

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

March 2016

A Vibrant Multi-Cultural Church: All God's Children Are Welcome!

LIVING A SIMPLE LIFE DURING LENT



Lent is a time to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, focusing especially on his trial, suffering and cross for each of us.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. It's a 40-day journey, excepting Sundays. The Sundays during Lent are excluded from

Lenten disciplines because Sunday is based on the resurrection of Jesus.

Christians usually observe this journey with spiritual disciplines, prayer, penitence, alms giving, and self-denial. I like to think of going on the Lenten journey as adopting a "Simple Life" that streamlines life by removing frills; in other words, "giving up luxuries."

As pastor, I have some suggestions on ways the church might observe Lent in 2015, such as:

Play less.

Please find out what you spend most of your time doing, such as playing games, watching movies, or enjoying hobbies. Check if it is good for your spiritual health. Count how many hours you spend doing these things in a day, or in a week. If it is too much, please reduce it by 30%.

Eat less.

In a Christian sense, fasting means eating one full meal and two small meals a day. If possible, try to keep this. But children, youth, seniors, and the sick are exempt from this practice, because they need sufficient nourishment for health.

Spend less.

Avoid buying unnecessary items. Just buy food and necessities. For example, try not to use credit cards too much, do not go to the mall for luxuries, and do not dine out too often.

Read the Bible or a devotional.

Please choose one devotional, such as the Lenten devotional written by church members, *The Upper Room*, or *The Purpose — Driven Life*. Read it daily. Daily scripture readings for Lent are listed on page two of this issue of *The Lamplighter*.

Most of all, do not miss the Lenten Sundays and Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday Services.

These services are focused on the meanings of Lent. You will learn a lot from them.

Give Sacrificially.

Cut back on non-essential spending and offer the savings to the church's general fund at the end of the Lenten Journey, Easter Sunday. You may wish to set a goal of saving \$5.00 a day, for example. Five dollars a day times 40 days would total a special Lenten offering of \$200.00. Choose an amount that is right for you.



In a nutshell, Lent is a time of faithful commitment to spiritual discipline in every aspect of a Christian's daily life; not only in our finances, but in our eating, spending, playing, reading, and worshipping. Please make your own plan and goals on the basis of the above suggestions. If possible, I strongly encourage you as members of the church to join the Lenten journey together.

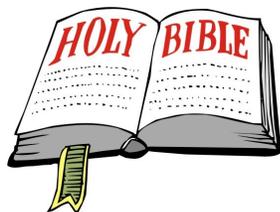
Sincerely,
Pastor Jacob

BREAKING NEWS.....

Bishop Marcus Matthews has appointed **Sarah Elliott** to pastor a church in the Baltimore — Washington Conference. Pastor Jacob announced the joyful news at the February 28th worship services. Sarah will graduate from Wesley Seminary in the spring and begin her pastoral appointment on July 1.

As you will recall from when Pastor Daniel was transferred to St. Matthew's and Pastor Jacob came to Emmanuel, the conference has a strict policy of sharing information about pending changes with all of the affected churches at the same time. Therefore, Sarah is not yet at liberty to tell us the name of her future church home. As soon as the information is made public, she will share it with us, also.

It has taken sacrifices from both Sarah and Patrick for Sarah to reach this goal. We are very happy for both of them, and wish Sarah many fulfilling years in the pulpit!



DAILY SCRIPTURE & PRAYER FOCUS

(Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016)

