

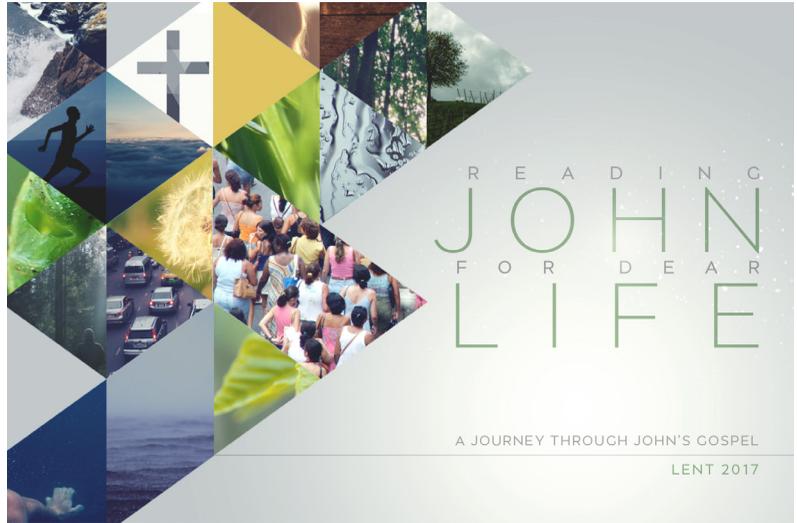


The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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What Does Easter Mean to You?

I can still remember sitting in the wooden pews, my short legs swinging as the early morning light streamed through the stained glass windows. After greeting Easter morning on the front lawn of the church, the small congregation had just entered the sanctuary for the second part of the service.

Shedding our heavy coats into the pews all around us, we breathed in the heady smell of lilies and settled in to hear a word from our pastor. But instead, he asked this question: What does Easter mean to you?

I loved this part of the sunrise service, an annual tradition with Rev. Lou.

(continued on page 7)

SPONSORED BY VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

SAVE THE DATE -AND- Save Your Stuff

Severna Park United Methodist Church

731 Benfield Road | Severna Park, MD

SPRING GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY

May 6

8:30AM – 1:00PM

DROP OFF DAYS:

WED, May 3 – After 5PM

THUR, May 4 – 8AM to 8PM

FRI, May 5 – 8AM to 2PM

WORKERS NEEDED:

All four days, full or part time,
as many hours as you can give!

Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS:

Clothing ★ Shoes ★ Jewelry

Housewares and Linens

Books and Media ★ Holiday Items

Furniture (Good Condition)

Electronics ★ Computers

Treasures and Antiques

Outdoor Items ★ Sporting Goods

Children's Items ★ Toys/Games

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: Large Appliances,
Mattresses, Carpet Pieces, Newspapers,
Magazines, Furniture in Poor Condition,
Entertainment Centers, Heavy TVs

Bring your list of donations for a tax receipt

FOR LARGE ITEM PICKUP:

Call Mel Merritt 410.703.6372

ANY QUESTIONS?

Call Gwyn Linthicum 410.647.7349 (H)

FREE Meals, coffee, and tea will be provided for all volunteers

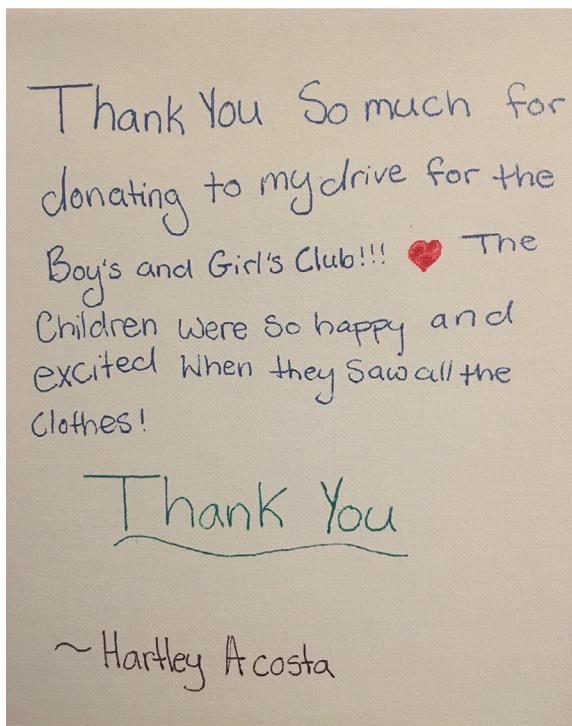
NO RECALLED ITEMS PLEASE

SPUMC Nursery School

Are you considering preschool next year for your 3-year-old? The SPUMC Nursery School still has a few openings available for the 2017-2018 school year. Call or email to arrange a tour and see why the "Snoopy School" has a terrific reputation.

