

242ND SESSION OF THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE  
MAY 27-29, 2026

# ROOTED

*in Christ*



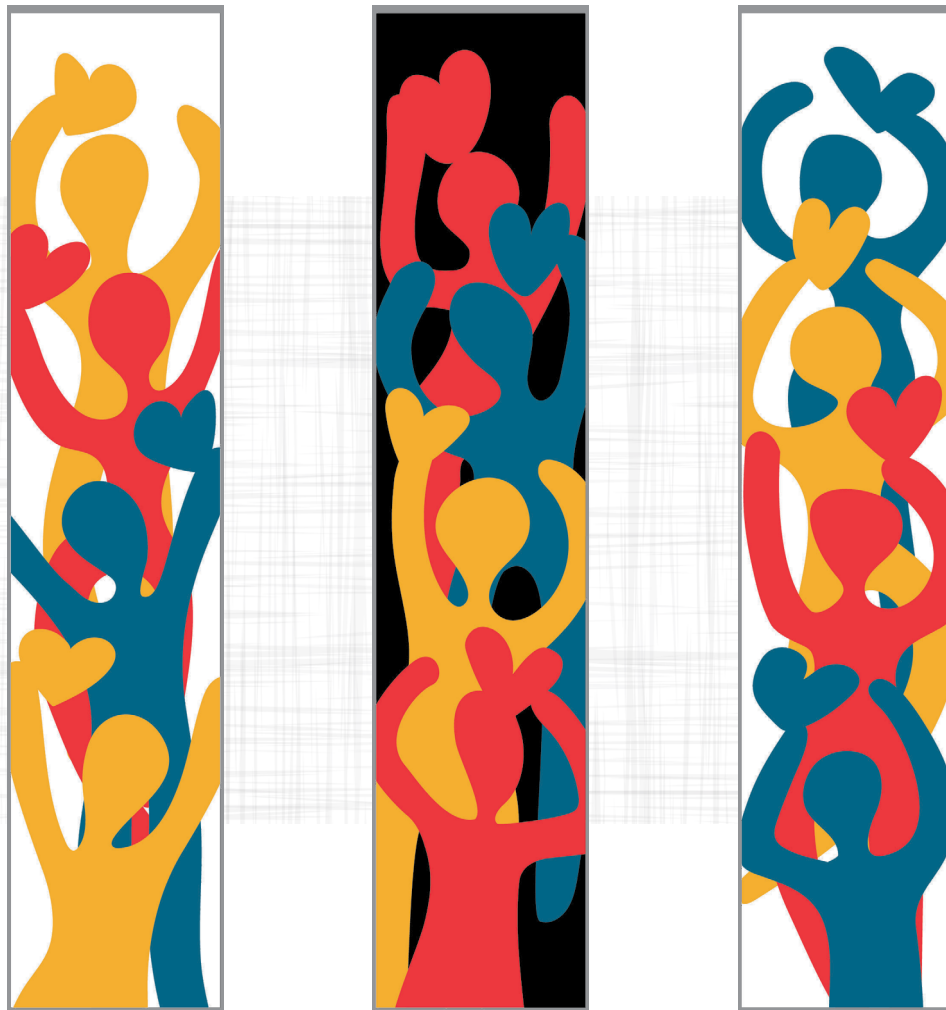
**Love Boldly**

**Serve Joyfully**

**Lead Courageously**

*Worship*

# WELCOME

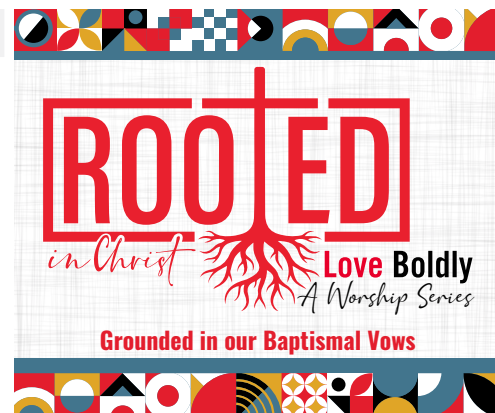


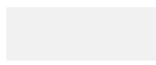
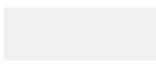
## About the Art

Rooted in Christ: Love Boldly comes to life through roots and rising growth, symbolizing God’s enduring love as our foundation. Figures on the vertical banners embody bold, outward love shared with the world. Together, the artwork reflects connection and renewal. Discover more about the artist and inspiration on page 38.

Art created by worship team member, Murray Archibald, Peninsula-Delaware Conference

“Rooted in Christ: Love Boldly” is a flexible five-week worship series designed for use after Annual Conference, inviting congregations across the Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area to explore what it means to love boldly. Each week centers on a baptismal vow, calling us to repentance, resisting injustice, living in accountable community, nurturing belonging, and embodying Christ’s love in the world. This resource provides ready-to-use tools including scripture, prayers, music suggestions, and graphics to simplify planning and unite churches in a shared worship experience. Visit [pdcbbc.org/love-boldly-worship-series](http://pdcbbc.org/love-boldly-worship-series) to learn more.





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**0 5**

**OPENING WORSHIP**

**1 0**

**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

**1 6**

**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES**

**2 2**

**SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING & ORDINATION**

**3 3**

**ROOTED IN CHRIST THROUGH CREATIVE EXPRESSION**

# INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

The United Methodist Church affirms the importance of the use of “diverse biblical images and titles for God, including masculine/feminine metaphors; use language for humans that reflects both male and female; use metaphors of color, darkness, ability, and age in positive ways.” (Resolution 5301. Biblical Language)

Using inclusive language in our Annual Conference Worship liturgy embodies this commitment from our Book of Resolutions by putting our love into action as we celebrate the diversity of God’s Church across our episcopal area. By acknowledging the diversity of God’s children while using expansive language for God, we find ways to help all people feel seen and known by the beloved community of God.