Day 1: Joel 2:25-26	Day 2: Proverbs 3:9-10	Day 3: Proverbs 22:7
Day 4: Ephesians 3:20	Day 5: II Corinthians 4:7	Day 6: Psalm 77:14
Day 7: Psalm 90:17	Day 8: II Corinth 4:16-18	Day 9: Deuteronomy 11:14
Day 10: Luke 6:28	Day 11: Ephesians 6:12	Day 12: II Corinthians 5:7
Day 13: James 1:17	Day 14: Matthew 7:7	Day 15: Psalm 37:23
Day 16: I Timothy 6:18	Day 17: Proverbs 30:8-9	Day 18: Psalms 37:21
Day 19: Luke 14:28	Day 20: I Thess. 5:18	Day 21: II Kings 4:7
Day 22: Proverbs 21:20	Day 23: Philippians 4:12	Day 24: Luke 21:1-4
Day 25: Matthew 23:19	Day 26: Proverbs 3:27-28	Day 27: Isaiah 45:6
Day 28: Daniel 11:32	Day 29: Number 12:6	Day 30: Deuteronomy 28:4
Day 31: Philippians 4:8	Day 32: I Corinth 14:33	Day 33: Psalm 25:2
Day 34: Psalm 119:133	Day 35: Isaiah 6:8	Day 36: Matthew 5:16
Day 37: Psalm 92:12-13	Day 38: Isaiah 41:10	Day 39: Romans 10:17
Day 40: Proverbs 10:22	Day 41: Psalm 119:8	Day 42: I Chronicles 4:10
Day 43: Psalm 27:2	Day 44: I Corinth 12:8	Day 45: Matthew 1:23
Day 46: Psalm 32:8		



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Lenten devotional booklet, "From Ashes to Easter 2016." We all can be very proud of the variety and quality of the content we provided. Pastor Jacob is using the devotional as one of the texts in the Lenten study he is leading, too.

On behalf of the whole congregation, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Kathy Mellott** for prodding us all into getting our submissions in on time and for putting them all together into this wonderful devotional, especially given the very quick turnaround time. We greatly appreciate your past, current, and (hopefully) future leadership in compiling devotionals for Advent and Lent that are unique to Emmanuel. Thank you, Kathy!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week 2016 will be March 20th - March 27th. We will have several special services that week, beginning on **Palm Sunday, March 20th**, with our Easter Cantata, "Glorious Calvary." Join us as the Chancel and Maranatha Choirs and the Praise Band bring us the story of Easter at both worship services through joyous music.

On **Maundy Thursday, March 24th** at 7 pm, we will have our Maundy Thursday worship service, followed by our annual Seder Tasting. (A Seder is a Jewish ceremonial meal commemorating the Exodus of the Jews out of Egypt and signifying the beginning of Passover. At the Seder tasting, we sample traditional foods that Jesus and his disciples might have eaten on the first night of Passover now known as the Last Supper). A sign-up sheet to bring foods for the Seder tasting will be available in early March.

On **Good Friday, March 25th** at 10 am, Emmanuel will bring the worship experience to the community during our annual Stations of the Cross worship service. It will begin at the church, travel to destinations in Beltsville, and last approximately one hour. Then at 7 pm on Good Friday, we will have our Tenebrae service. "Tenebrae" is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." This worship service prepares us for Easter by reminding us of the last hours of Jesus's life. Also on Good Friday, you can participate in our 12-hour prayer vigil, 6 am to 6 pm. You can pray at home or in the Sanctuary. Sign up for a time slot on the chart in the hallway.

Finally, join us at the culmination of Holy Week as we celebrate the miracles of Easter at both worship services on **Easter Sunday, March 27th**! We look forward to seeing you during Holy Week!

United Methodist Women by Ernie Kilbourne



United Methodist Women invites EVERYONE (ladies, gentlemen, and older children) to our General Meeting on March 12th, 2016. We will begin with a pot luck lunch at 12 noon, hosted by the Wesley Circle. Jane Grays is our program leader.

UMW's speaker will be **Sarah Elliott**, who will tell us about her 15-day trip to South Africa. Sarah's traveling companions were 16 people from the Wesley Seminary community. On this journey, they found many extremes, from the beauty of life to the ugliness of discrimination. She will share the history of South Africa and talk about men and women who are sharing the love of Christ in the world. Please plan to join us for this interesting afternoon!

Visitation Team Update

As we shared last month, the Committee on Nominations and Lay Leadership has decided to initiate a new form of Visitation Ministry. For many years, one or two dedicated persons have faithfully visited shut-ins once a week. This model is no longer feasible, because there are 12 – 15 shut-ins at any given time. Instead, we are seeking volunteers who will contact one shut-in at least once a month (by phone call or visitation), and/or deliver church bulletins and sometimes altar flowers. We still need a few more volunteers to keep in touch with all of the members of our church family who are currently homebound. However, this number frequently fluctuates, and we often have persons in the hospital who would appreciate a friendly visitor from the church. So if you would like to share in this very important ministry, please contact the church office. Thank you, and God Bless.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

And Jesus went a little beyond them, and fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with me for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 26:39-41

It is a tradition at Emmanuel that we "keep watch with Jesus" by holding a 12-hour prayer vigil on Good Friday. Individuals pray for an hour between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., in the Sanctuary or at home. Suggested readings will be available. Don't let Christ down! Choose a prayer time on the chart in the hallway.

