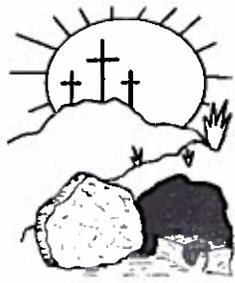
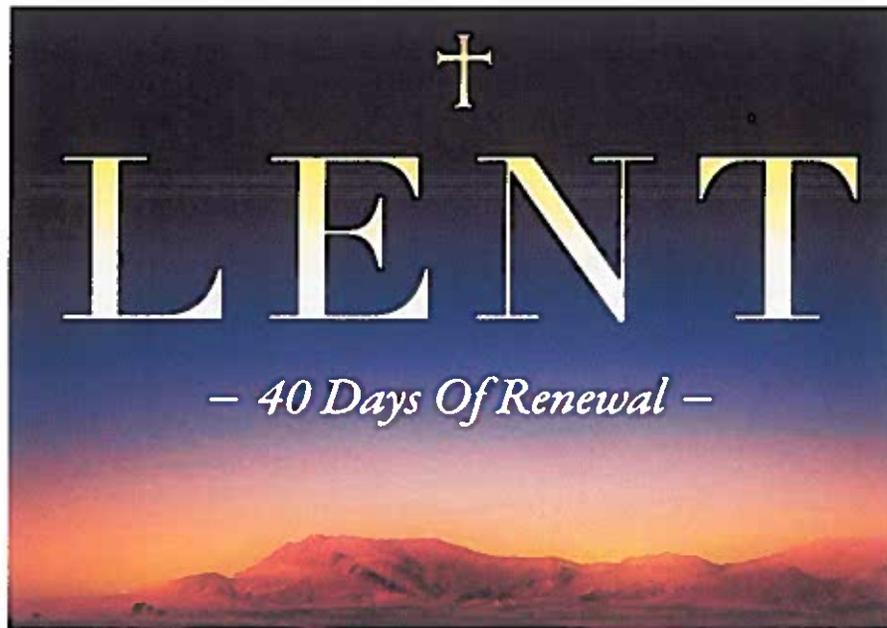


 <p>Maundy Thursday</p> <p>March 29 at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Good Friday</p>  <p>March 30 Come n' Go 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p>	 <p>Easter April 1</p>	<p>easter egg hunt</p> <p><i>Come join the fun!</i></p>  <p>April 1 during Sunday School</p>
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the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
VOLUME 61, ISSUE 2 March 2018



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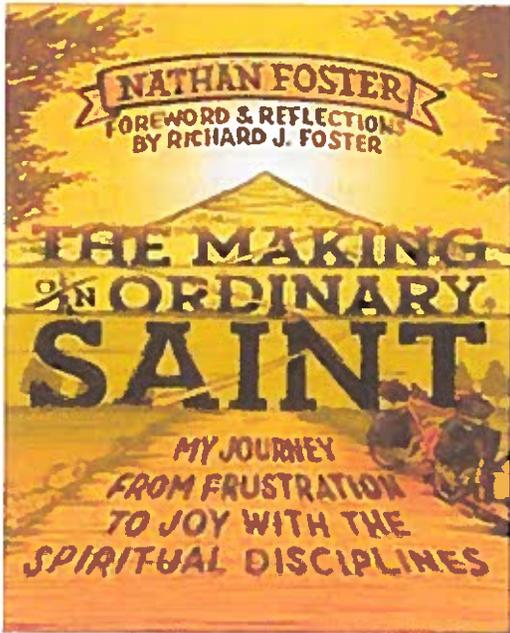
Join Us for Lent!

OFFICERS OF OUR CHURCH

Dale Cropper, Leadership Team Chair
 OPEN, Leadership Team Vice-Chair
 George Whitehead, Staff-Parish Relations Chair
 Jeff Harman, Board Of Trustees Chair
 Sara Lewis, Finance Committee Chair
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 Priscilla Baschart, Co-Chairman, BOD, Opportunity Shop
 Carlton Bradshaw, Chairman, BOD, ASP

Editor: Karen Corwin

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Thank Goodness for the Ordinary!

