

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

March 2015



Pastor Jacob Young

LIVING A SIMPLE LIFE DURING LENT 2015

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 is a 40-day journey, excluding 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, as follows:

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 a day, or a week. If it is too much, please reduce it by 30%.

Eat less.

In a Christian sense, fasting means eating a full meal and two small meals a day. If possible, try to keep to 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, or 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. Also, daily scripture readings are listed on page 2.

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



Visit the website of The United Methodist Church, www.UMC.org, to learn all about Lent. Test your knowledge by taking the Lent and Easter quiz. There's a different question each day. Here's a sample: When did the imposition of ashes become an official (but optional) part of United Methodist worship? The answer will surprise you!

You also can find answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Lent, inspirational stories, and a daily desktop meditation courtesy of youtube. The site offers hints on how to focus on spiritual practices during the Lenten season, as well. Check it out!

DAILY SCRIPTURE & PRAYER FOCUS
(Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015)

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 Corinthians 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: Psalm 37:21
Day 19: Luke 14:28	Day 20: I Thessalonians 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: Numbers 12:6	Day 30: Deuteronomy 28:4
Day 31: Philippians 4:8	Day 32: I Corinthians 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 Corinthians 12:8	Day 45: Matthew 1:23
Day 46: Psalm 32:8		

THE MEANING OF EASTER

The best way to understand the real meaning of Easter would be from Jesus. As is recorded in the 12th chapter of John, Jesus was welcomed to Jerusalem by a large crowd singing praises to him, carrying palm branches and hailing him as the King of Israel - the Messiah. They were gathering to celebrate Passover and such an outpouring of adoration made the Pharisees seeth with anger and disgust. They did not believe Jesus was their long-awaited King.

Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me." (John 12:23-26) This was probably a puzzling speech at the time. Jesus had to die and be "planted" in a tomb to rise up and produce a harvest of life everlasting to those who believed in Him. (After his resurrection, the parable of the kernel of wheat could be fully understood).

The New Covenant

Jesus knew that He was going to be killed, and how He was going to be killed; and He knew the time was approaching. He told his disciples how he'd like his death on the cross to be remembered. His request is found in Luke 22:

When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you." (Luke 22:14-20)

Without a doubt, Jesus wants us to remember his great love and sacrifice for us through communion. He was getting ready to be betrayed by one of the disciples, publicly humiliated and mocked, beaten beyond recognition, and hung on a cross to die, when he made his special request for us to remember that He gave his body for us and poured out his blood as a sacrifice for us. The heart of Easter lies in his words, **"the new covenant between God and his people."**

The Meaning of Easter (continued)

What is the real meaning of Easter? Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we have been given victory over death and eternal separation from God, a covenant promise of forgiveness and grace:

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3)

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

When we eat the bread and drink the wine of communion, we need to search our hearts. Are we remembering the suffering that Jesus' body went through for us? Are we remembering how his blood was shed so our souls could be spared? Let's thank Jesus this Easter for giving us life and for giving us the Holy Spirit as our comforter and guide.

~The Worship Committee

FAITHFUL READERS TO DISCUSS WALKING ON WATER

The Book Group's next meeting will be on Saturday, April 11th, 10:00 -11:00 a.m. Alice White has suggested we read Richard Paul Evans's latest book, *Walking on Water*, from his Walk series. This is in our library system. If you haven't read the 4 previous books in the series, you might want to start at the beginning; but each book summarizes his last and brings the reader up-to-date. Questions? Contact Bryant Davis or Carol Clatterbuck.

In this fifth New York Times bestseller in the Walk series, Richard Paul Evans's hero, Alan Christoffersen, must say some painful goodbyes and learn some important lessons as he comes to the end of his cross-country walk to Key West. After the death of his beloved wife, after the loss of his advertising business to his once-trusted partner, after bankruptcy has forced him from his home, Alan Christoffersen's daring cross-country journey—a walk across America from Seattle to Key West, with only the pack on his back—has taught him lessons about love, forgiveness, and most of all, hope. Now Alan must turn west again to face yet another crisis, one that threatens to upend his world just as he had begun to heal from so much loss, leaving him unsure of whether he can reach the end of his journey. It will take the love of a new friend, and the wisdom of an old friend, to help him finally leave the past behind and find the strength and hope to live again.



