Dear Glen Mar Friends,

Lent, from the Anglo-Saxon word for spring, is my favorite season of the church year. It is a time of preparation for baptism in the early church and a time to draw closer to Christ through prayer, fasting, worship and service to others. For this Lenten time, will you join with me in these practices, as a way to strengthen our faith and prepare for Christ’s Resurrection Day?

Let’s do a “Give Me 5!”

1. **Pray five times a day:** upon rising, at mealtimes and when you go to bed. If you can’t think of what to pray, start with “Thank you, God” or try a five-finger prayer:
   - Thumb - those closest to you, friends and family.
   - Pointer Finger - those who point the way such as teachers, healers, pastors and helpers.
   - Third Finger (tallest) - leaders (in government and otherwise) and those who make hard decisions.
   - Ring Finger - weakest - those who are sick, hurting or in need.
   - Pinkie Finger - for your own needs.

2. **Read five verses of scripture a day:** Let’s read through the Gospel of Mark together. It’s the shortest gospel, and the one assigned for this lectionary year.

3. **Five acts of radical generosity per month:** Maybe you’d like to give the money you would normally spend on something that you are giving up to the church as a Second-Mile Offering? Maybe you’d like to make cookies for your neighbor? Or send cards each week to Glen Mar’s shut-ins?

4. **Join us for worship throughout Lent** (starting with our Ash Wednesday services!).

5. **Invite five people to join us for worship:** Now is a time when people need the Lord more than ever…and it’s easy to share the link to our website or our Easter services with friends.

Our Lenten worship series will be “Listening to Christ from the Cross” following Susan Robb’s book of the same name.

Observing these Lenten disciplines will make Easter more than just another Sunday…it will help God reach our hearts and heal our brokenness—and we can shout with the women at the tomb, “I have seen the Lord.”

I’m so very proud to be one of your pastors,

**Pastor Mandy**
DEAR GLEN MAR

Stewardship Committee Provides Results of the Mission Possible Campaign  By Stewardship Committee

Thanks so much to everyone who provided an Estimate of Giving for either our Ministry and Missions Campaign or our Capital Campaign. Your generosity helps Glen Mar plan for and fund the many vital ministries that provide spiritual and physical sustenance to so many in our local and world community.

We received Estimates of Giving that will cover just over 100% of our Capital Campaign goal. Over the next 2.5 years, your gifts to our Capital Campaign will allow Glen Mar to shave off a significant chunk of our debt on the building.

We received Estimates of Giving that will cover an estimated 62% of our operating budget. In addition to that, many of you continue to give regularly, even without having provided an estimate for this campaign period. Your faithful commitment has kept pace with the level of giving for our prior campaign period, which has allowed Glen Mar to continuously provide worship services (live and online), mission opportunities, and caring ministries for the congregation and community. It has enabled our staff to continue supporting and enabling all these activities without interruption, even during all the upheaval of the last year.

Your Estimate of Giving is a major planning tool that allows Glen Mar to budget responsibly. If you haven’t provided one, yet fully intend to continue giving at a certain level, it’s not too late. Cards can still be mailed in, or you can click the GIVE button on our web page to provide an Estimate of Giving online. Your Estimate of Giving is not a legal contract or an agreement to be “billed.”

It simply provides information to help us plan ahead. If you have any questions about how we use this information or how to provide an Estimate of Giving, please contact Alison Mannino (alison.mannino@glenmarumc.org) or Bob Henry (bob.henry@glenmarumc.org).

Thanks again to all of Glen Mar’s saints for all you do as our Lord’s hands and feet in this world.

Shrove Tuesday Dinner

The traditional Glen Mar Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will not take place in 2021. The Mission Board intends to bring back this tradition next year. Pancakes are connected with Shrove Tuesday as a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting period of the 40 days of Lent.

On Shrove Tuesday many Christians reflect on their sins and what improvements in life or aspects of spiritual growth they need to ask for God’s help. Many people give up something for Lent. Others take on a new goal to improve their relationship with God during that time. Even though we can’t be together you can still enjoy pancakes for dinner at home on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Soup’r Sundae/Silent Auction

As of press time, there were no plans to hold the annual Soup’r Sundae/Silent Auction co-sponsored by Glen Mar. This event has been held in the spring for the past several years to benefit Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center.
Some Things are Certain as We Move Toward Easter, Some Things are Not

By Pastor Melaina Trice

The Lenten season is just around the corner. As we enter into the time of Lent, we are reminded of the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness where he endured temptation, prepared for his public ministry and was led to the darkness of the grave. As we know, the grave did not have the final say nor did darkness, it was and has been overcome through Jesus Christ. The Light of the World overcame the darkness and set us free from it.

This Lenten season offers the same opportunities for self-examination, reflection, repentance, and a time to grow closer to God. Yet this Lent is different than most others. We are still in the midst of a pandemic. There is a great deal of social unrest. It feels much like a wilderness. We are often tempted to have our own “will be done” instead of God’s, tempted to let darkness overcome us, tempted to seek revenge instead of peace and tempted to satisfy our own passions.

