

MAYO CONNECTION

JANUARY 2025 EDITION

MAYO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



REVEREND AMANDA McMURTREY, PASTOR

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Edgewater, MD 21037

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Greetings Beloved,

When I was in the 5th grade, my teacher, Mrs. Wilson, gave us a combined math and writing project. We were to determine what our age would be at the turn of the millennium (21), in the year 2025 (45/46) and in the year 2050 (70/71) and then we were to write about what we thought life would be like at those ages. I had no problem doing the math. Just subtract 1979 from the other years. However, I had great trouble imaging

what life would be like for me or the world so far into the future.

I think Mrs. Wilson meant to give us the chance to be creative and do a bit of dreaming, but even at age 10, I was quite rational and didn't like to get something wrong. How could I write about the future when I couldn't possibly know what life would be like? I do remember asking if she thought we would actually be alive in 2050 because I couldn't fathom being "that old."

Now as my calendar flips from 2024 to 2025, the age doesn't seem so old after all, I often miss being 10, I still have no idea what the future will hold, and I didn't ever imagine my life as it is now! I don't actually remember what I thought life would be like in 2025. I can tell you that I didn't write about being a pastor or being a Godmother or still having one of my friends that I had at 10. In fairness I didn't write about car payments, house cleaning or dealing with an aging body. Yes, the future has brought great blessings, many of which I never predicted, and some challenges as well.

When we meet people around the new year, many of them will ask, "What do you think 2025 will bring?" I've decided that the most honest answer is, "I have no idea, but I know it will not be the same as the previous year and that I will need God to get me through each day." We may face the coming year with excitement or fear, calm or anxiety, hope or despair, but it will be 2025.

One of my favorite scriptures is from Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." For so many years I thought we had to actually be physically still to be aware of God, but in truth the movement of my mind and emotions is often far more chaotic than the movement of my body. In Hebrew the verb is rapa (pronounced raw-faw). In its most basic form it means to sink, let drop or be disheartened. In different forms it is translated as stay, feeble, fail or alone. The closest definition for Psalm 46:10 is 'cease.'

Perhaps one of the most helpful directives in all of scripture. Just stop and know that I am dealing with it all. There are moments when I often think "stop the world, I want to get off." Psalm 46:10 is for those moments. Stop trying to solve all the problems. Stop trying to understand everything. Stop trying to hold the façade that you have it all put together. Stop! Breathe. Remember, I am God, not you.

As we begin 2025 I invite you to stop, breathe, and invite God into your year. Decide to trust in God, decide to be gentler with everyone who doesn't have it all together, including yourself, and decide that it is not only ok, but the greatest news ever, that you do not need to be God! Now, repeat every day. We do not know what the world will be like in 2025, but we do know that our God loves us and is working to transform the world through that love. I wonder what Mrs. Wilson would have said if I'd thought to write that so long ago?

Peace, love, and hope,
Pastor Amanda

**TRUE
FOOD
KITCHEN**

**LADIES'
LUNCHEON**
Wed., Jan. 8th
12 Noon

Calling all ladies to join together
celebrate the new year!

True Food Kitchen
1906 Towne Ctr Blvd Ste 110
Annapolis, MD

Kindly let Cheryl know you are planning
to attend by 1/7. 301.752.1386

**CHURCH
NIGHT
OUT**

P.F. CHANG'S

Wed., Jan 15th @ 6 PM

Let's get together at:

*P.F. Chang's
307 Sail Place
Annapolis, MD*

*RSVP by Jan 14th to Cheryl by
text or calling: 301.752.1386*

Greetings Beloved,

It is recommended that all UMC clergy should take renewal leave (or sabbatical) for 6-12 weeks every 6-9 years. I have been a pastor for more than 15 years and serving at Mayo for 6 years, but I haven't ever had a true renewal leave. So, I will be engaging in renewal leave March 1-May 11, 2025.

I'm not going to lie to any of you...I'm pretty darn excited! I will be spending some time relaxing, visiting family and friends, sitting on a beach, and visiting several National Parks. Want to know the part that will be the hardest for me? A pastor on renewal leave has no contact with their congregation.

No texts, no emails, no phone calls, not even the joyful fun stuff. I'm honestly going to miss all of you. I haven't gone more than 2 weeks without you all for 6 years, but I think this is the healthiest way for me to ensure I can keep serving you fully for the years to come.