I guess by now most of you know I love introducing you to new books, or at least those you may not have read. A few years ago when I saw Nathan Foster's book included "My journey from frustration to joy with the spiritual disciplines," I was elated because I have often wondered in the past if in the midst of the lives we are called to, can anyone measure up when it comes to the spiritual disciplines? Somehow they always turn into a legalism of some kind and we experience more guilt than success in trying to use them in our faith walk.

This book was especially intriguing to me because Nathan's father, Richard Foster, had written one of the seminal works on the spiritual disciplines in 1978 and it was actually required reading for me in my seminary work. *Celebration of Discipline* was enlightening and instructive, but seemed nearly impossible for the "normal" person at some levels. Years later in 2014, his son addressed the issues most of us have as normal everyday people trying to walk the path of faith.

Nathan addresses each of the disciplines as his father did, but with a raw edge of honesty that gives me hope as well. He shares in one section of the book that he was "...so enslaved to being religious and trying to earn God's approval that he was unable to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ: God loves me. It's weird to think that my well-intentioned religious efforts managed to keep me away from God. Today I'm thankful I wasn't able to measure up to the standards I had placed on myself. Failure forced me to come to terms with the fact that I am in need. Weakness creates space for God. The healthy don't need a doctor."

He also talks about God finding us in the middle of wherever we are, and that it is scandalous of God to be so practical. Finally, to give you a flavor of this wonderful book, Nathan shares that like us he has concerns and complaints about institutionalized religion, but that the church does hold the possibility of being an honest community of broken people trying to be present to God and each other.

At the beginning of each chapter he provides an understanding of the discipline, and at the end he provides what he calls a portrait of the discipline, which is a personal compelling story of those who have modeled a specific practice. In conclusion, he states the thing I really needed to hear. He says, "In a sense there is only one discipline: an active response to a loving God. It is the process of presenting our will and our lives as a living sacrifice before a good, strong, and caring Father."

I hope you will take a chance on this book and use it to grow in your faith as an ordinary person living in a wonderful and sometimes very difficult world.

Benita



Dear Church Family,

Our reflective Lenten Noon recitals continue on Wednesdays, featuring a variety of musical selections and performers. We will have a young, rising organist from Baltimore, Ben Boellner on March 7, Woodwinds & Vocalists on March 14, and local organist Veronica Tomanek on March 21.

This Easter we will have a brass ensemble with timpani at the 11 a.m. Festive worship service, which will also feature our Chancel Choir and Jubilate Bells.

Please mark your calendars to attend a fun organ and piano duo concert on Saturday, April 21 at 4 p.m. featuring Ben Boellner and Paul Binko from Baltimore. They will be playing a variety of sacred and secular pieces with audience participation during a portion of the program—a special treat you won't want to miss. All are welcome! A free-will offering will be taken.

On Saturday, April 28 at 4 p.m. our Chancel Choir will be joined by guest singers and orchestra to perform The Ascension Oratorio of Johann Sebastian Bach. This masterwork features three impressive choral movements, recitatives, and vocal solos. Our featured soloists include John Wesley Wright, Jeffrey Todd, Melissa Graham, and Carol Walston. All are welcome and admission is Free! A free-will offering will be taken.

In Christ,

Michael Stefanek

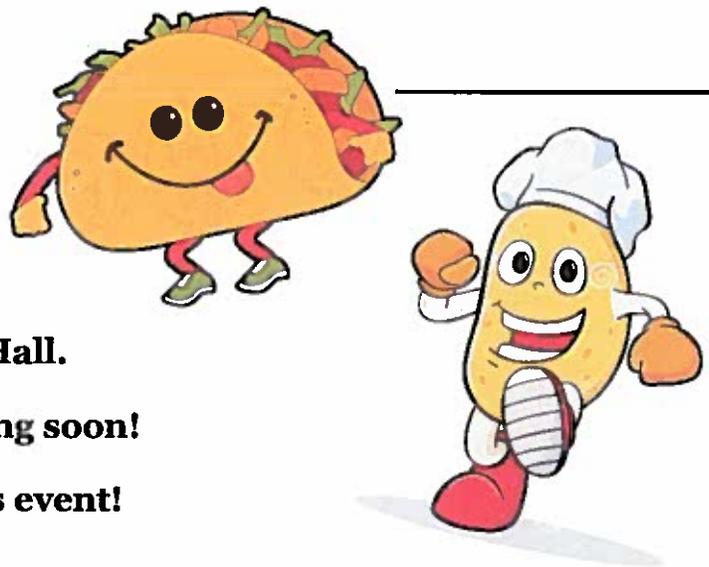
Save the Date!