Yet, we remember through Lenten reflection that we do not live by “bread alone” but by the Word of God - the will of God that is life giving. So as we enter into this particular season of Lent, the unknown is in front of us, temptation abounds, and darkness seemingly follows; but we are moving toward the Easter hope of resurrection, reconciliation, restoration, light, life, and love rising again.

Our planning for the Lenten season, Holy Week and Easter has some unknown elements. We do not know the state of the pandemic, if we will be able to gather in the Spirit Center or in small groups, and/or how we might celebrate Easter. But what we know concretely is the stone was rolled away, the tomb was empty and Jesus is alive. And, in whatever manner, we will worship this Easter truth. We may enter Lent in a wilderness and darkness but will celebrate the light of Easter.

The start of Lent begins on Ash Wed., Feb. 17. There will be two services offered: Zoom service at noon and a drive-through service at 7 p.m. Because of the pandemic and safety protocols, ashes will not be administered. However, we are inviting everyone to bring their own mud as pastors guide “mudding” during worship services.

The sermon series for the Lenten season will start on Sun., Feb. 21 where we will rediscover Jesus’s seven last words through Susan Robb’s book, Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross.

Small groups are invited to use the Robb book to inform their Lenten Bible studies. Children and youth will lead worship on Sun., Mar. 7.

There will be many opportunities throughout Holy Week to connect and be in God’s presence. A Holy Week Prayer Walk around the church property will begin on Sat., Mar. 27 and will be available until April 3. Families and individuals alike are invited to walk the self-guided path to reflect on the events of Holy Week. There will be designated times for families to sign up and walk the path with questions, prompts, and activities geared towards helping young disciples better understand the meaning of Holy Week. The Prayer Walk will then remain available throughout Holy Week for individuals or groups to walk and contemplate at their own pace. Times are being determined and communications for this will go out in the Children and Youth Ministry’s Lenten bags. Additional communications will go out to the entire church at the start of Lent.

During Holy Week, there will be a Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service. The Maundy Thursday service will be via Zoom on Apr. 1 at 7 p.m. The Good Friday service will be on Apr. 2 at 7 p.m. People will be invited to pick up palm branches and/or use any accessible flowers, record themselves waving them, and submit to the Glen Mar Tech Team. These recordings will be shown during the Good Friday service. Video submissions will be due by Mon., Mar. 15.

There will be two Easter services on Apr. 4: a sunrise service at 7 a.m. and a traditional Easter Sunday service at 10 a.m.

As this year has taught, planning requires the ability to be flexible and creative. The above plans may be altered as the state of the pandemic becomes clearer.
Glen Mar Pastors Conduct Baptisms and Call on Congregation to Remember Our Own Baptisms

During Sunday service on Nov. 15, Henry Christopher Bradt and Liam Maxwell Chao were baptized and became members of the United Methodist Church. Pastor Mandy Sayers performed the holy rituals.

Henry Christopher’s parents, Corinne and Joshua Bradt, were present as well as his two older sisters. Liam Maxwell’s parents, Sarah and Jerry Chao, and Liam’s two older brothers watched in person as Liam’s life was surrendered to God. A limited number of people were in the Spirit Center during the service due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the event was broadcast online.

Prior to the baptisms, the parents took a class where they remembered their baptisms, studied Biblical passages on baptism and the United Methodist doctrine of baptism. In addition, the parents were provided with information on what to expect at baptism. To maintain safety measures against COVID-19, the family was provided information on Glen Mar’s social distance and safety guidelines for baptism.

Pastor Anna Schwartz conducted a reaffirmation of baptism for the congregation during the online Sunday service on Jan. 10. Pastor Anna’s husband, Chris Schwartz, was present in person to remember his own baptism. Only service participants were in the Spirit Center due to church COVID-19 restrictions that were more severe than in November.

Be a part of Glen Mar’s Music Ministry

KIDS
- Cherub Choir (4 1/2 - 2nd Grade) with Joyful Noise Singers (3rd - 5th Grade)
  Contact Becky & Cindy at CherubChoir@glenmarumc.org

YOUTH
- Voices of Praise (6th Grade & Up)
  Contact Denise at VoicesofPraise@glenmarumc.org

ADULTS
- Sanctuary Choir (Adults & Upper HS Youth)
- Praise Band (Singers & Musicians)
  Contact Sophie at Sophie.Hong@glenmarumc.org
- Men in Black (MiB) (Adult & Upper HS Men)
  Contact Spencer at MensChoir@glenmarumc.org

Join the EASTER HALLELUJAH CHORUS
  Singers and Instrumentalists Needed
  Contact Sophie at Sophie.Hong@glenmarumc.org

All Choirs & Bands are Virtual until further notice
Almost 3,000 People Traveled Through Glen Mar's Journey to Bethlehem

Almost 3,000 guests in more than 700 cars attended Glen Mar Church’s outdoor, drive-through Journey to Bethlehem. It was held at six different presentations during the first two weekends in December.

