



JUNE 2022

New Logo Revealed!

When the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan was endorsed at the end of 2019, a new mission statement was adopted:

St. Thomas UMC exists to reach, nourish, and serve the community so all may experience healing and new life through Jesus Christ.

Typically, the leadership would have developed a new logo at that time to correspond with this new direction; however, we were in the midst of helping to launch a new faith community in Haymarket that shared the existing brand. Leadership felt this was not the best time to create a new logo.

With Haymarket Church successfully launching as an independent faith community in July 2021, St. Thomas could now consider rebranding. The Communications Committee sought several quotes and discovered that the cost was rather steep. So, we waited to move forward. When SPRC contracted with Jillian Phiffer through the Marketing on Retainer (MOR) program at the end of March, we were able to revisit logo development. Over the past few months, Pastor Abi worked with the Communications Committee, Front Porch Team, Lay Leaders and Staff to research and fine-tune several logo concepts that would capture the spirit of our community.

At their May meeting, the Church Council approved the logo



(seen at the top right of this page) and MOR will now start integrating the new logo with our website, printed materials, and other giveaways.

The logo is inspired by the story of Noah's Ark that the SPARK Team identified as a key biblical story for the community of St. Thomas at this point in our ministry, as the shape looks like the helm of an ark or boat. The cross is central to the design and is similar in shape to the two crosses in our Sanctuary (the stained glass window cross and the wooden cross hanging from the ceiling). The design behind the cross illustrates a crossroads of sorts reminiscent of our location as a church at the corner of Sudley and Grant. And yet, the cross radiates light to illumine the community, reminding all that it is through Christ we experience healing and new life!

The colors of the logo are inspired by those in our stained glass window, which speak to our baptism in Christ (dark and light blues) as well as our service to the community and beyond through the Holy Spirit (Orange).

Thank you to all who helped us arrive at this key decision.



From the Senior Pastor's Desk

I hope you are excited about a great summer and maybe have a weekend getaway or family vacation planned – even in spite of the continuing

impact from the pandemic.

I personally love summer vacations – but you don't have to do an elaborate trip to enjoy some time with your family and friends. I was searching for things to do with my family this summer and came across a ton of great articles and ideas.

Here are five of my favorite ideas for families of all ages and stages:

- 1. Family game night.** Each person picks a classic board game and play as a family. You can print up funny certificates or prizes for the winners.
- 2. Around the World theme weeks.** Each week, pick a country and learn a little about it. Put the flag on your fridge. Cook a meal that comes from that part of the world or visit a restaurant that serves food from that country. Pray for a missionary there (we currently have relationships with missionaries in El Salvador, Sierra Leone, and Guatemala to get started).
- 3. Disposable Camera project.** In a world of iPhones and Instagram, you might be surprised they still sell these film cameras. But they do. Give one to each family member with an assignment to photograph a particular unifying subject (favorite things, nature, pets, colors, etc). Develop in an hour and let everyone share during dinner on Sunday night.
- 4. Visit the library.** Yep, the library. In addition to books and films, you might also enjoy story time or some of their special activities.

5. Summer movies. University Mall Theater (near GMU) tickets are only \$8 for all shows! That's a pretty good deal (and popcorn and drinks are discounted too).

Our Children's Ministry

The Children's Council and our Children's Director, Kristi Swanson also have some big activities planned for you and your family this summer. Check out those details below:

- 1. VBS is June 20 – 24, 9 am – 12:30 pm** for K – 5th graders. Cost is \$15 and includes a t-shirt, snacks, and all supplies!
- 2. Wacky Wednesdays.** We are hosting a number of adventures on Wednesdays throughout the summer for children and families to connect – like Popsicles in the Park, Visiting an Ice Cream Parlor to see how it's made (and to sample, of course!), etc. Keep your eyes on the lookout for more details soon.



3. Two Additional Summer Camps – Spy Camp & Innovation Lab! These camps offered in July and August from 9 am – 4 pm are a perfect way to make new friends and engage your faith in creative ways.