EMMANUEL VOLUNTEERS AT SCIENCE FAIR

by Ann Rowland

In keeping with Pastor Jacob's vision to foster positive relationships with local schools, Emmanuel accepted an invitation from Beltsville Academy to send several folks to be judges at their February Science Fair. This was a rewarding and fun experience for those who participated. As evidenced by the following letter of thanks from the Science Fair Coordinator, Ed Pulik, the community volunteers were greatly appreciated. Stay tuned for more opportunities to serve our schools.

Science Fair Judges,

You were fabulous! You judged 275 elementary and middle school projects in record time. And what a wonderfully diverse group you were. You came from the USDA, High Point High School, WSSC, the Rotary Club, the United Methodist Church, the State Police and the local community. Your scores enabled there to be nineteen 1st place awards in Middle School and sixteen 1st place awards in the Elementary grades. Your perceptive questions, your humor, and your analysis provided each of the students with whom you interacted a positive and memorable experience. For all of this, we sincerely thank you. Congratulations to each of you for making this year's Science Fair the best ever.

***Sincerely,
Ed Pulik, Science Fair Coordinator
Beltsville Academy***

What Is a Doxology?

from Kathryn Griffin and the Worship Committee

A doxology (from the Greek, doxa, "glory," and loga, "saying") is a short hymn of praise to God added to the end of canticles, psalms and hymns. The tradition derives from a similar practice in the Jewish synagogue. In the Christian tradition, a doxology is an expression of praise to the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). In the very early church, congregations were told to add "Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost" to the end of the psalms so those listening would not confuse the Christians with Jews who were singing the same psalms.

There are several types of doxologies.

"Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen." #70 in the United Methodist Hymnal (UMH), the Lesser Doxology, 3rd—4th century

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow." #95 in the UMH. Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Tune: Old 100th by Louis Bourgeoise (French), 1551. Bourgeoise composed this tune for the Genevan Psalter, his hymn collection. This book was used by the Pilgrims in the American colonies.

"By whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Father Almighty, world without end. Amen." From the communion service, UMH page 10, the Eucharistic Doxology.

"For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever." Lord's Prayer Doxology

There also are 39 hymns that can be used as doxologies. Some of them are:

- #64, "Holy, Holy, Holy," verses 1, 4
- #79, "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name," verse 4
- #88, "Maker in Whom We Live," verse 4
- #94, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"
- #184, "Of The Father's Love Begotten"
- #236, "While Shepherds Watched," verse 6



PRISON MINISTRY

"I am sending you to open their eyes. Then they can turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, and receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are made holy by faith in me." (Acts 26:19)

I would like to share with you information about prison ministry. It is a ministry of love, justice and service, and a blessing to serve with Kairos International and be in fellowship with the ladies at Maryland Correctional Institution (MCI-W) in Jessup, MD. I am included on a 38-person Kairos team that will spend a 4-day weekend, from April 30 until May 3, 2015, with the residents inside MCI-W. We will arrive around 8:30 a.m. each day and leave at 8:30 p.m. We will share meals with them in their dining hall and spend the night at a local hotel.

You can help by volunteering to pray for us and/or by making a tax deductible donation, payable to Kairos in Maryland. I will provide additional information in the next newsletter.

"I serve neither for gratitude nor reward, but from gratitude and love; my reward is that I may serve."

Jane Grays, Deaconess
LadyJaneGra@aol.com
 301-937-6392

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

PLEASE CIRCLE THE COLOR YOU ARE ORDERING

- Lily (5-6 blooms).....\$12.50
Daffodils (5-6 blooms).....\$11.50 (yellow)
Hyacinths (3 blooms).....\$11.50 (white, pink, blue)



DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS IS MONDAY, MARCH 23

Please order _____ of _____ given by _____
number name flower phone number

IN MEMORY OF _____

Please order _____ of _____ given by _____
number name flower phone number

IN HONOR OF _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EUMC – EASTER FLOWERS

Total amount of order _____ Check enclosed _____ Date Received _____

(Please check one): I will take my flowers home: _____ (not eligible for tax credit)

RUMMAGE SALE

The UMW Rummage Sale will be on April 18, from 10 am until 2 pm. We hope you will support this fundraiser with your time, your donations, and by shopping there with your friends.

We will not sell clothes at this event, but we will sell housewares, accessories, books, crafts, knick-knacks and more! We will have a bake sale and will offer lunch, as well. If you have some excess items you would like to sell for yourself, we will have tables to rent, or you can give your items to us to sell.

The proceeds will benefit women and children through approved UMW mission programs. For more information, call Debbie McNitt at (301)937-4291.

THANK YOU, TED LADD!

