



# The Challenger

Glyndon United Methodist Church

February 2024

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## Building Beloved Community

It still vividly remains in my memory, my first official day at Glyndon Church. As my car slid into the driveway of the church, colorful pinwheels, almost as if smiling brightly, were spinning in the well-manicured front yard alongside a placard reading 'Welcome pastor Dong Eun Lee'. The warm words and the welcoming spin of the pinwheels seemed to ease the slight tension I felt on my first day at a new ministry. True welcoming is like this: embracing others even before we fully know and understand their differences. My journey at Glyndon, which began in this way, has now reached its 5th year. We have shared many experiences over this significant period, praying together for our church and community, striving to restore and build the beloved community that the Lord desires. How do we define 'Building beloved community'? If we deem it important, what should we do for it?

I want to thank our lay leader, Jan Bradley, for her message during my absence, including other speakers, Allen Wroe, Robin Krell, and the guest speaker. When Jan shared her idea for her message, I felt that I couldn't help but share this provocative and inspirational message with our church families. Let us deeply think about how we strive to build a beloved community together.

In the sermon delivered on January 14, 2024, Jan Bradley, the Lay Leader and church representative of the Baltimore Washington Conference, shared insights from the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. She highlighted the concept of Building Beloved Community, a vision that resonates with our faith, rooted in Jesus' teachings of love, unity, and action.

The Baltimore-Washington Conference has embraced this vision, urging members to sign a covenant that starts our collective ministry of Building Beloved Community at Glyndon UMC. This community is based on justice, equity, reconciliation, and love, reflecting the need for faith and action to work in tandem.

In troubling times for The United Methodist Church, the Covenant to Building Beloved Community stands as a beacon, guiding our actions and thoughts, and stirring us to participate in the revival of the church. Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton has called for hope, vision, and faith to be the narrative of a renewed, inclusive church.

But what does Building Beloved Community entail? The term, popularized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is founded on Christian theology and New Testament teachings. King envisioned an integrated community, free from hate and prejudice, where love, peace, and justice prevail. He believed that churches should be sanctuaries of diversity and inclusion, active in practicing love and justice.

This vision is relevant today, as we seek to embody the teachings of Jesus. Scripture passages like Matthew 22:37–40 and John 13:34–35 urge us to love God and our neighbors as ourselves, and to love others as Jesus loves us. This love should be the foundation of our relationships within the church, our homes, and society.

The Baltimore-Washington Conference has initiated anti-racism ministries and encourages church leaders to practice Jesus' Great Commandment in ways that build a Beloved Community. With new classes and resources, the Conference aims to inform and engage members in this initiative, advocating for an inclusive, diverse, and equitable community.

Members are invited to commit to six actions that reflect Jesus' way of life, fostering relationships, respecting different expressions, examining assumptions, assuming positive intent, listening for understanding, and exercising cultural humility.

Leaders at Glyndon UMC, including Pastor Dong Eun Lee, are participating in a year-long course, "Diverse Church by Design," to develop a plan for diversity within our church. As we live out this vision, we take intentional steps towards inclusivity and diversity, creating spaces for open dialogue and understanding.

We are reminded to act upon Jesus' command to love one another, to be lights of love, equity, and peace. This call to action is not merely to dream of a Beloved Community but to be its architects, starting within our church and extending to our broader communities.

We are encouraged to carry forth the love and lessons learned to build a community that truly reflects the teachings of Christ. Amen.

***"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)***

Blessings,  
Dong Eun Lee

# Announcements/Events

## **Finance Committee Update**

Thanks to everyone for your contributions this past year. We were able to meet all of our obligations and look forward to another good year ahead. If you have not sent in your pledge card for 2024, please do so as soon as you are able so we can plan ahead for this year. **If you need a pledge card, there are some on the table in the lobby.**

## **First Sunday Fellowship for Winter and Spring 2023**

Hello Glyndon Church Family - We have upcoming dates for First Sunday Fellowship this winter and spring and are seeking volunteers to host this special time for our congregation following the service. Please consider volunteering on one of the following dates: **April 7th, and May 5th.**

Hosts provide snacks and beverages and handle set-up and clean-up in Dew Hall. It is a simple way to offer hospitality for the congregation. Team up with a friend to volunteer. (It's fun!) Help is available for training if you are new to hosting. Thank you to our faithful volunteers who continue to make First Sunday Fellowship a wonderful tradition for our church!! Please use the link below to select a date and sign up. If you have questions or need assistance, please email Julie Romeo at [romeo586@comcast.net](mailto:romeo586@comcast.net).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E49AAAB28AB9-first#/>

## **Let's Play Pickleball!**

Pickleball continues on Wednesday nights. Come play Pickleball with your friends and neighbors from 5:15 to 8:00 p.m. No experience is necessary, and players of all ages are welcome.

