



The DPUMC Spirit

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Church Announcements for Sunday, March 12, 2023

3rd Sunday in Lent

	8:30AM	11:00AM
GREETERS:	Randi Carlisle	Randi Carlisle
LITURGISTS:	Annie Miller	Keenan Hudson
Next Week (March 19)		
GREETERS:	Randi Carlisle	Randi Carlisle
LITURGISTS:	Mary Newcomb	Annie Aldridge

THANK YOU - Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the Blood Drive this past Tuesday at Calvary UMC. We were able to collect 25 units, plus 5 Power Red Donations. For each unit of blood collected, 3 lives can potentially be saved. Thanks for saving a life! From the American Red Cross, Gary Saylor & Dorothy Cotoia.

SISTERHOOD COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR MARCH - Collecting items for the Pregnancy Support Center of Carroll County. Donations of Diapers sizes 4,5,6, Pull Ups all sizes, Body Wash for baby, Diaper Cream, Baby Wipes, Onesies up to size 24 months, Formula - birth to one year old. No Baby Powder & No Meds for baby. These items will be of great help. See the box in the narthex. Thanks for your support of this project. Carol Ann Bryan

CANDY FOR EASTER EGG HUNT - On Easter Sunday during the Sunday School hour is our annual Easter Egg Hunt. All Children are invited. We have plastic eggs & even some "Bunnies" to help hide them. What we need is individually wrapped candy to go in the eggs. There is a box in the narthex through Sunday, April 2 for your donations. Thank you! Contact is Kathie Browning 410-627-4347.

NOTE! - Lynn Spencer has moved to Illinois! Her new address & email is 501 West Marilyn Dr., Fairbury, IL 61739; lynnls7171@gmail.com (all lower case) cell phone 443-547-4258.

THIS WEEK

SEEKERS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - Our Lenten study by Adam Hamilton, "LUKE: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws," is underway, concluding on April 16 (no class Easter Sunday, April 9). The class consists of prayer time, a video presentation & discussion. We meet in the Conference Room between services, from 9:45-10:45AM. All are welcome, any Sunday. Contact person: Joy Grimm (cell:443-506-3201)

COMBINED TRUSTEES & FINANCE MEETING - Monday, March 13 @ 7PM in the Conference Room. Contacts are Bill Aldridge or Pastor John. Open to all.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEETING - Tuesday, March 14 @ 1PM in the Conference Room. Please try to attend. Contact is Janet Wallett.

NEXT WEEK

COUNCIL MEETING - Monday, March 20 @ 7PM in the Conference Room. Contact is Bill Newcomb. Open to all.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK 2023

April 2 **Palm Sunday** services @ 8:30 & 11:00AM.

April 6 **Holy Thursday** service @ 7PM

April 7 **Good Friday** service @ 7PM

April 9 **Easter Sunday**

Sunrise Service 6:30AM in the Deer Park Pavilion with Trinity Lutheran,
includes Holy Communion (bring a flashlight).

Sanctuary Services 8:30AM & 11:00AM.

Easter Egg Hunt during children's Sunday School hour.

FUTURE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - June 19-23, the theme is "Hero Hotline Called Together to Serve". It's not early to start thinking about ways you can help! We need teachers, helpers, special stations, decorators & more to make it a success. Send an email to dpumc.childrens.ministries@gmail.com (or speak to Jill, Melissa, or Kathie) if you want to help or be on the mailing list for more information on volunteering.

ONGOING

WORSHIP SERVICES - The **8:30AM** & **11AM** services are now in **the sanctuary** (until warmer weather returns) and are live streamed on YouTube and available on our website later in the day. An offering box is at the entrance of the sanctuary for your offering.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY - A "ONE CALL NOW" message is sent by 7:00AM Sunday morning, if worship services are cancelled or changed. You can also check the church phone 410-848-2313 for an updated message.

COFFEE & CHAT - Financial donations are always welcome. Thanks for your support. Thanks to Carol Ann Bryan & Gary Saylor for leading this fellowship ministry.

GIVING/OFFERING ENVELOPES – Envelopes are available if you would like to use them. Please see Ruth Horner so your information can be added to the mailing list. Envelopes are mailed quarterly. The cost is about \$10 a year and the initial offering helps to cover the cost. Any questions see Ruth Horner. Thank you for your support.

FEED MY SHEEP – Gary Saylor is no longer able to lead the Deer Park Team. If you are interested in helping or leading, contact Gary, 443-465-1023. Financial donations are always needed to help provide food & supplies. Mark your donation: Feed My Sheep. Thanks.

BUILDING USE - Regina Caeli Academy uses all the upstairs rooms on Mondays & Thursdays. All persons entering the church on those days need to check in at the office. For info about the school see @ <https://www.rcahybrid.org>. Questions see Bill Aldridge.

VIDEO CAMERA TRAINING –We need people to operate the cameras for videoing of both services. If you have an interest in helping, please see Pastor John or Keenan.

DONATION BOXES - In the narthex for food items and socks & new underwear.

AMERICAN FLAGS - If you have a torn or worn American Flag to be discarded, please leave it in the church office. Carroll Hospice is collecting them for the "Stars for our Troops" program. Contact Gary Saylor (443-465-1023). www.starsforourtroops.org.

BRING YOUR CAN TO CHURCH - Or box or plastic jar-of food! Let's keep the grocery cart full with our donations for Carroll County Food Sunday by bringing at least one non-perishable item every Sunday. The CCFS Wish List includes: Peanut Butter; Jelly; Hot & Cold Cereal; Canned Soup (non-tomato preferred); Beans (red & black); Pancake Mix; Pancake Syrup. Thanks to all for reaching out to our neighbors in need.

