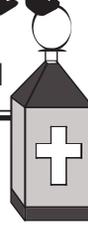


The Lantern

MARCH 2013

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Follow Jesus to the Cross March 29

A special Good Friday service will be held on March 29 at 2pm in the Living Room of Shipley Manor. It is entitled *The Way of the Cross* and is based on the Stations of the Cross, a devotion that was developed in the Middle Ages by the Franciscans as a way of allowing people who could not travel to the Holy Land to walk where Christ walked on the day of his Passion. We will look at the Via Dolorosa from the point of view of the Centurion. We welcome anyone from Mt. Lebanon to come and join the Shipley Manor family on our journey to the Cross.

The Little Purple Bag That Brings Hope

Please consider participating in Operation Hope Tote sponsored by the Sunday Breakfast Mission. This ministry focuses on filling purple plastic bags with new, unopened personal care products that are given to the dinner and overnight guests at Sunday Breakfast Mission on Easter Sunday. We will kick this collection off on March 3 and collect through March 29 so that the bags can be delivered before Easter. The following items are requested:

Toothbrush and toothpaste	Brush and comb
Soap	Tissues
Shaving cream	Disposable razors
Shampoo and conditioner	Hand or body lotion
Deodorant	Shoelaces
Lip Balm	Socks

(Travel size items are preferred)

You can either fill a bag or provide parts of a bag. All gifts will be gratefully received. Please place your donations in the bin marked "Hope Totes" on the Missions table to the left of the front door in Fellowship Hall.

2013 Church Phone Directory

Our 2013 Church Phone Directory is available to take home this Sunday, March 3. Pick one up!



One Great Hour of Sharing March 10

This offering enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to reach out when a catastrophe occurs to ease pain and suffering by providing food and shelter and addressing health issues. UMCOR has performed its services in such a way that it has become one of the first organizations to be invited to areas of distress. All of the money donated to UMCOR is used exclusively to provide the needed services and supplies. Thank you for your help with this important offering.

YOUTH NEWS!

Lenten Jelly Jars... At the Youth Lock-in last month the youth group decorated jelly jars so that each church household can take one home for Lent. During Lent, we ask you fill up the jar with spare change or whatever you feel you can give. We will collect the jars on Easter and the week after. All the money will go to Wilmington's Urban Promise which ministers to children and youth in our city.

Upcoming events.... A calendar of events for the youth group is being put together by our leaders, Ben Oliva and Becky Byrd. We have lots of fun activities in the Spring and Summer. If you know a youth who might be interested in coming to an event please let Ben or Becky know and we'll be sure to include them.

Extravagant Generosity

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity." (2 Corinthians 9:11)

SCRIPTURE is replete with examples and teachings that focus on possessions, wealth, giving, gifts, generosity, offerings, charity, sacrifice, and sharing with those in need. Giving is central to Jewish and Christian practice because people perceive that God is extravagantly generous, the giver of every good gift, the source of life and love. People give because they serve a giving God.

In the Old Testament, numerous passages underscore the significance of tithing (giving a tenth) and of first fruits (offering the first and best of harvest, livestock, and income to the purposes of God). And Jesus' teachings abound with tales of rich and poor, generous and shrewd, givers and takers, charitable and selfish, faithful and fearful. He commends the poor widow putting two coins in the treasury, giving out of her poverty (Luke 21:1-4). The story upsets expectations by pointing to proportion rather than amount as the measure of extravagance.

In the story of the farmer who built bigger barns, placing his trust too much in earthly possessions, Jesus reminds us, "Be on your guard against all kinds of greed" (Luke 12:13-21). Acquisitiveness does not foster a life rich in God.

And Jesus recounts the parable of the three servants entrusted with varying talents to illustrate God's desire for us to use faithfully, productively, and responsibly what has been entrusted to us. (Matthew 25:14-30). How people use what they have matters to God. Paul describes generosity as one of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). He describes how some people have the special spiritual gift of giving and generosity (Romans 12:6-8). All Christians practice generosity while some are particularly gifted by the Spirit to give in extraordinary measure.

From whom have you learned your patterns of giving? How do you feel about talking about your money and giving as an aspect of your faith journey?

