



Welcome

by Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

We hope you have planned to join us observing Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. Just as the season of Spring brings beautiful restoration to the earth in vivid daffodils and cherry blossoms, so Easter bring necessary spiritual renewal. The warm friendship of Wednesday Zoom worship or Maundy Thursday table fellowship at Wesley, or the somber, soulful music and shadows of Good Friday at Metropolitan Memorial create excellent opportunities to renew one’s faith and sense of purpose. Whether we limit our Holy Week observance to the two spirited Sundays on March 24th and March 31st or we expand to all of the services in-between, we witness the great pascal mystery of life, death, and resurrection that roots Christians of all ages in God’s saving love!



NATIONAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 24

9:00 & 11:00 am | Metropolitan Memorial Campus
11:00 am | Wesley Campus
9:30 am Breakfast | Wesley Campus

Holy Thursday, March 28

6:30 - 7:30 pm | Wesley Campus
A simple meal followed by table conversations, songs, and communion.

Good Friday, March 29

7:00 - 8:00 pm | Metropolitan Memorial Campus
A service based on seven stations of the cross
(live-streamed)

Easter Sunday, March 31

9:00 & 11:00 am | Metropolitan Memorial Campus
11 am | Wesley Campus

Community Easter Egg Hunt

10:15 am | Metropolitan Memorial Campus
12:30 pm | Wesley Campus

www.nationalchurch.org/holyweek

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- Sing Out for Shelter
- Trees at NUMC
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Reconciling Statement

We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all.

We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more.

We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities.

As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

Share the Joy of Easter



Dear Friend,

As we celebrate Easter and the great miracle of the new life that God promises, we also celebrate new life and hope within our church community. National UMC, like most churches, is still adjusting to the new realities of post-pandemic life. Yet, we give thanks for the many ministries that bear new fruit in this season. A few examples from just the early months of 2024 include:

- A rejuvenated campus ministry that is attracting new participants from AU and other schools. This month, Pastor Rachel Livingston, and Student Ministries Coordinator, Angela Pupino, led students on a spring break Civil Rights pilgrimage to Alabama.
- A new confirmation class for middle schoolers who will be received as church members this spring.
- Continued expansion of our Campus Kitchen food recovery ministry that supplies thousands of meals each month to a growing network of homeless service providers and feeding ministries across the city. Our Wesley Campus “More Than Coffee Hour” brings the unhoused and housed community together for a nourishing meal each week.
- Worship services feature inspiring new music offerings and moments for deep prayer and discernment are deepening faith and discipleship online and in person.
- Additional spiritual enrichment includes a Men’s Group Meditation group which has grown this year, as well as 7 United Women in Faith circles and a unifying UMW Annual Retreat which 45 women attended. And as the online faith community grows, the church council welcomed its first-ever online representative leader, Cheryl Mickey from New Mexico.

We are grateful for your financial support of these and many other life-giving ministries. *In this Easter season of renewal and new life, we invite you to renew your commitment to support God’s mission through our church by making a pledge or a gift to National United Methodist Church.*

As we enter Holy Week, we pray that you will find meaning and hope in our worship events that remind us of Christ’s great sacrifice and God’s triumph over death. A full schedule of services and activities can be found at nationalchurch.org.

Your Siblings in Christ,

Ann Michel, Chair of Church Council

Phil Potter, Co-Lay Leader

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson, Senior Pastor

Marsha Matthews, Co-Lay Leader



Make a One-time or
Recurring Electronic
Gift



Where We Have Made the Love of God Obvious

Toilets for KenAid!



Ken Obuya



Thank you from Ken Obuya to anyone and everyone who participated to make the 2023 UMW Bazaar a success. The KenAid Children's Fund in Mombasa, Kenya was a \$3,041.86 beneficiary. The money flowed through the Fund directly to the Blueview School-Ugatuzi to improve sanitation with new toilet facilities.

Look at the toilet before construction. Imagine using the Old Toilet. The bucket next to the "hole" holds water for rinsing hands and bottoms. There is no toilet paper.