If you would like resources on ways of worshiping God that lean into more inclusivity of our siblings in Christ and neighbors in our communities, please visit: [bwcumc.org/events/annual-conference-inclusive-language-statement](https://bwcumc.org/events/annual-conference-inclusive-language-statement)

# OPENING WORSHIP

## GATHERING PRAISE AND PRAYER

### INVITATION TO PARTICIPATION

Rev. Will Green  
Silver Spring United Methodist Church

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"How Firm A Foundation"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Paris Moore, Jr.  
Eastern United Methodist Church

ONE VOICE: God, your people cry out.

**MANY VOICES: We come to love God with all our hearts**

God, your people cry out.

**We come to love God with all our souls.**

God, your people cry out.

**We come to love God with all our might.**

God, your people cry out.

**We come to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We come to love boldly.**

### HYMN

"Worthy Of It All"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

Holy and Living God,  
Root of our strength,  
Source of our courage

You have made roads through barren lands  
to lead us here

and drawn rivers of living water in the  
desert places to nurture us.

Because your love is unconditional and unwavering,  
We are rooted and secure.

When we are between trial and tribulation,  
you assure us it will not be our undoing.

No one can take us from your loving hand.

As you have gathered us in generations past,  
lead and guide us now and in the days to come  
as we seek your wisdom and your vision for your people.

Plant in us a renewed and holy boldness  
to love as Christ loved,

to make peace and serve justice  
with humility and grace.

You are our God yesterday, today and forever.

And so the people proclaim together:

**PEOPLE: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

<sup>2</sup>Rev. Michael Carrington & Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton, adapted in part from Delana Taylor  
in *Worship Every Time or Place: The Compact Book of Methodist Liturgies, Prayers, and Other Acts of Blessing*, p. 38

**HEBREW BIBLE READING – ISAIAH 43:1-2, 14-19 (NRSVUE)**

Rev. Dr. Steven Sunghwan Cho  
Wards Chapel United Methodist Church

**SUNG RESPONSE**

“We’ve Come This Far By Faith”  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord.  
Trusting in God’s Holy Word, God’s never failed us yet.  
O, can’t turn around. We’ve come this far by faith.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING – EPHESIANS 3:16-19 (NRSVUE)**

Mrs. Rita Green  
Fairhaven United Methodist Church

I pray that, according to the riches of God’s glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**ONE VOICE:**       The word of God for the people of God.

**PEOPLE:**         **Thanks be to God.**

**MUSIC OF PREPARATION**

“I Love the Lord”  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**SERMON**

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

Pastor Lucinda Kent  
Property with Purpose Coordinator  
Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference

Seeds of Security is a ministry of Bishop LaTrelle Easterling and the Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Area, which offers healing and a safe haven for survivors of Domestic Violence/ Intimate Partner Violence. Learn more at [pdcbwc.org/sos](https://pdcbwc.org/sos).



Offering

## MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

"Let It Rise"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

## CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM<sup>3</sup>

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area  
Rev. Leo Yates, Jr.  
Accessibility and Inclusivity Coordinator, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference  
Amelia Duroska  
Conference Lay Leader, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference

*During our remembrance of baptism, vergers will move through the congregation to sprinkle water on those gathered. We invite you during that time to indicate to one of the vergers if you prefer not receive the water.*

## PRESENTED FOR HOLY BAPTISM:

André-Noël M. A. Briscoe, III,  
son of Rev. Andre R. Briscoe, Jr. and Tamika L. Briscoe

## \*SUNG RESPONSE

"Come, Be Baptized"

**ONE VOICE:** To all who gather around the living font of God's love I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death and sate your hunger with grace and with truth?

**MANY VOICES:** **We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.**

\*Stand as you are able

<sup>3</sup>Adapted by Rev. Ken Hawes and Rev. Will Green from materials written by Dr. Marcia McFee (*Journey to Discipleship*), Rev. Michael Carrington and Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling for the 2025 Installation of District Superintendents

**ONE VOICE:** Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**MANY VOICES:** We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body?

We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in Christ's grace, and promise to serve Christ as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientations, nations, and races, and gender identities.

**SUNG RESPONSE**

"Come, Be Baptized"

**ONE VOICE:** Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include André now before you in your care?

**MANY VOICES:** With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be a true disciple who walk in the way that leads to life.

**ONE VOICE:** ...And all God's people said:

**CONGREGATION:** Hallelujah. Amen.

**RESPONSIVE HYMN**

"I Am Thine, Oh Lord"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**\* BENECTION**

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area

**\* RECESSIONAL HYMN**

"You are Good"

A lit white candle and a white lily flower on a wooden surface. The candle is on the right, lit with a bright flame. The lily flower is on the left, partially open, showing a yellow center. The background is a soft, out-of-focus wooden surface.

# Service of Remembrance

**Celebrated by the  
Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference  
of The United Methodist Church**

**Thursday, May 28, 2026, 1:45 pm**

**Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor  
401 W Pratt Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

Rev. Patricia Allen

Mount Tabor United Methodist Church

**ONE VOICE:** Praise to you, O Tree of Life, thriving in this life  
and in the life to come;

**MANY VOICES:** ...you who turned the finality of the tomb  
into the promise of everlasting life;

you who go before us across the  
wilderness of death;

**you who love us despite ourselves, and  
inspire us to unconditional love.**

Here and now, we turn to you and to each other,  
**seeking strength and comfort for the road ahead.**

May your divine love be made  
known to us here and now.