To register, go to our website. For questions or more information, please contact our children's director, Kristi Swanson, or summer program coordinator, Sam Spencer.

Joy in the Journey,

Pastor Abi

P.S. If we can serve you or your family at all this summer, please let us know.

ALONG the WAY

A new series exploring how disciples are made



Along the Way *June Worship Series*

God never intended for us to attempt the journey of the Christian life as a solo endeavor. We always have had a need to connect to others. All along the way, we discover those who mentor us, who travel with us as companions, and who love us deeply as family because there's no place like home – so that we become the person we were meant to be. This is how disciples are made. Using the well-known story of the Wizard of Oz as a metaphor for this journey of faith, we will learn what it means to be people of promise to one another – advocates as the Holy Spirit is for us.

6/5/2022

The Power of One Mentor

Deuteronomy 6:4 - 13, Acts 2:1 - 4
Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation

6/12/2022

Traveling Companions

Acts 4:32 - 37, Hebrews 10:15 - 25
Prayer for VBS Kids & Volunteers

6/19/2022

The Love of Family

Luke 6:46 -49, Ephesians 6:1 - 4
Father's Day Celebration

Share Your Love of St Thomas!

The St. Thomas Communications Committee would love for you to share YOUR love of St. Thomas with the world! You can do so by writing a review and sharing a testimonial about your St. Thomas experience on Facebook, Google, Yelp or other similar sites. Additionally, you can email your testimonial to Roxanne at roxannelsutton@gmail.com for possible inclusion on the website and in other marketing materials. Sharing your love of St. Thomas can help others find our church and experience the same blessings and community we've come to associate with St. Thomas UMC.



Expanding Food Pantry Distribution

We had our first Wednesday evening distribution on May 25th from 5-7pm. We were happy to serve 28 families, 12 were new to the pantry, 4 were regular guests, and the other 12 were families that have been to our pantry before but have been unable to come on Saturdays because of work or other obligations.

We had a couple new volunteers, some regular volunteers, and even got to visit with one of the food pantry founders. If you would like to volunteer with us for our Wednesday evening distributions, reach out to Jhenny at 703-626-1086 or jhenny.michalek@stthomasumc.org



Team Explores Establishing a Non-Profit

Recently an ad hoc committee was formed to consider the possibility of starting a non-profit at STUMC as a way to expand some of our mission services. At this time, we would probably include the Food Pantry, the Clothes Closet, and Local Relief in the non-profit if we decide this is an idea we want to pursue. One of the main advantages of starting the non-profit would be increased opportunity for grant money, as well as increased community input. This would allow us to better serve the people who come to us for assistance. To help us discern where the church should go with this idea, we're reading and studying the book [Starting A Nonprofit at Your Church](#) by Joy Skjegstad. Each chapter includes questions and comments for us to consider for discussion. We're currently reading and working on the questions independently and then meeting twice a month for discussion. Should we decide to move forwards with this idea, it would require the support of the congregation. Committee members are Abi Forester, Jhenny Michalek, Frank Michalek, Ron Campbell, Paula Harper, Paula Renfro, Renee Kinnear, and Janie Russell.

Angel Shop Toy Drive

The Missions Council is once again collecting toys for our Angel Shop in December. This shop serves the needy children of our community. We thought a Christmas in June collection would be easy instead of hitting you with all at once for the Christmas missions in December. Parents sign up and shop for two toys per child. We do not advertise but always serve over 100 children. We are collecting all toys in the big box labelled toys in the narthex. Dolls, trucks, cars, games, puzzles, baby toys etc. etc. etc. are all needed. Remember when buying, these may be the only toys a child gets for Christmas. You may donate the month of June up until the 26th. Thank you for your generosity. Questions? Contact Cathy Campbell ssstechur@yahoo.com



News from the Kitchen

We have two dinners left before we take a little break. We have enjoyed serving you this year.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates: **July 19** will be our Christmas in July meal. Come dressed in your red and green and maybe watch a Christmas movie on the Hallmark channel while you eat or play some Christmas carols. **September 6** is when we will resume our Tuesday Dinners.