Now look4 stalls for boys on one side, 4 stalls for girls on the other and sinks for hand washing! Still no toilet paper, but each stall will eventually have a hand pull flush mechanism. Building construction is moving forward and will be finished with UMW's donation.

Up next... plumbing, \$780, lighting \$400, tiling \$1,115, , painting \$366 and carpentry \$745 need to be done to finish the building. If anyone is in a position to make a donation of any amount, contact Lois atlois.weaver@gmail.com for directions to make it tax-deductible.

Work will continue as incremental donations come in. Ken's faith is steady. His kids WILL be able to use a toilet that flushes and be able to wash their hands! Thank you UMW for getting the project this far.

Sing Out For Shelter

On March 9th, over 500 guests packed Metropolitan Memorial campus, raising over \$30,000 for ChristHouse, Friendship Place, and National UMC—ministries serving the poor and hungry of Washington DC. Pictured below, two historic acapella groups from Yale University combined in a rare performance of "Evergreen," a song popularized by Yebba (Abigail Elizabeth Smith):

I kissed my penny and I threw it in
I prayed I'd keep my soul
Went down to the river where the water bends
The only place I know.

Oh, I can't see
The forest, for the trees
Oh, I feel so
Hopeless against the stream

So, will you wait for me?
Will you wait for me?
Will you wait for me?
My evergreen



watch video here

New Trees at National UMC

Trees frequently turn up in the Bible - fig trees, sycamores, cypress. And they make great metaphors for the prophets and Jesus about how Godly people should live their lives and strengthen their faith.

It definitely took some strength to get 22 trees in the ground at Metropolitan Memorial on Saturday March 16. About 30 volunteers, including three church families, were swinging pickaxes and digging in at this Casey Trees-sponsored event. The planting marked the culmination of a year-long effort between National UMC volunteers and staff and Casey Trees employees. We credit our partnership to a third group, Laudato Trees, a branch of the Care for Creation Committee of the Archdiocese of Washington. Laudato serves as a liaison between houses of worship and Casey Trees. (Phil Downey, a Laudato volunteer, was our link and has helped Casey plant more than 800 trees on religiously-owned properties in the region over the past two years.)

As a result of this partnership, National has 38 new trees planted across our three campuses. The trees help cool the environment, reduce runoff, and create habitat for wildlife. They also provide shade for activities, like church picnics and Vacation Bible School. We selected a variety of trees available through Casey -- including magnolias, oaks and maples-- with the help of the organization's arborist and in collaboration with interested congregants. Special shout-out to Richard Tilley and Laura Harper Powell for helping to shepherd this project through our Board of Trustees, and to Mary Rollefson who helped us improve and visualize the design.

All but one tree was donated by Casey. (The exception was a privately donated red bud to replace the dead one in the side entrance garden at MMUMC.) The Casey partnership will continue for three years with crews watering and tending the new trees. Fencing and trunk guards are installed to prevent deer damage.

Note: We at National do have a role to play to keep the trees healthy: Casey begins watering in May, **I'll be reaching out to our congregations to get volunteer water brigades going between now and then. And please talk to your family about caring for young trees as you would other youngins.**

Please contact Courtney Leatherman with any questions. c_leatherman@ix.netcom.com



American Red Cross Donations

National United Methodist Church

Sponsor Group

February 7, 2024

Date of Drive

41

Total Number of Donors

4

First Time Donors

n/a

Type O Donors

33

Units Collected



**One single blood donation can help save more than one life.
Thank you for supporting our lifesaving mission!**

The Love of God Obvious:

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School

At NUMC, we have three **Godly Play** classes for ages 3 through 5th grade. Modeled on the principles of Montessori education, Godly Play lets children listen to the stories of the Christian faith, wonder about their meaning, and then interpret these stories through art, reflection, movement, and play. Godly Play recognizes that children already experience God in their daily lives and gives them ways to express their experiences. The approach is open to questions and wonder, not rote learning. Godly Play is an imaginative approach to working with children that supports, challenges, nourishes, and guides their spiritual quest.



Little Wonders, (Pre-K and Kindergarten), Room 206. In Little Wonders, we tell the stories of the Bible in a way that is especially welcoming to 3–5-year-olds.

