

The Lantern

APRIL 2014

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Holy Week

From Saturday, April 12 to Sunday, April 20, we come together to observe, remember, share and celebrate the greatest events in our faith life as we walk with Christ to the cross and beyond.

Make sure to plan to attend as many of these wonderful services and opportunities as you can and invite your friends and neighbors to experience the blessings of an abundant life in Christ.

Saturday, April 12 from 10am-noon — Join in the fun of sharing the joy of Easter with our Annual Community Egg Hunt, open to all children through age 12, rain or shine. This is a wonderful opportunity to help tell the story of Jesus' love and the powerful promise of new life through Christ. Bunny cakes will also be offered for sale by Mt. Lebanon's faithful United Methodist Women; \$16 each, pre-order is advised by calling UMW President Kay Frick at 529-8970.

Saturday, April 12 at 5:30pm, Elam UMC, Smith Bridge Road just over the PA line, off Rt. 202 — Begin your Holy Week observance by attending a stirring passion play written by our former Director of Music Ministries, Roy Aungst. Open to the community.

Sunday, April 13 — Our Palm/Passion Sunday worship will be filled with music and a presentation of the Palm Sunday/Passion Week story told by our pre-teen youth. 10:30am in the sanctuary. Don't miss this very special offering by our music ministry and young people.

Wednesday, April 16 at 7pm in the sanctuary — Join with one more Prayer and Praise worship service as we conclude our Lenten Challenge and focus on Luke's telling of Jesus' last days.

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7pm — Joining with our friends at Brandywine Community UMC, 2200 N. Market St., we will observe a Service of Tenebrae as we read scriptures from Jesus' last night, sing hymns of remembrance and repentance and extinguish the candles representing Christ's last hours.

Good Friday, April 18 — Two opportunities for worship and holy remembering are offered. First is the day-long prayer and meditation vigil in the sanctuary, beginning at 6am and ending at 3pm. The bells will be tolled every hour and meditations will be provided for silent reflection and prayer; sign-up for one hour or more intervals on the sheet in the hall. Second is the annual Good Friday worship service at 2pm held at Shipley Manor and led by Kay Shoemaker, Denise Hudson and friends. This is a wonderful opportunity to worship and share our faith, hope and strength with residents of Shipley Manor.

Easter Sunday, April 20 — The great Easter celebration begins with a joint Sunrise Service with Aldersgate UMC at 6am outdoors in our parking lot. Our traditional pancake breakfast will be held at 7am in the church hall, and traditional worship with beautiful and uplifting music will begin at 10:30am.

Many thanks...

to all of you who prayed for my mother in her recent health crisis, for my strength and traveling mercies and to all those who chipped in and helped keep our congregation and ministries moving forward during my unexpected absence. God is so good to provide this fellowship of caring and willing souls to support each of us in our time of need. Mom is now settled in a rehab center where she is learning to live with her new limitation and looking forward to returning to her home so that she can begin packing to make the permanent move here to live with us in Delaware. Your continued prayers for this time of multiple transitions in the life of our family are gratefully received!

~ Pastor Jennifer

Megan's Mercy Mission

Pastor Jennifer and the Missions Team invite you, the congregation of Mt. Lebanon, to match our respective donations to Megan's Mercy Mission of \$350. Megan Armstead visited us last July and shared information regarding her mission of providing a home-like environment for children without parents in Andhra Pradesh Province in India. Currently seven children/youth are living with a Christian couple and are in need of \$350 monthly for food, personal items and school uniforms. Megan will be our guest on Mother's Day, May 11, when we will take a love offering. Megan travels to India annually to assist with aspects of her mission. Members at Mt. Lebanon have expressed interest in accompanying Megan in 2015.

Easter Lillies

Once again we are taking Easter Lilies order and donations for our Alternate Fund to help our church 2014 expenses. Easter Lilies cost is \$11 each. Please fill out the form and make check payable to Mt. Lebanon UMC, noting Lilies or alternate fund in the memo line. Please place your order form and check in the Easter basket in the Fellowship Hall or you can drop off or mail the form and check to the Church Office.

Please DO NOT place order forms and checks in the offering plate. Phoebe is also available to take your order over the phone. Orders need to be received by Tuesday, April 15 for listing in the Easter Bulletin on April 20.

Lilies may be picked up after the 10:30am worship service on Easter Sunday.

