Open registration for all including the community begins February 3.

We offer engaging, compassionate, interactive experiences for preschool children. We have availability in the following programs. All program are offered from: 9:15 AM– 12:15 PM.

Toddler 2.5, two and a half year– year – old classroom sessions meet on Monday and Wednesday and Tuesday and Thursday.

** To be eligible for the toddler 2.5 class, your child must be 2.5 by September 30.*

Three – year – old classroom sessions meet on Tuesday and Thursday

Three – year – old classroom sessions meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Pre – Kindergarten Four – year – old sessions meet on Monday – Thursday

Pre – Kindergarten Four – year – old sessions meet on Monday – Friday

Pre – Kindergarten Five – year – old sessions meet on Monday – Friday

Register now as enrollment is based on availability.

For more program information, registration requirements, registration packets, or to schedule a classroom visit please visit our website: <https://fupcdc.org/little-hands-preschool> . Or contact Tiffany Ramsey at: 703.878.2366.

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City trip to the



National Cathedral – Washington D.C. Monday, March 23, 2020

8:40 AM – Meet at First United Presbyterian Church to board motor coach

9:00 AM – Motor coach departs First United Presbyterian Church

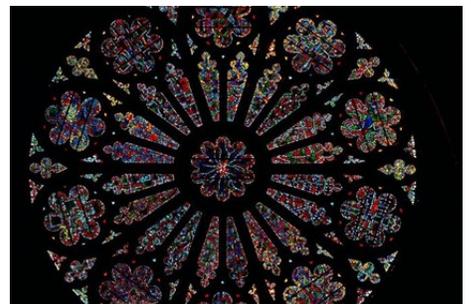
3:00 PM – Estimated time back at church

COST: \$35.00* per person

(includes ticket, extended highlights guided tour for 1 hour, 1 hour on your own to explore the cathedral, transportation, and driver gratuity)

Time at Institute of Architects.

Lunch: Pentagon City for lunch on your own



About the National Cathedral:

The **Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the City and Diocese of Washington**, commonly known as **Washington National Cathedral**, is an American cathedral of the Episcopal Church. The cathedral is located in Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States. The structure is of Neo-Gothic design closely modeled on English Gothic style of the late fourteenth century. It is both the second-largest church building in the United States, and the fourth-tallest structure in Washington, D.C. The cathedral is the seat of both the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Bruce Curry, and the bishop of the Diocese of Washington, Mariann Edgar Budde. Over 270,000 people visit the structure annually.

The Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, under the first seven Bishops of Washington, erected the cathedral under a charter passed by the United States Congress on January 6, 1893. Construction began on September 29, 1907, when the foundation stone was laid in the presence of President Theodore Roosevelt and a crowd of more than 20,000, and ended 83 years later when the "final finial" was placed in the presence of President George H. W. Bush in 1990. Decorative work, such as carvings and statuary, is ongoing as of 2011.

The cathedral stands at Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues in the northwest quadrant of Washington. It is an associate member of the recently organized inter-denominational Washington Theological Consortium. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2007, it was ranked third on the List of America's Favorite Architecture by the American Institute of Architects.





First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, VA Trip to the National Cathedral

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

TICKETS:

_____ \$35.00* per person (includes ticket, tour, transportation, and driver gratuity)

_____ \$40.00 per person (includes above, and a \$5 donation to the FUPCDC scholarship fund)

Limited (45) tickets available!

Instructions: Please make checks out to “Brian Fulton” and put “Cathedral Trip” in the memo line. Return this registration form and payment to the First United Presbyterian Church office by Sunday, March 8, 2020.

Refund Policy: Because tickets are purchased in advance, refunds are not available. However, you may find someone to take your place on the trip.

Sponsor: FUPCDC Congregational Connections Committee

*Need-based scholarships are available, please contact Pastor Adam

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This newsletter covers events from: March 1-March 31
Exceptions: EarthCare Group-April 11 trip to Merrimac Farm
Maundy Thursday Seder Meal in April 2020
Rise Against Hunger in April 2020
Lighthouse Drama Camp—June 29-July 10

Articles for newsletter can be submitted to the editor via:
newsletter@fucpcdc.org