Journey to Bethlehem presented the Biblical story of Mary and Joseph’s trip to Bethlehem and the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The event featured eight scenes, costumed performers and animals.

Though this is Glen Mar’s 13th year presenting the story of Jesus’s birth, it was the first time it was staged as a drive-through, which was necessitated by the coronavirus. The event was previously called Walk to Bethlehem where guests walked from scene to scene outside followed by indoor activities that included watching Simeon bless the baby Jesus in the temple and a thriving first-century marketplace.

Because the Simeon scene was not part of this year’s presentation, Glen Mar created a video of that story based on Luke 2:22-39. The video can be accessed at https://tinyurl.com/Simeon2020.

Please enjoy this pictorial offering of 2020’s Journey to Bethlehem.

1: Isaiah announces the Prince of Peace will be born.
2: Mary is told she will bear baby Jesus.
3: Mary greets her cousin Elizabeth.
4: Joseph cuts wood while waiting for God to act.
5: Mary and Joseph and the donkey travel to Bethlehem.
6: Angels praise God while shepherds watch their sheep.
7: The innkeeper has no room for Mary and Joseph.
8: Three wise men bearing gifts visit the Holy Family.
The Virtual Day of Service Was A Huge Success

Unlike past years, the 2021 Day of Service was a virtual event due to the global pandemic. The purpose was the same as in previous years – to show gratitude and love to a wide range of community members. This year there was an emphasis on thanking essential workers.

The event, that was held for the seventh consecutive year, was spread out over several days so that volunteers had multiple opportunities to pick up craft kits outside of Glen Mar Church to assemble and complete in the comfort and safety of their homes. Some volunteers also picked up and returned greeting cards they had written at home. The church also collected non-perishable food, baked goods and winter clothing.

Many of the volunteers were children. More than 290 people/families pre-registered online. A maximum of three free kits was given to each family.

During one of the take-home kit distribution times on Jan. 16, a free community-wide flu shot clinic was held.

Virtual opening and closing celebrations were conducted on Jan. 18, as were free virtual health screenings through Howard County General Hospital.

Glen Mar Church did not work alone in this major endeavor. Among our partners were Ames Memorial United Methodist Church in Baltimore, St John Baptist Church in Columbia and the Howard County Health Department.

Below is a summary of the kits handed out, and most were returned:

- 980 crafts for 4- to 8-year-olds.
- 1,080 crafts for 8-year-olds and up.
- 550 no-sew fleece hats.
- 100 jump ropes made out of T-shirts.
- 200 re-cyclable grocery bags made out of T-Shirts.
- 1,000 thank-you cards for 1st responders and other front-line essential workers.
- 250 thank-you-for-your-service cards for military members.
- 320 encouragement cards for the elderly and shut-ins.
- 125 encouragement cards for young people (e.g., confirmands).

Other Glen Mar Day of Service activities that benefited the community are as follows:

- Dozens of donuts were handed out to health care workers at a Baltimore City hospital.
- Old bushes and trash were removed from around Ames Memorial United Methodist Church in Baltimore.
- About 100 pounds of cookies and treats were baked and distributed.
- Twenty-one colorful pillowcases were sewn.
- Over 56 testimonies were written and shared.
- Over 1,000 pounds of non-perishable food and 100 items of winter clothing were donated to the Sandtown community in Baltimore.

Testimonies For 2021 Day of Service:

“This was my family’s 4th year volunteering at Glen Mar. This year due to the pandemic, we were still able to be of service by making cards for the frontline workers. God put it on my heart to get my friend involved this year, and I did just that.” - DJ

“Thank you for this opportunity to serve others and help teach kids about the importance of doing for others. I was able to bond with not only my own three kids, but three of my nephews while doing these projects. We talked about how lucky we are and how we should spread our love with those less fortunate.” - Thorn

“While I was writing letters to front line essential workers, my heart felt happy. However, as I wrote, I had a strong feeling..."
Despite the Coronavirus, Glen Mar Made Holiday Wishes Come True

By Connie Ballenger

Glen Mar blessed 29 families and an additional 10 youth during the 2020 holiday season through its Wish Upon a Star ministry by providing them $8,000 in clothing and toy requests and more than $12,000 in gift cards, including ones to grocery stores.

These families and youth were identified by Ames Memorial United Methodist Church, the Eva Johnson Foundation, the Howard County Public School System, the Judy Center of Howard County, HopeWorks, and the Baltimore Campus of the Board of Child Care of the United Methodist Church.

In addition, Glen Mar provided gift cards worth $2,000 to assist families in need that are served by the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center.

Glen Mar has been conducting this ministry for more than three decades but ran into challenges in 2020. Paper stars designating various needs for donors to fulfill were not available to the Glen Mar congregation in 2020 as they had been in the past because few people could pick up the stars after in-person worship services due to coronavirus pandemic attendance restrictions.

