

Rev. Malcolm Stranathan

Lead Pastor

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"It is good to come home!" exclaimed Rev Malcolm Stranathan on his first Sunday back after being away twenty years. Pastor Malcolm, his wife Jacki, and their children left Westminster in 1995, as they answered a call to ministry in the United Methodist Church.

"I felt God calling me to ordained ministry while Jacki and I worked with other volunteers in the Youth Ministry at Westminster," shares Pastor Malcolm, "At that time, I was a Telecommunications Program Manager working for the Department of Defense and commuting to Ft Meade but discerning that serving in the church was taking precedence over my 9-5 job! Under the wise mentorship of Rev's Chris Wood and Bob Zimmerli, not to mention a lot of prayer, we determined that God was calling me to become an Elder in the UMC. While serving at Westminster, Pastor Malcolm graduated from University of Maryland, University College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management.

Pastor Malcolm started his journey to ordination as a part time Student Local Pastor. He served at Pleasant Grove UMC in Reisterstown half of the week and then attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC the other half of the week. Pastor Malcolm attributes these early years to his reliance on his theme verse of Philippians 4:13, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!*

Ordained initially as a Deacon and then as an Elder, Pastor Malcolm has also served in a variety of congregational settings. After Pleasant Grove UMC, Pastor Malcolm was sent Lakeside UMC in Waldorf, Maryland, for three years as part of the Baltimore Washington Conference of UMC initiative programs to start and grow vital congregations in the Baltimore and Washington DC area. He has also served at Salem UMC in Keedysville MD, and Mount Zion UMC in Highland, Maryland.

Pastor Malcolm's wife, Jacki, current serves as the Director of Discipleship at Catonsville UMC. They have three children: Brittany, who is now married to Danny Rachin, Elisabeth, and Wesley!

Pastor Malcolm closed his first message with these words: "Indeed it is good to be home, and it is also good to see so many familiar faces. It is also nice to meet new folks as well. I believe that God is going to be doing great things through our mutual ministry together. As long as we keep Christ at the center of it all, trust in God, and be open to the Holy Spirit, we are going to see wonderful things happening as we step out to serve the community at the corner of Center and Main Street."