**Be near to us, O God.**

**\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Come Ye Disconsolate"

**\* OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup>**

Rev. DV Yost

Arnolia United Methodist Church

O God, our beginning and our ending,  
We remember before you all those who have gone from this life to eternal  
life in Christ;

Each relative, beloved, colleague and friend scattered across the globe.

We laud you for each one whose presence has enriched our days and  
comforted us in dark nights.

We ask with Elisha - give us a double helping of the Spirit you poured out  
on them.

O God, our Dawn, our Day, our Darkness,  
embrace us in our sorrow today, and enable us to love boldly in the days  
and weeks and years to come.

Empower us to live unafraid of death, in the name of the One who  
overcame the grave.

**Amen.**

**TOLLING OF REMEMBRANCE & READING OF THE NAMES**

Rev. Nick Works , South Damascus Charge

Rev. Michael Carrington , Eastern United Methodist Church

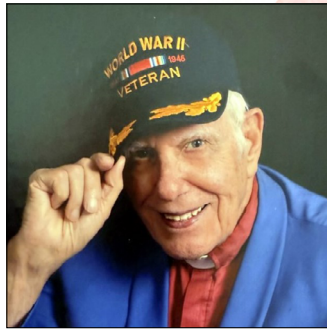
\*Stand as you are able

<sup>1</sup>Written by Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton <sup>2</sup>Ibid

# Clergy



REV. GEORGE A. AIST  
8/5/33 - 9/6/25



REV. EDISON MCKINLEY AMOS  
12/31/28 - 8/3/25



REV. HOWARD RONALD ELLIS  
2/23/27 - 9/16/25



REV. RONALD E. FLEMMING-TRIPLETT  
6/6/73 - 4/11/26



PASTOR MARSHALL DOUGLAS FRAM  
3/30/32 - 3/22/26



PASTOR NANCY L. GREEN  
7/22/51 - 3/30/26



REV. CARROLL REESE GUNKEL  
3/3/37 - 7/13/25



REV. JAMES D. MANNING  
4/8/35 - 3/19/26



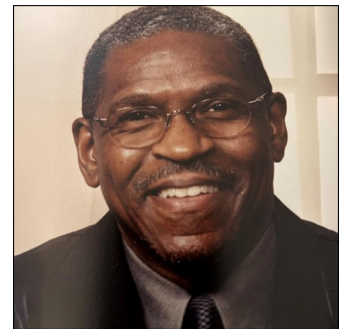
REV. SHERRIN D. MARSHALL  
9/6/43 - 11/11/25



REV. CURTIS LAMAR MITCHELL  
3/15/30 - 2/17/26



PASTOR KERMIT MOORE  
10/21/51 - 4/15/26



REV. CONRAD DELANTE PARKER  
2/14/48 - 6/18/25



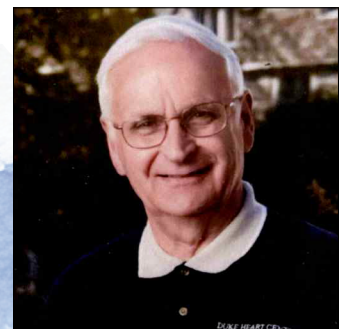
REV. FRANCIS BLAINE RICKER  
3/1/37 - 12/26/25



REV. JOAN I. SENYK  
10/14/38 - 10/2/25



REV. THOMAS C. STARNES  
6/14/32 - 3/5/26



REV. EDWIN M. WRAY  
12/10/38 - 3/2/26

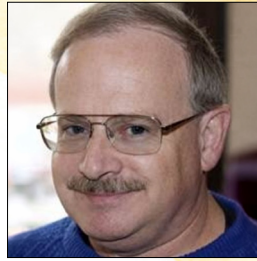
# Clergy Spouses



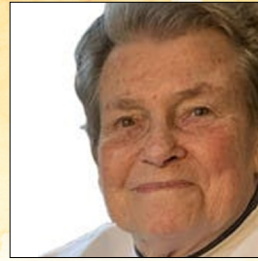
FRANCETTE BOLING  
11/22/36 - 12/8/25



MARTHA N. BORTNER  
4/27/35 - 7/17/25



LESTER E. BRANTNER 9/26/54  
- 2/26/26



SYLVIA CREEGER BURTNER  
8/3/33 - 11/23/25



JUDITH LYNNE BUTLER  
5/8/43 - 11/14/25



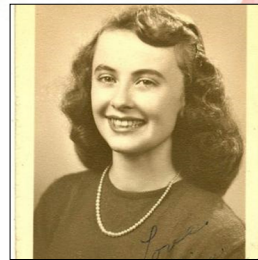
VIRGINIA I. CROSS  
9/12/37 - 7/24/25



POLLY DEHART  
2/4/45 - 4/26/26



CYNTHIA E. FLEET  
6/2/60 - 9/21/24



NINA MAE GOODMAN  
4/14/35 - 1/12/26



BESSIE C. HOWARD  
8/2/29 - 7/27/25



DENNIS M. LETTO  
2/25/48 - 12/11/25



SHIRLEY S. LEWIS  
11/29/35 - 7/29/25



CHRISTINE W. MILLER-BETTS  
7/3/36 - 6/5/25



ARETTIA C. NAIR  
5/5/26 - 1/2/26



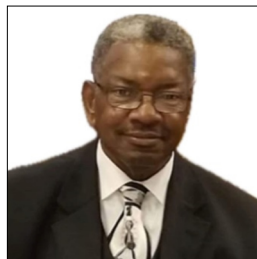
SARAH KAESER ROBERTS  
12/11/46 - 9/2/25