Prayer: Father, may I be generous to all your children. Help me to give from the heart.

Challenge: Read from your Bible the passages referenced in today's reading from 2 Corinthians, Luke, Matthew, Galatians, and Romans. Why do you think Scripture focuses so much on wealth, greed, and generosity?

From "Cultivating Fruitfulness" by Bishop Robert Schnase

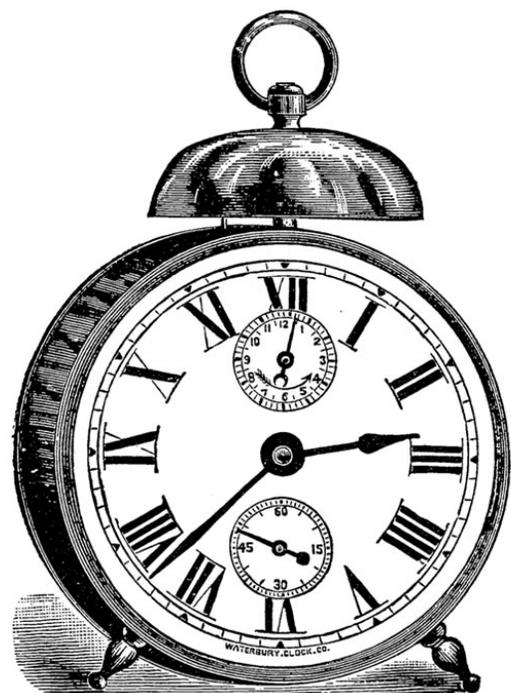
New Bench along Cemetery Walk

"Come all who are weary and I will give you rest"

It can be a long walk from the upper parking lot to the church, and we now have a beautiful bench that Betty Brechtel and her family have lovingly provided for all to enjoy. Betty and her family (Neil, kids and grandkids) have selected, assembled and donated a new bench to be placed along the cemetery walkway. During a Saturday afternoon in early January it was quite a joy to see Betty's family working together (with supervision from Betty) to assemble this bench in honor of their Mom and Grandmother. Betty selected the inscription on the bench: "Come all who are weary and I will give you rest." The Bench is currently in Bambarly Hall and will be moved as soon as weather permits.

DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD

MARCH 10!



Trustees Update

We are now well into the new year and the Trustees have been busily compiling and prioritizing a list of capital projects that we would like to complete in 2013. The Trustees receive an allocation from our Endowment fund every year and this year we will receive \$12,868 to be used for capital improvements. As you might imagine the list of projects that we would like to complete exceeds the budget and we do our best to prioritize keeping in mind that there are some projects that are necessary for safety and maintenance. For example, the large tree near the shed at the Shipley Road entrance is primarily dead and needs to be removed.

With the question in front of us as to how we, the Trustees, support making disciples for Christ we felt that this could be reflected in the prioritization to facilitate improvements in various communication systems within the church. After discussion and prayer the Trustees have agreed that we would focus on updating and enhancing our sound and video capability in the sanctuary, adding video projection in Banbury hall and replacing and upgrading our aging and slow computer systems which are very outdated. We are in the process of getting estimates on costs for these projects. We are blessed to have another proposal for an Eagle Scout project to renovation of the Prayer Garden (more to come) and we are also looking to add some much needed furniture to our nursery.

If you have suggestion or ideas for other projects that the Trustees can consider for either this year or next, please let one of us know. Your Trustees are: Brent Apotheker, Barbara Ewing (President), Ron Foust (VP), Steve Furman, Tracy Hopkins (Secretary), Tim Jarrell, Claudia Lathem, Rob Lynch and Ben Oliva.

The Trustees also sponsor a Church Work Day on the first or second Saturday of every month where we have maintenance items and small projects (inside and outside) that are needed for the general upkeep of our church facility. All are welcome to come and help out during Saturday workdays, these are not just Trustee committee events. The next workday in March 9 from 9am-noon. You can contact Barbara Ewing at 764-3572 or ewingbj@verizon.net if you have questions or requests.

Reader & Fellowship Helpers

We are looking for people interested in reading and being fellowship helpers in 2013. Sign-up sheets are available on the Info and Snack tables in Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance for contributing to success of these ministries!