Joyful Spirits (1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades), Room 203. The Joyful Spirits explore the Bible and Christian faith through the core Godly Play stories.



Jesus Followers (4th and 5th grades), Room 204. This class is designed for older elementary students. Here we have a chance to deepen our wondering and understanding using some of the more complex Godly Play lessons.

Children's Choir

Children's choir meets during the 9 AM service at Metropolitan Memorial. Children are in the service through the children's message, and then dismissed to go to children's choir rehearsal in Room 201. Two experienced children's music educators lead the group: Jacob Barker and Katelyn Neumann.



Project Transformation

National UMC enters its seventh summer supporting Project Transformation DC, a summer camp that helps DC kids improve their reading skills. The camp, based on a national model developed by the United Methodist Church, connects children, college-aged interns, and church congregations in the District. This year's camp will be held at Emory Fellowship UMC from June 24 to August 8. As in past years, our congregation will volunteer to read with campers and cook meals for the college interns running the camp. It's always a wonderful and meaningful experience. Sign up links will be available soon.

To learn more about Project Transformation DC, tune in Saturday, March 23 at 10 am, for a Zoom session with Rachel Luna, PTDC executive director, organized by the United Methodist Women.

PTDC will hold a Pancake Breakfast April 13 at 10 am at Emory Fellowship UMC. There will be a short program about PTDC and an opportunity to offer support. RSVP here: <http://evite.me/JMbCKJHGpw>



Baptism

We believe baptism is an outward sign of God's grace and love. It is also an act of the community, as the congregation takes vows to support new believers or families as they raise their baptized children in the Christian faith. At National UMC, we are eager and happy to welcome you into our community of faith and love!

Baptism is one of two sacraments celebrated by United Methodists. In the United Methodist Church, infant baptism is very common, but baptism is available for people of all ages.

To request an infant or child baptism, parents should complete the online baptism request form at nationalchurch.org/baptism or contact our Minister of Discipleship, Rev. Janet Craswell. Parents will meet with Rev. Craswell to discuss the meaning of baptism, talk through the service, and explore the ways that National UMC can best support the family in their faith.

To request an adult baptism, please contact [Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson](#).



www.nationalchurch.org/baptism



Blood Drive



American Red Cross
Give blood, Help save lives.

Metropolitan Memorial Campus Vestry
3401 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016

Wednesday, April 3
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
sign up online [here](#)

Game Night and Potluck



April 28, 5 -7 pm
Great Hall
Metropolitan Memorial Campus



All-Ages Game Night and Potluck Dinner April 28.

Join us on Sunday, April 28, from 5-7 pm in the Great Hall on Metropolitan's campus for an intergenerational evening of board games, cards, food and fellowship.

Bring your favorite games and dish to share. Come play UNO, Connect 4 or Bananagrams. Perhaps you want to learn to play chess or bridge? Or just visit and get to know one another. This will be an informal chance for families with young children, youth, college students, and adults of all ages to have fun together. It will be a loaves-and-fishes kind of event to see what kind of spread we will feast on!

This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors looking for a place to plug in and find connection in our church community.

Questions, contact communications@nationalchurch.org.

See you there!

The Love of God Obvious:

Among Those Who Are Food Insecure

Campus Kitchen

There are a number of ways to assist with our food ministry. Each month at both of our campuses we make sandwiches for Grate Patrol, a ministry that feeds unhoused neighbors in DC. We have regular pick-ups from Levains Bakery in Georgetown and weekly sandwich sessions with Chef Anthony Mickens, who directs the program, at St. Luke's Mission Center. In May, we will also begin daily pick-ups from Norman's Farm Market. Check the church website, under the "Serve" tab, for details.

GROCERY BAG PROJECT/FOOD DONATIONS

You can help fight hunger in DC by purchasing items for the Campus Kitchen Food Ministry's Grocery Bag Project. Campus Kitchen's Chef Anthony will use items you donate to prepare home meals for DC families in need or place them in grocery bags to be distributed to those facing food insecurity. Campus Kitchen distributes 200 grocery bags a month. Drop off your donations in the green-lidded bin in the Metropolitan foyer or buy food from the Amazon Wishlist using this QR code.