Instead, people signed up online to donate items and checks and delivered the items in the church’s parking lot during designated times on or prior to Dec. 6. A Glen Mar committee distributed the gifts to the organizations that identified the needs, and those organizations delivered the gifts to families and youth.

2021 Mission Trips Under Consideration

By Brad Boyle and Sean Danaher

We are pleased to report that Glen Mar’s Mission Board has begun discussions about potential mission trip options for 2021. COVID-19 has made life increasingly difficult in the communities we regularly serve, so the Mission Board is considering multiple plans to avoid bringing harm to the neighbors whom we seek to serve.

We have commenced conversations with our friends in Hurley, VA about the possibility of partnering with Hurley Community Development (HCD) for another summer mission trip. HCD is willing to host any groups that would like to serve but only within the parameters of local and national guidelines. A Hurley trip will most likely be limited to a small number of adults.

The Mission Board is also developing a Local Mission Week for middle-school-aged students and older. We will be partnering with local ministries and non-profits to safely serve our community together. If you are connected to a ministry or non-profit looking for volunteers, contact Sean.Danaher@glenmarumc.org.

Be sure to check the Glen Mar website for developing information regarding 2021 mission opportunities.

Advent Kits

By Jen Rowell

Glen Mar families had an opportunity after Thanksgiving to pick up kits with materials for at-home Advent activities. The kits contained a weekly devotion guide and a variety of age-appropriate activities, including materials for making a small Advent wreath, crafts, candy for the youth, and a cake mix for making a happy birthday Jesus cake for the younger kids.

The devotion guide for elementary aged kids followed the theme of the Family Christmas Eve service, Do Not Be Afraid, while the devotion guide for youth used materials from the sermon series, Incarnation. Fifty families with kids from preschool through high school picked up kits – it was great to see people in person, if only for a few minutes!

“I feel so elated after having been able to serve others. My God moment was when I was praying for each of the recipients of the cards I wrote today.” - DPW

“I felt very happy after serving others. The activities were fun, and I like knowing that they’ll be going to my community.” - Jayla

“It has been an honor to once again participate in the Glen Mar Church Day of Service with two of my three children. Honestly, my favorite part is watching the joy it gives THEM to serve others. Although we did miss the fellowship that comes along with today’s outreach project, we still felt God at work as we joined in on the morning call to hear who/how the various projects would benefit. May God bless today’s service projects and may the seeds of the Gospel be planted, fertilized, and harvested.” - Jimida

Testimonies Continued from page 6

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**HAPPENINGS**

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With Partners, Glen Mar Shares Health Advice and Food During Pandemic

By Bruce Leuthold

On Nov. 6, Glen Mar Church partnered with the Maryland Food Bank on our seventh Pantry on the Go and with Howard County General Hospital on our first free community health screening clinic in Glen Mar’s parking lot. We shared 240 boxes of produce with our community members in need and partner organizations and were able to provide friendly professional health advice and consulting to those with questions. We were also able to help keep the community well by distributing adult and children-sized cloth face coverings.

In addition, we were able to share children’s books and crafts to feed their hearts and imaginations. We also gave away new T-shirts and colorful socks. Our partnerships with the Howard County Health Department enabled the sharing of big blue bags of household cleaning supplies. Our new partnership with Flowers Baking Company resulted in handing out a couple hundred loaves of bread. Wow, what a wonderful fall day to serve the Lord.

Below are some of the stories/testimonies from the volunteers and health care professionals at the event:

“It was wonderful to assist families of different ethnic backgrounds. That to me, felt more impactful because I know I was helping someone who may not have the same access to a health screening or food as someone who has access to the resources that point them to health.” R.G.

“I recently moved from Colorado where I was a volunteer nurse at a free Christ clinic. I miss the people there. The connection I made serving others working alongside Pantry on the Go today was a blessing as I am reminded of the amazing and kind hearts of others in serving God.” E.M.

“I was touched by a gentleman who shared with me he lost his job. He said sorry to be here, but I was helping people like me last week. I told him we are sorry for your loss and we are here for you if you need anything else.” Whitney

“It’s always nice when participants at health fairs have an aha moment. They realize they can make small changes to improve their health!” ANL

“I had fun helping other people today. I was very anxious at the start of this, but the people who came by and the people I was working with were very nice. It felt awesome when I helped someone, and they said, ‘thank you.’ I am very excited to do this again.” Emma

“One young man in a delivery vehicle came in and when I explained all our offerings, he shyly thanked me after each explanation. He seemed rushed, but he parked and got some books, masks, and cleaning supplies before going to get the free food. As he left, he had the biggest smile on his face and waved good-bye. Other people really liked the cleaning supplies!” Diane

“We were there to serve others. I was encouraged to set up the Operation Christmas Child display and handed out six boxes to fill to our guests. They were interested in the program and wanted to help children around the world learn about the love of Jesus. It was special because they were in need of food, yet they want to share God’s love with others. One of the shoeboxes handed out at the food pantry was returned filled with goodies to share with a child somewhere in the world. I was filled with joy! People were in need and they shared anyway! Reminds me of a parable.” Eloise

“I believe that this was a very great event because we donated a lot of food. I’m glad that we were able to help out the families that suffered from COVID-19. This was my second time doing this, and I feel great about it.” Riley
KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE AND HEALTHY

Glen Mar Church partnered with Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) and the Howard County Health Department to host a free community COVID-19 testing event on Aug. 22 in Glen Mar’s parking lot. This partnership allowed 251 people (adults and children) to be tested which led to quick identification of cases, quick treatment for individuals identified and immediate isolation to prevent the spread of this disease. Throughout the event, organizers heard many community members say “thank you” for all our efforts and hard work. Below are testimonies from five Glen Mar volunteers and three HCGH workers.