SYLVIA MATILDA SAWYER  
2/8/51 - 11/1/25



SHIRLEY ANN SIEGLEIN  
3/22/44 - 6/23/25



WILLIAM A. THOMAS  
1/13/43 - 3/27/26



MILDRED S. WARFIELD  
12/17/31 - 1/14/26



EVELYN G. WHITE WARFIELD  
10/11/21 - 1/31/26



SHIRLEY ANN ZIMMERMAN  
4/28/37 - 10/11/25

## LITANY OF LIBATION AND THANKSGIVING<sup>3</sup>

Pastor César Núñez  
Salem United Methodist Church

**ONE VOICE:** Holy One, we honor these lives poured out as libations before you, as emissaries of Christ; lives that have blessed multitudes.

**MANY VOICES:** **As with them, so with us, in Jesus' name.**

**ONE VOICE:** Al final de mis días, cuando la vida en esta tierra se acabe,

**MANY VOICES:** **Que se diga con verdad que mi vida fue derramada por ti.**

### SPECIAL MUSIC

"Nothing To Fear", The Porter's Gate  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**EPISTLE LESSON: EPHESIANS 3:16-19 (NRSVUE)** Pastor Cassandra Nuñez  
Hispanic/Latine Ministries Coordinator

**ONE VOICE:** This is the word of God for the people of God.

**MANY VOICES:** **Thanks be to God.**

### SHARING THE MESSAGE

Rev. Narae Kim  
Severna Park United Methodist Church

### RESPONSIVE HYMNS

"Hymn of Promise"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

### \* SENDING FORTH<sup>4</sup>

Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton  
Chevy Chase United Methodist Church

**ONE VOICE:** May the love of God surround you.

**MANY VOICES:** **May the love of Christ uplift you.**

May the love of God stand with you through the challenges ahead.

**May the Spirit of God convince you, in every situation, to love.**

Go now to love others, even as Christ loves you.

### \* BENEDECTION

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Peninsula-Delaware & Baltimore-Washington Episcopal Area

### \* RECESSIONAL HYMN

"God Be With You till We Meet Again"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

<sup>3</sup> English litany by Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton; Spanish litany by Safiya Fosua, translated by Julio Vargas-Vidal, in *Worship & Song: Worship Resources*, p. 73 <sup>4</sup> Adapted from Kwasi L. Kena in *Worship & Song: Worship Resources* #176

\*Stand as you are able





# **CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Baltimore-Washington Conference  
The United Methodist Church**

**Thursday, May 28 , 2026 - 7 p.m.**

**Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor  
401 W, Pratt Steet  
Baltimore, MD 21201**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**EPISTLE READING – ROMANS 12: 4-13 (NRSVUE)**

Rev. Ashley Hoover  
Jerusalem Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Rev. Laura Norvell  
Faith United Methodist Church

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. YouJung Jung  
Rockville United Methodist Church

**ONE VOICE:** We are many members, but one body.

**MANY VOICES:** **Rooted in Christ, we celebrate the gifts among us.**

For every teacher and leader, for every giver  
and servant:

**We give thanks for the ministries that build us up.**

We rejoice in hope, persevere in prayer, and open  
our hearts in hospitality.

**We come to celebrate the many ways God binds us  
together in love.**

**ALL:** **Let us rejoice.**

**\* OPENING HYMN**

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**LOVE BOLDLY**

Rev. Bill Brown  
Director of Congregational Vitality

**ONE MATTERS AWARD**

Rev. Bill Brown  
Director of Congregational Vitality

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY IMPACT AWARD**

Pastor Natiya Bennett  
Young People's Ministry Coordinator

**LOVE BOLDLY AWARD**

Rev. Stacey Cole Wilson  
Executive Minister of Beloved Community

**ONE VOICE:** We are many members, but one body.

**MANY VOICES:** We thank God for your bold witness and for the ways you have shown us how to love boldly.

**SUNG RESPONSE**

"Let It Rise"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**SERVE JOYFULLY**

Rev. Bill Brown  
Director of Congregational Vitality

**LAY MINISTRY IMPACT AWARD**

Amelia Duroska  
Conference Lay Leader

**FRESH EXPRESSIONS**

Rev. Bill Brown  
Director of Congregational Vitality

**SERVE JOYFULLY AWARD**

Rev. Jacqueline Davis Ford  
Director of Connectional Ministries, Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference

**ONE VOICE:** We are many members, but one body.

**MANY VOICES:** We thank God for your generous hearts and for the ways you have shown us how to serve joyfully.

**SUNG RESPONSE**

"Let It Rise"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**LEAD COURAGEOUSLY**

Christie Latona  
Chief Program Officer & Director of Connectional Ministries

**CHURCH CLOSURES**

Rev. John Wunderlich  
District Superintendent, Canal District

**LEAD COURAGEOUSLY AWARD**

Christie Latona  
Chief Program Officer & Director of Connectional Ministries

**SUNG RESPONSE**

"Let It Rise"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**CERTIFIED LAY MINISTERS**

Linda Flanagan  
Director, Lay Servant Ministries  
Rev. Dr. C Anthony Hunt  
Epworth Chapel United Methodist Church

**ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Revs. Amanda McMurtrey & Paul Johnson  
Co-chairs, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, Board of Ordained Ministry

**RETIREES & ORDINANDS**

Revs. Amanda McMurtrey & Paul Johnson  
Co-chairs, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, Board of Ordained Ministry

**ONE VOICE:** We are many members, but one body.

**MANY VOICES:** We thank God for your bold witness and for the ways you have shown us how to lead courageously.

**SUNG RESPONSE**

"Let It Rise"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Rev. Linda Motter  
Calvary United Methodist Church  
Rev. Jaleesa Hall  
Raising a Village Foundation

**\* CLOSING HYMN**

"Love Lifted Me"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**\* BENEDICTION**

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area

**SERVICE NOTES**

*Thank you for leading us in worship.*

**RESIDENT BISHOP** Bishop LaTrelle Easterling Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Area

**GUEST BISHOP** Bishop Gregory Palmer, Retired Bishop of The United Methodist Church

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**

Rev. John Wunderlich	Canal
Rev. Sarah Schlieckert	Harbor
Rev. Jim Miller	Lakes
Rev. Eliezer Valentín-Castañón	Reservoir
Rev. Ianther Mills	Tidal Basin
Rev. Johnsie Cogman	Two Rivers

**EXTENDED CABINET MEMBERS FROM BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE STAFF**

Erica Robinson-Johnson	Chief Administrative Officer
Bill Brown	Director of Congregational Vitality
Alison Burdett	Director of Communications
Amelia Duroska	Conference Lay Leader
Paul Eichelberger	Conference Treasurer / Chief Financial Officer
Christie Latona	Chief Program Officer / Director of Connectional Ministries
David Schoeller	Director of Business Systems
Jack Shitama	Center for Vital Leadership

**BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON & PENINSULA-DELAWARE AREA WORSHIP PLANNING TEAM**

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling	Resident Bishop
Murray Archibald	Liturgical Artist and Visuals Coordinator
Barry Black, II	
Michael Carrington	
Keisha Dukes	
Kate Mackereth Fulton	Opening Worship Team Co-Lead
William Green	Chair
Ken Hawes	
Demetrio Beach Kenon	
Sean Lee	
Liz Marrero	
Laura Norvell	
Chelsea Spyres	Memorial Service Co-Lead
Carissa Surber	
Richard Walton	
Meredith West	Opening Worship Co-Lead
Lattisha Williams	
Leo Yates, Jr.	
DV Yost	Celebrations of Ministry Team Co-Lead

## **BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**

Rev. Dr. Paul Johnson	Co-Chair
Rev. Amanda McMurtrey	Co-Chair
Rev. Chris Owens	Provisional Member Registrar
Rev. Alicia Vanisko	Full Member Registrar
Rev. Laurie Tingley	Ordination Committee Chair

## **THE 2026 CLASS OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS**

David Scott

Elder

## **THE 2026 CLASS OF FULL MEMBERS**

William Carpenter

Jaleesa Hall

Cassandra Lawrence

Deacon

## **THE 2026 CLASS OF ELDERS**

Charles Anderson-Gray

James Cogman

Gerald Elston

Joshua Gillen

Ashley Hoover

Jenn Osterfeld

Yongchi Rhie

Leo Yates

## **VIDEOGRAPHY**

### **GOOD NEWS TV**

2525 Beech Avenue  
Macon, Georgia 31204  
1-912-745-2366

Video tapes of the service may be purchased by contacting Good News TV.

The Baltimore- Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area Worship Team gives thanks for the skilled servant leaders and artists from across our Area, as well as Area Staff for their investment of time, collaboration, and creative investments in our shared worship. We especially thank Alison Burdett, Moe Battley, Terri Cleary, Christine Trott, Cheryl Cook, Karen Conroy, Sanjeev Christopher, Christie Latona, Rev. Jacqueline Davis Ford, and Sophie Amer for the countless hours they've invested to help bring our Conferences alive with praise. We also thank Jeannie Marsh (Epworth UMC, Rehoboth Beach), Carol Henley (Faith UMC, Rockville), and Pegg Melfa (Hunt's Memorial UMC, Towson) for creating mantles and stoles for our Bishop and ordinands, as well as Chevy Chase and Silver Spring UMCs for their financial assistance in purchasing new Episcopal Area altar ware.

For more information about our teams work, or to request copies of liturgy's used during worship this year, please email [acworship@silverspringumcp.org](mailto:acworship@silverspringumcp.org).

The Cokesbury Bell originally rang in students at Cokesbury College, Abingdon, MD, the first Methodist College in the World. After the school burned, the bell eventually found its way into the collection of Rev. Dr. John Goucher who used it for many years to ring in the students at the Woman's College of Baltimore (now, Goucher College). It is on permanent display at the Lovely Lane Museum & Archives, Baltimore, MD, who loaned it for this service.

# SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING

**Baltimore-Washington Conference  
The United Methodist Church**

**Friday, May 29, 2026, 1:30 pm**

**Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor  
401 W, Pratt Steet  
Baltimore, MD 21201**

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**Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling**  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington Conference  
Presiding

**Bishop Gregory Palmer**  
Retired Bishop of The United Methodist Church

## **GATHERING MUSIC & INVITATION**

*We invite you be in prayer for those who will be commissioned and ordained, as we prepare for worship to begin.*

### **\* PROCESSIONAL HYMNS**

*"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"*

*"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*

## **LITANY OF CELEBRATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Revs. Amanda McMurtrey & Paul Johnson

Co-chairs, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, Board of Ordained Ministry

**ONE VOICE:** Hesaketvmese, Chihowa, we come to this space to honor and recognize who you are in our lives.

**MANY VOICES:** **Help us to see and feel your presence as we hear your call to fulfill our duties as your Disciples. As we gather, unite our hearts in purpose so that our actions reflect your love in every step of our journey.**

We acknowledge the lands we walk upon and the waters that give us life each day.