And, if you love children and have some flexibility in your schedule, the **Nursery School is hiring substitutes** to fill in occasionally for staff members. We'd love to have you join our team! Contact Heidi Taflan for more info. 410-987-8339 or spumcns@gmail.com

Hartley Acosta Thanks



Connections Class

So maybe you've been hanging around our church for a while now and you want to dip your toe a little deeper in the water. Or perhaps you're brand new here and simply want to know more. Or you might be at the point where you are ready to take the plunge and join our congregation. If any of those descriptions fit you, you are invited to attend the next Connections Class that will take place on Sunday, **April 23** at **11am** in the Parlor. The Class is designed to introduce you to some of the ministries of our church and to give us a chance to get to know each other better. Childcare is provided. RSVP to Beth. bfrank@severnaparkumc.org

Youth (UMYF) News

Sunday, April 9

7pm: Program and games. 8:40pm, ICUs
Deadline for Sr. High Retreat!

Sunday, April 16

NO meeting or ICUs – HAPPY EASTER

Friday, April 21–23

Senior High Retreat at Camp Hashawha

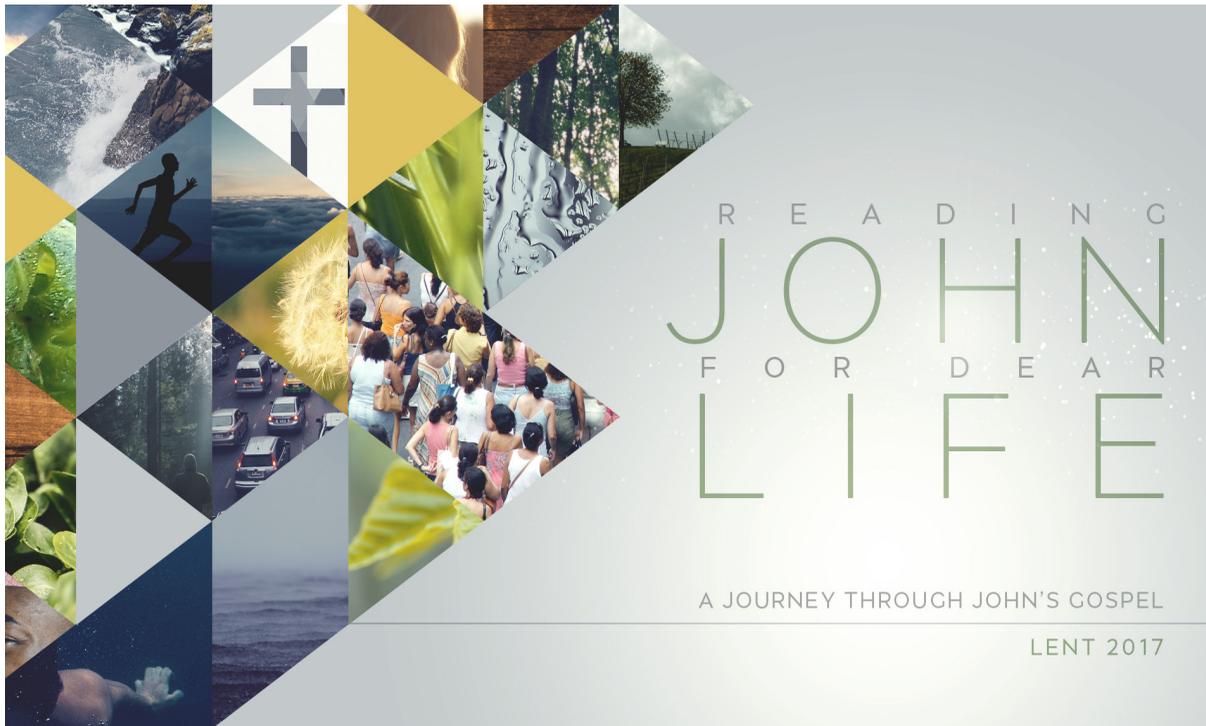
Super Sixth News

Sunday, April 23

5pm: Super Sixth will welcome the **5th graders** so they can see what's in store for them next year.

Sunday, May 7

5pm: Final meeting for this year, Super Sixth Olympics with friendly competition and awards!