More Than Coffee Hour

NUMC member, leader, and Wesley campus attender, Thomas Laryea will deliver a "Mission Moment" in 11 am Wesley worship on Palm Sunday. Thomas is a long-time advocate for "More Than Coffee Hour" following the service and helping the larger church understand what sets it apart from "Coffee Hour" in most churches. The variety of food offerings that are sensitive to multiple allergens and cultural realities is part of the "More Than" offering on Sundays. But it goes deeper for Thomas, who explains why he shares so much time and money in the effort.



"Easter Sunday 2016," Thomas begins. "More precisely, it was in the morning. My daughters and I were getting ready to go to the airport that afternoon to fly back to DC. We had been visiting my mother who came out of hospital 2 days before we left after an operation to implant a heart pacemaker. Unfortunately, that operation was not successful.

But on that Easter Sunday morning, my Mum was trying to get out of bed in order to cook food for me to take to this church community for "More than Coffee Hour." My mother knew that I had become involved because she was dedicated to food ministry and because she loved this church community, she wanted to contribute something for me to give. But alas, she did not have the capacity to stand on her feet for long, let alone cook. In any case, I explained to her that there was no point in what she was trying to do since by the time our flight would have arrived in DC, it would already have been in the afternoon and the church service and More than Coffee Hour would have been long over. The thought also crossed my mind that the people she was trying to send food to had more capacity to feed themselves than she had at that moment. She should save the little energy and minimal capacity she had left.

But no matter what, my Mum persisted. When she realized she could not do it herself, she tried to convince my sister to cook. My sister wasn't having any of it, but when my sister saw that all attempts to reason with Mum were not working, my sister looked at me and said "Thomas can do this." I was not expecting that response since I thought we were aligned in the position that what Mum was asking for was practically impossible. But I said yes, Mum, I can do this. And I saw that with those words, she became at peace knowing that I had agreed to continue a food ministry in this way. Even if I could not deliver food to our church community that Sunday, I could do so on other Sundays."

continues on next page

Thomas goes on to share how that connection to his mother persists even to this day, even to Palm Sunday, motivating him to help make breakfast on that special day! But he has convinced many others that they serve not simply to honor any one person's ancestors in faith but in the service of faith itself. He recalls one of the miracles of Jesus.

“That story for me has a connection to the story of the feeding of the five thousand in scripture. The story of that miracle appears in each of the four Gospels. I imagine that miracle was a popular one during Jesus’ time on this earth. Perhaps, everywhere he went, people would say, ‘Hey Jesus. Do that one again with the five loaves and two fishes.’ Everyone loves a good miracle that relieves hunger.”

Like Campus Kitchen and Grate Patrol ministries flowing from National UMC, More Than Coffee Hour is a miracle of multiplication. These are not the efforts of one simple person but rather than sum of all its participants, quadrupled by the grace of God to satisfy deep hunger. Nourishment for the body, yes, but also loving nourishment for the “least of these” who often feel abandoned and forgotten. With great sensitivity toward those homeless individuals who will be there at Palm Sunday worship as well as More Than Coffee Hour, Thomas will not mention publicly that the “More Than” aspect of this meal specifically includes more than satisfaction for those people with deep pockets, but rather satisfying one day’s need for lunch. And maybe a meal-to-go for dinner. No questions asked.

Thomas concludes, “Our church needs your giving in our food-related ministries and more generally. Whether you step forward as an initiator or you follow as an implementer, God’s work through our church is calling on you to recommit to giving and to have faith that God will give the increase.”

Please find the “Share the Joy of Easter” link in this e-mail and commit your resources today. And do, please, join the community at Wesley for Palm Sunday breakfast at 9:30 and for More Than Coffee Hour just about every Sunday following 11am service.

