Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church
611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard
Severna Park, Maryland 21146

**Worship at Woods**
8:00 a.m. - Communion Service
9:30 a.m. - Traditional Service
11:00 a.m. - Contemporary Service

Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at the 8:00 a.m. service and periodically throughout the year at the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

The nursery (infants through age two) is open during the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Do you have questions, comments or submissions for Woods Chips? Email info@woodschurch.org

Welcome
Directors of Missions and Communications

Lindsey Hemelstrand, Director of Missions and Communications (emphasis on missions)

Lindsey Hemelstrand and her family joined Woods 3 years ago. She has been active in the children’s ministry, the Heart-to-Heart women’s Bible study, and served as an Elder. Her prior career was in corporate business management and she is excited to pursue her passion for Christian service. When she’s not running after her girls, she enjoys being outside and spending time with family and friends.

Jeanette Kreuzburg, Director of Missions and Communication (emphasis on communications)

Jeanette Kreuzburg is a wife and mother of 3 beautiful boys. She is the owner of a local web development and marketing agency and is also a professional musician. She loves spending her free time creating art, hiking outdoors and volunteering in our local community.
Twenty-nineteen was a busy and productive year for Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT) and 2020 promises to be the same! ACT was formally established in late 2018 as a 501(c)3 organization - a strictly non-partisan “organization of organizations” made up of 26 interfaith congregations and friend organizations working together to build community power so that voices of the people are heard and solutions to challenging issues in the county are presented and acted upon. Woods is a member of ACT and works with its partners on the issues of safe and affordable housing, education, gun violence reduction and safety, mental health and addiction, immigration, and transportation.

In a little over a year, ACT has -

- Won a Fair Housing Law in Anne Arundel County
- Organized residents in Woodside Gardens in Annapolis to demand safe, clean, and healthy homes
- Met with Superintendent George Arlotto in late 2018 to win a more aggressive timeline (June, 2019) for lead testing and repairs to ensure safe drinking water in Anne Arundel County schools; ACT continued to monitor the situation during 2019
- Focused on gun violence reduction by joining with the market-based Do Not Stand Idly By, donotstandidlyby.org national initiative
- Secured commitments from County Executive Steuart Pittman and Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley to help lead a new national Gun Safety Consortium focusing on gun safety technology to address illegal guns, gun violence and suicides
- Conducted listening session all across the County to hear from those most closely affected by some of the challenging issues Anne Arundel County faces
- Trained over 200 leaders in the County to champion change

On Sunday, February 9 at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m., Woods will host listening sessions on affordable housing for seniors. Please see the accompanying notice in this edition of Woods Chips for additional information.

To learn more about ACT and how you can get engaged in this important interfaith initiative, please contact Linda Eggbeer at lindaeggbeer@gmail.com.
Cuba Mission Trip
By Marty Clayton

Our group brings warm and loving greetings from our sister church in Sancti Spiritus, Cuba. We returned at 12:30 a.m. Wednesday morning, January 22. We had an absolutely marvelous visit with church members, and at the missions of Jatibonico and Toyos. Reile Marraro is now the moderator of the session; he is the pastor at Santa Clara. He met us in Havana on Tuesday, met with us and the session on Wednesday, and preached on Sunday, which was an ordination and installation service. We discussed the renewal of our 5-year partnership, and all were very much in favor.

There were many people in worship Sunday morning that I had not seen before and a higher attendance. Jatibonico mission was also very well attended and in much better spirits than when we were there last year, when they were grieving their founder’s death. We were blessed to be there for their 5th anniversary celebration. We went to Toyos mission twice. Saturday was a little worship service with music and Monday was a program highlighting the music and cooking classes. Jacqueline Valdez, who conducts music at Sancti Spiritus was there Monday, I think that she brings out a lot more children!

By the way, Jacqueline sang with an a cappella group at a concert Saturday night and we were fortunate to be able to attend. It was judged for government grants and they received the highest ranking, it was glorious! On Sunday morning, there was judging of duets, trios, quartets, etc., and her quartet also received the highest grade.
Winter Relief

To all that volunteered to help with Winter Relief: Thank you! Thank you! We had over 300 of you assist with helping over 60 men and women experiencing homelessness for seven days! Woods nor I could have done this without each and every one of you. We only had two 911 calls and both of those guests are ok today. We also received two “Thank You Notes” signed by all the guests. It appears that they like us and that was not just because of the food or the beds, but the relationships you developed. Thank you! – Scott Wiley

Also, a big thank you to Scott Wiley for your dedication and service to Winter Relief! - Missions Ministry

To My Woods Family,

Thank you so much for the many cards, flowers, calls and prayers. Your prayers and concerns were felt and appreciated. The Prayer Shawl Nancy brought me in the hospital was so special and kept me warm in my cold room. Many people admired the shawl and I was able to tell them the history behind this mission. I’m still healing and resting a lot, trying to get my stamina back. Hope to be out and about soon.

