



The Challenger

Glyndon United Methodist Church

July 2024

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Dear Members & Friends:

I am excited to be appointed to Glyndon Church. I have been reading about the history of the Glyndon community and of the church. As we approach the Fourth of July, we will celebrate the beginnings and history of America. As I continue to learn more about this community and church, I am aware of how much the church and community has been shaped and molded within the historical narrative of our country. I am excited about getting to know more about the faithful people of Glyndon Church.

As I begin my appointment, I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's charge to the church in Philippi (Philippians 3:12-17). He writes:

"I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wonderfully reached out to me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward – to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision – you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it."

(The Message, Eugene H. Peterson)

Paul reminds me that I come not as one who *"has it all together"*, or one *"who has finished the race"* but instead as a servant who is on a journey, keeping *"my eye on the goal"* and listening to *"God's call beckoning us onward – to Jesus"*.

After sharing God's call, Paul gives this charge to the church – *‘So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision – you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. ‘*

Paul's clarion call is vital for us today. The world is polarized in many ways, manifesting itself in our society, nation, and world. How do we remain faithful and hopeful during such a time? To help us keep focus, the late Bishop Joe Yeakel often reminded us how to do this by sharing this statement - *“The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”* Of course, his words are not original. The Apostle Paul stated this same truism over two thousand years ago when he reminded the church that *“God is beckoning us onward – to Jesus . . . So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us.* Paul's charge to the church is still paramount today.

My first Sunday in the pulpit is July 7. We will worship the God who bestows grace and mercy upon us. We will celebrate Holy Communion, giving our thanks to God's grace which is offered to all. May God's love undergird and strengthen us as we move forward and strive to keep our focus on the One who makes all that we strive to do possible.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Announcements/Events

First Fruits Farm

GUMC's first date to help out at First Fruits Farm this summer will be **Saturday, July 13th**. Volunteers will depart from the church at 8:00 a.m. Please be sure to complete the waiver on the GUMC website beforehand. [Liability Waiver](#)

First Sunday Fellowship

We have two remaining dates for First Sunday Fellowship this summer.

- Sunday, **July 7th** will be a great opportunity to meet and welcome our new pastor, Pastor Gary Sheffield-James. This gathering will be hosted by GUMC's Staff-Parish Relations Committee.
- Sara Hampt has signed up to host First Sunday Fellowship on Sunday, **August 4th**. If you would be willing to host with her, please use the link below to sign up and get in touch with Sara to coordinate.

Thank you for helping us provide this special time of fellowship!

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

Summer Music

During the summer, GUMC's Chancel Choir is taking a well deserved break. However, there is still beautiful music to be heard at Glyndon Church. Join us to hear small ensembles of familiar GUMC Chancel Choir members and the Men's Chorus , as well as other local musicians.

Pickleball Continues During the Summer

Please consider joining GUMC and Glyndon community members to play Pickleball on **Wednesday evenings from 5:15 to 8:00 p.m.** No experience is needed to get started and people of all ages are welcome.

Baltimore County Christian Work Camp

As part of the BCCWC (Baltimore County Christian Work Camp) efforts this summer, GUMC will be partnering with Reisterstown UMC to repair drywall, decking and plumbing for an elderly homeowner in Owings Mills **during the week of July 22 - 26**. Anyone who has questions or would like to help out for a day or three should contact Matt Johnson at 443-465-3723.

Plan to Join Us at Emory Grove In August

Pastor Gary Sheffield-James and GUMC's Chancel Choir will lead the Sunday evening service in the outdoor tabernacle at Emory Grove on **Sunday, August 4th** at 7:00 p.m. If you have never been to Emory Grove, be sure to join us. A short trip over to Emory Grove (off of Waugh Avenue in Glyndon) offers a trip back in history and a unique opportunity for reflection, worship and fellowship. Join us!

Office Hours: Clarice is in the office on Mondays from 11:00 a - 1:00 p & Thursdays from 1:30p - 3:30p.

Announcements/Events continued

We, the congregation of Glyndon UMC warmly welcome the Rev. Gary Sheffield-James as the new interim pastor of our church community. Pastor Gary will begin his appointment with us this Monday, July 1st, and will begin leading us in worship services on Sunday, July 7th. The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) of Glyndon UMC invites everyone for a time of fellowship and an official welcome for Pastor Gary and his wife, Laurie, immediately after the worship service on Sunday, July 7, in Dew Hall at the church. Since July 7th is also one of our First Sunday Fellowship Gatherings, this will be an opportune time for us to enjoy some refreshments, as we greet, welcome, and introduce ourselves to Pastor Gary and his family. Pastor Gary and Laurie will continue to live in their current home in Perry Hall, MD, and will not be moving into the parsonage.

Pastor Gary has provided some biographical information about himself, which is posted on the bulletin board hanging on the left side of the lobby. It shall be included in a later edition of the Challenger, GUMC's newsletter, as well.

Pastor Gary has expressed that one of his important beginning tasks, starting as soon as possible, is to meet everyone in the congregation. We can gather in small groups in homes near one another, or in the parlor. Watch for sign-up sheets in the lobby to indicate your choice of place, time and if you will be a captain/host to gather a group together for a "getting to know you" meeting with Pastor Gary.

With this being an important time of new beginnings, with transitions and expectations, may we all offer Pastor Gary our assistance and understanding in acquainting him with GUMC. Above all, may we pray for God's guidance, strength, and vision, for Pastor Gary and all of us here, as we grow in unity and love as followers of Christ, at Glyndon UMC.

Amen,

Jan Bradley, Lay Leader

July 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7p Kiwanis	5:15p Pickleball			
7 9:15a Men's Chorus Reh. 10a Worship—Communion 11a First Sunday Fellowship	8 7p Trustees	9	10 5:15p Pickleball	11	12	13
14 10a Worship	15	16	17 5:15p Pickleball 7p Kiwanis	18 6p—Vintage Chevrolet Club	19	20
21 10a Worship	22 Balt. County Christian Work Camp	23 Balt. County Christian Work Camp	24 Balt. County Christian Work Camp 5:15p Pickleball	25 Balt. County Christian Work Camp	26 Balt. County Christian Work Camp	27
28 10a Worship	29 Camp GCS - STEAM 7p Church Council	30 Camp GCS - STEAM	31 Camp GCS - STEAM 5:15p Pickleball			
						