UMW News

The United Methodist Women's Group would like to thank everyone who purchased baked goods from us on Feb. 10. We made almost \$300 which will all go to our missions work.

We will be having a pretzel sale again on March 17 after church. So, everyone bring your wallets and change that day! We are also looking into a fundraiser at Seasons Pizza in April.

As a reminder we are selling our Bunny Cakes again on March 30; the sign up sheet is on the table in Fellowship Hall. You may pick them up on Sunday or late afternoon on Saturday (exact hours TBA). We have a cut off date of March 24 for orders, so please sign up soon!



We also talked about our UMW Sunday on April 21. Our special speaker will be Virginia Oliver from Neighborhood House, so plan on attending church that day as I am sure she will be very interesting. We will also be having Rev. Mary Haggard, the UD Methodist campus pastor and executive director of the Wesley Foundation. at our March meeting. Any and all women in the church are welcome to attend our March meeting.

Some of the missions we have donated to are: Urban Promise, UMCOR, The Seaman's Center, Ministry of Caring, Sunday Breakfast Mission, Emmanuel Dining Room, Sojourners Place, our own church's emergency fund and the Pastor's discretionary fund. We want everyone to know that all money we raise goes to missions work; that is what our group was founded on many, many years ago.

Until next month...

Your UMW Group / Kay Frick, Pres.

MARCH 2013 **WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS**

Our preaching series this Lent will be focused on the theme of "Facing the Cross." Luke 9:51 says: "*When the days drew near for him to leave this earth, Jesus 'set his face' to Jerusalem to encounter the pain of the cross on our behalf.*" Using materials from Mark Zimmerman and Rev. Jerry Hays, we will set our faces to the cross of Christ as we journey through this Lenten season. We will look at facing certain aspects of our lives that are not always in line with Christ's cross and we will seek to grow closer to the one who draws us to the cross each day of our lives.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 — 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Holy Communion

Jeremiah 5:1-6, Psalm 51

Romans 7:14-25; Luke 13:1-8

"Facing the Stuff of our Lives"

SUNDAY, MARCH 10 — 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

John 19:26-27; John 20:19-23; John 21:15-19

"Facing Forgiveness: the need to forgive others, to receive the forgiveness of others and to receive forgiveness in Christ"

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 — 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 11:1-9; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Matthew 19:16-30

"Facing Our Worldliness"

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 — PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Matthew 21:1-11

Genesis 45:4-8; Psalm 46; Isaiah 52:13-53:7

Romans 5:1-8; Philippians 3:8-11; Matthew 27:27-44

"Facing Suffering and the Road to the Cross"

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 — MAUNDY THURSDAY

"Facing Denial"

Joint Service with Brandywine CUMC; Rev. Jennifer Kerby preaching

Held at Brandywine UMC at 7pm; Car-pool from Mt. Lebanon at 6:30pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 — GOOD FRIDAY

"Facing Death"

Silent Vigil at Mt. Lebanon Sanctuary; 6am-3pm

Shipleigh Manor Worship at 2pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 — EASTER SUNDAY

"Facing the Future"

Sunrise Service with Aldersgate UMC at 6:30am

Pancake Breakfast at 7:30am

Traditional Worship at 10:30am



A Letter from Bishop Johnson about Capital Punishment

The United Methodist Church unequivocally opposes capital punishment. In the Social Principles, it states: We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings. The United Methodist Church is deeply concerned about crime throughout the world and the value of any life taken by a murder or homicide. We believe all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore, we must see all human life as significant and valuable. When governments implement the death penalty (capital punishment), then the life of the convicted person is devalued and all possibility of change in that person's life ends. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that the possibility of reconciliation with Christ comes through repentance.

