



Cedar Grove UMC

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The Beacon October 2019



REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Office Hours

Monday	9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Church Conference, Discipleship, and Fall Festival

If you were in worship on September 22 you had an opportunity to meet our new District Superintendent Rev. Rebecca Iannicelli. It was a complete surprise to me that she came and worshipped with us and if you would like to hear the brief comments she made right before the benediction you can watch them on our website.

You will have another opportunity to be with her on November 9th from 9am to 11am at St. Matthews UMC (Shady Side) when we have our annual Church Conference and with anyone who would like to come is welcome. This Church Conference will be different than any others I have been involved in as we will not meet separately as a church, rather during the time we are gathered with several other churches we will vote our whole Church Conference packet. Our Church Conference packet contains only two items that must be voted on the Nominations report and the compensation package of the pastor. It was recommended that we make sure these are not controversial for if there is any desire to debate these two items they will be taken off the agenda and then the church will have to have an additional meeting. This in no way effects how I will approach this Church Conference as I have always shared this information with the Church Council and make sure that there is agreement to what we are voting.

One other thing you will hear at the Church Conference is the theme of discipleship and what that means for the church today. So expect to hear more about this whether you go to the Church Conference or not. I do not know at this time exactly what this will mean for Cedar Grove UMC but when I find out I will be certain to pass it on to all of you.

Finally, our Fall Festival/Trunk and Treat is being held on October 26th from 4pm to 6pm so come out and help us put this event on by filling your trunk with candy, invite children in your community to come, and praying for this event to be a fun and safe time for the children of our church and community.

Your fellow servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ,

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

Welcome Seth Johnson our new Administrative Assistant! Starting September 30th, after a week of training, Seth Johnson will be assuming all of the duties of the Administrative Assistant. Be looking out for information about any changes in office hours and other things as we welcome him.

New Members. If you are interested in joining the church please contact Pastor Glen.

Tuesday Bible Study. We have recently finished Genesis and now are in the opening chapters of Exodus, please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10am on Tuesdays. Questions? Contact Pastor Glen

Once a Month Bible Study. While we have already begun, it is not too late to join this class on the Miracles of Jesus. Note: The Tuesday night class (7pm) will be as it usually is the third Tuesday of October (the 15th) but the Monday morning class (10am) will not be held the Monday the day before the Tuesday class like it usually is but due to two schedule conflicts be held a week prior on Monday October 7th. Remember the two classes each month cover the same material and are held to enable people who cannot come during the day and those who don't like to drive at night to come to this class.

Scripture readers on Sunday mornings! It has been great having some different voices read the Scripture on Sunday mornings. We would love to have even more voices. If you are interested there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and if you do sign up we will send you the reading electronically or inform you over the phone as to what the reading is. If you find the reading to be too difficult (length or hard to pronounce names) you can always let Pastor Glen know you have changed your mind. So please sign-up.

Our Annual Community Fall Festival with a Trunk & Treat is Saturday, Oct. 26 at 4:00-6:00 pm. This FUN, FREE church event includes a trunk & treat, face painting, a cake walk, crafts and games, and a Hay Ride! You can also enjoy a free hotdog lunch! If you have any questions, please contact Mitzi Roby at mitzidawn@verizon.net or Courtney Roby at courtneyroby96@gmail.com.

Wednesday Night Dinners are back on each week at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for delicious food and Christian fellowship!

Hygiene Kits Needed for the Homeless Ministry. If you can help make some hygiene kits for the homeless, please put together in a large Ziploc-type baggie 1 each of the following items: toothbrush; travel-size toothpaste; bar of soap; travel-size shampoo; travel-size deodorant; comb; razor; and a wash cloth. There is a container in the Church narthex to leave them in when you bring them on Sunday morning. Thanks for your continued support! **Also, we are in need of men's jeans** – waist sizes 34, 36, & 38, length 30 or 32 preferably (we have plenty in the size 40 range for now). We also need large & extra large t-shirts. Thank you for your help with this Ministry! It would not be possible to do this if it were not for generous people like our congregation. Contact Pam Morton if you have any questions.

Family Movie Night is Friday, October 11 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be showing the movie **"Goosebumps 2."** Movie night is FREE and all ages are welcome! Wear something Halloweenie and you will get a treat! As always, our movie night snack bar will be open selling pizza, popcorn, candy, and sodas. Everything is \$1.00 or less. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Crine.



