



The Beacon

October 2026

*The Newsletter of Duncan Memorial
United Methodist Church*

Our Mission: To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and Share His Love

Growing up I had a good friend whose family refused to participate in Halloween for religious reasons. Their family viewed it as a pagan holiday that celebrated witchcraft, sorcery, the occult and everything that is wrong with the world. I certainly understand this mentality, I personally am not a fan of horror movies nor do I love the gore and gruesomeness associated with the holiday. That being said, I would argue that Halloween is an important holiday for Christians.

Many people are unaware of the Christian roots of Halloween. As Christianity spread throughout the known world, many missionaries had to find ways to blend the Christian practices and beliefs with the local customs and celebrations of the native people. Halloween is an example of this. Encountering an ancient Gaelic harvest festival that understood that time as a thin veil between our world and the afterworld. Pope Gregory II instituted November 1st as All Saints Day around the same time as this festival. All Saints or All Hallows day would celebrate those saints who had passed, and the night before would therefore become All Hallows Eve, or Halloween. Practices like soul cakes, carved lanterns, and dressing in disguise would all become ways of incorporating local traditions into this All Hallows Eve celebration.

Halloween is however important for more than just our historical ties. Halloween causes us to talk about something that for the rest of the year is a taboo subject, death. No one wants to talk about death, it is depressing, it is scary but it also happens to us all. Religion is one of the few areas left where talking about death is still acceptable, and even then people often don't want to hear it. Halloween, in a way, forces us to have those discussions; and as Christians these discussions are important. The hope we have as Christians comes not from avoiding death, but acknowledging it. We acknowledge our own savior died and that we too will die; and find hope in the new life the resurrection brings us. If death wasn't serious, our faith wouldn't be either.

And so, this Halloween, whether you participate or not, take time to acknowledge the horrors of death, so that we may truly be able to celebrate in the joy of resurrection.

Rev. Daniel Wray



Scripture and Sermon Titles for October

October 4 - World Communion Sunday - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

More Than Ourselves

October 11 - Miracle Sunday- Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 28:16-20

Do You Believe in Miracles?

October 18 - Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 99

Avengers Assemble

October 25 - Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 22:34-46

Love God and Love People



Berryville Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

More information will be forthcoming.

Christmas Dinner

Will be held on a Sunday in December
after the 10:00 am Service. Official date TBD.

(Deadline for Sign-Up will be Sunday, November 29)

Sign Up Sheet will be available in Narthex the beginning of November.

Contact Sheryl Reid at (540) 955-3446 for any questions.



How many crowns should we place on our Lord and Savior's head? 2? 4? 12?

In 1851, Matthew Bridges, a distinguished Anglican clergyman, joined many of his fellow brethren in expressing Jesus' sacrifices and victories through song. They were constantly moved by his suffering for us and his ultimate victory which opened the gates of Heaven to all who would choose to follow him.

Bridges ended up expressing his love in six stanzas, all sung to the tune Diademata, the Greek word for "crowns". Diademata was composed by George Elvey, a noted organist at St. George's Chapel in Windsor, England, where British royalty to this day attend special services and occasions.

In 1874, not to be outdone by Bridges, Godfrey Thring wrote six additional stanzas, also to the tune Diademata, increasing the number of crowns for our Lord and Savior to 12!

Crown him:

(Bridges)

WITH MANY CROWNS
THE VIRGIN'S SON
THE LORD OF PEACE
THE LORD OF LOVE
THE LORD OF YEARS
THE LORD OF HEAV'N

(Thring)

WITH CROWNS OF GOLD
THE SON OF GOD
THE LORD OF LIGHT
THE LORD OF LIFE
THE LORD OF LORDS
THE LORD OF HEAVEN

Today, when we sing this hymn, verses 1, 2 and 4 are by Bridges and verse 3 is by Thring.

Wee Angels Learning Center

May your autumn be filled with thankful hearts, generous hands, and renewed faith.

As leaves turn gold and fields yield their harvest, autumn invites us to pause and notice God's faithful provision. Every changing color, shared meal, and gathered crop reminds us that we are recipients of grace.

Throughout the season, teachers weave autumn themes into every area of development. Language skills grow as children learn seasonal vocabulary, listen to harvest stories, sing songs, and share observations about fall. Cognitive development is supported through sorting leaves, counting apples or pumpkins, comparing sizes and colors, and exploring how the weather and natural world change. Social and emotional learning takes place as children practice gratitude, cooperate on classroom projects, and discuss ways to show kindness and care for others. Calming breathing, sensory activities, and predictable seasonal routines help strengthen self-regulation, while nature walks, movement games, and hands-on art build fine- and gross-motor skills. Teachers also reinforce physical health by encouraging active play, handwashing, nutritious seasonal foods, and safe participation in outdoor activities.

This month, our Wee Angels students will also include the following faith lessons in their daily curriculum such as **Giving thanks together** during morning circle time by inviting each child to name one gift from God. **Share the harvest** as a family by donating food or helping a neighbor. **Notice God's creation**, praising God for the colors, beauty, and rhythms of autumn. Finally, **plant seeds of kindness** by encouraging a classmate, practicing forgiveness, or helping with a classroom task.