*****ASP Taco/Baked Potato Dinner*****

Friday, April 6 at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

More details coming soon!

Don't miss this fun and delicious event!



Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

On Easter Sunday, April 1, the high school Sunday School will sponsor the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Disciples' Garden! Children in preschool through middle school will hunt for eggs with their classes during the Sunday School hour. The high school class is collecting individually wrapped candy, stickers, and small toys (must fit inside of a standard-sized plastic Easter egg). There will be collection boxes at the Welcome Centers for these items. We need to fill about 500 eggs, so every little donation is appreciated! Thank you for your help!



**The B.A.S.I.C. Class
(formerly the Wired Word)
10 a.m.**

The B.A.S.I.C. (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) Sunday School Class is currently finishing the book *Moses* by Adam Hamilton and will be starting the book *My One Word* by Mike Ashcraft and Rachel Olsen. This is the Lenten study book that Asbury will be using this year, but the B.A.S.I.C. class will be taking it at a slower pace by only covering one chapter per week. If you would like to join us, contact Kristen Wall-Love to get your book. If you have any questions contact John or Shelly Marshall at mrsjmarshall@msn.com. We meet in the Catley Library on Sunday mornings.

**Open Hearts, Open Minds
(formerly The Lounge Class)
9:50 to 10:45 a.m.**

The Open Hearts, Open Minds Class, meeting in the Mackey Room, is designed to have the class members select and lead the weekly topic and encourage dynamic discussions using contemporary and traditional materials in the second half of the class.

March 4, 11 and 18
Joanne Doyle, Joe Duval, Barbara Emery
FaithLink Series

March 25
Jake Culp
*24 Hrs. That Changed the World
(Adam Hamilton DVD)*

Bible 101

We are now in our Lenten study by pastor Max Lucado who leads a non-denominational Church in San Antonio, Texas.

This study, *He Chose The Nails*, stresses what Jesus the Christ has done for all of us. He Chose to be one of us, to forgive us, to invite us to be with Him, to love us, and to give us victory over death.

After Lent we will begin our study of the Disciple Peter's Letters in the New Testament. Peter was an eye witness to all that Jesus Christ did in three years. Our study guide was written by N.T. Wright, a professor at St. Andrews University in Scotland.

Our last class will be May 20, so there is still time for all spiritual seekers to join us in the Fox room on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

UMW Circle Meetings for March

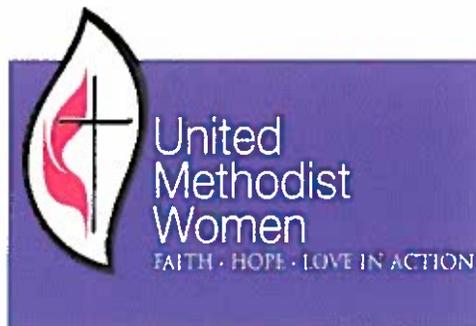
Dorcas: Tuesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. at the home of Ruth Beauchamp.

eCircle: UMW/Church-wide Social/Mission Project, Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. in the Mackey Room.

Eve: Wednesday, March 14, at 7 p.m. Place TBD.

Joanna: Monday, March 12, at 10 a.m. at the home of Carol Bisker to make cards for church.

All Asbury Women: UMW Social/Missions Project! Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. in the Mackey Room. Come meet some new friends and join us while we pack snack bags for the children at Salisbury Urban Ministries and have fun together. Light refreshments will be served. No RSVP needed.



**Rejoice in the Lord
always—and especially in
Lent**

*by Miroslav Volf
and Drew Collins*

[Excerpt from The Christian
Century, February 12, 2018
issue]:

“To most of us, Lent seems as
far from joy as the cross is from
resurrection. But in an

important sense, Lent is about joy...It’s true that Lent is not a season of laughter and indulgence. Some regard the 40 days as a time of self-punishment, drawing significance from the pain of being separated from what we enjoy. Or Lent is regarded as an occasion for self-improvement, a chance to free ourselves from things (extra pounds) or habits (checking Facebook) that we know are harmful.