Spiritual Discipline of the Month: Confession

Because of Jesus' great work on the cross, the practice of confession takes on more than a psychological meaning and deeply creates an objective change in our relationship with God; it is a means of healing and transforming the inner spirit (Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster, p. 144.) According to the scriptural record, confession is both a private matter between us and God and a corporate matter to be practiced within the community of believers. John Wesley wrote in "The Repentance of Believers" that it was necessary for Christians to grow more and more in the forgiving grace of God. Foster acknowledges that confession is both a grace received and a spiritual discipline that consciously brings us under and into God's righteousness.

Foster identifies three necessary components of the discipline of confession:

- 1) An examination of conscience, recognizing that even our conscience can be warped by sin and cultural or egocentric rationalizations;
- 2) Sorrow to the point of abhorrence and deep remorse both in our emotions and in our will over how our specific sinfulness has hurt God, others and ourselves; and
- 3) A determination to avoid sin that yearns for holy living beyond anything else. The discipline of confession always ends with the receiving of forgiveness and the celebration and a return to the joy of our salvation in Jesus Christ.

The discipline of confession may be shared between yourself and God alone, or between yourself and a chosen brother or sister in the faith who has committed to pray for you and with you through this work and to honor your confidence. Foster writes, "The discipline of confession brings an end to pretense... Honesty leads to confession, and confession leads to change." May we be led by God through this great practice of confession to a deeper experience of God's forgiveness in our lives and the resurrection power of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ in the world.

Prayers of Sympathy

...to the Brechtel family on Betty's death on Friday, February 28. Her funeral service on Wednesday, March 5 was a beautiful testimony to both her love-filled life and to this congregation's great gift of caring and support. Cards of sympathy may be sent to husband Neil at their home, 218 Florence Ave, Wilmington DE 19803 and daughter Ann at 78 Tulip Lane, Newark DE 19713.



Mt. Lebanon continues to sing to the glory of God every Sunday. A singing congregation is a wonderful sound. An old saying goes: "Those who sing, pray twice."

We thank Karen Yasik and Denise Hudson for their continued choir direction from September 2013 through February 2014. Carol Nile began leading our Music Ministry on February 23, and the choir continues to sing beautifully with a message for all.

It is also great to hear the organ again, isn't it?

Our **children's choir** began Sunday, March 30. Harry West and Carol will be leading this troupe of youngsters with music especially written to teach the Word of God. It will be a fun and exciting time for all. Rehearsals are every Sunday from 9:40 to 10 am. All children are invited to participate. Bring a friend or a neighbor and have fun singing a variety of children's Sunday School songs.

The Purple Bag with a Purpose

Mt. Lebanon will again participate in Sunday Breakfast Mission's annual Easter outreach: Operation Hope Tote. The goal of this event is to provide hundreds of men, women and teens with personal hygiene items. Many of us take these items for granted and buy them as needed or even stock up when there are sales. The HopeTote packets were distributed at our March 23 worship service, but there are extras in the collection bin in Fellowship Hall. Please consider filling a bag or two or even a partial bag and place in the bin no later than April 18 when they will be taken to the Mission for distribution on Easter Sunday.

The following items are needed:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Toothbrush and toothpaste | Soap |
| Shaving cream & disposable razor | Tissues (small pack) |
| Brush & comb | Shoelaces |
| Deodorant | Lip Balm |
| Shampoo & conditioner | Socks |
| Hand or body lotion | |

Travel size items are best. Thank you in advance for all that you share so generously with others.

Food & Fun: Saturday, April 26

Come out to celebrate the end of a very long winter and the beginning of a beautiful new season with your friends and church family at our first Food & Fun Night of the new year. We have the great treat of a Musical Variety program presented by our new Director of Music Ministries, Ms. Carol Nile and friends that is sure to entertain and uplift! Bring a dish of food to share; beverages will be provided. The program begins at 5:30 with dinner to follow. All are welcome. This is a great opportunity to invite friends to discover the joy of our life together in Christ.

UMW News

Your Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Women Group wants to thank everyone in the congregation for helping to make our bake sale a large success. We would like to let everyone know that if they did not get one of our hymnal angels and would still like one to let us know and we will make them one.

We had to cancel our meeting for March due to the unpredictable snow coming our way.