With this issue, I am officially replacing Ted Ladd as editor of the Lamplighter, much to Ted's delight and Charlie's dismay. No, I don't know where I will find the time to do it; but as Tim Gunn used to say on "Project Runway," I will "make it work!" I am learning Publisher, so be patient; it will be awhile before I am able to format articles to look as great as Ted has. Ted has agreed to be "on call" when I get stuck, and will be my back-up if needed. It would be very helpful if you could get your articles to me by the 15th of the month or earlier, because it takes me longer to format things than it does Ted!!

Did you know that Ted has edited the Lamplighter since September 2009? I'll bet you didn't, because Ted is one of Emmanuel's Unsung Heroes. He quietly takes on a job and just does it, without fanfare. He put out 65 issues in as many months, and for much of that time, he was putting out the Beltsville News, as well! I tried to get my articles in to him on time, but more than once they were late, and Ted always found room for them without grumbling and without chastising. On behalf of everyone at Emmanuel, as well as everyone in Beltsville, I thank you, Ted!

Altar Flowers

March 1 - Alice White
 March 8 - Kemi Oluwafemi
 March 15 -
 March 22 -
 March 29 - Robertson

April 5 -
 April 12 - Bobbie Deegan
 April 19 -
 April 26 -

The flower chart for 2015 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.

March Birthdays

1 Alice White
 3 Ray Midkiff, Bill Robertson
 6 Mary Nicholson, Sherry Cohen
 7 Janet Carter, Dayo Hassan
 10 Ian Kresge
 11 Maureen Sciannella, Bryant Davis
 12 Adel Wortman, Kemi Oluwafemi
 14 John Bouma
 17 Brendan McNealy
 18 Nancy Cavallo, Stacy Graham, Pastor Jacob Young
 19 Sallie 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

If You Really Felt My Love...

You always say you need to feel loved
 You always say you feel my love dearly
 But honey
 I say if you really felt my love
 You would feel my lips kissing your soul
 I say if you really felt my love
 You would see in my eyes the red rose
 Held just for you
 I say if you really felt my love
 You would drown in my tears
 Spilled from beautiful thoughts of us

You always say you need to feel loved
 You always say you feel my love dearly
 But honey
 I must say
 Although I cherish you from the center of my spirit
 Words mean nothing
 I must say
 Although you are the only one for me
 Words mean nothing
 So I must pray
 I am able to show you my love
 That you may always say
 You feel my love dearly

~ Crystal Joy Webb

March Anniversaries

9 Isaac & Kemi Oluwafemi
 22 Nancy & Samuel Shiplett



MARCH 2015

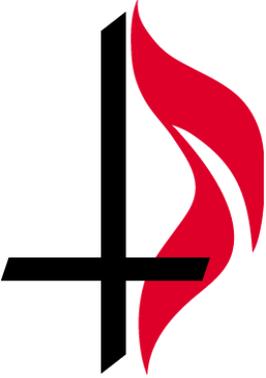
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9 & 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 7 pm ESOL</p>	<p>4 7 pm Women's Club of Beltsville</p>	<p>5 1 pm Widows Group</p> <p>7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6 7 pm Maranatha Choir</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9 & 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>2nd Sunday Lunch</p> <p>1 pm Youth Fellowship</p> <p>1:30 pm UMW Executive Meeting</p>	<p>9 7 pm Depression & Bipolar Support Group</p> <p>7 pm Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>10 10 am Prayer Fellowship</p> <p>7 pm ESOL</p>	<p>11 7 pm Worship Committee</p>	<p>12 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>13 7 pm Maranatha Choir</p>	<p>14 8:30 am Family Breakfast</p>
<p>15 9 & 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>16 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle</p> <p>7 pm Staff- Parish Relations Meeting</p>	<p>17 7 pm ESOL</p>	<p>18 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle</p> <p>12 Noon Dorcas Circle</p> <p>7 pm Sisters in Spirit Circle</p>	<p>19 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20 11 am Community Place Café</p> <p>7 pm Maranatha Choir</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9 & 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>12:30 pm Youth Fellowship</p>	<p>23 7 pm Depression & Bipolar Support Group</p>	<p>24 10 am Prayer Fellowship</p> <p>7 pm ESOL</p>	<p>25 7 pm Church Council</p>	<p>26 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27 7 pm Maranatha Choir</p> <p>7 pm Food Preparation</p>	<p>28 10 am Food Distribution</p>
<p>29 PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Worship and Cantata</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 7 pm ESOL</p>				

Address Service Requested

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