**Help us to be good stewards over the lands, waters, and those you entrust us with.**

We carry the words of wisdom and inspirations of our ancestors who shared your message of grace, love and hope.

**Let us lead with compassion, offering hope to those we serve in our homes, churches and communities. May our stories of Jesus inspire others to seek and worship you.**

We thank you for the changing of the seasons to remind us that in our walk of life there will be changes we too will go through as women, as daughters and as mothers.

**Support us during our trials, whisper words of comfort and assurance, so we may know that all will be well. Let us hold tightly to your everlasting love, drawing strength from your presence.**

ONE VOICE:

As we give life and breath to our homes, nurture our relationships and guide the next generation – whether as mothers, mentors, or caregivers—we commit ourselves to supporting and uplifting those who will come after us. United in purpose, we pledge to foster growth, wisdom, and hope for the future.

**MANY VOICES:**

**Together, we will nurture the seeds of tomorrow, guiding future generations.**

We will live fully in our identity, culture, and traditions, for these are the gifts that shape who we are. You have given us the breath of life, and we honor that gift by embracing all that makes us unique.

**You have breathed life into us and taught us to walk with purpose – serving others with empathy, kindness, and courage. Help us to carry this spirit into every moment, so our journey may inspire healing in our communities.**

There will be those who walk in your light and those who walk in darkness. We can connect to both because of the wisdom and guidance you have supplied us.

**As Moses carried your staff of strength & wisdom to lead your children, we will lean upon our ancestor's teachings for your strength and wisdom to be a beacon for us and generations to come.**

We will carry your words of life through every breath, every deed, and every thought.

**We will discipline ourselves so our studies and prayers are aligned with you, Our Creator.**

**ALL:**

**Together, we carry your spirit— guiding and uplifting those who have lost their way, so that each may discover their path of hope, for this is the calling we embrace.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling

Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area

**ONE VOICE:** The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

**MANY VOICES:** And also with you.

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit you gave to your apostles many excellent gifts. Give your grace to all servants of your church, that we may with diligence and faithfulness fulfill our various ministries. Grant that we your people may follow where you lead, perfect our ministries, and live in joyful obedience to your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling

Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area

Bishop Gregory Palmer

Retired Bishop of The United Methodist Church

**ONE VOICE:** Do you believe in God the Creator?

**MANY VOICES:** I believe in God, the Creator Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**ONE VOICE:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**MANY VOICES:** **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

In the waters of our baptism, God establishes a dwelling place from which joy, grace, and mercy continuously flow. Remember you are baptized, and be thankful.

**We reaffirm our baptism and our common call to ministry. Thanks be to God.**

**PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES**

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling

Resident Bishop of the Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Area

Revs. Amanda McMurtrey & Paul Johnson

Co-chairs, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, Board of Ordained Ministry

Rev. Martina Efodzi

Aya Healing Arts

Rev. Laura Norvell

Chair of the Order of Elders

**ONE VOICE:** Which laity from our local churches affirm these candidates to be commissioned or ordained?

**MANY VOICES:** **We have recommended them in our local congregations. We present them with our prayers and support.**

**TO BE ORDAINED TO THE ORDER OF DEACON:**

William Carpenter

Jaleesa Hall

Cassandra Lawrence

**TO BE ORDAINED TO THE ORDER OF ELDER:**

Charles Anderson-Gray

James Cogman

Gerald Elston

Joshua Gillen

Ashley Hoover

Jenn Osterfeld

Yongchi Rhie

Leo Yates

**TO BE ORDAINED TO THE ORDER OF PROVISIONAL ELDER:**

David Scott

**ONE VOICE:** Do you trust that they are worthy, by God's grace,  
to be ordained or commissioned?

**MANY VOICES:** **We do. Thanks be to God.**  
Will you uphold them in their ministry?  
**With God's help, we will.**

**THE GENERAL EXAMINATION** Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area

**ONE VOICE:** May God, who has given you the will to do these  
things, give you grace to perform them, that the  
work begun in you may be brought to perfection.

**MANY VOICES:** **Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** "To God Be the Glory"

**SCRIPTURE READING – EPHESIANS 3:14-21 (NRSVUE)** Rev. George Winkfield  
Loch Raven United Methodist Church

**\*SUNG RESPONSE** "Koinonia"

**\*GOSPEL READING – MATTHEW 22:34-40 (NRSVUE)**  
Chaplain Elijah Ferebee  
Frostburg State University

**ONE VOICE:** The Gospel of our Lord.

**MANY VOICES:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**ANTHEM** "You Are My Strength"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

**SERMON** Bishop Gregory Palmer  
Retired Bishop of The United Methodist Church

## OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Amanda McMurtrey  
Co-Chair, Baltimore-Washington Board of Ordained Ministry

Tonight's offering will support the Baltimore-Washington Conference Board of Ordained Ministry's Clergy Renewal Leave Fund. Checks should be written to the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference. [bwcumc.org/offering](http://bwcumc.org/offering)



Offering

## MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

Solo  
"Come Ye Disconsolate"

**COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBER** Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area

**ONE VOICE:** ...In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit.

**MANY VOICES:** Amen.

## SUNG RESPONSE

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

## EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area

**ONE VOICE:** ... in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever.

**MANY VOICES:** Amen.

## ORDINATION FOR DEACONS & ELDERS

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area

**ONE VOICE:** ...In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit.

**MANY VOICES:** Amen.

## \* SONG OF CELEBRATION

"Praise Him"  
Baltimore-Washington Worship Team

\*Stand as you are able

**\* CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Peninsula-Delaware & Baltimore-Washington Episcopal Area

Rev. Martina Efodzi  
Chair, Order of Deacons  
Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference

Amelia Duroska  
Conference Lay Leader, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference

ONE VOICE: And the people say, "And also with you."

