

# The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

April 2013



Pastor Daniel Mejia

*"I don't care if you're dead  
Jesus is here, and he wants  
To resurrect somebody."*

**Rumi**

I'm the first one to admit that I'm not crafty with my hands. I'm not a carpenter nor a guitar player but I've discovered that I have a profound admiration for people with good hands that can fix anything, create anything, repurpose anything. I love reading about people who would take a dead light bulb and turn it into a beautiful oil lantern or a very cool salt and pepper shaker. (<https://renewpurpose.com/blog/5-creative-uses-for-old-glass-light-bulbs/>)

When a dead object comes into the hands of a creative artist, inventor or carpenter the possibilities for transformation and new life are limitless. These kind of projects and ideas inspire me to try to use my own hands and create something good. They force me to think in different ways, to see life and things from a different angle. They challenge me to look at ordinary things with different eyes. They remind me of the God-given power of creativity and transformation that brings hope and new life.

It is no wonder that the cornerstone of the Christian faith revolves around the reality of Jesus' resurrection. As followers of Christ, Jesus' resurrection has given us new eyes, new hearts, new minds, and new lives to transform the world. And what Jesus meant by the transformation of the world, he meant it literally. I look around, I hear the news, and I find it very easy to get discouraged and depressed. I don't need to remind you or inundate you with the problems that you very well know afflict our nation, our community and our families. What I want to do is remind you that Jesus' resurrection is real and because Jesus conquered evil and death, we can look at the world with new eyes, new hearts, new minds, and new lives to transform the world. Because of Jesus' resurrection, I invite you to look at the world and see its possibilities, see its potential, and with God's grace and love, work to transform it. Because of Jesus' resurrection I invite you to look at your hands, and even though you might not be crafty, a carpenter, an artist, or a musician, get your hands dirty helping people, serving people. You will be surprised of the God-given talent of creativity that you have been given and its amazing power to bring new life, transformation, and resurrection.

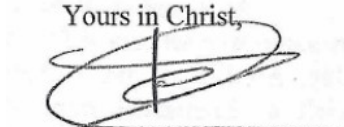
**EMMANUEL UMC WANTS**

**YOU**



**TO BE AN USHER  
BE BRAVE! VOLUNTEER!**

Men, women, youth, contact the church office or any worship committee member

Yours in Christ,  
  
Pastor Daniel Mejia



*Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan*

The first time I attempted to read through the Bible in middle school, I was shocked by the things I found. At times it seemed like the Bible I was reading was a different thing entirely from what I heard preached on Sundays. At times the Bible I was reading seemed far from book of love I'd thought it was. What are we to do with these difficult passages? Should we pretend they don't exist, or hide them away?

One of my most powerful lessons about how to read the Bible actually came from a class that wasn't directly about the Bible. In a class I took on John Wesley, I remember reading one of Wesley's sermons to which many of my classmates reacted negatively. It was called, "The Causes of the Inefficacy of the Gospel." In the sermon Wesley slams Catholics and "Mahometans" (Muslims). My classmates who were uncomfortable with this sermon thought that Wesley was being bigoted and perpetuating hate through the sermon. However, after speaking ill of other faith traditions, Wesley goes on to make the argument that the Methodists listening to him are even worse than the Catholics and

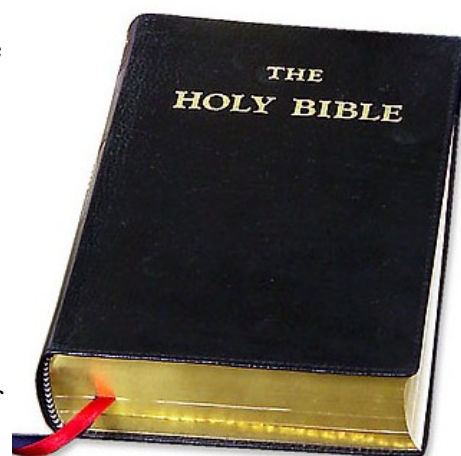
Muslims. What Wesley is doing is speaking to a very particular audience, Methodists, and he's using their pre-existing prejudices to convict them of their need to live differently. Wesley knew little about Muslims, and in other sermons Wesley speaks very highly of the faith of some Catholics. The point of the sermon is not to insult other faith traditions. It is to convict people of his own. It can be challenging for us to understand Wesley and others when we no longer share the same perspectives and prejudices of their original audience.

