

CENTRAL CHIMES

Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia

"How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" Psalm 137:4 (KJV)

We're nearing 150 days since our church last gathered together in person for worship in our sanctuary. Over these last few weeks and months we've read scripture, prayed, and sang praises to God over zoom, facebook, and telephone lines. This "virtual worship" may feel like a strange land for many of us. As we look towards gathering for worship in person in the future we must be ready for that experience to feel like a strange land too. For the foreseeable future in-person worship gatherings will include masks and physical distance between people, and exclude hugs and singing together. In generations past God's people have been pushed out from the place they called home and the place where they worshipped God. Today we are discovering how God is at work in our individual lives, and also in the life of our community, as we worship together through online worship experiences.

Our "Healthy Church Team" will meet in August to discuss possibilities and protocols for in person worship gatherings in the future. This team will be guided by the Virginia Conference's requirements (<https://vaumc.org/return/>) and our denomination's three general rules: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.

Ordination Gift

David Ignacio created a beautiful drawing of Central UMC's building to present to Pastor John in celebration of his ordination as a Deacon. There is space for members of our church family to sign. To make arrangements to stop by the church to sign the gift please call the office at 703-527-8844.

Free Face Masks

Do you need a cloth face mask? The church is distributing masks to anyone who asks. Please call the office at 703-527-8844 to arrange pick up.

A Blessing for the Masks

by Rev. Carol Ferguson,
Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church

Great Physician, Giver of All Life,
may this mask I wear show your true face:
a face of mercy and compassion
a face that loves others above myself
a face that protects the vulnerable and weak.

As I wear this mask, save and protect me
from danger that may come my way.
As I wear this mask, save and protect others
from danger I may send their way,
even without meaning to.

As once you hid your face from Moses,
in order to reveal the glory of your presence,
teach us to hide our outward faces,
to reveal our inward love for the world,
and the glory of your presence in us. Amen.

Worship God

GOD IS EVERYWHERE. WE CAN BE, TOO.

Worship with us from home. Sundays at 10:30 AM.



We are continuing to use a Zoom Webinar for worship which allows everyone to watch the shared worship video and see any panelists who are speaking, but does not allow attendees to turn on their video feed. This is to prevent any inappropriate screen sharing from hackers who are targeting churches. At the end of worship we will move to zoom Meeting ID: 703 527 8844 (Password: welcome) so that all attendees may video for fellowship time.

For worship join Webinar ID: 946 5333 2464 (Password: welcome).



To join via Facebook Live visit www.facebook.com/cumcballston



To join worship by phone dial 1-301-715-8592, Webinar ID: 946 5333 2464# (Password: 510773#).

To join fellowship after worship by phone dial call 301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 703 527 8844

Audio of the scripture and sermon are posted weekly at sermons.cumcballston.org

Serve Others

Every week we continue making bag lunches and distributing them along with fresh fruit and canned goods on Friday mornings at a "grab and go" table outside the church kitchen. Thank you to Gene and Jeanie who continue leading this vital ministry to help feed our community friends.



Embrace All

You're invited to join a small group for fellowship or Bible study. We have two groups meeting virtually via zoom weekly, and a new group meeting monthly.

- Contact Pastor John (jconway@cumcballston.org) to join a small group on Wednesdays at 7 PM. This month they're studying prayer.
- Contact Amy (amy@cumcballston.org) to join a small group on Mondays at 7:30 PM.
- Contact Pastor Sarah (pastor@cumcballston.org) to join the book club meeting on August 30 at 2 PM. Our August book is "Another Dawn" by Kathryn Cushman.