

# HUGHES CALLER



November 2017 Edition

## Pastor Ken's Column



Natural disasters of the past two months have brought incredible devastation to the United States and Mexico.

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, the earthquake in Mexico, and now wildfires in California, have brought devastation and loss of life in horrific ways. We may have questions for God about God's power and sovereignty, as well as wondering what we can do to help people rebuild their lives.

In time of tragedy, I am often asked, "Where was God when this happened? Couldn't God stop it?" While it may be unsatisfying to contemplate, God created the world with a set of natural laws and set it into motion. Not that the earth is a sentient being, but there is a sense of "free will" for the universe, just as human beings are given free will to make choices in our lives. Most often these natural laws bring beauty and the gifts of life's necessities. Those laws can also wreak havoc on human civilization, such as we have seen in recent months. Our own acts of free will have likely played a part in

"how the world turns," as the severity and impact of storms increase due to climate change. God promises to be with us at all times and in all places, so when these horrific events hit our shores, we know that God is present, offering comfort to the injured and those who mourn; strength to persevere through the difficult days and complete the necessary tasks of cleanup; new life, as families rebuild their lives and communities reconstruct their infrastructure; and hope in God's future.

As human beings and followers of Christ, we seek to respond with compassion and offer help in any way we can. First, we are called to pray, for as we pray we place communities and victims into the presence and power of God. But our response should not end with prayer. Monetary gifts to relief organizations are vital for rebuilding lives. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is one of my favorite organizations because every dollar donated reaches communities in need. Administrative costs are absorbed by the denomination's budget, and the One Great Hour of

Sharing/UMCOR Sunday offering received every March. We are receiving donations to be sent for hurricane relief.

UMCOR teams are on the ground in Texas and have mucked out over 5000 residences, and also in Florida where they have joined with local teams. UMCOR is working with the Methodist Churches in Mexico and Puerto Rico to assess damage and respond as requested for clean-up and rebuilding. Our missionaries in Mexico are safe and are helping to lead groups of volunteers. Once assessments are complete, long-term plans will be established for rebuilding and community revitalization. When UMCOR goes into a community, leaders remain, sometimes for several years to complete the plan. As opportunities are announced, we will seek to create a Volunteer in Missions team to work on a project. If our group is too small, we can partner with other congregations. We have already established a ministry partnership with Silver Spring UMC and First UMC in Hyattsville has also indicated a desire to create a team. Through Pastor Evelyn and other members of our congregation, we have ties in Puerto Rico, so sending a team there would certainly be a logical choice.

Seek out the presence of God in the midst of life. Pray for those in need. Give monetary gifts to help change lives. Serve our neighbors in direct, face-to-face ministries. The work of Christ to alleviate suffering and share love continues in our midst.

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## November Worship Plans

### **November 5 – All Saints' Sunday**

**Theme:** God's children are loved and recreated into the likeness of Christ.

**Scripture:** Psalm 34:1-10, 22

**Meditation Title:** "Children of God"

**A Celebration of Holy Communion**

### **November 12 – Pentecost 22**

**Theme:** Bringing our tithes, offerings and gifts to God builds community.

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 26:1-15; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (28-31)

**Sermon Title:** "Sacred Portions"

### **November 19 – Thanksgiving Sunday**

**Theme:** The joy and power of giving thanks

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Luke 17:11-19

**Sermon Title:** "Thanks Be to God"

**Consecration Sunday**

### **November 26 – The Reign of Christ Sunday**

**Theme:** Working as partners with God to establish Christ's reign now and for the future

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

**Sermon Title:** "A Future with Hope"

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Executive Board will meet on Monday, November 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Friendship Circle will meet at noon in the Parlor on Tuesday, November 7. Loyalty Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 8. **Please note** that it will be the second Wednesday of November. Eloise Woods will be the hostess.

We are sad to report that the UMW will no longer be able to support some programs we have sponsored in the past. We will no longer sponsor the Church-wide Christmas Luncheon or sell Giant Gift Cards. We thank everyone for the support we have received in the past. The Gift cards made possible \$200 Gifts to our graduating seniors, and contributed to many projects around the Church. If anyone would like to chair these projects, we would be happy to lend our support.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### Death:

Lucy Smith (member) died October 10, 2017. A memorial service will be held on November 3rd at 3 pm in the Guild Memorial Chapel at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, MD.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

**Dean Reginald Britter**, son of Kenneth L. Britter, died February 12, 2017.

Ken states: "Beloved son, sorely missed."

*"They shall mount up with wings as eagles..."*

Isaiah 40:31



**Dr. Harvey Galloway**, a long-time member of our church, died August 26, 2017.

He was a medical doctor at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and attended Hughes UMC regularly. He moved to Riderwood following his retirement.



**Gertrude Spahn**, mother of Laraine Grant, died January 28, 2017.

Mom (Trudy) was a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Washingtonian. She worked at Parkland Middle School in Rockville for 30 years and loved her job. Mom would say after having four children, dealing with ‘middle schoolers’ was a piece of cake! In retirement, she liked to travel and to spend time with her friends, family, and especially her grand/great grandchildren. She is missed!



Thank you, thank you!

Thanks to all the new friends who joined with the regulars to make the Rummage Sale a success. Hopefully the wonderful feeling of working together for a meaningful activity (**we raised over \$3,000**) will make you want to help at the March 24, 2018 Rummage Sale.

### Church Financial Snapshot

<b>Operating Budget</b>	<b>October 24</b>	<b>Total 2017</b>
Income	\$ 45,167	\$ 424,673
Expenses	\$ 36,183	\$ 468,916

Kindly e-mail your Caller articles to Marty Weaver, Editor at [caller@hughesumc.org](mailto:caller@hughesumc.org) or place them in the Caller drawer outside of the Church Office by the 15th of each month.

Please visit the Hughes Website at [www.hughesumc.org](http://www.hughesumc.org)