What Makes a Good Leader?

shared by Kathryn Griffin

The following article is particularly timely right now, given that we will be in “election mode” for the next nine months, choosing some new leaders!

Jane Overstreet, the president and CEO of Development Associates International, became so fascinated at the leadership differences she discovered between Saul and David when preparing for a conference presentation that she expanded her study into a book, Unleader.

Fear God more than you fear people.

What helps you make decisions as a leader? There are always things driving you. In Saul’s context, often it was fear of what people thought. For David, it was always about what God thought.

Enable the people under you.

I find that leaders very consistently either use people or enable them. Saul used people and spit them out. In fact, he almost killed his own son at one stage because he hadn’t obeyed. David, on the other hand, took a band of discontented losers and turned them into mighty men that stuck with him for more than 40 years.

Put God’s interest above your own.

Most Christian leaders start out wanting to do something for God, but somewhere along the way, their success becomes their god. You see this so clearly with Saul and David.

Lead with integrity.

Integrity is being the same person whether you are on a platform, in the office or at home. As for Saul, though he started out with a heart for God, his desperation drove him to seek out answers from a witch. David, on the other hand, always lived by his principles. He had some mega failures, by the way, which is sad – but nice in the sense that we can all relate to that. He was just quick to turn and ask forgiveness and clean it up when he saw it.

Let people get close enough to love you as a leader.

This surprised me when I saw it, because in Saul’s life, you can’t find a story about someone close to him. In fact, even his family members distanced themselves from him eventually. And David’s story is just full of good friends. There were people who loved him deeply and would do anything for him.

I think a lot of times, leaders, even in our culture, are so busy and so success-driven that they alienate themselves from families, friends and everybody else. Eventually, that will get you. You will fail over that.

Let God love you.

We all know we’re supposed to love God, but I’ve come to the conclusion that we have it a bit backward. We need to make space to let God love us so that we automatically love him in return. It’s a relationship; it’s not a sort of “to-do” list that you can check off.

Iowa. New Hampshire. Super Tuesday. When does Maryland get to vote?

Maryland’s primary election will be held **April 26th**! Registered Republicans and Democrats will be able to vote in their party’s primary. Our district doesn’t have a school board election this year, so unaffiliated voters will not be able to vote until the **general election on November 8th**.

Early voting will be April 14th through April 21st, 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. The two early voting centers closest to Beltsville will be the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center on Contee Road and the College Park Community Center on Pierce Avenue.

Those who are homebound or who will be out of town may prefer to vote by absentee ballot. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Tuesday, April 19th. Contact Bobbie Deegan (301-937-7070) to get an application, or print it from the Maryland Board of Elections webpage.

CPC is . . .

Community Place Café – a place where people who are homeless or suffering financial straits are able to partake of a nutritional meal on four days of every week. It is located in First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville, and is an interfaith program of Prince George’s County made possible through the efforts of many different churches that volunteer to supply the meals.

Christian People Caring – the café would not be able to fulfill its mission without your help. **Emmanuel UMC provides the meal on the third Friday of each month.** That equates to only 12 meals a year. Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering for **just one day a month** to serve the Lord as a:

COOK — Preparing the meal can be worked into your schedule. It does not have to be done on Friday. **Gentlemen,** this opportunity is not only open to ladies – some of you wear a mean apron!

SERVER — Make someone’s day a little brighter, especially in inclement weather, by feeding them the only meal they may have that day. Be at Emmanuel UMC at 9:30 a.m. and return to the church at 2:00 p.m.

SHOPPER — Purchase items from a prepared list at a time convenient for you.

HELPER TO TRANSPORT FOOD — Here’s another opportunity for you **gentlemen.** Share your muscles by packing the food into the servers’ cars.

CAKE BAKER — This one is self-explanatory – yum!