Jazz@Wesley

JAZZ@WESLEY

All shows 6:30-8:30 pm (2 sets)

Tickets: \$12 | Meals: \$15

Purchase tickets at the door

2024

APRIL 27	The Blues Brothers FEATURING <i>Tiya!</i>
MAY 25	The Rick Alberico Jazz Project
JUNE 22	The Music of Olayimika Cole!
JULY 27	Petra Martin
AUGUST 24	Sharón Clark
SEPTEMBER 28	Phaze 2 Jazz
OCTOBER 26	Brad Linde New Quartet
NOVEMBER 23	George V. Johnson
DECEMBER 21	Bobby Felder & Friends



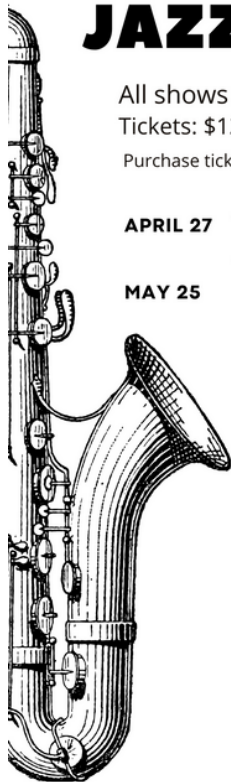
Jazz@Wesley Presents The Blues Brothers featuring Tiya!

Saturday, April 27
6:30-8:30 pm

Get ready for fun this Spring with The Blues Brothers! Featuring vocalist Tiya Adé and led by renowned DC band leader Bobby Felder, these seasoned musicians will have you dancing in the aisles. Join Jazz@Wesley for its liveliest and grooviest show of the year. More information at www.nationalchurch.org/jazz

More Information
www.nationalchurch.org/jazz
Wesley Campus, NUMC
5312 Connecticut Avenue, NW

ABOUT US
Jazz@Wesley brings DC's most notable jazz musicians to upper northwest DC for an evening of fun and community.



The Love of God Obvious:

Each Sunday in Prayer and Praise

Communion

During his ministry Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed children, forgave sinners and sought out society's outcasts. We seek to continue his work for human wholeness by addressing both immediate needs and long-term sustainable solutions.

Holy Communion is the sacrament that nourishes us in that journey by using real food and drink to re-enact Christ's last meal with his disciples. Over and over again, it gives us the experience of being part of the church as the body of Christ in the world. Our celebration of Communion is open to all who wish to participate in Christian community.



Get involved!

The sacrament of communion is shared every Sunday at Wesley Campus @ 11am and at the beginning of each month at Metropolitan Memorial Campus @ 9 and 11am. Communion is also shared with DC-area homebound members and friends. Contact Pastor Rachel @ RLivington@NationalChurch.org for more information. Finally, each time the gathered community celebrates communion in person, those gathering online are also invited to re-enact the last supper alongside of us, assembling a simple meal of nourishing food and life-giving drink (like bread and grape juice).

All participants may also choose to be communion stewards, preparing or distributing the elements. Interested in getting involved? Contact communications@NationalChurch.org for more information.

Ensembles

Choir Rehearsal

Dayspring Choir Rehearsal for 9 am Service

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Memorial Campus Music Room

Chancel Choir Rehearsal for 11 am Service

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Memorial Campus Music Room

Bell Choir Rehearsal

Sundays 1 pm in the Metropolitan Memorial Campus Sanctuary

We would love to have new members join us!



[You Raise Me Up](#)
[Dayspring Choir](#)
[Watch Video Here](#)
[\(Minute: 17:35\)](#)

April Worship Theme:

The Truth in Love

A Sermon Series Exploring the Necessity of Authenticity

The expansion of Artificial Intelligence through every realm of our lives is a wild and perilous adventure. Is the picture real or has it been altered? Do the people in the background of the picture know their likeness is used this way? Is their voice being replicated for another purpose? This relatively recent uncertainty combines with our humanity propensity to bend the truth. Lying comes early in our human lives and in electoral years such as the one we are beginning, deceptions abound.

This season of Easter we reflect on John's first letter to a newly organized church community. Not the Gospel of John we hear at Easter, but a different John, challenging the Church to speak the truth in love. To demonstrate love not just in words but deeds. Consider with us these next seven Sundays some of the essential behaviors of the church like confession and forgiveness, serving and sharing, which make the Love of Jesus real, and not simply some fable or slogan.