This gift of reconciliation is offered to all individuals without exception and gives all life new dignity and sacredness. For this reason, we oppose the death penalty (capital punishment) and urge its elimination from all criminal codes. (164.G The Death Penalty)

When another life is taken through capital punishment, the life of the victim is further devalued. Moreover, the church is convinced that the use of the death penalty would result in neither a net reduction of crime in general nor a lessening of the particular kinds of crime against which it was directed. The death penalty also falls unfairly and unequally upon an outcast minority. Recent methods for selecting the few persons sentenced to die from among the larger number who are convicted of comparable offenses have not cured the arbitrariness and discrimination that have historically marked the administration of capital punishment in this country. We will continue to advocate for the final elimination of this act of barbarism, which has no room in a civilized society, nor in a country that prides so much on its Christian heritage. (Book of Resolutions excerpted pp. 665-666)

Delaware was one of only nine states to execute in 2012. The Delaware Repeal Project (www.derepeal.org) is working to change that and end Delaware's death penalty in 2013. Using innovative techniques, the DE Repeal team is ramping up their efforts to abolish capital punishment this year. Their work has even caught the attention of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, who recently named Delaware a "hot state." With your help, this state can make a big change in 2013.

Restore! and The Art of Caregiving

May 4, 8:30am – 1pm

Hockessin UMC, 7250 Lancaster Pike

Rev. Dr. Michael Barry, Director of Pastoral Care at Cancer Treatment Centers of America Presents: *Restore! (Personal Forgiveness) and The Art of Caregiving*. This event is free of charge and open to the public.

The program provides resources and education that encourage healing through forgiveness.

A light breakfast will be provided. Call to reserve child care if needed. RSVP by April 29 to: Robbie Deike at 239-3030 or deikerm@comcast.net.

Young Adult Summit (Ages 18-35)

March 22-23

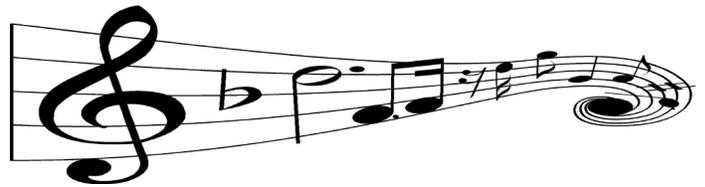
Holiday Inn Oceanfront Ocean City, MD

All young adults between the ages of 18 and 35 are welcome to join us as we worship, fellowship, explore and grow in our faith together.

Workshops:

- Saved, Single and Sex
- Mission Minded
- A Heart for Missions and Justice
- Paint Your Pain Away

Registration Fee: \$15/person. Includes Evening Snack (Fri.), Breakfast, Lunch (Sat.).



German UMC Choir, Ephata In Concert

March 25 at 7pm

Aldersgate UMC, 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington

"Ephata," the energetic and talented youth/adult choir from the United Methodist Church of Friedrichsdorf, Germany, will present a concert of modern German and English language Christian and popular songs. An enriching program for Holy Week! A freewill offering will be collected for the visiting choir.

Children's Sunday School News

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”
(Proverbs 22:6)



The Children's Sunday School has grown from strength to strength these past six months; with a new energetic team and a new curriculum thanks to Joanne West, we are preparing the children of this congregation for a future grounded in their Christian Faith.

We wrapped up the Epiphany period with Jesus' baptism, Jesus and the 12 disciples (not easy to explain to a 5-year-old what a disciple is, we used a lot of sports fan analogies), the Sermon on the Mount (Pastor Jennifer, now the kids know what you do on Sunday mornings!) and the wedding at Cana (Amy Furman, thank you for bringing your wedding album!)

At our last teachers' meeting, we started sharing ideas to include more sensory activities to our lessons, especially with the younger elementary group.

As we entered the Lenten period, we started studying the last week of Jesus' life. Throughout Lent, each Sunday the children will learn the chronological order of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Judas' betrayal, Jesus' trial, the soldiers mocking Jesus, The Journey of the Cross, Jesus on the Cross, Jesus resurrected.

These are not easy topics and we encouraged families and everyone in the congregation to ask the children about what they learnt and help them understand the importance of Holy Week in their Faith.

On the mission side, we delivered cookies to the patrons at Sunday Breakfast Mission (SBM) last November, then followed up in January with a thank you poster to show our gratitude for letting us go in with their children and being part of their dinner routine). Amanda Lynch is hoping to get a date in the calendar to host a Easter Egg Hunt at SBM for the patrons.

We are working on ideas for care packages the children would put together for our homebound members.