We will be putting a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for the Easter Bunny cakes this year. We would like sign ups so we can get an idea of the count. We will be making announcements for the cut off date and also be putting it in the Sunday Bulletin. I will be placing posters in fellowship hall so anyone who was not here last year can see what they look like. Again, all proceeds go to missions work.

Thanks once again to everyone. Until next month, and let's pray for no more snow!

— Kay Frick, UMW President

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04-04-2014

I KNOW IT'S NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT, BUT IT'S EXTREMELY ECONOMICAL

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, April 6

Holy Communion

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

"What do we do with death?"

Sunday, April 13

Palm/Passion Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalm 118, Psalm 31

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:54

Passion Play presented by the Pre-Teens

Sunday School class

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunrise Service – 6am

Pancake Breakfast – 7am

Traditional Worship – 10:30am

Easter Celebration

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118; Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

"Where are you in the Easter story?"

Sunday, April 27

First Sunday of Eastertide

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

"The Power of Forgiveness"

Throughout the season of Eastertide, our scripture readings will come primarily from the books of Acts, 1 Peter and the Gospel of John. The Eastertide preaching series, entitled Resurrection Power, focuses on the great gifts of our faith and addresses the question, what's so special about Christianity anyway? You are encouraged to read through those books of the Bible and consider the question, are you living a life marked by resurrection power?

Readers

- 4/6 Denise Hudson
- 4/13 Julia Tulloch
- 4/20 Kay Shoemaker
- 4/27 Harry West

Ushers

- 4/6 Donna Peterson, Tracy Hopkins
- 4/13 Denise Hudson, Kay Shoemaker
- 4/20 Denise Hudson, Kay Shoemaker
- 4/27 Jeff & Jessica Shoemaker

Fellowship Helpers

- 4/6 Tracy Hopkins, Cathy Hatton
- 4/13 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson
- 4/20 TBD
- 4/27 Gale Ziegler, Cindy Wilson

Altar Guild

- 4/6 Harry West, Julia Tulloch
- 4/13 Palm Sunday
- 4/20 Easter Sunday
- 4/27 Jerry & Sylvia Eubanks



Suicide

by Rev. Constance Hastings, MSCC, NCC
Daybreak Counseling Services, Inc.

After a winter that has gone on way too long, it would seem spring should bring a lifting of the “winter blues.” However, the month with the greatest number of suicides is April. It is important to remember, within this nation a suicide occurs every 13.7 minutes. For our region, there are 11.6 suicides per population of 100,000, and it is the third leading cause of death for young persons. National statistics rank homicide as 16th for cause of death and suicide as 10th. For every person whose life ends in suicide, an average of six other persons are intimately affected. Specific to Delaware, individuals 75 years old have the highest rate, and Caucasian males have the greatest incidence. Ninety percent of older adults who die by suicide have a diagnosable mental health and/or substance abuse disorder.

While understanding why people may be so desperate to end their lives is often very hard, there are some important things to know. First, the depressive disorders that precede suicide are medical conditions associated with fluctuations in the chemistry of the body and brain. They are not signs of personal weakness, character flaws, or conditions that will just go away. What happens to persons with severe forms of depression is due to the disturbance of systems that regulate thoughts of well-being. They develop a form of selective memory concentrating on only the bad times and disappointing issues of life. It is important to remember that this is a symptom of their illness, not a reflection of who they are.

There are warning signs that persons considering suicide may exhibit. Sometimes they may be in depressed state and then suddenly seem happy or at peace. That may be because they have made the decision to end life and may tell themselves everything is ok because it will soon be over. Secondly, a person may make efforts to “wind up affairs” by cleaning out old things, giving away prized possessions, and preparing for family after everything ends. Drug or alcohol abuse may also be evident. Frequently, persons will talk about committing suicide with either explicit statements or veiled references to it. Previous attempts at suicide also indicate further risk.

Most of the ways to help persons who are considering suicide involves talking and listening with empathy and concern. Acknowledge the reality of their pain and hopelessness, noting specific behaviors that trouble you.

Stress that person is important to you, others and God, and certainly pray with him or her. Strongly encourage the person to use professional help.