Wee Angels wants to take a moment to express our gratitude to DMUMC and UMM for their generous contributions towards new floors and changing stations in our nursery rooms. We are also very grateful to the volunteers that helped with this endeavor, namely Dan Neises, Chris Shipe, Paul Massanopoli and Tony Whitmer.

"But those who harvest it will eat it and praise the lord, and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary."

— Isaiah 62:9 (NIV)

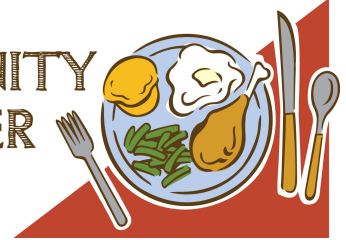
May your autumn be filled with thankful hearts, generous hands, and renewed faith.



**Blessing of the
Animals**
Sunday, October 4
2:00 p.m.
DMUMC Front Lawn
All pets welcome!

We are also collecting pet supplies for the local animal shelter. Some suggested items are: dog food; cat food; kitty litter; clean towels, flat sheets, blankets, dog beds.

**COMMUNITY
DINNER**



The next Community Meal
will be held on Thursday,
October 22 from 5:00-6:30
p.m.

All are welcome to attend.
We hope you'll join us for a
free meal and community
connection!

♥ **Members of the Heart** ♥

A luncheon was held after the Traditional Service to honor or 80 and over members, also known as Members of the Heart. It was a special time to honor these members.

Thank you Care Team for the coordination!





Oct 3	Linda Burcham
Oct 8	William Meyer
Oct 10	Beverly Goode
	Rebekah McDonald
Oct 14	Margie Christian
Oct 16	Celia Duncan
Oct 17	Thomas Burton
Oct 20	Cinnamon Owens
	Kay Sell
Oct 21	David Wiedemer
Oct 22	Letty Mallery
Oct 23	Tom Owens
Oct 25	Shirley Biagetti
Oct 26	John Mallery
Oct 27	Ed Gibson



The United Methodist Men and the Duncan Methodist Women will have a breakfast meeting on Saturday, October 4 at 9:00 a.m.

They will then split-up for their business meetings.



Duncan Memorial UMC Saturday, October 31, 2026 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Please consider helping with our annual Trunk or Treat. This is a fun outreach event that attracts families from all across Clarke County! You can help by decorating your trunk and handing out candy. If you can hand out candy, please have your car at Duncan by 3:30 on October 31. Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Sheryl Reid at 540-955-3446 or contact the church office.



*Please be
Praying for...*

In the Military	Our Members	Family & Friends
Richard Harris	Bob Aycock	Art Beamer
Dylan Murphy	Doris Braithwaite	Fred Carter
John Pepper	Linda Burcham	Kenny Chamblin
Triston Timbrook	Mike Clotzman	Kevin Curran
Jared Tinsman	Joy Fiddler	Diana Fogel
Tyler Tinsman	Cheyenne Fowler	Johnny Fries
	Beverly Goode	Lisa Gheen
	Eleanor Hinson	Phil Goode
	Jean Hinson	Faith Kinney
	Jeanne Hudson	Stephanie Moore
Shut-ins	Len Lawson	Toni O'Conner
*Audrey Hudson	Erin McDonald	Lisa Perkins
*Cindy Morin	Robyn McGrath	Drew Pinilla
*Nursing or Assisted-living home	Kaia Meyer	James Preston (JP) Puryear
	Adam Owens	Randy Reno
Families Grieving	Cinnamon Owens	Jeff Rosenberry
	Steve Stephens	Gina Sutherlin
	Ellen Wilcox	Ann Varley
	Tim Wilcox	John Young
	Debbie Zimmerman	Pat Wince
		Joe, Jacob & Taylor

Please be in prayer for our church, our employees, our community, our state, our nation and one another. In times of peril, God's people have spent time in prayer and fasting to seek divine favor for healing.

Our Website:

www.dmumc.org

Our Leadership and Staff

Pastor

Rev. Daniel Wray

Administrative Assistant

Brenda Elsea

**Directors of Programs for
Children/Youth**

Frank & Stephanie Moore

Director of Music

John Hudson

Audio Visual

Claire Luzzi

Sexton

Fiona Glynn

Nursery Attendant

Lee Campbell

**Administrative Council
Chairperson-Glen Hetzel**

Lay Leader-Chris Shipe

Nurture

Sheryl Reid

Outreach & Missions

Sheila Stephens

Worship

Mildred Keating

John Hudson

Congregational Care Team

Cheyenne Fowler-Leader

Sheryl Reid-Leader

Trudy Gheen

Beverly Goode

Wee Angels Daycare

Administrator

Colette Lambert



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Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church
210 E. Main Street, Berryville, VA 22611
(540) 955-1264; (540) 955-9055 (fax)
Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Non-Profit Org.
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A Letter from Christ

Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote:

“And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” (2 Corinthians 3:3, ESV).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.

The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him.

What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as “a letter from Christ.”