**CONGREGATION: "And also with you."**

ONE VOICE: Turn to the people around you and tell them this news: "The peace of Christ is always with you."

**PEOPLE: "The peace of Christ is always with you."**

... So we lift up our hearts. And the family says, "We lift them up to God."

**"We lift them up to God."**

... We join our voices together praising you along with all who do, who have ever done so and who ever will do so, repeating:

**Holy, Holy, Holy God.**

**Everywhere we see your Glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**... and the widest...**

**... and the deepest...**

**... core of our being.**

**ONE VOICE:**

Let us remind ourselves by saying  
"The Lord is present with every one of us."

**PEOPLE:**

**"The Lord is present with every one of us."**

**Come to the table of hope,  
Come to the table of hope.  
This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.  
Come to the table of hope.**

**Come to the table of love,  
Come to the table of love.  
This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.  
Come to the table of love.**

**"Christ has died"**

**"Christ is risen",**

**"Christ will come again."**

**Come to the table of joy,  
Come to the table of joy.  
This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.  
Come to the table of joy.**

### **RECEIVING THE MEAL**

You will be invited to receive the elements at stations located at the front and back of our worship space. All elements are gluten-free and can be received by intinction or pre-packaged based upon your comfort level. Please let an usher know if you need assistance in coming to receive or if you need elements brought to you.

### **SONGS FOR COMMUNION**

**"Let Us Break Bread Together"**  
**"The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power"**  
**"Power in the Blood"**

\*Stand as you are able

## INVITATION TO MINISTRY

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area

## INVITATIONAL HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

## \* LITANY OF SENDING<sup>1</sup>

Rev. Cassandra Lawrence  
Associate Chaplain, Grinnell College  
Rev. Gerald Elston  
Good Hope Union United Methodist Church

ONE VOICE: Beloved, let us rise now as we are able.  
We have heard God's call and we respond.

**MANY VOICES: Together we take the risk.**

We live into who we really are.

**Together we love our true selves.**

We reflect the light God has given us.

**Together we subvert corrupt systems.**

We disrupt that which devalues God's beloved.  
We invest in that which uplifts the children of God.

**Together we flip the tables.**

We replace the narrative of profit and loss, gain  
and self-sufficiency, with the loving community  
founded on the active, connecting, empowering,  
liberating presence of the Divine.

**We are the ones God has called**

to churches and homes,  
to campuses and hospitals,  
to bedsides and burial grounds,  
to streets and pulpits and public forums.

**We are the ones God has called, and we go with joy  
in Jesus' name.**

<sup>1</sup>Adapted by Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton from resources by Barn Geese Worship,  
\*Stand as you are able  
written for Young Clergy Women International

**\* BENEDICTION**

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Resident Bishop, Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal Area  
Rev. Cassandra Lawrence  
Associate Chaplain, Grinnell College

**ONE VOICE:** Go in peace to love and serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

**MANY VOICES:** We are sent in Christ's name.

**\* RECESSIONAL HYMN**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"





# ROOTED IN CHRIST THROUGH CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Liturgy means “the work of the people.” As United Methodists, we gather each Sunday to worship God – contributing all that we are to praise, prayer, thanksgiving, confession and commitment to discipleship. But each day, we also worship with our hands, our voices and the hundreds of small actions and responses we make in the world. Our gifts allow us to praise and worship God. So does our imagination and creative expression. We worship a Creator God, a God who planted a spark of wonder in each of our hearts.

In these next pages are the stories of United Methodists in this Area who use a variety of different arts to stay rooted in Christ.

# ALTAR CROSS:

REV. BONNIE HAWK

**“Working with wood keeps me rooted in Christ, who was likely a carpenter himself, and most certainly knew how to see the beauty in creation and make all things new.”**



The altar cross is inspired by the processional cross, a collaboration with sculptor, Lauren Hill. Both pieces integrate multiple mediums to express the diversity and unity within our Area. The altar cross is made with wood from retired pews from churches throughout the connection.

As a pastor and furniture-maker, craft is a spiritual discipline that roots me in the physical world of creation. My grandfather taught me that wood must be respected and revered as it is crafted into beautiful objects. The woodshop teaches many of the virtues of Christian discipleship – patience, gentleness, kindness, and above all—humility.

*Rev. Bonnie Hawk is an elder in the BWC and a professional furniture maker. She serves Mt. Carmel UMC in Frederick and is a porch-swing-enthusiast.*



[bonniehawk.com](http://bonniehawk.com)



# PROCESSIONAL CROSS:

LAUREN HILL

Using brass, copper, and steel to express movement and unity, this design was inspired by growing roots, flowing water, and burning flame. My hope is that this processional cross carries with it a deepening sense of the unending grace we all receive through Christ. With an intentional choice of using three metals, I also offer artistic expression to the Holy Trinity.