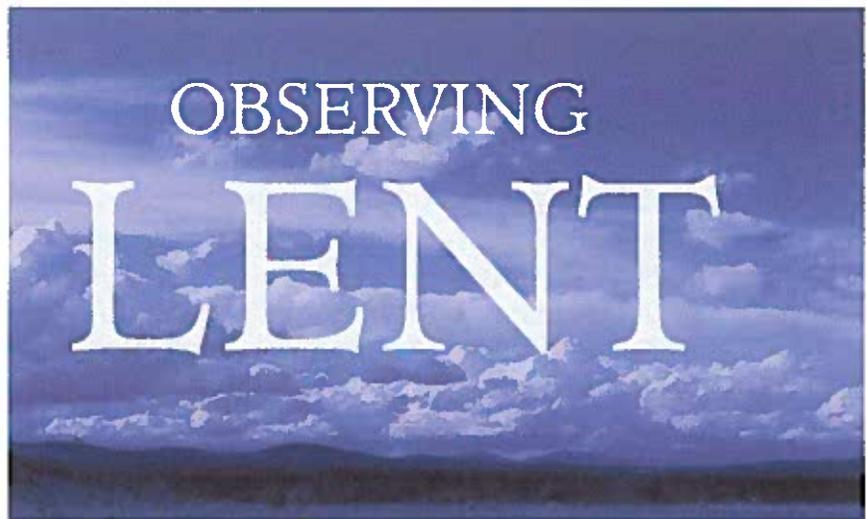
Self-denial and self-improvement are indeed aspects of Lenten observance. But an important and neglected way to practice Lent—and one of the many ways to practice Lent well—is to see it as a time to refocus our relationship to the goods of creation, the goods of ordinary life.

For joy, two things are needed: that over which we rejoice must both appear to us as good and actually be good. Joy is a fruit of truthful seeing of genuine goods.

An essential part of this truthful seeing is the acknowledgment that an object’s goodness does not depend on our possession or enjoyment of it. Joy’s truthful seeing requires acknowledging not only that we cannot always possess certain goods but that sometimes their appearing good for us—and our experiencing them as good—depends upon our not possessing them at all, at least for a period.

The Israelites’ 40 years of wandering in the wilderness and Jesus’ 40 lonely days in the desert involve privation, but the privation is not presented in the Bible as an end to be sought in itself. The Israelites eventually find their way to the land of milk and honey, and Jesus emerges from the desert announcing the good news of the kingdom of God, curing diseases, feeding the hungry, and even being fed at banquets. The goods that the Israelites and Jesus go without are indeed good, and in keeping with their goodness, the Israelites and Jesus do not give them up forever but return to enjoy them again.

So why abstain in the first place? Why create a Lenten gulf between us and the proper objects of our desire? Because it is in denying ourselves that which we want, perhaps even that which we think we need, that we learn to see that the world’s goodness is not a consequence of our enjoyment of the goods of the world; rather, our deep enjoyment of them is the consequence of their goodness.



[Cont’d on page 10]

ASBURY NEWS

Asbury's Boy Scout Troop 151 Spaghetti Dinner

The dinner will be held March 17 in Fellowship Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 per person (kids under 6 eat free!) and includes spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, rolls, salad, drinks and dessert. We will have scouts at the Welcome Center before the 11 a.m. service on March 4 and 11 to sell tickets.



Fellowship Dinner with Wesley Temple UMC

Last year as part of Black History Month we invited members and friends of Wesley Temple UMC to join us for a covered dish dinner followed by a brief hymn sing. It was a great time of fellowship and good food, plus an opportunity to meet United Methodists worshipping in another local congregation! This year our congregation has been invited to Wesley Temple to continue what we hope will become a tradition. Wesley Temple is providing chicken and all guests are invited to bring salads, side dishes, vegetables, and dessert. Come join in the *food, fellowship, fun, and hymn sing*. Date: Sunday, March 11; Time: 4 p.m.; Place: Wesley Temple UMC, 1322 West Road in Salisbury.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

SAVE THE DATE

Ask and Ye Shall Receive...