We will return to one indoor seating serving food from 5:00pm-5:45pm and also continue our curbside service from 5:30pm-6:00pm. Our signups will be online or you may call the church office.

We want to thank our many faithful volunteers without whom we could not do these dinners each week. We are grateful for your service, your willingness to go above and beyond, and your friendships.

Our June menus are as follows:

June 7

Italian Hoagie

Three Bean Salad

Sweet Potato Fries

Dessert: Fresh Fruit Cup

Kids: Grilled Cheese/ Sweet Potato Fries

Cookie: Shortbread

June 14

Chicken Marsala

Rice Pilaf

Green Beans

Dinner Roll

Dessert: Apple Cake

Kids: Chicken Strips

Cookie: Shortbread

Thank you!

The Kitchen Ministry Team

Reaching Our Community

A Taste of St Thomas

In April and May we welcomed recent newcomers to our church family with a chance to meet the pastors and key leaders while enjoying an afternoon of food, fellowship and information. Take a chance to say 'Hi' when you see them!



Above: Pat Brown & Paula Renfro (Lay Leaders), Steve Clendenin, Pastor Arum, Alicia Hamilton (Chair of Front Porch Ministry) William Garrett and Del Parks



Left: Chad Marston, Marcus, William and Cynthia Groenig, Lucy Dierks, John Newlove, Pastor Arum, Paula Renfro (Lay Leader), Joe Steen (Chair of Church Council) and Pat Brown (Lay Leader)

Kena Shriners Car Show - Sponsored by our Front Porch Ministry

Over twenty eight (28) vehicles - from antique and new cars, motorcycle and recreational vehicle (RV) - were showcased Saturday, May 28, 2022 at St. Thomas United Methodist Church, second annual car show in partnering with Kenna Shriners car club.

We had about 250 - 280 people who came to part take in the days activities.

The event's goal was in uniting the diverse community at large. We were overwhelmed at the turnout and how good it has been for the people in general.

Other groups that made the day's events such a success are: *United Methodist Women - Yard Sale; *St. Thomas Children Ministry; *St. Thomas Kitchen Ministry; *The Manassas City Fire Brigade and *The Manassas City Police Department.

While the car show was taking place, there were judges who went around and rated the vehicles based on certain requirements.

Here are just a few photos from a successful weekend. Check out the full Photo Gallery on our website!



United Methodist Women

May was a very busy month for the UMW - selling Mother's Day Carnations to help support our two sponsored boys through Compassion International, the return to in-person events with our Spring Tea, a live Summer Bazaar on May 22 and a Yard Sale on May 28 in coordination with the Kena Shriner's Car Show sponsored by our Front Porch Ministry Team. Thanks to your support, the Bazaar and Yard Sale raised over \$1000 for our local and global mission initiatives.



As we did for Mother's Day, we are now selling carnations to honor or remember those special men in your life on Father's Day, Sun, June 19. Cost is \$3 each. Proceeds support the two Compassion International children we sponsor. You may take your carnations from the altar arrangement after each service on Father's Day. Contact Pat Dodson at andyandpatd@yahoo.com to order carnations and make you dedications.

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

On Friday, June 17, (**3rd Friday instead of the 4th Friday) the OWLS will travel to Glen Echo Park to ride the Carousel. This is a repeat as we did this several years ago and channeled our inner child. Everyone had a wonderful time, thanks to Bert Kenyon, who operates the Carousel. We will meet at the church at 9:15, leaving at 9:30. Please RSVP to Marian (571-315-6881) or Lynn (709-499-0243) by June 15. We hope to take the church van but may also need to carpool. When RSVPing, please let us know if you can drive and how many you can take. Reminder, OWLS is for everyone 55 and older. Friends are always invited.