“I’m so glad I can volunteer my time, especially to the community during such a stressful time. The group we worked with from the county (hospital) was very organized and kind. It was great when people in their cars would stop and thank everyone for what we were doing. It was great to be back at church today!” Gen S.

“I played a role as Montgomery Road greeter and waver. It was interesting and fun and sometimes affirming to see people’s reactions. Quite a few folks expressed appreciation for what we were doing.” Anonymous Volunteer 1

“I felt tired and hot, but happy and connected with my community. I saw God at work through the dozens of cheerful hospital workers putting themselves at risk in order to help others. My God moment was seeing a beautiful butterfly flitting across the Glen Mar parking lot. God is helping me feel motivated to find other volunteer opportunities.” C.S.

“There are people of faith. I’m super grateful to be part of a faith community actively working to keep people well and safe.” Anonymous Volunteer 2

“It’s great to see the community rallying around each other and helping so much - especially the folks who are doing this day in and day out.” Anonymous Volunteer 3

“As an employee at HCGH, it was an honor to work with Glen Mar Church for the Aug. 22 COVID-19 community testing. I have worked with Glen Mar Church’s event teams in the past for their MLK Day of Service. Even in difficult times, we continue to serve those in the greatest need through providing access to services that play a meaningful role in keeping our community safe and healthy. For these types of drive-thru events it takes many collective hands and dedicated individuals to achieve success. Our HCGH team worked so seamlessly with the Glen Mar Church team! It is very rewarding to serve our Howard County community in this way. Many words of gratitude were shared by all I encountered that day!” – Health Promotion Program Manager, HCGH Tara B.

“All of the church volunteers were so nice and ready to help. It was such a pleasure working with them. The weather was perfect and the company even better. I am glad we got a chance to work together!” Clara R.

“Working with everyone to keep our community healthy and safe was a wonderful experience and made me feel like I was giving back to the community I live in.” Michelle B.
Glen Mar Made the World a Safer Place by Donating 5,000 Masks

by Connie Ballenger

Due to the pandemic, 2020 was a year many will look back on with horror. But Glen Mar volunteers had a can-do attitude and a fierce determination to do what they could to help. Our mask-making team likely saved many people from getting the coronavirus and even dying from it by sending 5,000 free masks to organizations, needy families and an Indian reservation that needed these simple safety tools.

During the first months after the coronavirus hit in March, volunteers jumped in and did whatever was necessary to make and deliver masks to healthcare workers and those who serve the vulnerable. The team washed, cut, ironed, bagged, sewed and delivered masks. Volunteers donated supplies and made pick-up and delivery runs.

As masks became readily available for purchase, the team realized that there were many who were choosing between buying masks and purchasing food, so it continued to make masks to give out at food pantries.

Also, the team sent masks to the Navajo Nation that was disproportionately hit by COVID-19 and had little personal protective equipment. In addition, Glen Mar volunteers donated masks to a cancer treatment ward in a low-income area in Florida.

To make masks available wherever needed, the team gave masks to Habitat for Humanity so it could continue operating in troubled neighborhoods and to Bridges to Housing Stability to place in 40 holiday baskets filled with donated household necessities. Bridges to Housing Stability also received additional masks for new families, compliments of Glen Mar.

When the team learned that people in the Sandtown area of Baltimore didn’t have access to affordable fabric masks, it sent masks to Family Survivor Network and to Pastor Rodney Hudson of Ames Memorial United Methodist Church to distribute in the Baltimore area.

After nine months of making masks, the team has given away 5,000 masks.

The team continues to make masks so that as many people as possible have access to this simple safety tool.

Grassroots Cold Weather Shelter Continues

by Joan Marshall

Like so many other outreach programs, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center was determined to continue to offer the Cold Weather Shelter this winter to guests in need of housing. Normally, numerous faith congregations host the Cold Weather Shelter in their own facilities for one or two weeks each for a total of about 18 weeks each year. Glen Mar has hosted the shelter every winter since 2004, the year it began.

Throughout last summer, Grassroots identified potential barriers to this traditional shelter model given the coronavirus pandemic, along with modifications that would allow the shelter to open safely this winter. The result is that the shelter opened on schedule starting last November and was adapted in several important ways.