This realization with regards to Wesley's writing affected the way I read the Bible as well. This semester I've been taking a class on Jeremiah. Much of Jeremiah's language can be very harsh with regard to women. Judah is pictured as an adulterous woman, and the descriptions are far from flattering. Taken one way, Jeremiah and God can seem derogatory, even abusive toward the feminine. However, our circumstances have changed significantly from the people Jeremiah originally addressed. The book of Jeremiah would have been written for and read almost exclusively by men; men who were a part of a very sexist society. The book of Jeremiah would have shamed these sexist men by using their own prejudices against them. It would have shamed them for not doing things that were actually positive for women (like caring for widows). That doesn't change the fact though that these passages present a challenge for us in our current context. As we seek to counteract sexism in our society, how can we relate to passages that in their time may have benefited women but that now, when misread, can perpetuate wrongs against women? The first step is to work to understand the context of scripture. Study Bibles can be helpful

for that. Sunday School classes often explore context, and sermons frequently explore the context of scripture. This knowledge will help you to understand not just the words, but the ways they may have been intended. This knowledge is essential so that we can work to proclaim the intent rather than rhetoric of the Bible.

I've been speaking in this example primarily about sexism in the book of Jeremiah, but what I'm saying applies to a wide variety of topics and books of the Bible. How we should understand militarism in the Bible is another particularly challenging question for me, but I believe that many of the same observations I've made above apply here as well.

Everyone I know who reads the Bible eventually comes across passages that they don't like. I've found that not ignoring these passages but rather seeking them out and wrestling with them individually and with others allows scripture to work in our lives. By only reading what we like and what we think we know, we can become stagnant. By studying what we don't understand, God can teach us and grow us. Our understandings of scripture will certainly change, and in many cases, our engagement with scripture will change us as people for the better.





## Ceramics Class for Lent

One afternoon in February, a class was held to paint ceramic Easter eggs, crosses and figures to display in our cabinet in the Narthex. If you haven't had a chance to see them, take a look; we have a lot of creative people in our church!



Items on display in the Narthex

Students creating items



## Crop Walk 2013

This year's CROP walk, sponsored by the Church World Service through the greater Hyattsville group of churches (of which we are one), will take place Sunday, May 5 beginning at 1 pm. Walkers will follow the traditional 1.5 mile route around picturesque Lake Artemesia, adjacent to the College Park airport. It is a pleasant spring walk on a Sunday afternoon.

During the month of April we will be advertising this walk, recruiting walkers, and taking pledges and donations. The money raised by this walk will be distributed to many hunger-fighting agencies both local and world wide. Importantly, however, this year Emmanuel UMC will receive one fourth of the money raised by our congregation, which will be given to our food distribution program. So, this will be a great chance to help ourselves as we help others.



## Mark Your Calendars!

The Mother-Daughter Communion Breakfast will be on Saturday, May 4, at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. You don't have to have a mother or daughter with you to join us for this fun event. This year we will be going on an imaginary cruise on the *Good Ship Emmanuel*. Wear your cruise wear (no bikinis) and prepare for some great fare, cruise line entertainment and an "ocean" of fellowship and fun without having to get your sea legs. The ship "sets sail" at 9:00 am.

Ticket prices are \$6.00 for "passengers" aged 9 and over, \$3.00 for those aged 3 to 8, and all tots under 3 are free. Tickets will be on sale in April in the Narthex or call "ticket agent" Becky Cavallo (301-937-7146) to make your reservations. Aloha, ladies!