Upcoming OWLS events: SAVE THESE DATES!!

July 22 -- Three Monkeys Restaurant in Old Town Manassas with dessert at Nathans
August 26 -- Nancy and Bill Buchanan's beach house
September 23 -- Hog Shack BBQ
October 28 -- Graves Mountain Lodge
November 18 -- Tortino Mare Restaurant Manassas Park
December 16 -- Bull Run Festival of Lights with dinner afterwards.



Student Ministry

By Pastor Arum

It's hard to believe that it's Summer already! Manassas City Public Schools already ended on May 27 and Prince William County Public Schools' last day will be June 15. Our Student Ministry goes toward its end of this school year, too. Sunday, June 5th will be our very last day of PACK gathering in this 2021-22 School Year.

June 5th is also a Day of Pentecost when our four confirmands will be baptized/confirmed. We will have a reception at 10 AM and at 12 PM in the Fellowship Hall and a Confirmation & Baptism ceremony during the 11 AM



worship service. Please stop by the Fellowship Hall to greet with our Confirmands! There will be also cards for them that you can sign on and special cakes and drink to enjoy!

And at night on the same day, PACK will gather for an end-of-the-year party with a big feast and a powder war and water games! Last year a powder war was quite a hit and this year two fun activities are combined for more fun!

We will then have a break from our regular PACK gatherings in the rest of June, but many of our students will volunteer at our Vacation Bible School and Summer Camps at church. We will get together again for two Summer Mission & Fun Weekends in July.

Here are the highlights of THE PACK in May!

We began the month of May with our Worship Day. We celebrate May Birthdays: David Burnett and Catherine Amaya-Requeno.



On May 8, Mother's Day, we gathered via Zoom for Mother's Day Cooking. The menu was Korean Beef Bulgogi and Chive Jeon (pancake) with white rice and Kimchi on the side. The students patiently and carefully followed the cooking instructions for almost two hours. Their dishes came out so perfectly and their mom became so happy!





On Friday, May 13, we had a special outing for the 8th grade students to celebrate their middle school graduation. Stephanie Burnett, Daniel Ometz and Katie Palian joined the fun with the Splatter Painting.

Sunday, May 15 was Graduate Sunday. We had a special moment during the worship services to recognize our graduates and pray for them followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. The high school seniors received a yard sign and an essential kit as a gift. The tag to the essential kit says, "As you use items from this essential kit daily, remember that the most essential in your life is Jesus! We love you. We bless you. We are here for you always." Thank you for coming to celebrate our graduates! This year nine students are graduating from high school:



Alexander Boyd
Bridgette Rudolph
Pavel Steen
Jonathan Buck
John Verosko

Gabby Ledesma
Kayla Lyle
Daniel Becker
Forrest Michalek



At night on the same day, PACK gathered for their Small Groups Day. We "looked back" over the past year to think of the high and low moments and how God was present in them and of the most and least favorite event/program. Also, we "look ahead" to the next school year, brainstorming new exciting events/programs to try out and ways to bring more students to our PACK. So many good feedback and ideas shared! We are so looking forward to the next school year!

On May 26, our students helped the UMW prepare for their Yard Sale as a mission project of the month. UMW will donate a part of the proceeds to the Youth Center renovation. Thank you!



(Note from Pat Dodson: the UMW really appreciated the help from the Youth and Parents!)



On Saturday May 28, our Confirmation class and mentors went on a field trip to Washington D.C. to visit the Museum of Bible and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. What a nice ending of the confirmation journey! There is only Confirmation Sunday left for them to become professing members of our church!



Vacation Bible School - June 20 - 24

Spy Academy - July 11 - 15

Innovation Lab - August 1 - 5

Sign up at: <https://www.stthomasumc.org/summercamps.html>

Children's Ministry

June Sunday School: "The Books of the Bible"

We only have 3 days of Sunday School left before summer break! We will be doing fun activities to learn the books of the Bible and capping off the school year with cupcakes and a Father's Day craft on the playground on June 19th. It will be a fun month! There will also be a special prize for any student who returns in the Fall having learned the books of the Bible. You will have lots of fun ways to practice over the summer!