First, the Howard County government has provided funds to allow the shelter to operate out of a local hotel since congregations could not safely welcome guests when many of their own facilities were closed. Twenty rooms at the hotel are available for the shelter, with each “family unit” occupying a room. The shelter has been at or near capacity since December.

Also, Grassroots is providing staff 24 hours a day seven days a week to help shelter guests on their journey to more stable housing. Sponsoring congregations are asked to provide individually packaged meals for their chosen week, along with two volunteers each day for a couple of evening hours to help either deliver meals to guests’ rooms and provide for guests’ needs from the safety of a staff room.

Many congregations have chosen to provide meals this year by hiring a local caterer who can prepare, package and deliver the meals safely to the hotel. Glen Mar is exploring how we will provide meals for our week which is Mar. 1 – 8. An update will be given in the next Messenger.

It’s a blessing to see the shelter continue this year to provide safe and comfortable shelter to those in need of it.
HAPPENINGS

Update on HEHHC and Opportunities to Help

Glen Mar is one of several organizations supporting Help End Homelessness Howard County which currently provides housing for four families in Howard County, including 12 children. Once stabilized in housing, families work towards financial literacy and independence. HEHHC recently purchased a fifth property.

The new property, which was purchased on Jan 15, 2021, needs to be readied for occupancy. This will require cleaning and small repairs. If you would like to volunteer to help ready the house please email HEHHC@glenmarumc.org. Volunteer opportunities are limited at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions, but volunteers are always appreciated. Volunteers will also be needed towards the end of February to move furniture to the third floor where the unit is located.

At the time of this newsletter, HEHHC is looking for a new tenant family for the fifth property. The ideal family has children with a parent who is currently employed but has trouble making ends meet and is striving to improve their financial situation.

HEHHC usually provides furnishings and household goods for the house too because the families do not have items to set up housekeeping or money to buy them when they move in. If you have items to donate HEHHC may be able to take them if the timing is right. Storage until the new tenant needs are identified can be a problem but contact the email address listed if you have items to offer. Also contact that email address if you would like to know what HEHHC clients need.

We Gave Gifts and Helped Share the Gospel Across the World

Glen Mar parishioners donated numerous clothing, crafts, toys and personal-care items packed in 35 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child. In addition, Glen Martians were encouraged to fill shoeboxes online and at one of Glen Mar’s Pantry on the Go events where produce was distributed to those in need. At this event, at least one family provided a filled shoebox even though they were in need themselves.

Glen Mar was not able to pack 300 or more shoeboxes as in past years because there was only one weekly in-person worship service and attendance at it were limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. In previous years, many people participated in OCC before and after four weekly worship services.

The filled shoeboxes were delivered to one of OCC’s drop-off locations during the third week of November and were distributed to children in more than 100 countries. Eloise Labram, who led Glen Mar’s effort, said she talked to people at the drop-off location, and they said there were many more boxes packed online than ever before so that helped make up for getting fewer filled shoeboxes in person.

After the shoeboxes were delivered, local pastors or church leaders presented the Gospel in a fun way while family and friends listened. Children were also given a colorful book about the Gospel in their native language.

OCC is a ministry of the Samaritan’s Purse, a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization that provides spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world.

Habitat Crew Focuses on Different Missions

By Adrienne Taylor

After a few great workdays in the fall, volunteer activities at Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake were again suspended due to COVID-19 safety precautions. The crew is looking forward to returning to work for Habitat on the second Saturday of the month.

We continue to serve in other capacities. Several Habitat crew members supported Journey to Bethlehem, including helping with outdoor building set up and take down.

We are also supporting Family Survivor Network (FSN) in the Sandtown area of Baltimore. FSN was forced to move its office. It found a building that is much better located but was in terrible condition. We enjoy and are proud to support such an important mission. FSN provides grief support to those who have lost loved ones to violence.

Providing Thanksgiving Assistance During a Pandemic

Due to the pandemic, Glen Mar has not been able to serve at the Grassroots Day Resource Center (DRC) in recent months or even assemble at Glen Mar to prepare meals. But that didn’t stop Glen Mar from providing Thanksgiving meals - we just did it in a different way.

Working with a list from the DRC, individuals who attend Glen Mar delivered ingredients for Thanksgiving dinners prior to the holiday to 27 DRC friends who recently found housing in the Long Reach or Hickory Ridge villages in Columbia. In addition, the recipients were given gift cards to a local grocery story ($15 for a single individual, $20 for a couple and $25 for a family).

The long list of delivered ingredients included turkey gravy, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie filling.

The Day Resource Center provides meals, showers, limited laundry, fellowship and social services three days a week to homeless individuals in the Route 1 corridor. It is located in Jessup.
Each year the Confirmation Class does a class service project where they learn about ways that God is working through his church to bring the Kingdom of God to earth, and they work together to raise money for one of those ways.

Most years, including this year, they do the 30 Hour Famine, which raises money to fight childhood hunger around the world. This is a special year for the 30 Hour Famine – it’s the 30th anniversary! The theme this year is a celebration of the progress that has been made in the fight against poverty over the past 30 years – “Manna-fest” (manna, like the food God provided for Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness, and fest, like a party, and manifest, which means to demonstrate, in this case, God’s love and justice).