Blessings, Theo Blaney
**Adult Education Classes**

**Sundays 8:00 a.m. Classes**

**Men’s Bible Study** *(Founders Room)*
**Women’s Bible Study** *(Office Conference Room)*

**Sundays 11:00 a.m. Class**

**Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi**
January 12 - February 16 *(Office Conference Room)*
Explore a fresh and timely reinterpretation of Jesus’ most popular teaching parables. Author Amy-Jill Levine takes you back in time and explains how original audiences understood Jesus’ parables. Learn how new interpretations of the parables continue to challenge and provoke contemporary Bible readers.* Led by Jim Newman

**Sundays 6:00 p.m. Class**

**Animate: Faith**
How can you animate your faith with color, beauty, and movement? Consider a new seven-week course, Animate: Faith. Gather for a fifteen minute-video, small-group discussion, and even more opportunities throughout the week for personal reflection. Each session presents a unique perspective that should beckon broad discussions of faith. Classes will be Sunday evenings through March 8 at 6:00 p.m. Please rsvp to jsnowden@woodschurch.org if childcare is needed.

**Tuesdays First and Third 9:30 a.m. Class**

**Heart-to-Heart Women’s Bible Study**
All women are welcome the first and third Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. for fellowship and a study of “Ten Woman of the Bible” by Max Lucado. For more information or to RSVP for childcare please contact Stacey, Kirches6@aol.com or Sara, Saradinker@aol.com.

**Wednesdays 12:00 p.m. Class**

**Pastor’s Bible Study**
Join Dr. Susan DeWyngaert and The Rev. Marie Sheldon as we consider each of the scripture readings before the Sunday when it will be presented in worship, thus giving us a new understanding of scripture, and enhancing our worship experience.

**Gardening News**

Have you noticed the birds on your holly trees? They love the berries! The American Holly is a native tree with berries that are a good winter food source. Not so for Nandina – you would be doing the birds a favor by removing and disposing of the red berry clusters on any Nandina shrubs that you have. Nandina is a plant that is native to Asia and not to North America. Its berries contain cyanide and are toxic to our birds, which don’t recognize this non-native plant. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell School of Ornithology ask us to remove Nandina berries to save our birds. Thank you!

Unity Gardens is a non-profit that has given Woods Church two grants to support the planting of native plants and trees on our property. Unity Gardens is hosting an event at Woods on Saturday, March 7 where Barbara Ellis, author of Chesapeake Gardening: The Essential Green Guide, will give a talk titled “Greener Gardens: One Step at a Time”. Go to the Unity Gardens website www.unitygardens.org for ticket information.
**Family Life**

**Bible Bedtime Stories Readers**
We’ve asked our families with children to switch one bedtime story for a Bible story every night. It is changing families as they share in the spiritual practice of reading the Bible together. Parents are learning the Bible stories too.

We are ready to bump things up a notch. We are looking for Bible story readers who will be videoed reading a story from the children’s Bible. Families will be able to access these stories from our own Youtube channel. I can just imagine a child running up to Nicole Jeffers and saying, “Ms. Nicole, you’re the one who read me the story about Queen Esther.” Creating family spiritual relationships throughout the church, this is going to be fun! If you’re interested in being a reader please contact Dylan Roche or email Holly, halbrecht@woodschurch.org to schedule a filming time.

**Join us for an All Church Valentine's Day Party**
February 14 6:00 - 8:00pm for all ages

We will have dancing and karaoke. Fun games like Truth or Dare and Speed Dating. **Yep, Speed Dating, just come and find out!** Make a valentine for someone special. Have a goofy photo taken with your family or a church friend. No more sitting at home on Valentine’s watching the Hallmark Channel, we promise this will be your best Valentine's Day ever. Bring your grandma, your nephew, your friend, your children and come and have a Cheesy Valentine’s Day! There is no cost for this party just come! A donation basket will be available to help purchase chickens for heifer international.