WEBSITE MAINTENANCE & UPDATES – Help is needed with the website maintenance & updates. Training can be provided. Tasks range from simply reviewing the website for updates/changes/corrections to helping post weekly using the content management software. Contact the website administrators Jill (jill.j.redmond@gmail.com) & George (holysmoke1953@gamil.com) if you would like to get involved or to learn more.

ONE CALL NOW - We use this system to send out prayer requests and church information. If you are not receiving phone calls and/or emails contact Cindy Saylor.

 HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT - Deer Park Lions Club loans wheelchairs, walkers, crutches canes & commodes, free of charge. Contact Deer Park Lion Ron @ 410-549-1095.

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Please submit bulletin announcements by Thursday, 11:00AM to the Office
Prayer Chain: Shirley Miller (Coordinator) 410-259-2971
Chain I Kate Gorsuch 410-876-2745 / Chain II Brenda Six 410-756-2507
Flag raising & lowering: Gary Saylor

*Bishop LaTrelle Easterling*BISHOP, PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE,
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCEREV. ANTOINE C. LOVE *Assistant to the Bishop*REV. ERICA ROBINSON-JOHNSON *Chief Administrative Officer*

March 6, 2023 | A Monthly Message from Bishop Easterling

God's Unfailing Love

"God will always love you." "God will never leave you." These are the words whispered into the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis' ear by her mother as Jacqui was taking Communion at age 7. Jacqui will be the featured guest at the PDC-BWC Next Level Speaker Series on Wednesday when she talks about *Fierce Love*. God's fierce and eternal love for us, and God's promise to never forsake us, have provided untold comfort and courage across millennia. They certainly imparted meaning and a connection to God for Dr. Lewis as she received the bread and cup. To know that we cannot do anything to cause God to stop loving us or leave us is, quite frankly, astounding. I do not believe we really grasp the full breadth and depth of its meaning, perhaps because we too often experience loves and loyalties that are far more conditional.

If you would, take a moment and repeat that promise to yourself even as you are reading this letter:
"God will never stop loving me or leave me."

Feel your body relax and your breathing calm as you allow that promise to permeate your being.

This promise is contained in both the Old and New Testaments. This promise is to be found in the books of the major and the minor prophets. Whether you read the Gospels or the epistles, the promise of God's unfailing love and presence is there. Even when we have been disobedient or wayward, God promises that God will be with us to restore and rebuild. This promise comes to a melodic crescendo in Romans 8:38–39, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." *That*, beloved, is good news!

What do these promises mean to us then as we experience the schism taking place within The United Methodist Church? How can they remain true amongst us when some argue that there are sides that inherently purport a wrong or right choice? How can it be possible that God loves those who are leaving *and* those who are remaining? Is it fathomable that God will never leave those who remain *and* those who depart?

I am reminded of the words of Anne Lamott, the author and public theologian who wrote in her book, *Traveling Mercies*, "You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do." Too often, we espouse a belief or position and insinuate that any disagreement with our posture is tantamount to apostasy. We're fighting and we need for those who claim allegiance with us to pick sides.

During my childhood, I certainly remember expecting my parents to align themselves with me whenever I had a disagreement with a sibling. How could they not? Of course, I was right and my perception of the facts was completely without error. And I recall the looks on my children's faces when they stood before me, both emboldened with the belief that *they* were the embodiment of truth -- *the* truth. I thank God that my parents understood that it wasn't about who was right or wrong in those moments that really mattered; rather, there was always a larger lesson and a deeper truth to be examined and taught. To have chosen a side in those critical moments would have pandered to our self-serving notions of superiority and exclusivity, not just of being right, but that we had to be right to maintain our parents' unfailing love and affirmation. Affirming that misshapen belief would have been far more devastating than merely losing an argument.

God sees beyond our differences to a truth that we cannot fully understand. 1 Corinthians 13 teaches us that we see dimly, partially and without clarity in this realm. We do not have the full story, nor a complete understanding, but God does. Disabusing ourselves of the need to be right, to be superior, and therefore worthy of God's love, is a lesson we all need to learn. God's love is a gift to us. To all of us.

As we live into our principles and diverse theological convictions, we do not have to judge one another or purport that we are singularly correct. We can respect one another and accept our differences as authentic and faithful. God does not require us to choose sides to demonstrate our zeal or passion. Barring wanting to ostracize or harm those who disagree with us, there is nothing inherently onerous in holding differing beliefs. I fully support the theologian bell hooks' statement that love and abuse cannot coexist. But holding divergent views is not tantamount to abuse.

There are many aspects of theology that we do not agree upon. There are differing beliefs about atonement theology, about the precise moment when Jesus became the Messiah, about what literally occurs during Holy Communion, and so much more. I'm not sure we ever have, or ever will, completely agree upon everything, nor do I believe that would necessarily be a good thing. Whether discussing theology or politics, being in conversation with those who hold differing understandings and beliefs is healthy and can broaden our perspective. It can increase our empathy and enhance our shared humanity.

As we continue our Lenten journey and examine our hearts, may we reflect upon whether or not we have contributed to the rancor, believing that we must take "sides" in this debate, and if we have, may we commit to leaving our self-righteous certitude behind as we emerge into the celebration of Easter. The journey will be sweeter and lighter if we leave that baggage behind. Especially as we prepare to reclaim, renew and revive who we are as United Methodists, may we do so with the assurance that God's love and presence are a gift to us all. Today and every day, let us claim and celebrate the life-giving power of God's unfailing love.

Blessings and Peace,
Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
Peninsula-Delaware and Baltimore-Washington Conferences
The United Methodist Church