Saturday  
May 4th  
9 am



## Join the fun! Be a **Secret Sister!**

Inviting all the women at church, age 18 or older, to participate in Secret Sisters this coming year, May 2013-2014! Turn in your participation form in April in the Narthex, mail it to the church in care of Becky Cavallo, or bring it to the mother-daughter breakfast on May 4. We will be picking names at the breakfast and on Sunday, May 5. If you would like to participate but will not be at church that week-end, let us know. Our Secret Sister Secretary, Jane Grays, will pick your sister for you and get her information to you. Jane will also be able to hand deliver cards and gifts at church. Call Becky Cavallo (301-937-7146) with any questions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (m/d) \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite color(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite food/snack \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies and collections \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite holiday \_\_\_\_\_

Something fun about you \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else about you that you would like to share \_\_\_\_\_

As a Secret Sister

I agree to give/send my secret sister at least 3 cards throughout the year.

I will give my secret sister at least one gift (value \$5-\$15)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Drop this form into the Secret Sister basket in the narthex

April 14, 21 and 28, or bring it to the Mother-Daughter breakfast.

We will reveal ourselves the Sunday before Mother's Day in 2014!

### Faithful Readers Book Group

Our book group will meet Saturday April 6th, 10 to 11 am in the Fellowship Hall to discuss the book, "Through My Eyes," by Tim Tebow. Come to discuss the book, or just to listen! Questions? Contact Bryant Davis or Carol Clatterbuck.

### Food Closet

Our food closet is starting to fill up again for the new year. We are still in need of canned meats, peanut butter, beans, tomatoes, and fruits. We have been serving the community during the week throughout these first three months with your generous donations. Thank you all who contribute.





### April Birthdays

- 1 Natalie Corman, Lil Mizzer
- 4 Monica Hatton, Nancy Bell, Janey Lewis
- 5 Kelly Lee
- 6 Susan Cunningham
- 7 Patrick Shiplett
- 8 Lea Claye
- 9 Deji Bello
- 11 Lacey Fadely, Dan Webb
- 13 Louisa Davies
- 15 George Urick
- 16 Cale Fuller Jr, Grace Rodeffer
- 18 Ernie Kilbourne
- 19 Ted Ladd
- 21 Sharon White
- 24 Leslee Welton
- 25 April Ademiluyi
- 26 Glenna Pavelka
- 29 Merton Baird



### April Anniversaries

- 4 Christopher & Virginia Butcher
- 28 Roy and Peggy Wells

### Altar Flowers



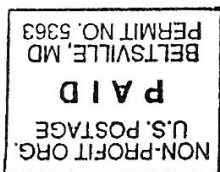
- April 7 Bobbie Deegan
- April 14
- April 21
- April 28

- May 5
- May 12
- May 19 Karl Norris
- May 26 Dottie Gilbert

# April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7 pm ESOL and Youth Learning Fellowship	3	4	5	6 10 am Faithful Readers Book Club  10 am Parents with young children
7 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm UMW Exec Meeting	8 12:30 pm Women's' Club of Beltsville 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Depression/Bipolar Support Group 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting	9 10 am Prayer Fellowship  7 pm ESOL and Youth Learning Fellowship	10 6 pm Maranatha Choir	11 7 pm Chancel Choir	12	13 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
14 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School Second Sunday Lunch 1:00 pm Youth Fellowship	15 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle	16 7 pm ESOL and Youth Learning Fellowship	17 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle 12 noon Dorcas Circle 6 pm Maranatha Choir 7 pm Sisters In Spirit	18 7 pm Chancel Choir	19 11 am Community Place Café  7 pm Friday Live	20
21 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	22 7 pm Church Council  7 pm Depression/Bipolar Support Group	23 10 am Prayer Fellowship  7 pm ESOL and Youth Learning Fellowship	24 6 pm Maranatha Choir	25 7 pm Chancel Choir	26 7 pm Food Prep	27 10 am Food Distribution
28 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 1:00 pm Youth Fellowship	29	30				

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