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Join us for a Pancake Supper on February 13 from 5-7 pm! Dine-in or Carry-out options available. There will be pancakes, toppings, sausage, and drinks. (Gluten-free pancakes available.) The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 2-8. Hope to see you there!

# **Announcements/Events continued**

## **Ash Wednesday Service**

On Wednesday, February 14th, there will be a solemn Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. On Ash Wednesday, we repent of our sins and receive ashes that are a physical reminder of our own mortality and our need for reconciliation with God. Please join us as we begin our Lenten journey together.

## **Lenten Holy Conversation Sessions:**

During Lent, which is a period of preparation as we await the glorious Easter morning, we are going to reflect deeply on the meaning of our journey to God, and journeying with God and others. If you are interested, please let Pastor Lee know so she can prepare.

2/29 3:00pm in Dew Hall  
3/07 3:00pm in Dew Hall  
3/14 3:00pm in Dew Hall  
3/21 3:00pm in Dew Hall

## **New Membership Class**

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of Glyndon United Methodist Church, please contact Pastor Lee for more info. The classes are scheduled for the following dates:

3/3 at 11:15am in the Parlor  
3/10 at 11:15am in the Parlor  
3/17 at 11:15am in the Parlor  
3/24 at 11:15 am in the Parlor

# Visitation List

Reach out and share God’s love through a card, call or visit.

**Dottie Meekins**

Acts Fairhaven  
Health Care Room 109  
7200 Third Avenue  
Sykesville MD 21784  
443-609-0048

**Jackie Meixner**

FutureCare Cherrywood  
12020 Reisterstown Road  
Reisterstown MD 21136  
410-517-6530

**June Pearce**

410-804-6646

**Joan S. Poling**

Sunrise Senior Living  
3800 Old Court Road, Room 232  
Pikesville MD 21208  
410-415-0245

**Dora Sabo**

Carroll Lutheran Village  
Health Care Center, Room 401  
200 St Luke Circle  
Westminster MD 21158

*Challengers are mailed to these members each month.*

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## Stay Connected

**What’s up at Glyndon UMC? Our Mission is to: “Love. Pray. Serve.”**

We offer several ways to keep you connected to learn about upcoming worship, fellowship, and service ministries as well as special events for all ages. We encourage you to invite a friend or neighbor to join you. Here’s some op-



- Worship with us on Sundays and read the bulletin insert with a calendar of activities for the week.
- Check out our church website: [glyndonumchurch.org](http://glyndonumchurch.org) .
- Sign up for our church-wide email and receive Friday News & Highlights every week.
- If you sign up for emails, you will also receive our newsletter, The Challenger, the first of each month. It’s chock full of information on the month ahead plus “save-the-date” info on future events, new worship series, fellowship activities and service opportunities.
- Follow us on Facebook and hear about what’s coming up and check out the pictures of our church family in action.
- Check the bulletin boards on the church lobby and along the hallways to Dew Hall for flyers on church an community events, y outh activities, and sign-up sheets.

There is something for everyone—all ages, singles, couples, and families.

Consider deepening your participation by joining one of our volunteer planning committees or leadership teams. Jan Bradley or our committee chairs can provide details to help you find a slot that matches your interests and to select something that will utilize your personal gifts for a more enjoyable experience.

Shrove Tuesday

# PANCAKE SUPPER

DINE IN  
OR  
CARRY OUT



\$10 Per Adult | \$5 Per Child 2-8

**INCLUDES PANCAKES, TOPPINGS, SAUSAGE AND DRINKS**  
*GLUTEN FREE PANCAKES AVAILABLE*

**Tuesday 2/13 5:00-7:00**

# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 8a Men's Breakfast
4 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship 11a First Sunday Fellowship	5 7p Finance	6 7p Kiwanis	7 5:15p Pickleball	8	9	10 5-7:30p GCS Parents' Night Out
11 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship 11:15a Women's Lunch	12 7p Trustees	13 5-7p Pancake Supper	14 9:15 am Chapel 5:15p Pickleball 7:00p Ash Wednesday svc	15	16	17
18 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship	19	20	21 5:15p Pickleball 7p Kiwanis	22	23	24
25 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship	26 7p Council	27	28 5:15p Pickleball	29 3p Lenten Holy Convo		
						