

# The Bulletin

Join us as 100 percent of our congregations become 100 percent vital and thriving

## 'Dios te Bendiga' – God Bless You

Hispanic  
Heritage  
Month is  
Sept. 15-Oct.  
15.

Hispanics/Latinos make up 19% of the total population in the U.S., 81% are U.S. citizens. Fewer than 1% of United Methodists are Latino. Through connectional giving, area United Methodists support Hispanic/Latino ministries, especially in the arena of immigration and justice for migrants.

To learn more about Hispanic/Latino culture, the General Board of Religion and Race recommends the book, *Harvest of Empire: a History of Latinos in America*, by Juan Gonzalez and books for all ages from the Teaching for Change project at [socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/Latinx/](http://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/Latinx/)



### From the Hispanic Creed, by Justo Gonzalez

We believe in the Reign of God –  
the day of the Great Fiesta  
When all the colors of creation  
will form a harmonious rainbow,  
When all people will join in a  
joyful banquet,  
When all tongues of the universe  
will sing the same song.

And because we believe, we  
commit ourselves:  
To believe for those who do not  
believe,  
To love for those who do not love,  
To dream for those who do not  
dream,  
Until the day when hope  
becomes reality. Amen.

## Bishop's message

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Episcopal servant, Peninsula-Delaware & Baltimore-Washington Conferences

Beloved of God,

I greet you in the precious and matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. As we begin our journey together in this new conference year, I thank God for each of you. It is a privilege to serve in ministry with you as we share the love of God and bring hope to our communities. Because you rise every morning and say, "Yes!" to discipleship, seeds are being planted, challenges are being met and lives are being transformed. The ministries you lead across our affiliated conferences are thriving,

whether they are back-to-school drives, food and clothing pantries, medical clinics or our global partnerships, you are making a significant difference.

Recently I had two separate conversations with individuals who are excited about their life in The United Methodist Church. One was a lay person who has found welcome, healing and a restored faith through a local congregation. He testified that his life has been utterly saved in his new church home. The other conversation was with a clergyperson who indicated that she gives God thanks every

morning for her appointment, knowing she is exactly where God intended. Her congregation is excited, growing and looking forward to their shared mission. This is good news!

I have no idea where this year's wondrous journey of ministry will take us, or how God will use us to serve the present age. But of this I am sure, I am grateful for our partnership and proud to be your episcopal servant. To God be the glory for the great things God has done, is doing and will continue to do through us.

## Meet the Methodists: Fanny Crosby

United Methodists are a singing people. One of their most prolific hymn writers was Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) who wrote more than 8,000 hymns and gospel songs, including the favorite, “Blessed Assurance.”

Crosby lost her sight when she was six weeks old and spent much of her life, as a student and a teacher, at The New York Institution for the Blind in New York City. She was an active member of the John Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Manhattan. She wrote poems about her blindness and read one of them in Washington, D.C., where she became the first woman to formally speak in the chamber of the U.S. Senate.

About her writing process, she said, “It may seem a little old-fashioned, always to begin one’s work with prayer, but I never undertake a hymn without first asking the good Lord to be my inspiration.”

Along with her friend Phoebe Palmer, the founder of the Methodist holiness movement, Crosby also helped to promote the “rescue mission” (also called “city” or “gospel” mission) movement, an international, non-denominational phenomenon aimed largely at lifting the poor, often migrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



She died at age 95, her hymns and work in urban ministry making her a household name.

## Sent in Love: A United Methodist Understanding of the Church

United Methodists in all parts of the denomination are re-imagining the church in response to the deep needs and spiritual hunger of the world. In this region, Bishop Easterling and conference leaders are calling on United Methodists to seek vitality as they create a future of joy, resilience, grace and hope.

United Methodists are a people of social holiness and practical divinity. They believe that those whom God calls in love, God also sends in love. This love compels churches into relationships with their communities to make a tangible difference in the world. From pew to pulpits, in whatever context they serve, United Methodists are seeking to embody the truths of the Gospel in ways that are relevant to an ever-changing world.



*Thoughts from the United Methodist Committee on Faith and Order:*



Within the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula Delaware Conferences, United Methodists are participating in Missional Action Planning (MAP) as they seek to discern how God is calling them to abundant life and to grow in vitality. This growth hinges on meaningful community partnerships, mission that transforms life, and pathways that carry individuals, congregations, districts and conferences on a journey of discernment, prioritization, and bold action grounded in a love of God and neighbor.

Together, we claim the conviction that the love of God for us becomes the love of God in us. *What difference might this love make in your life?*