**Teaching Sunday School**
Did you mean to sign up to help with Sunday School this fall but never got around to it? There is still time. Come and be a part of faith formation with children. We will give you everything you need. Just come with a love of children, excitement for sharing the story and a willingness to cut and glue. Contact halbrecht@woodschurch.org if you are interested in being a lead or support teacher. All adults working with children or youth must comply with our Child Protection training and complete a federal background check.

**Employment Opportunity at Woods**
**Coordinator for Families with Children**
This position provides leadership and support for a broad-based Christian education ministry for children from nursery through elementary school ages. The coordinator organizes and supports leaders, teachers and groups to work together in furthering the Christian education of children. Contact Holly Albrecht at halbrecht@woodschurch.org for more information.

**Save The Date**
March 28 for the Lent Event and Easter Egg Hunt! Details coming soon!
Music Ministry

Woods Music Theater Camp is a week-long theater camp for rising fifth through tenth grade, that revolves around the bible, and teaches about Jesus and his teachings. Our show this year is *Children of Eden Jr - Act 2*. It’s a beautiful story about Noah and the Ark, with a message about God’s never ending love for us, focusing on the love and importance of family. Woods Music Theater Camp focuses on the art of Music Theater, the how-to’s, the backstage work, drama, choreography, and music. In addition, we have bible study, indoor and outdoor games, and scavenger hunts. Not to mention ice cream sundaes, water kick-ball and much more!

This camp is for kids who like to work hard, have fun and strive for an amazing performance! Camp runs from July 25 through August 1 and costs $200 per camper. Register at [www.woodsmtc.com](http://www.woodsmtc.com). For more information please contact David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org.

Mother’s Day Cantata

On May 10, at the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services, the music department will present “A Journey to Hope.” This is a beautiful cantata inspired by traditional spirituals that tells of the ministry, passion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through the singing of beautifully woven Gospel songs. The cantata will consist of the Adult Choir, the Praise Band, and a professional consort orchestra.

Save the Date - St. Patrick’s Day Dinner

Once again the Deacon’s will be hosting St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Friday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for great food, music, fellowship and fun! The Cypress Creek Celie Band will be providing the entertainment and our own Carolyn Watkins will be making traditional corn beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes and rolls for your enjoyment. The deacons will be providing appetizers and desserts.

Tickets will be on sale in Fellowship Hall after all services Sundays February 23 through March 7. The cost of the event is adults $10, children $5 with a family maximum of $30. For additional information call Maureen Adams in the church office.
Woods Counseling & Care Center

Spirituality for the 21st Century
Woods Presbyterian Church Seminar 2020
Discovering Spirituality in Science “Finding Peace and Joy in a Crazy World”

Purpose of this Woods’ Seminar: Discover a richer, more vibrant, interesting spirituality. Experience a renewed prayer live. Encounter God more fully. Explore being a part of the universe, not just one separate species, Homo Sapiens.

For the “Science” component of this Seminar, we will study the book “The Biology of Belief” by Bruce Lipton: “Genes cannot turn themselves on and off. Something in the environment has to trigger that activity. I have come full circle from a reductionist, scientific take on life to a spiritual one. Positive thoughts have a profound effect on behavior and genes, but only when they are in harmony with the subconscious programming. And negative thoughts have an equally powerful effect.” (Bruce Lipton)

For the “Spirituality” part, we will review some of the works of Teilhard de Chardin, “The farther and more deeply we penetrate into matter, by means of increasingly powerful methods, the more we are confounded by the interdependence of its parts,” and Richard Rohr, “We do not think ourselves into new ways of living. We live ourselves into new ways of thinking.”

Science and Spirituality are saying that it is imperative that all of us seek the means to transcend the current systems of our way of life and to establish and nurture ways that allow us to live in creative harmony and balance with ourselves, with others, and with nature. “If we are all swimming in the same ocean of aliveness, then it makes sense that we would each have a direct experience of communion with, and concern for, the well-being of others.” (Duane Elgin) Perhaps a richer Spirituality for all of us is the only way to solve the basic problems of the day.

This is a six week course starting Monday, February 10 and ending Monday, March 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Woods Counseling and Care Center in the large room. You will need to purchase the book, “The New Biology” by Bruce Lipton. This class is facilitated by Bill Hocking, to register call Bill at 410.349.0329 or email billhocking100@comcast.net.