Camp Tweens: July 20-21, 9-3pm

(before and after care available if needed)

Rising 3rd graders through graduating 5th graders are invited to attend a 2-day camp where they will learn to read the Bible, fellowship together, have LOTS of fun and even participate in a mission project.

Activities will include t-shirt decorating and chocolate fountain per tweens requests. A special presentation of a Bible for each student will take place at the 9:00 and 11:00 services on July 24. Lunch and snack are included each day. Attendance is free for church members and regular attendees, as well as their friends or family. If you would like to be presented with a Bible, but cannot attend camp, please contact Ms. Kristi at kristi.swanson@stumc.org.

Wacky Wednesdays: Join us on Wednesdays throughout the summer (on weeks we don't have camp) for adventures. These summer fun times are free to attend, but a parent or guardian must attend with their child(ren). Activities are designed for children from age 3-5th grade, but siblings may also attend.

Popsicles on the Playground, 6/29: Join the Children's Ministry leadership and all the kids for popsicles and playtime on the St. Thomas playground.

Yard Games in the Park, 7/6: Join us at Nelson Park, across the street from the church for corn hole, bocce ball, bubbles, and lots more fun. We'll have snacks and ice cold bottles of water.

Ice Cream Tour, 7/20: Join us at Bruster's on Sudley Rd. to learn how they make ice cream. We will also make and enjoy our own concoctions! Pre-Register by July 3 on our website under Nourish/Children. (Please note that this event runs concurrently with Camp Tweens, and tweens in attendance will be supervised and transported by church staff -- parents of registered tweens do not need to attend this event.)

Water Fun at STUMC, 7/27: Join us on the STUMC lawn for games and water play. Kids should wear their bathing suits and plan to get wet! Snack provided.

Sunbeam Children's Center Graduation



Joyful Noise Singers Mission Tour 2022

The Joyful Noise Singers are back from a successful mission tour! Ten of our youth with four adult leaders traveled to Bayse, Virginia for a three-day mission tour. On the first day, the youth completed a very labor-intensive project which included adding gravel to all of the garden beds surrounding the church buildings of Mount Hermon United Methodist Church. The singers worked diligently in the hot sun and were able to complete the project which the church had been planning for months. Bible study each night was all lead by the youth; and a prayer walk through the stations of the cross and a Labyrinth was a great way for the youth to grow together in their faith. On Sunday morning, the singers provided all of the music for Mt. Hermon UMC's worship service.



St. Thomas
United Methodist Church

St. Thomas UMC

8899 Sudley Road,

Manassas, VA 20110

Rev. Abi Foerster, Senior Pastor

Rev. Arum Kim, Associate Pastor

stthomasumc.org

703-368-5161

Newsletter Deadline:

15th of the month

Please email all articles to both:

samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org

receptionist@stthomasumc.org

June Church Events

- June 16 -18 Virginia Annual Conference
- June 19 Father's Day
- June 20 - 24 Vacation Bible School
- June 29 Wacky Wednesday:
Popsicles on the Playground

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	June Birthdays		1 Nancy Birdsell	2 Sheila Dawson Martha Barlow	3	4 Florence Adams
5 Andrew Santee	6 David Connor	7 Mary Haines	8	9	10	11 Alex Boyd
12	13 Jennifer Miller	14 Phil Schrack Christen Thompson Caiden Thompson	15 Lizzy Ledesma	16	17 Larry Madison	18 Christopher Bixby John Evans Buddy Kilby Al Sanchez Bryan Spencer
19	20	21 Jim Buchanan June Childress	22 Janie Crompton Anne Madison	23	24	25 Ed Glade
26 Helen Brewer- Irons	27 Linda Barger Davina Norman Wesley Swanson	28 Annette Juran	29 Launie Spedden	30		