If more than one person volunteers to do the same thing, you would be able to alternate months and not have to be available every month. For example, do the math: 2 cooks = 6 times a year for each one; 3 cooks = 4 times a year each, etc.

For more information, please contact Elsie Cline (301-937-6024). Let her know you are willing to volunteer in the Lord’s army of angels at Emmanuel. Your term of service is only a few hours one day a month. Thanks and God Bless!

SHARING AND CARING

Evelyn Adkins has moved to Riderwood. Her new address is: 3128 Gracefield Road, Apt. 216, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Her new telephone number is 301-273-2466.

Rick Bergmann also has moved. His address is now: 11318 Big Horn Court, Unit C, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Karl and Maxine Norris have moved to Virginia to be nearer to their daughter. Their new address is: Sunrise Senior Living, 8033 Holland Road, Apt. 339, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Nancy and Rick Zerbe just returned from a Caribbean cruise. Rick put the “sea days” to good use. He won the ping pong championship, and has a medal to prove it. Congratulations, Champ!

During the Benediction on February 28th, **Pastor Dick Karpal** shared a prayer he has come across. He now begins each day with this simple prayer to focus on the blessing of having Christ’s presence in our lives, and he recommends it to all of us to keep us centered in Christ. It goes as follows:

“Good morning, Christ. I love you! What are you up to today? I want to be a part of it! Thank you, God. Amen.”

Don’t forget the

RUMMAGE and INDOOR YARD SALE!

**Saturday, APRIL 16th
10 am—1 pm**

Sponsored by the UMW, with proceeds to benefit women and children through approved UMW mission programs.

**Breakfast sandwiches available at 9:15!
Chili dogs available for lunch!**

Table rentals may still be available; just \$20 each.

Call the Church Office (301-937-7114) to reserve one!



To get in touch with **Pastor Jacob**, please call the Church Office at 301-937-7114. If you prefer, you may email the pastor at Jacob.Young@EUMCBeltsville.com.

To submit an article for The Lamplighter or to get in touch with editor Bobbie Deegan, please email her at BobbieDeegan@aol.com or call her at 301-937-7070.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION
PRESENTS...



Presentation by
Sarah Elliott
Wesley Seminary student

“Hope in the most unlikely places –
My trip to South Africa”

The trip was to Cape Town and Johannesburg,
South Africa with 16 people from the
Wesley Seminary Community.

Saturday, March 12th at 12noon
in the Emmanuel UMC Fellowship Hall

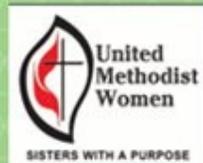
Come join us for this interesting
presentation and potluck lunch

Contact Jane Grays
ladyjanegra@aol.com
Education & Interpretation
Chair with questions

: Church phone: 301-937-7114
: Church address: 11416 Cedar Lane
Beltsville, MD 20705

Emmanuel United
Methodist Women

www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net



Social Security Disability Benefits and Work

Shared by Sallie Rhodes

Do you or someone you know receive disability benefits from the Social Security Administration? If so, you may find the following information useful.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers an employment program for adults ages 18 through 64 who are receiving federal disability benefits (Social Security Disability Insurance/SSDI and/or Supplemental Security Income/SSI). SSA recruits service providers to function as Employment Networks (ENs) and provide individualized employment services and support to aid disability beneficiaries with obtaining and maintaining employment. Approved ENs include private for-profit service providers, non-profit service providers, and public agencies (such as State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies and State Workforce agencies).

The Social Security Administration (SSA) compensates approved Employment Networks (ENs) for successfully assisting beneficiaries with getting and keeping a job. Financial compensation to ENs is provided over a long period of time to make sure that, once a beneficiary has a job, he/she has the EN's ongoing support in maintaining and advancing in employment. The goal of the employment program is to enable participating beneficiaries to one day support themselves so they will no longer need disability benefits.

One of the big challenges of the employment program has been letting people know about it. Please help get the word out to individuals receiving SSDI and/or SSI.