If someone indicates that he or she is close to acting on suicidal thoughts, remember to take the person seriously. Find out if the person has a specific plan, try to remove any guns, ropes, medications, car keys or anything else he or she can use, and if possible, don't leave the person alone. While acknowledging the person's feelings, let them know you have to talk to someone to protect him or her. Call the person's doctor, or if this is not possible, contact the Mobile Crisis Center at 1-800-652-2929. These professional agencies will come to where the person is to intervene, so if the person has called you on the phone, be sure to know where he or she is. Your presence may embody the hope a person desperately needs.

“Do not be afraid...I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you.”

Isaiah 43:1-2 (NLT)

“I wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him.

Psalm 62:5 (NLT)

Daybreak Counseling Services is a nonprofit clinical pastoral counseling agency that not only addresses the presenting issue or problem but also allows for the inclusion of spirituality within sessions. It is supported through payments determined on a sliding scale basis, private grants, and individual donations.

Rev. Constance Hastings, a nationally certified counselor and United Methodist deacon, sees clients at St. Paul's and Atonement UMC with both day and evening hours. Call 302-745-1042 for information or to make an appointment.

(This article may be reprinted, but notification would be appreciated by emailing cmhncc@yahoo.com.)

April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:30pm Worship 7pm ShIPLEY Bible 7pm	2 Bible Study 10am CD Group 5:30pm Prayer & Praise 7pm N.A. Group 8pm	3 Endowment 7pm Growing in Faith 7pm	4	5
6 Holy Communion Praise Band Team/ Interest Meeting 1pm	7 Painting Class 1pm Admin Council 7pm	8 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:30pm Trustees Meeting 7pm ShIPLEY Bible 7pm	9 Bible Study 10am CD Group 5:30pm Prayer & Praise 7pm N.A. Group 8pm	10 Growing in Faith 7pm	11 Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon	12 Community Egg Hunt 10am-12noon
13 Palm/Passion Sunday Emmanuel Group 1pm ShIPLEY Worship 2pm	14 Painting Class 1pm	15 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:30pm ShIPLEY Bible 7pm	16 Bible Study 10am CD Group 5:30pm Prayer & Praise 7pm N.A. Group 8pm	17 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm @ BCC	18 Good Friday: Prayer Vigil 6a-3p ShIPLEY Manor Good Friday Service 2pm	19
20 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6am Pancake Brkfast 7am Traditional 10:30am	21 UMW Meeting 11am Painting Class 1pm	22 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:30pm ShIPLEY Bible 7pm	23 Bible Study 10am CD Group 5:30pm Prayer & Praise 7pm N.A. Group 8pm	24 Growing in Faith 7pm	25 Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon Finance Mtg 6:30pm	26 Small Church Wkshp 9am-noon Food & Fun Night 5:30pm
27 ShIPLEY Worship 2pm All Church Day of Prayer 2-7pm	28 All Church Day of Prayer 9am-2pm Painting Class 1pm Missions Team 7pm	29 Domino Group 10am CD Group 5:30pm ShIPLEY Bible 7pm Rockland Mtg 7-9pm	30 Bible Study 10am CD Group 5:30pm Prayer & Praise 7pm N.A. Group 8pm		2014	

Seasons of the Christian Year

The term “Christian Calendar” refers to the movement of focus the Church gives to the story of God’s work of creation, redemption and salvation throughout the year – that is to say, the big picture of how God loves us and works throughout history. The first half of the Christian calendar includes the Christmas cycle, from Advent through Epiphany and the Easter cycle that includes Lent, Holy Week, Easter and the Great Fifty Days up to Pentecost. The second half of the Christian calendar is called the Season after Pentecost and focuses on the teaching and life of Christ.

At this time of year, we are typically in the midst of the Easter Cycle. Easter is the high point of the Christian year because of its message of the powerful hope and proclamation of God’s truth over and against the forces of death and sin in the world. Christians delight in the resurrection of Jesus Christ because of its revelation of God’s promises of new life in the risen Christ and life eternal fulfilled.

The word Easter comes from a tangled mixing of a variety of root words; there’s the early Christian use of the Greek term *pascha* that is based on the Hebrew *pesach* that means Passover and then there’s the name of Estre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring or in the German Ostern. The date of Easter in the Western Church is set each year as the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. The symbolic color of Easter is white for the great joy and radiance of the resurrection while gold is often intertwined to reflect the royal and precious nature of this celebration day. The season of Eastertide includes the fifty days that stretch from Easter to the celebration of Pentecost.

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.