Our own Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 23rd at 10 am so mark your calendars and start inviting friends, neighbors, and family members!

Finally Pastor Jennifer bought "we missed you" cards that we will start sending to children who were absent on a given Sunday so that they know they are missed when they're not there.

March Readers:

3/3 Charlotte Hanby
3/10 Denise Hudson
3/17 Barbara Videtto

March Altar Guild:

3/3 Harry & Joanne West
3/10 Ann Brechtel, Marilyn Hetrick
3/17 Gale Ziegler, Iva Boardman
3/24 Palm Sunday

March Ushers:

3/3 Barbara Ewing & Kathy Neilson
3/24 Donna Peterson
Other dates TBD

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01-25-2013

IF YOU ARE OUT THERE, SEND A SIGN.
SOMETHING SIMPLE ... LIKE HAVE THIS
LOTTERY TICKET I BOUGHT WIN ... OR MAYBE
THAT GIRL SUE FALLS IN LOVE WITH ME ...
OR I FIND A PILE OF CASH OR SOMETHING.
PLEASE SOMETHING SIMPLE LIKE THAT TO LET
ME KNOW YOU ARE THERE

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

March

3
Holy Communion
Shipley Worship 2pm

4
Painting Class 1pm

5
Domino Group 10am
Trustees 7pm
Shipley Bible 7pm

6
Bible Study 10am
Prayer & Praise 7pm
NA Group 8pm

7
Growing in Faith 7pm

8
Food Closet 9am-
12noon @BCC

9
Church Work Day
9am-noon

10
One Hour of Sharing
UMCOR Offering

11
Painting Class 1pm
Admin Council 7pm

12
Domino Group 10am
Shipley Bible 7pm

13
Bible Study 10am
Prayer & Praise 7pm
NA Group 8pm

14
Growing in Faith 7pm

15

16

17
Ministry Moment-
Admin Council
Shipley Worship 2pm

18
UMW Mtg. 11am
Laity-Clergy
Celebration 7pm

19
Domino Group 10am
Endowment Mtg 7pm
Shipley Bible 7pm

20
Bible Study 10am
Prayer & Praise 7pm
NA Group 8pm

21
Growing in Faith 7pm

22
Food Closet 9am-
12noon @BCC

23
Easter Egg Hunt 9am-
12noon

24
Palm/Passion Sunday

25
Painting Class 1pm
Missions Mtg 7pm

26
Domino Group 10am
Shipley Bible 7pm

27
Bible Study 10am
Prayer & Praise 7pm
NA Group 8pm

28
Maundy Thursday
Service 7pm @BCC

29
Holy Friday Vigil
6am-3pm
Shipley Service 2pm

30

31
Easter Sunrise 6:30a

2013

Reflections...

In the Christian life, there is no season more holy or more powerful than this season of Lent and the observance of Christ's passion and resurrection. We may love Christmas with its uplifting focus on hope and great emphasis on joy. We may appreciate Epiphany with its bright lights and invitation to illuminating inspiration. Some of us may even lift up Pentecost with its great celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the power and promise of life fulfilled in the sustaining presence of God. No matter our favorite church season, Lent, Holy Week and Easter remain the great pinnacle of our faith.

The great invitation during this season is to enter more deeply into our walk with Christ. Often, we satisfy our spiritual lives with "fast food" or baby's milk when what our soul truly need is seven-course meals and spiritual protein. If you have decided to give something up for Lent, make sure that you have added on a spiritual discipline that will draw you closer to God. Perhaps you will dive deeply into our Lenten Reflection booklet "Called to Life, Called to Love" by Henri Nouwen or make an extra effort to attend every week's worship service as we face the crosses of our lives with Jesus. We walk through the storms, stuff and suffering of this world that all might be nailed to the cross to enable us to experience the power of the risen life in Christ.

I hope these words from Henri Nouwen lighten your way as you journey to the cross:

Lent is a beautiful opportunity to discover the mystery of Christ within us. It is a gentle but also demanding time. It is a time of solitude but also community. It is a time of listening to the voice within but also a time of paying attention to other people's needs. It is a time to continuously make the passage to new inner life as well as to live with those around us.

— Pastor Jennifer Kerby

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.