Learn about SSA's Ticket to Work program. Beneficiaries and family members are encouraged to:

- Visit www.choosework.net for information on the benefits of the Ticket to Work program, how to participate in it, how to locate ENs, and how/when to access Social Security Work Incentive programs and rules.
- Call 866-968-7842 (voice) or 866-833-2967 (for individuals who are hearing impaired) to learn more about the Ticket program and get a list of ENs serving a particular geographic area.
- Check out the Social Security Redbook for information on SSDI/SSI and Social Security Work Incentives at www.ssa.gov/redbook/. Work Incentive programs and rules are tools that beneficiaries can use to reduce their "countable" earnings to temporarily keep cash benefits while initially exploring work. Work incentives help beneficiaries enter, re-enter, or continue in employment by protecting their eligibility for cash payments and/or health care coverage until they achieve self-supporting employment.

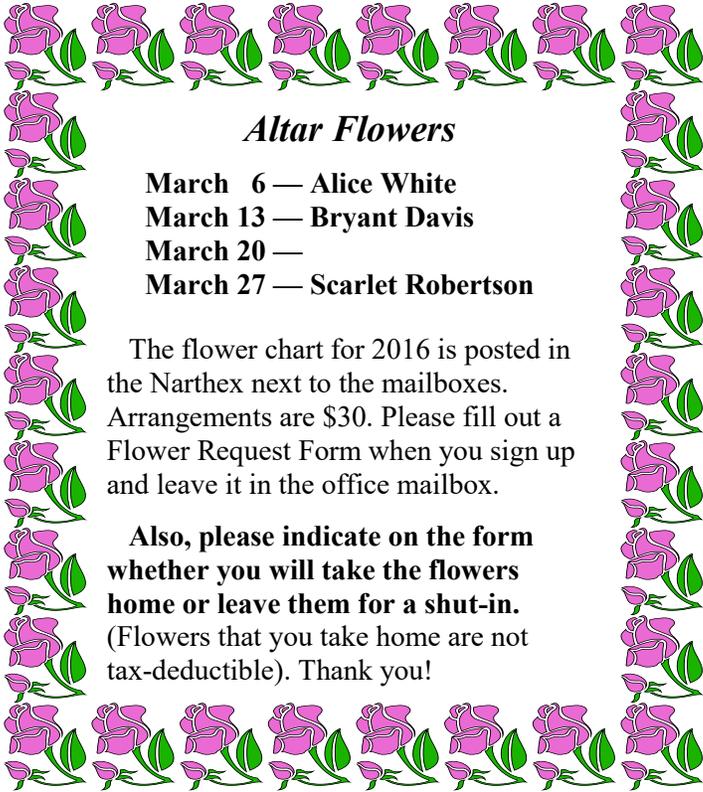
Access relevant Social Security disability forms at <https://www.disability.gov/find-important-social-security-forms->

“BRAINSTORMING” UPDATE

Thanks to all who participated in the recent discussions about Emmanuel's ministries and finances. More than 50 persons attended one of the two meetings to share their thoughts, and the results were similar for both groups. Folks are very supportive of generating additional funds by bringing in a day care provider to generate rental income and encouraging increased giving to Emmanuel. They do not support sharing our church with another congregation, refocusing our ministries to a few areas, or cutting staff to reduce expenditures. Feelings were mixed about the possibility of using volunteers to fill in for paid staff. While some people felt it worth looking into, others felt it wouldn't be practical.

After reviewing your responses at their February meeting, the Church Council agreed to 1) Form a Stewardship Committee to focus on financial giving; 2) Have the Staff-Parish Relations Committee conduct a confidential survey of staff salaries in area churches of a similar size, to ensure our salaries are comparable; 3) Survey the congregation to determine if we have persons willing to fill in when a paid staff member is on vacation.

The Council was so pleased with the turnout and the enthusiasm of the attendees that more gatherings to exchange ideas are planned.



Altar Flowers

- March 6 — Alice White**
- March 13 — Bryant Davis**
- March 20 —**
- March 27 — Scarlet Robertson**

The flower chart for 2016 is posted in the Narthex next to the mailboxes. Arrangements are \$30. Please fill out a Flower Request Form when you sign up and leave it in the office mailbox.

Also, please indicate on the form whether you will take the flowers home or leave them for a shut-in. (Flowers that you take home are not tax-deductible). Thank you!