The Administrative Council and I have been working hard to ensure that my absence will not disrupt ministry at Mayo UMC. Retired clergy, Rev. Wendy Van Vliet and Rev. Martha Meredith will be present during my leave to ensure that Mayo UMC is well cared for and looked after. Various lay people are taking on tasks such as setting up communion, turning on the lights on Sundays for worship, coordinating Sunday school, and getting the flowers for Easter. I want to say thank you in advance for every single person who is helping to gift me with this time of renewal.

With gratitude and love,
Pastor Amanda



Dear Disciples of Christ,

Thank you for all that you did to learn and grow in the many practices of stewardship in 2024. We want to begin the year by reminding you of the definition of stewardship. To be a steward is to be a manager of the resources that belong to someone else. When God asks us to be stewards, we are being asked to manage all that we have been given AND to remember that it belongs to God. It is only in our possession for a short time.



Throughout the year we highlight an area of stewardship and then challenge the congregation to practice that stewardship for the month. Some months it seems so easy and some months it seems unattainable. We want you to take a moment and reflect. In what ways did you grow as a steward in 2024? Was it through your prayer life? Did you grow in service or witness? Was it in giving of our material possessions?

Likewise, in what areas did you struggle? Does daily prayer sound overwhelming? Is it challenging to find the ways you want to serve and witness? Does giving 10% of your income back to God in some way bring images of living off Ramen noodles again? Guess what? You are not alone. Every disciple both grows and struggles in the discipline of stewardship (including the first 12).

As we begin 2025, we want to say thank you for all the stewarding you did in 2024. We also want to remind you of a piece of stewardship we often forget or diminish. The stewardship of presence. Presence is the practice of showing up. Too often we dismiss a visit or taking the time to listen as “not enough.” We forget that disciples do not live in isolation, but in community and part of that community is showing up. Gathering together for worship, fellowship, acts of care, and learning. So in the month of January of 2025, we challenge you to show up. Call someone who you haven’t talked to in a while, come to a small group gathering or worship, send a card (email or text), but be present. The world is busy, so take a moment and be with one another.

Blessings,
Mayo UMC Finance Team

Stewardship Challenge for January

Find one way to “show up” in another person’s life this month and let them know they are not alone.



Greetings Beloved,

Last year when we gathered for the first Sunday of the new year it was 61 degrees in the sanctuary. This was much warmer than the 58 degrees on Christmas Eve. Everyone wore their coats, hats, and gloves inside the sanctuary for the entire time of worship. Why? The HVAC system was not working properly. In fact, every

HVAC system in the church needed to either be replaced or repaired.

The year before that? The roof over the hallway and adjacent to the fellowship hall was leaking so we had trash cans out during rainstorms and ceiling tiles crumbled and fell to the floor. Why? The flat roof was not working properly and needed to be replaced.

Between those two main projects we spent around \$89,000. It was good money spent! Every time it rains I rejoice for the new roof! When temperatures dropped in November and December, I rejoiced that we didn't need to hand out extra blankets for worship. Where did we find the money? It was sitting there in our trustees endowment, gifted to us by saints of the past. When Parkwood UMC (now Joy Reigns) closed and was sold, the proceeds became a trust to help maintain the building and grounds of Mayo UMC. It is called a legacy offering. It only exists because in closing a church, new life is given to another congregation.

In the next few years, we will need to replace at least one HVAC unit and the roof over the sanctuary will need to be replaced as well. These are the predictable projects. So in Jan of 2023 we started a three year campaign called, "Raise the Roof." The goal was to try and raise \$100,000 by the end of 2025. We are about halfway to that goal.

The church is not a building, it is a people. We are not called the building of Christ in scripture, but the body of Christ. Paul reminds us that each part of the body is precious, valuable and has their own sacred purpose. For right now, our part of the body of Christ gathers in this space we call Mayo UMC. In 2025 please continue to consider the legacy we are seeking to grow and how you can be a part of the body through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

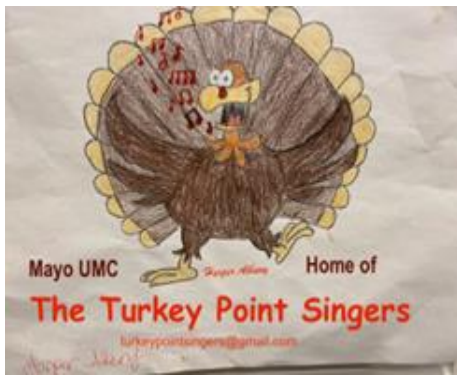
Blessings,
Pastor Amanda



Letters of the New Testament

6:30 Tue. evenings, beginning Jan. 7 through Feb.