MISSIONS CORNER

The Mission we are highlighting is the **Good News Jail & Prison Ministry**:

Holiday Sharing: CGUMC supports the Anne Arundel County DSS Holiday Sharing program each year by assisting 25 families/seniors with food at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. As stated on the AA County website: “The Holidays are the time to make memories that our children will treasure throughout the years. Can you remember a Thanksgiving without a turkey... a Christmas without the magic of a Christmas tree, and without presents wrapped just for you? Sadly, there are families in our own county who will be unable to provide these memories for their children unless you help.” The county matches our church with families or seniors in need from our area in the county. We then purchase and provide the donation to those on our list. If you’d like more information regarding this mission, please contact Ingrid Quimby-High at Ingrid.Quimby@gmail.com.

Operation Christmas Child: It’s just the beginning of October and some hate to think about Christmas so soon, but Christmas decorations are already displayed in some stores and people are starting to buy their presents for family and friends. So the missions committee is preparing for Operation Christmas Child (OCC).

OCC provides an opportunity for needy children worldwide to receive a shoe box for Christmas and to also learn about our Savior Jesus the Christ and ultimately become Christians. The collection week for turning in our donations is November 11-18; therefore, we only have six weeks to complete the mission. We had a great turnout last year when you bought and packed your own shoe boxes. This year we have a small supply of shoe boxes to give you a start. For more information, contact Julie McNamee at 410-507-0022 or jtmanatee@gmail.com.

Greetings Cedar Grove Congregation!

My name is Seth Johnson,

I’m married to my beautiful wife Mary who I’ve known since middle school. We have three little ones at home - James (5) Rebecca (6) and Drew (8) and daughter Meg (20) who was recently married.

We live locally, in Southern Anne Arundel County, and are members of a church in Southern Maryland, but we hope to be involved with Cedar Grove as much as we can.

I’ve been a Youth Pastor for over 20 + years, all in the Methodist Church. I spent 10 years at a church outside of Orlando, FL in Clermont and 11 years split between two churches here in MD. I’ve also worked as a Athletic Director for 4 years and have experience directing children programs.

I would like to thank Pastor Glen and the SPRC for welcoming me into the Cedar Grove Community and look forward to meeting everyone. Also, a big thank you to Carla, for showing me the ropes and getting me up to speed. She has been AWESOME!

My schedule may change some as I get adjusted, so you may want to call before you come in, but as for now I will be in the office Monday-Wednesday 9am – 3pm. Please stop by and say hello!



BOOK CORNER



Miracles (What the Bible Says)

Douglas Connelly IVP1997 155pgs

This book is an excellent little book addressing miracles from a Christian perspective. I read it many, many years ago and read again in preparation for my once a month class on the Miracles of Jesus. Unfortunately, it is out of print though several copies can be bought on Amazon through vendors who operate through Amazon, many of which are around \$5. Connelly does have a Bible study guide in print which I have ordered to see whether I will recommend it. (It is supposed to come today 9/23 and if it does I will add a little note about it at the end of this review before the newsletter goes to print on 9/25.)

The book is divided into 10 chapters, plus 3 appendices, endnotes, Scripture index, and a subject index. Let me address the extras first. The three appendices give you three lists by title and Scripture citation of all the miracles of nature in the Bible, of judgment in the Bible, and all the miracles of Jesus. For me these three appendices are worth having the book. Additionally, it is nice to have a general Scripture index along with the index of subjects.

The 10 chapters guide you in thinking about miracles and what they mean. At every point the Bible is used as a guide to address issues such as: Should we expect miracles today?, Rebuking the Devil, Why we get sick, Do you have enough faith? (to have God grant you a miracle), Miracles of Deception, and other topics. Each of these gets a chapter length treatment. The book is filled with inspirational stories of the miraculous, pointed questions in analyzing miracles, and easy to read text which makes reading this book both easy and informative. While this book is written for a general audience it is a serious book that truly seeks to help the reader to better miracles not just on the surface but deep down. I will say that I don't agree completely with everything Connelly puts forth, but nothing he puts forth is outside of orthodox Christian thinking.

Let me conclude this review by recommending it to anyone who wants to think about miracles. I like this book so much I am having the once a month class consider trying to get a copy, reading it, and discussing it at our last class. I have reminded my class that 20% of the Gospels are miracle stories. Every Christian needs to have an understanding about what they are and what God wants us to learn from them.

(Well the book, Miracles: Signs of God's Glory by Douglas Connelly IVP 1998 74gs, did arrive and I have read the text, scanned the questions, and examined the whole book and all of its features. While not a substitute for the book by Connelly reviewed above, this book through a brief introduction to each of the 12 chapters of questions, each chapter on a different Scripture text, and leader's guide in the back which is essentially answers to most of the questions, is a good book for studying what the Bible has to say about miracles. It addresses the same topics as the book reviewed above and would be an excellent book to use in a small group study of 12 sessions and/or an individual, self Bible study.)

Pastor Glen Arnold