March Birthdays

1. Alice White
3. Ray Midkiff, Bill Robertson
6. Mary Nicholson
7. Janet Carter, Dayo Hassan
10. Ian Kresge
11. Maureen Sciannella, Bryant Davis
12. Adele Wortman, Kemi Oluwafemi
17. Brendan McNealy
18. Nancy Cavallo, Stacy Graham, Pastor Jacob Young
19. Sally Rhodes
21. Morgan Graham
22. Sue Young
24. Jennifer Kresge, Margie Mock
26. Stephen Lewis
28. Dennis McGlynn
29. Dara Hassan
30. Mary Jane Kenyon
31. Stephanie Ladd



March Anniversaries

- 9. Isaac and Kemi Oluwafemi
- 22. Nancy & Samuel Shippet

READERS and GREETERS are Needed

- April 3, 10, 17, and/or 24 —**
Greeters are needed for the 9 am worship service.
- April 3, 10, and/or 17 —**
Scripture readers are needed for the 9 am service.

To volunteer to cover one or more of these Sundays, please put your name on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary in the Narthex. Thank you for helping to make Emmanuel a welcoming congregation!

IN MEMORIAM



February has been a difficult month for our church family.

Former member Sam Powell, the son of long-time members Edrie and Valti Powell, passed away during the last week in January.

Bonnie McBride's son, Jerry McBride, Jr., passed away on February 14.

Onna Thornton, the mother of former member Marcia McAdoo, passed away on February 15. You may send a note of condolence to Marcy at 8606 Hickory Hills Lane, Laurel, MD 20723.

Mary Lou Wolfe passed away in an auto accident on February 20.

Lee and Gertrude Rose, friends of Pauli Colburn, were passengers in the same vehicle as Mary Lou, and Gertrude later passed away from her injuries.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the families and friends of all these persons, and with everyone who is struggling with the loss of a loved one. May the Holy Spirit sustain you and happy memories comfort you during this sad time.

WELCOME, VISITORS!!

The following guests visited Emmanuel on one or more Sundays in January:

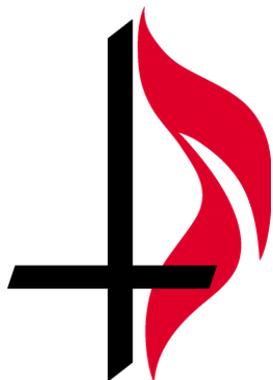
- Jillian Bredbenner
- Mary Gallo
- Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Nemeth
- Collins Ezebuihe
- Mr. & Mrs. Rick Mellott
- Carolyn Rodeffer
- Rafaela Romero

We welcome you to our church family! Please worship with us again soon.



March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 7 pm ESOL	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 7 pm Finance 7 pm Bible Study	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 11 am Maranatha Choir 5 pm NA
<i>6</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm UMW Executive Meeting 12:30 pm Chancel Choir– Sanctuary	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL	<i>9</i> 7 pm Worship Committee	<i>10</i> 7 pm Bible Study	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 11 am Maranatha Choir 5 pm NA
<i>13</i> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS STARTS 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School 2nd Sunday Lunch 12:30 pm Chancel Choir– Sanctuary	<i>14</i> 7 pm Trustees 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<i>15</i> 7 pm ESOL 7 pm Sisters in Spirit Circle	<i>16</i> 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle 12 Noon Dorcas Circle	<i>17</i> 7 pm Bible Study	<i>18</i> 11 am Community Place Café 7 pm Food Prep	<i>19</i> 9 am Chancel Choir 10 am Food Distribution 5 pm NA
<i>20</i> PALM SUNDAY 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services & Cantata 10:15 am Sunday School	<i>21</i> 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle	<i>22</i> 10 am Prayer Fellowship	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> MAUNDY THURSDAY 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service & Seder Tasting	<i>25</i> GOOD FRIDAY 6 am Prayer Vigil 10 am Stations of the Cross 7 pm Good Friday Service	<i>26</i> 5 pm NA
<i>27</i> EASTER 6:30 am Sunrise Service @St. John's 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am	<i>28</i> 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<i>29</i> 7 pm ESOL	<i>30</i> Church Council at 7 pm	<i>31</i>		



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March Calendar

Address Service Requested

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Emmanuel United Methodist Church