"The Other Letters"-We often hear about Paul's letters, but what about the letter to the Hebrews or the letter from James or the letters of Jude, John, and Peter? On Tuesday nights in January and February join us, in person or via Zoom, to take a look at these letters of the New Testament.



Rehearsals Sundays
after the church service in the Choir Room
for all young people.

Come, join us!

Douglas Bischoff, aka Opa
Mayo UMC Music Director

Good news from our Turkey Point Singers. Beginning on Thanksgiving Day, the newest recording by TPS, "The Fruit of the Spirit" will be available for streaming/buying on streaming services. This song was inspired by Pastor Amanda's sermon series on the Fruits of the Spirit. We hope you enjoy hearing the joy in our children's celebration of the Fruits of the Spirit.



**First Sunday Worship
At
Brightview-South River
January 5th @ 2:00 PM**

**Join Pastor Amanda and Doug for a
time of worship, hymns, and
fellowship with the residents of
Brightview Senior Living
Brightview-South River
8 Lee Airpark Drive
Edgewater MD 21037**



Backpack Buddies

**For the month of
January we are asking
for donations of:**

**Easy Mac
Chef Boyardee
Tuna and cracker kits**

**A huge thank you to everyone that
has donated recently!**

Deadline REMINDER

Mayo Connect Submissions are due by
noon Thursday, Jan 16
to be included in the February issue of:

Mayo Connection.
Please submit your information by
emailing to:

mayoumcmd@gmail.com.
Or calling the church office:

Year-End Giving Letter

Giving letters will be available in mid-January. Letters will be in the narthex for pick-up. If you would prefer to receive your letter via mail or email. Please contact our Office Administrator, Gwen Meyer at (410)798-6110.

2nd Annual Chili & Soup Cookoff

Following worship Feb 2nd

SAVE
The
DATE

Everyone is invited to the fellowship hall to taste and judge the best chili or soup.

Remember our shut-ins:

Doris Haschert
2451 White Oaks Drive #103
Springfield, IL 62704

Doris Hennen
4091 Shoreham Beach Road
Edgewater, MD 21037

Katherine Neate
Brightview-Annapolis
1935 Generals Highway #217
Annapolis, MD 21401

Please let our shut-ins know we are thinking of them.

If you have someone you would like to be included here please email the office (mayoumcmd@gmail.com) or call the church (410.798.6110).
or call the church office (410.798.6110)

Church Cleanout

Many items have collected themselves on shelves, into cabinets, and tossed into rooms. In January we will be going through these "storage areas" to do a cleanout. Items that cannot be used will be displayed in the church lobby or fellowship hall before they are donated elsewhere.



Mayo UMC follows *Anne Arundel County Schools Inclement Weather Policy* to determine when to close or cancel events. If schools are closed, so is the Mayo UMC office. All events for that day will be

canceled or rescheduled. If schools are closed early, evening activities will be canceled.

Virtual events will only be canceled if there is a power outage.

The Bulletin

The Bulletin is a monthly resource designed especially for local churches to share important and meaningful information about faith and vitality as it is being lived out in the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences.

Here's the link:

<https://www.pdcbbc.org/the-bulletin.html>

January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Church Office Closed	2	3 Church Office Closed	4
5 9:15 1 Worship Service Fellowship Hour Brightview -South River @ 2 PM	6	7 Bible Study "The Other Letters" Bible Study-6:30 PM In-person or via Zoom	8 Ladies Luncheon 12 Noon True Food Kitchen Towne Center Annapolis	9	10 Church Office Closed	11
12 8:15 Worship & 10:15 with Children's Sunday School Fellowship Hour	13	14 Bible Study "The Other Letters" Bible Study-6:30 PM In-person or via Zoom	15 Church Night Out 6:00 PM PF Chang's Towne Centre Annapolis	16	17 Church Office Closed	18
19 8:15 Worship & 10:15 with Children's Sunday School Fellowship Hour	20	21 Bible Study "The Other Letters" Bible Study-6:30 PM In-person or via Zoom	22	23	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 8:15 Worship & 10:15 with Children's Sunday School Fellowship Hour	27	28 Bible Study "The Other Letters" Bible Study-6:30 PM In-person or via Zoom	29	30	31 Church Office Closed	

Notes:

SAVE THE DATE: February 2nd-Chili/Soup Cook-off