The entire CESP committee would like to thank our Asbury Church Family for their outpouring of support, generosity and love which enabled us to participate in such an amazing community outreach program. Due to your kindness of giving gift cards, cash, clothing, Cozy Cot and Hygiene Bags (or components of these), lotions, books, socks and food; as well as your time, volunteering to cover shifts, and the support of the church staff made this happen for our appreciative guests. This truly was a gift from the heart from each of you to help bless the less fortunate and make sure they were able to have a safe place to sleep. The 2 weeks our guests were here, they were greeted with a warm smile and had dinner, breakfast and lunch each day. Thank you and God bless each and every one of you.

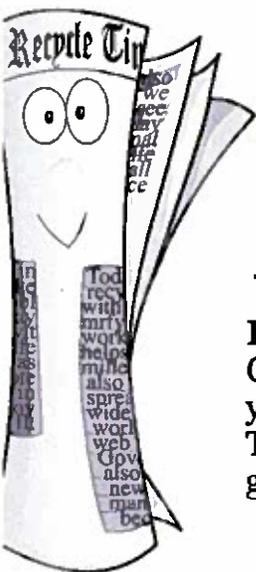


Recycle Your Bulletins and Newsletters

After you read them, recycle your current bulletin and newsletter. Keep them in your car or on your desk for when you invite someone to worship or another church activity. It's always nice to be able to hand that person something to look over. Personal invitations are the most effective way to invite your friends and neighbors to get to know Christ--which is our mission as United Methodists: "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Pray for who to invite and then pray for those you do invite, no matter their answer.

Don't Forget to Spring Forward!

On Saturday, March 10, before you go to bed, set your clocks forward 1 hour for Daylight Saving Time: Spring Forward! A great reminder that we're getting closer to spring and warmer days.



My official title is Director of Youth and Family Ministries. In this article I am focusing on the family component of my position. When I first took the job, I set some goals. One was to create a place where the youth and their families can grow together in Christ...this was the seed that became "**Family Youth Night.**"



On Friday, February 2, four families joined Rev. Benita and me for, I hope, the first of many once-a-month get-togethers. There were 19 participants and the theme was "Love." The family memory verse was 1 Corinthians 13:7 "Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, and never gives up." (GW) The night combined food, fun, and games with a time of worship using a Family Devotional. My hope was that the night would give the parents and younger siblings a glimpse of what happens during middle and high school youth group on Sunday night. I tried to design a family devotional that reached all ages and could be used for continued discussion by the individual families at home. Below is the step-by-step family devotional we used that evening...

- (1) Open in prayer together as a family.
- (2) Read the Family Memory Verse— "**Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, and never gives up.**" 1 Corinthians 13:7
Then ask each one to fill in the blank: Love is _____.
- (3) Read together the following quotes from Devotional Notes by Ted Cunningham
"Jesus loved people. He loved thieves, tax collectors, diseased people, children and His followers. He loved people who were devoted to Him and those who were different from Him. He even loved difficult and dangerous people. And His love is the same today as it was 2,000 years ago. Because we are loved by Him, we are called to love like Him. The extent to which we love one another validates and communicates our faith."
- (4) Now look up and read John 13:34-35—**Love one another**
This is one of 54 "one another" passages in the New Testament that teach us how to love like Jesus and show that love as parents, children, siblings, and friends to one another.
- (5) Now look up and read Colossians 3:13—**Forgive one another**
Have you ever had to forgive someone and how did you feel about it?
Has someone ever forgiven you and how did you feel about it?
"The ultimate example of forgiveness was displayed when Jesus hung on the cross and cried out for those who were crucifying Him: 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do' (Luke 23:34). Jesus forgave them even when they didn't deserve it or ask for it."
- (6) Now look up and read Romans 17:7—**Accept one another**
"To truly love someone, you must avoid trying to change the person for your own purposes."
- (7) Now look up and read Romans 12:10 and Philippians 2:3-5—**Honor one another**
What does the word honor mean? Honor means to esteem someone as highly valuable.
"Loving others isn't always easy, but a Christ-like love means forgiving, accepting and honoring even those who are different and difficult. Our ability to love comes from God. (1 John 4:7)."
- (8) Review the Family Memory Verse one more time.
- (9) End in prayer together as a family.