This year’s 30 Hour Famine event has the added challenge of being done mostly from home with online programming. The good news about this is that families are more involved, with a chance to learn alongside the youth about the challenges of poverty and hunger.

But connecting through fasting together and staying distracted from rumbling stomachs is definitely harder through a computer. Raising money is also more challenging without the support of Glen Mar’s congregation in the building. If you want to support our team online, visit our team’s page at https://www.30hourfamine.org/team/24049.

Confirmation Class continues to meet weekly on Zoom, with guest teachers each week adding extra variety. The students are doing a great job of exploring their faith with these challenging limitations! The sixth- and seventh-grade youth are also meeting weekly on Zoom, exploring what it looks like to follow Jesus in today’s world through games, discussion and activities. The high-school youth have started a new weekly Bible study program with an at-home devotion followed by group discussion (with games and fellowship).

A group of middle -and high-school youth met during January and will continue to meet in February to plan the Youth Sunday worship service on Mar. 7. They are passionate about worship that both guides people of all ages to connect with God and keeps people interested and engaged.

We will once again be offering a Lenten short-term small group for fifth – seventh grade youth. This year’s group will dig into the Christian Life in a study called “The March to the Cross.” They’ll meet on Zoom on Wednesdays in March (3, 10, 17, 24). Contact Jen Rowell at Jen.Rowell@glenmarumc.org or Margaret Lang Margaret.Lang@glenmarumc.org to sign up.
At Glen Mar ELC, we believe that young children learn best through creative exploration, discovery and play, in a setting that stimulates their natural curiosity and encourages their love of learning. Our experienced and attentive caregivers partner with families in striving to meet each child’s unique emotional and learning needs.

**REGISTRATION WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 16-20, 2021**

**Tue.-Thu., Feb. 16-18:** Current ELC Families

**Fri., Feb. 19:** Siblings and Alumni Families

**Sat., Feb. 20:** Open Community-wide Registration

For more information and to register, visit [https://glenmarelc.org/registration/](https://glenmarelc.org/registration/)

Registration applications for 2021-22 school year received prior to above dates will not be accepted. Registrations will be processed in the order in which they are received. If there is a slot available for your child, you will be notified and provided with registration payment instructions. If there is not an open spot for your child, they will be placed on a waiting list, and you will be contacted as soon as space is available.

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**ELC Offers In-Person Support for Virtual Learning**

Glen Mar’s Early Learning Center has a new offering that gives assistance to families dealing with virtual learning. The ELC is now enrolling school-age children in kindergarten through fourth grade in its In-Person Support for Virtual Learning program.

Teachers will assist students with technology, provide schoolwork support, and offer activities during free time, including games, arts and crafts, outdoor play opportunities and more.

This support will be held at the ELC with strict health and safety protocols in effect.

For more information about Glen Mar’s ELC In-Person Support for Virtual Learning program, visit our website, [https://glenmarelc.org/school-age-virtual-learning-classroom/](https://glenmarelc.org/school-age-virtual-learning-classroom/) or call 410.461.2859.

Tours of the facility are available.
Faith Communities to Hold Courageous Conversations

Courageous Conversations is presented by Howard County faith communities. They will be held virtually Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 7 - 9 p.m.

The purpose of these conversations is not to persuade, debate, or convince one another of our positions but to make space for each of us to be heard and to learn about one another. Participants will listen to each other’s perspectives about how we are living together through our experiences of race and religious bias.

Through these conversation circles, participants will explore how each of us can contribute towards creating a connected community of different people rather than a community that lets different people in.

Visit www.hococourageousconversations.com for more information and to register.

Singles Group Scheduled Activities

• Glen Mar’s Singles Group will hold monthly virtual brunches on Sun., Feb. 7 and Sun., Mar. 7.

• Monthly virtual potlucks are scheduled for Sat., Mar. 27 and Sat., Apr. 24.

• Hikes are lined up for Sat., Feb. 20 and Sat., Mar. 20.

For more information, email singles@glenmarumc.org.

Howard County Government Launches StayCOVIDSafe Campaign

Howard County Government has launched the StayCOVIDSafe campaign to ensure residents have access to tools to keep themselves and their loved ones safe from the coronavirus.

As part of the campaign there are several items being given away to spread awareness, including tote bags, window cling decals, refrigerator magnets and pen-sized hand sanitizers. More information will be shared as Glen Mar’s Mission Board receives it. If you have any questions, please contact missions@glenmarumc.org.

You can access the county’s StayCOVIDSafe website at StayCOVIDSafe.howardcountymd.gov.

If you are interested in being part of Glen Mar’s Communications Team by posting submissions on our website, contact webmaster@glenmarumc.org for more information.

Training will be provided.
Programming skills are not required.