The creative process is how I feel most connected with the Lord and the world around me, and every moment at the forge is a humbling, grounding experience. Through the heat of the flames and strikes of the hammer, it is an honor to carry on this centuries old craft as a spiritual offering. I am grateful to have collaborated with Furniture Maker and BWC Elder, Bonnie Hawk, who incorporates the wooden element for this design, adding another visual expression of unity as we bring these two materials together.

*Laurie is a commission-based Sculptor in Woodsboro, MD, and worship leader for Fairview Chapel, under the leadership of Pastor Scott Clawson, New Market UMC. Having grown up in the United Methodist Church, this Commission is an incredible honor and has been a joy to work on.*



# DANCE:

JOSIE HOOVER

*Sacred dance is a powerful and transformative form of creative expression that fosters spiritual renewal, connection, and growth. When shared with others, it creates opportunities for spiritual renewal, connectivity, and transformation. To me, this is “embodied theology,” and is a physical connection to the Divine, to creation, and to oneself.*



Embodiment can be understood both practically and theologically. The dictionary describes it as giving tangible form to an abstract idea, while theologian Gregg R. Allison defines it as the fundamental state of human existence, fully living in our bodies. Together, these perspectives reflect how I live out my vocational call as both a dancer and a theological higher education administrator. Dance, for me, is intentional and incarnational. It moves beyond simple motion and engages the whole self, physical, emotional, and spiritual, transforming movement into sacred expression.

Through embodied movement, scripture becomes alive and active. Dance shifts from performance to proclamation, offering a prophetic witness rather than mere entertainment. When we connect more deeply with ourselves, we become more capable of authentic connection with those around us.

In both dance and education, embodied theology grounds me and sharpens my awareness of others' humanity, especially in times of distress. It encourages people to show up fully and authentically.

I am grateful for the opportunity to interpret Ephesians 3:16–19 through dance at the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference. Through this offering, I hope to embody the theme, Rooted in Christ: Love Boldly, while creating space for reflection on God's presence and call in each life.

As we enter a liturgical season of growth and faithful living, may we all embody our faith boldly, wherever we are called.

# MULTIMEDIA:

MURRAY  
ARCHIBALD

ROOTED  
IN CHRIST:  
LOVE BOLDLY



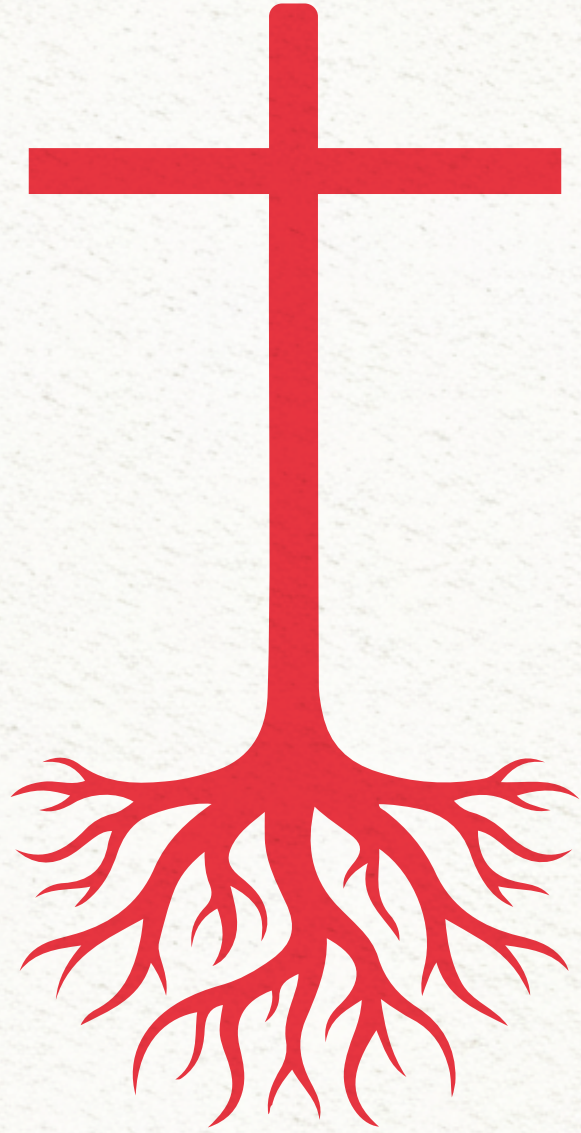
As an artist, I have long understood that whether creating art for my local church, opening a new exhibition of paintings, or creating and leading a community organization, my vision and my creativity are deeply rooted in God's infinite and inseparable love. From that place of connection there is nothing to distinguish between the sacred and the secular, for all of it is holy. All of it comes from the same source.

When first considering this year's conference theme *Rooted in Christ: Love Boldly*, I knew immediately I wanted root imagery to define the altar as the heart of our space. Working as I was, in the depths of a bitterly cold winter, I loved the joyous reminder that in spring and summer, new life bursts from old roots. I hope

the altar reminds us that from pruned branches deep roots create abundant new growth.

With the altar providing a foundation to the design of the room, I used the figures on the vertical banners to illustrate bold love—to celebrate God's infinite and inseparable love, not by holding it in our hearts but by sharing our hearts with everyone around us.

*Murray Archibald is the son of a long line of Methodist ministers on both sides of the family. He is an artist and the co-founder of CAMP Rehoboth, the LGBTQ+ community center in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. He has created worship designs at Epworth United Methodist Church in Rehoboth Beach for over 30 years.*



**Baltimore-Washington Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