Leah Tatman

The Opportunity Shop

158 W. Market Street Salisbury, MD 21801 410-749-9777

Store Hours: Thursday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donations can be dropped off Monday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Asbury Service Project Update – March 2018

Your Asbury Service Project team has been working hard preparing for our 45th mission trip to Appalachia in June. We do not yet know our destination, but it is likely to be somewhere in Tennessee. All participants have raised at least their minimum funding of \$350 to cover the cost of the trip, and additional funds will be used to help those in the community we serve. Thank you for your prayers, presence and financial support of this ministry!

There is still plenty to do here in our own community before we travel. We will continue serving dinner to the guests at Christian Shelter once per month through the spring. In addition, we will be working with Chesapeake Housing Mission to construct wheelchair ramps for three needy families.

We have just one more pancake breakfast scheduled for the year on March 11; thank you for your generous support at our previous breakfasts, and we look forward to serving you in the future. As always, the breakfast is offered at no charge, but donations to the ministry are graciously accepted. In years' past your generous donations to our fundraisers have covered travel costs and provided additional funding to help the families we serve in Appalachia. Breakfast dates for your calendar are:

On April 6 we are planning a taco and baked potato dinner; stay tuned for more information on that!

Work Skills / Safety Training sessions are scheduled for:

March 24

April 14

May 12

If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me at 410-896-2776.

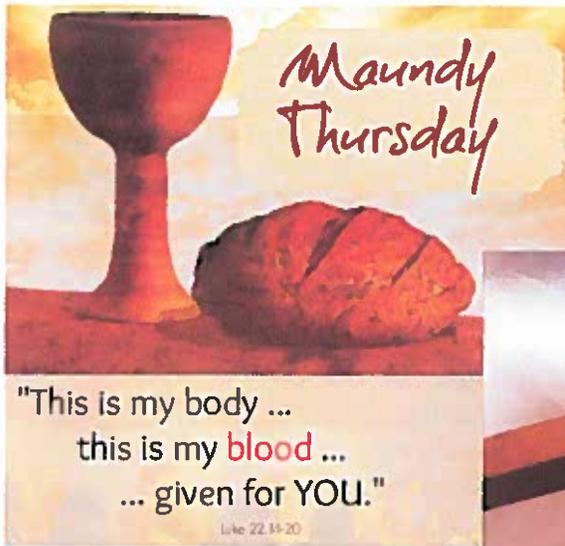
In His Service,
Carlton Bradshaw



Kingdom City

The kids in Kingdom City have been very busy throughout the months of January and February. We finished up our unit with a skit where the kids did a reenactment of the Lord's Supper! We are starting a new unit in March where we will learn all about the story of Jonah. We will be learning about Jonah through storytelling, puppets, cooking, art, science and games! The kids will get to be puppeteers at our deliverable on April 29 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend!

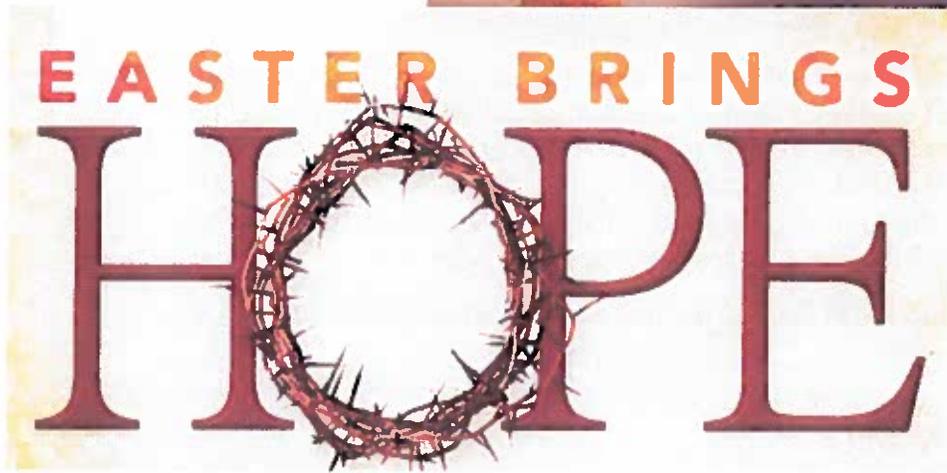




**Maundy Thursday Service
March 29 at 7 p.m.**



**Come & Go
Reflective Time
March 30
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
with Holy
Communion
available.**