If you are detail oriented, have the free time, and have the desire to help us get the word out about Glen Mar Church, we would love to have you join us.
How to Support the Gift Card Program in 2021

Glen Mar was on track to pass the $5 million sales mark in the Gift Card Program in 2020, but then COVID-19 disrupted everything. Although gift card sales were down dramatically in 2020, with only $94,000 of cards sold, the preferred option remains to coordinate directly with Bob Henry (bob.henry@glenmarumc.org) to pick up gift cards at the church. Why buy cards at the church? Mainly to reduce the inventory, which could free up a substantial amount of money to allocate for ministries.

A second option remains to print gift cards at home. This is done from the ShopWithScrip website. If you are not yet registered as a Glen Mar supporter or did not know about this option, please contact Van Beall at fundraising@glenmarumc.org for details.

To date over $220,000 of free money has been generated from gift card sales. If you have questions about how your profits are allocated (to a Family Account, the Building Fund, the Pastor’s Emergency Fund, Early Learning Center, Music Ministries, Children’s Ministries, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Walk/Journey to Bethlehem, etc.), your family account balance, or if you wish to allocate any/all your family account balance to another ministry, please contact Van Beall. Finally, if you shop at Amazon and are not yet registered with Amazon Smile, please visit www.smile.amazon.com and register as a Glen Mar supporter. That will add half a percent to the 2.25% earned when you shop at Amazon with Amazon gift cards purchased through the Glen Mar gift card program.

Staying Informed

Current Happenings - an extensive list of events, ministries, and opportunities to become more involved in the life of the church. View Current Happenings at the link below. https://glenmarumc.org/news/current-happenings/

Pastor’s Ponderings - a weekly note from one of the pastors. If you would like to be included in the list of email subscribers to the Ponderings, you can read the current and past notes as well as subscribe at the link below. https://glenmarumc.org/news/pastors-ponderings/

Glen Mar e-Newsletters - sign up to receive various Glen Mar e-Newsletters via email, all in one place. Subscribe to Pastor’s Ponderings, The Messenger, The Family Vine, Middle School, High School, etc. https://glenmarumc.org/news/e-newsletters

Pastoral Staff:
- Lead Pastor, Mandy Sayers. ....... x 202 mandy.sayers@glenmarumc.org
- Pastor for Worship & Communications, Melaina Trice ....... x 215 melaina.trice@glenmarumc.org
- Pastor for Community Life, Anna Schwartz ....... x 206 anna.schwartz@glenmarumc.org
- Pastor’s Assistant, Kyara Kelley-Jones ....... x 203 kyara.kelley@glenmarumc.org

Staff:
- Church Accountant, Xi Zhang ....... x 210 xi.zhang@glenmarumc.org
- Facilities Services Supervisor, Larry Albrecht ....... x 210 larry.albrecht@glenmarumc.org
- Financial Secretary, Bob Henry ....... x 231 bob.henry@glenmarumc.org
- Minister for Children & Families, Margaret Lang ....... x 204 margaret.lang@glenmarumc.org
- Minister for Congregational Care, Marti Windram ....... x 218 marty.windram@glenmarumc.org
- Minister for Middle School Youth, Jen Rowell ....... x 214 jen.rowell@glenmarumc.org
- Minister for Operations, Alison Mannino ....... x 207 alison.mannino@glenmarumc.org
- Minister for Youth & Young Adults, Sean Danaher ....... x 268 sean.danaher@glenmarumc.org
- Ministries Administrative Assistant, Mary Ellen Conley ....... x 213 mary.conley@glenmarumc.org
- Music Director, Sophie Hong ....... x 209 sophie.hong@glenmarumc.org
- Music Minister, Saturday Service, Dan Eschliman dan.eschliman@glenmarumc.org

Website: www.glenmarumc.org
Fax: 410.461.3070 Office Phone: 410.465.4995
Request for Outdoor Gatherings
Glen Mar is currently accepting requests for outdoor gatherings at the church, with social distancing. All requests have to be approved by our Task Force for Re-Entry committee. If you want to gather, email Mandy.Sayers@glenmarumc.org who will take your request to the team and get back with you.

Prayer Concerns
If you have a prayer concern for Glen Mar’s prayer team, please send it to Marti.Windram@glenmarumc.org or to any pastor who will forward it to the prayer team. Or submit it online:

Safe Sanctuaries Training
Do you volunteer at Glen Mar with children, youth, or vulnerable adults? Safe Sanctuaries Training is required. In-person training is required every four years, on-line is required after two years. Details about the training can be found on our website below.

https://glenmarumc.org/myglenmar/safe-sanctuaries/

For more information, email Mary Ellen Conley, safesanctuaries@glenmarumc.org.

Even though we are not all meeting in person, be assured that your pastors, staff and church family are with you in prayer, in spirit, and if you need us.

If you need pastoral care or want to talk, please email our pastors:

- mandy.sayers@glenmarumc.org
- melaina.trice@glenmarumc.org
- anna.schwartz@glenmarumc.org

Or call the church office number and leave a message for the pastor:
Mandy - x202, Melaina - x215, Anna - x206
410.465.4995

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