Transitioning from Grief

Bill Hocking, spiritual director and grief counselor, will facilitate a compassionate support group for those coping with the death of a loved one. This is a six week course for people traveling through grief to a richer understanding of their loss, a deeper spirituality and a renewed sense of purpose.

Class runs from Friday, February 7 through March 13 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Counseling and Care Center. Registration is required. Cost is $10 for “The New Day Journal,” a helpful course guide. Contact Maureen Adams in the church office if you need additional information.
What's next for you?
A PROGRAM FOR FINDING DIRECTION

For more information please contact:

BILL DANIEL
Professional Coach
Bill.Daniel@WoodsCCC.org
410-570-8500

Sundays
3-5:30pm
March 8-29

Woods Counseling & Care Center

Life Purpose Course
Program cost $120 scholarships available

There are times in everyone's life when we look for what comes next. This may occur during a time of transition like retirement, kids leaving the nest, loss of a loved one, or change in employment. At the Woods Counseling & Care Center we have developed a small group facilitated program to look at this. Our Life Purpose Course is a 10 hour program done in 4 Sunday afternoon sessions where we explore: values, interests, energy/passions/dreams, what does God call me to do, how do others see my gifts and passions, and a one-on-one follow up with Bill Daniel regarding plan development and implementation.

LOCATION: 8 Cypress Creek Road, Severna Park, MD 21146

Membership at Woods

MEMBERSHIP CLASS
Sunday February 16 at 9:30 a.m. in Founders Room

DINNER WITH ELDERS
Wednesday February 19 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

INTRO TO THE CONGREGATION
Sunday February 23 at the 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. services

For More Information Contact
Rachel Lunde
RLunde@woodschurch.org
443.261.3269
Session Highlights

At the regular meeting of Session in January:

- Elizabeth Baril was interviewed regarding her faith journey and sense of call. The Session passed a motion to transfer the care of ministry inquirer, Elizabeth Baril from the First Presbyterian Church of Richmond to Woods so that she may continue the process of ordination. The Session also approved Elizabeth’s liaison, Doug Irminger and alternate, Carolann Marone.

- Bob Royer reported that we have received $596K to date in the Capital Campaign gifts. He thanked Tom L and Pam W for sending out the thank-you letters. The first wave of repairs should start in February with the new HVAC systems and the security measures for Sunday School.

- The Session approved contributing $5,000 for the General Assembly gathering of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to be held in Baltimore in June 2020. Dates of the Gathering are June 20 through 27.

- The Session approved the dates of Vacation Bible School (VBS): July 13 through 17 and the dates of Faith in Action: July 21 through 23 (third through fifth grade.) Also approved the fees and the curriculum
  - VBS fee - $25 per child, late fee $35 per child (ages four through fifth grade)
  - Registration begins for church members – February 1
  - Registration opens for others – March 1
  - Registration Late Fee Begins – April 1

- Curriculum: VBS, Knights of North Castle by Cokesbury; Faith in Action, mission based by Holly Albrecht - motion passed

- The curriculum for the 11:00 a.m. adult education Sunday class approved. *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine (winter study) *Entering the Passion of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine (Adult Lenten study) - motion passed

A Call for Candidates

At Woods - we gather to worship, to pray, to grow in faith, to minister to those in need, to share our sorrow and to share our joy. We treasure our time together as brothers and sisters in this congregation of believers. And now, your brothers and sisters ask you to prayerfully consider supporting your congregation by becoming a candidate for a term of service as an Elder or Deacon.

Please search your heart and prayerfully consider putting on this mantel of service yourself or nominating one of our brothers or sisters as a candidate. Contact the Nominating Committee by email nominations@woodschurch.org or leave a note for David Nelson in the church office. Please consider this Call for Candidates, your congregation needs you.

The Love and sympathy of the congregation *

- Laura Hyde, and family, on the death of her father, Ward Highstone
- John McLaughlin, on the death of his uncle, George McLaughlin

Congratulations for our newborns *

- Pam and Ralph Anger, on the birth of their granddaughter, Evelyn Ruth Anger, parents are Christopher and Shannon Anger
- Carolyn and Tim Taylor, on the birth of their son, Wyatt Taylor

*Information is current as of January 26, 2020