Locations



Metropolitan Memorial Campus

3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016



Wesley Campus

5312 Connecticut Avenue, NW



St. Luke's Mission Center

3655 Calvert Street, NW

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9 am - 5 pm

(202) 363-4900

**Closed Monday After Easter,
April 1**

Pastoral Contact

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

Lead Pastor

202.363.4900 ex.108

doug@nationalchurch.org

Rev. Janet Craswell

Minister of Discipleship

202.363.4900 ex.115

jcraswell@nationalchurch.org

Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston

Pastor of Congregational Care

202.363.4900 ex.112

rlivingston@nationalchurch.org

Coming Soon

Both/And Study

7-8 pm on Zoom, April 4, 11, 18, 25.

Meeting ID: 891 5380 2159

Passcode: 482009



Since the pandemic, National UMC has invested in livestreaming our services. People all over the world have been able to watch? But could we do more? What does vital digital ministry look like? I have experienced God in many ways that have required many different types of technology.

I encountered God at a Christian hardcore punk concert. In the midst of the stench of sweat, the pounding of my eardrums, and the pure angst of life, I felt the energy of the divine. The flashing lights represented the intensity of Gods Light. The screaming vocals amplified by microphones and speakers as tall as a building represented the Breath of God. The mass of bodies pressed together in unified spirit represented God’s people. This was tangible, unfettered, and blistering passion. I felt alive in ways I’ve never felt before. I encountered God while playing video games. A simple question in a gaming lobby by someone asking “do you believe in God,” started multiple weeks long conversations about belief and faith. It started a friendship. This was someone who had never been to church and whose parents had never been to church. His only encounter with Christianity had been from movies or from cringy Christian ad campaigns during sporting events.

I encountered God at church. The choir was singing something new. The bass guitar was tingling my earbuds. The sermon was touching something deep inside my soul. The stained glass glimmered in the morning light and created a mosaic of colors on the tiled floor. Christian people welcomed the Holy Spirit into the room; they encountered and worshiped God. Then they moved out into the world so that others may also encounter God.

In his book *Both/And*, Jason Moore invites us to use multiple techniques to help others experience God in the modern world. His technique, called “Both/And”, is contrary to “Concurrent” worship which is what most churches are currently using. Concurrent worship is continuing in person worship as it always has been done but just streaming it online. Both/And is a hybrid method of allowing people to experience God online but also be a part of worship in a personal way.

In the same way that I encountered God in strange and new ways, Moore wants us to use technology to create tangible expressions of Christianity to reach new people. No longer can we hide in our church buildings and expect people to just wander inside. We must reach people where they are right now. We must speak to them in a new and powerful language and show them the Holy Spirit on their smart phones, in their computers, AND in our church buildings.

Please join me for a study loosely based around the book *Both/And* by Jason Moore. Purchasing the book is not required for the study but a limited number of copies are available in the church office. This class will be only on Zoom at 7-8 pm, April 4, 11, 18, 25.

All are welcome to attend!

Gun Violence Prevention

Gun BuyBack Event

**Saturday, April 20, 2024
9 am - 1 pm (rain or shine)**

**United Church of Christ Seneca Valley
13421 Clopper Road
Germantown, MD 20874**

**Supported by:
Montgomery County, MD Sheriff's Office
Montgomery County, MD State Attorney's Office
DC Interfaith GVP Network**

Here is an opportunity for community members to anonymously and voluntarily turn in firearms and receive a \$100 food store gift card for functioning handguns, rifles, and shotguns, and a \$200 food store gift card for functioning military assault-style weapons and privately manufactured firearms (“ghost guns”). All firearms will be accepted with no identification requested and a no-questions-asked policy by law enforcement. The Sheriff’s Office will inspect all firearms prior to the Interfaith GVP Network deciding the eligibility for gift cards and providing gun safety information. Maxwell Uy, Sheriff of Montgomery County, has further assured the Interfaith GVP Network that all the guns surrendered on April 20, 2024, “will be completely destroyed” and no components will be repurposed in any manner.

National UMC’s GVP team is part of the DC Interfaith GVP Network. See Lois Weaver for more information.