**Easter Sunday Services:
April 1**

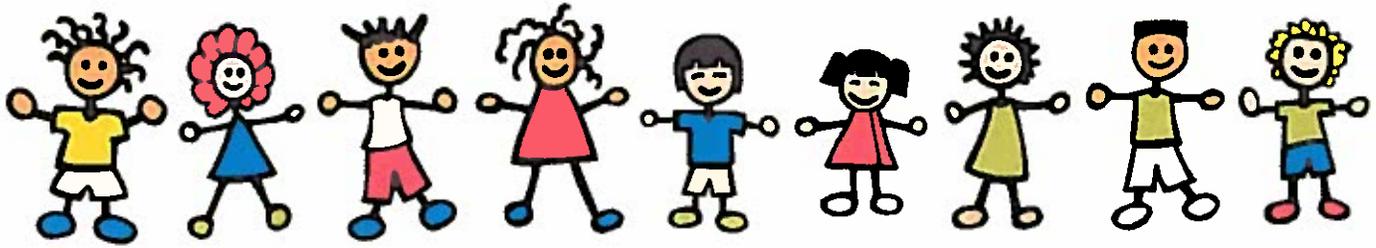
- *8:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary**
- *8:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**
- *11 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

[Cont'd from page 5]

The world was good before there were humans to enjoy it; it was a good gift which God gave humans in the very act of creating them. Of course, if creation weren't enjoyable, it could not be a good and welcome gift; instead, it would be an inflicted burden. But when we treat the ordinary things of life as good because they are enjoyable and give us pleasure, we tend to make them mere means to an end. Water comes to be regarded as just something to satisfy our thirst or irrigate our fields. Cattle exist only to provide us with steaks. The world is there for us to extract benefit for ourselves. Nature ceases to have an integrity of its own.

The same approach can be applied to the people who work to make or cultivate the objects of our enjoyment. Everything and everyone is seen as existing for our enjoyment. Failing to recognize God's gifts, we inflict damage on the world around us and upon ourselves.

When Paul writes that "the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit," he isn't denying the goodness of food, drink, or any other aspects of creaturely life. He is reminding us that whatever goodness we might attribute to them lies in their being both created by God and caught up in God's plan for their perfect consummation in God's kingdom...The renunciations of Lent are in service of that joy."



ACDC

ACDC student and staff are gearing up for St. Patrick's Day Activities. Students will get to go on a hunt to see if they can find the Sneaky Little Leprechaun. Maybe this year will be the year they catch one (hee, hee.)



ACDC had a great turn out for priority registration. Open registration will take place on March 14 at 9 a.m. Registration materials for the 2018-2019 school year can be picked up in the Resource Room #121. If you have additional questions, do not hesitate to contact anyone in the office. Thank you!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIALS

Ken Harris

- Calvin & Susan Peacock
- Larry & Betty Staton
- Nancy & Allen Tustin
- Dayle Rounds
- John & Robin Holloway
- Alverta McKenna

Don McCabe

- Alan & Peggy Selser
- Linda Wiles
- Frank & Frankie Shipper

Karen Potts

- Profiles Hair Studio
- Mr. & Mrs. George Vickers
- Lori & Ben Blackmon, Beth, Jordan, Abby, Mary Kate & Max

Del & Mable Thomas

- Linda Wiles



*****March Meetings*****

SPRC	Cancelled	
Finance	Thursday March 8	5:30 p.m.
Board of Trustees	Tuesday March 13	Noon
Leadership Team	Wednesday March 14	7 p.m.
Altar Guild	Tuesday March 27	10 a.m.
UMW	Wednesday March 28	7 p.m.

(meetings are subject to change, please check with church office for verification of date and time).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Pastor: Rev. Benita Harris
Pastor of Care Ministries: Rev. Bill Sterling
Administrative Office Manager: Karen Corwin
Administrative Assistant: Sheri Burchard
Director of Music Ministries: Michael Stefanek
Director Children and Care Ministries:
Heather Harman
Director Finance and Building:
Janice Wilkinson
Director of Adult Spiritual Formation and
Membership:
Kristen Wall-Love
Director of Youth & Family Ministries:
Leah Tatman
Custodial/Maintenance Worker:
Craig Brown
ACDC: Director: Casey Taylor
ACDC Asst. Director: Danna Abbott

Daylight Saving Begins March 11



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Email: asbury@asburyweb.org
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