



The Challenger

Glyndon United Methodist Church

April 2026

“Easter – All Dressed Up for Life!”

Friends:

I was asked to officiate a funeral for someone whom I did not know and whose family did not belong to the church I was then serving. While visiting the family at the funeral home, I made my way to the casket which held the body of the middle-aged man who was dressed in a suit. A man walked over to me who I again didn't know. He pointed to the lifeless man's body in the casket and said, “*There he is! He's all dressed up with no place to go.*”

We can dress up death and try to pretend that it doesn't exist, but we know better. We have had loved ones who have died either because of an accident, an illness, or his or her body just wore out and eventually shut down. Some of us may have lost loved ones through wars, natural disasters, and acts of crime. Our society often uses euphemisms to describe the reality of death. We say, “*He or she has passed on*”, “*He or she is now departed from us*” or “*He or she is no longer with us.*” We prefer euphemistic phrases and yet the word ‘*death*’ punctuates a stark reality: the person we love will never return to this life as we know it.

So, what does Easter have to say to us who now grieve, who know the deep sadness of losing people that we love through death's sting?

The Easter story does not shy away from the reality of death. We are told in the Gospels about how the women are going to Jesus' tomb early in the morning and they carry with them spices. Spices are used to prepare the body for burial; thus the reason for the women's early morning journey. They come expecting to deal with death. Just a few days ago, the vivid images of Jesus suffering and nailed to the cross and breathing his last breath are seared in their memory and cannot be erased. They are not death-deniers; their grief and their spices testify to that understanding.

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Pastor's Article continued

On Sunday, April 5th, we will celebrate the good news of Easter. When the joyous singing of the chancel choir is over, when all the hymns have been sung and the Easter story has been retold, you and I will leave the church and go about life in this world. Yes – life will be difficult. Along with laughter there will be tears. As we seek to live life to its fullest, we also know we will face loss, sorrow and grief. Yet as Easter people we can face the future with a quiet confidence. We can leave knowing that our lives and the lives of those now deceased have eternal significance – in this life and beyond.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Announcements/Events

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

We hope that many children from Glyndon Church, Glyndon Christian School, and the Glyndon community will join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Easter morning, Sunday, April 5th** after the service in the churchyard. Be sure to mark your calendar!

It's Getting to be Scholarship Season!

If you or a family member is seeking additional education (at any age and for any purpose), please consider applying for the **Randy Robert Memorial Scholarship of GUMC** this year. **Please find the application form attached below.** If you have any questions about the scholarship or the application process, please contact Sara Hampt, the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, at smarsh85@gmail.com. Completed applications and **official transcripts** should be emailed to Sara Hampt OR mailed directly to Glyndon UMC. All materials must be received by **Wednesday, April 15, 2026.**

Announcements/Events continued

First Sunday Fellowship

Sign-up dates are now available for First Sunday Fellowship during the spring months. Please consider a date to volunteer as a host or team up with a friend to serve our church family for this special time of fellowship after the service on the first Sunday of each month. We have another “team hosted” opportunity on **Easter Sunday, April 5th**, for those who wish to participate but can’t commit to full hosting duties. Please see the link below for more information and to sign up to volunteer. Contact Julie Romeo at romeoj73@gmail.com with any questions. As always, thank you to all of our volunteers!

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

Pastor Gary will be on **vacation from April 6th to April 13th**. **Kathy Anderson** will lead the congregation in a **Hymn Sing** on April 12, 2026. Rev. Michael Ritt, pastor of Pleasant Hill UMC, will be covering pastoral emergencies. His phone number is 1-717-698-2740.

Office Hours: Clarice is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-3:30 pm.

Visitation List

Reach out and share God’s love through a card, call or visit.
(Always call ahead first to set up a time to visit.)

<p>Zeenie & Dean Burns The Terraces at Westminster 45 Washington Rd, Apt 221 Westminster MD 21157 410-967-2589 (C)</p>	<p>Jackie Meixner FutureCare Cherrywood 12020 Reisterstown Rd Reisterstown MD 21136 410-517-6530</p>	<p>June Pearce 410-804-6646</p>
<p>Kathy Rittler 3413 Buttonwood Court Reisterstown MD 21136 410-239-8147 (H)</p>		

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 are a few:

- Worship with us on Sundays and read the bulletin insert with a calendar of activities for the week.
- Check out our church website: <http://www.glyndonumchurch.org>
- Sign up for our church-wide email to receive the Weekly Highlights and the monthly newsletter, The Challenger.
- 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 in the church lobby and along the hallways to Dew Hall for flyers on church and community events, youth 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 more details.



April 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 5:30p Pickleball 7p Gly. Comm. A. (Dew)	2 7p Maundy Thursday Service	3	4 8a Men's Breakfast
5 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship 11:15a Egg Hunt 11:15a First Sunday Fellowship	6 7p Missions	7 7:00p Ping- Pong 7:00 Kiwanis	8 5:30p Pickleball	9 11:00a Franklin Garden Club (Dew)	10	11
12 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship 11:15a Steering Comm. 11:15a Women's Lunch	13 7p Trustees (Parlor)	14 7:00p Ping- Pong	15 5:30p Pickleball	16 6:30-8:30p private mtg in Dew	17	18
19 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship 11:15a Finance (Parlor)	20 7p Kiwanis (Parlor)	21 7:00p Ping- Pong	22 5:30p Pickleball	23	24	25
26 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship	27	28 7:00p Ping- Pong	29 5:30p Pickleball	30		