Holy Week & Easter 2017

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, **April 13**, will include a meal at **6:30pm** and an experiential worship service at 7pm in Fellowship Hall including optional stations for prayer, footwashing, and communion.

Good Friday Cantata

On **Good Friday, April 14**, we will have special evening worship at **7:30pm (new time!)** featuring Christopher Walker's "The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John." The work features choir, organ, & dramatic readings that focus on Christ's Passion.

Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

Join us as a family on **Saturday, April 15**, 9-11am for an egg hunt, games, crafts, and treats, rain or shine! Please bring a basket. If you would like to help on Saturday morning at 8am, let Erica know. ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

April 16: Easter Sunday

6:30am Sunrise Service
8am Early Service
9:30am Contemporary Service
11am Festival Service

Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

We need some Easter Elves to hide eggs at **8am on Saturday, April 15** for our Easter Eggstravaganza. This is a great job for people with older children. It will take no more than an hour.

We also need someone to make coffee and help in the kitchen from 8:30-10:30am, and help with face painting. Contact Erica for more information. ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Thanks to Texas Roadhouse in Pasadena for donating 100 Easter Eggs, pieces of candy, and free kid meal cards to our Easter Eggstravaganza.

VBS Registration

This summer's two weeks of Vacation Bible School, for children ages 3 years through those going into 5th grade, will be offered July 10-14 and July 17-21.

Registration for **Church Members:** April 3, 9am (Closes April 5, 3pm)

Registration for **General Public:** April 10, 9am (Open until all slots are filled)

Adults Loving Life Lunch

Join ALL at **12noon on April 25** for lunch followed by a presentation by Baltimore historian, folklorist, and author, Elaine Eff. Ms. Eff will share the history of the Baltimore painted screens, a tradition since 1913. Her book, *The Painted Screens of Baltimore*, will be available for purchase.

Blessing of the Animals

In celebration of Earth Day weekend, we are offering an outdoor Blessing of the Animals in the Memorial Garden on **Sunday, April 23 at 4pm**. Offer God thanks for the gift of these companions in your life! This is open to the public so feel free to invite friends and neighbors



Baptism Class

If you want to have a child baptized at SPUMC in the coming months, you are asked to attend a one-time class with one of our pastors. The next class is **Sunday, April 30 at 11am** in the Parlor. RSVP to Beth in the church office. Childcare is provided. bfrank@severnaparkumc.org

Tips for Including Kids in Worship

Encourage kids to participate in worship!

- Share the peace of Christ with them
- Help fill out a prayer card or give in the offering—if they can't give money, put in a card listing how they serve God
- Show them the scripture in the Bible
- Draw a picture of what they see and hear in church

Let's help our children experience God.

Successful ASP Auction

This year's Talent/Service Auction to benefit the youth's Appalachia Service Project was another fun evening for all. The bidding was good and slightly competitive, the desserts were delicious, the people were wonderful. We were able to raise over \$14,000, which exactly meets the needs we have!

Many thanks to all who donated. Some people spent hours sewing and quilting, baking and decorating. The youth sincerely appreciate your understanding the nature of their mission and your constant support. We'd like to thank a few volunteers who made the evening go much smoother—*Becky Hogan, Carole Parker, Pam Johnson, and Vera Summers*. Thanks to MYF students who watched children and helped with desserts.

We especially want to recognize and thank local businesses who donated: The Cottage (Sue Gauthier), Benevolent Baskets (Deb Kriebel), Ken Menzies, CPA, & McCarl Dental Group (Clayton McCarl) We are hoping to take 80 volunteers to WV this summer; thank you for helping to make this possible.



What Does Easter Mean to You? (Continued from Cover)

People would say similar things each year: Easter means time with family, celebrations, a new dress for church. One kid would always say it meant bunnies and baskets, and a seasoned saint would wisely say that Easter means the promise of new life.

What does Easter mean to you? I've been pondering this question as we have been "Reading John for Dear Life" this Lent. This Easter, I am drawn once more to the beautiful story John weaves, a story of creation and new creation.

Remember how the Bible starts? In the beginning of Genesis, Adam and Eve experienced the love of a personal God, a God who formed them from the dust of the ground and delighted in walking with them in the garden of Eden. It was heaven, you could say, to share such precious, embodied, abundant life with their creator—heaven that was lost in one moment of disobedience that sent God's people wandering in the wilderness for generations.

But the story doesn't stop there: for this Holy Week and Easter, we will have the chance to walk in the garden with God once more. As Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, we'll wonder how our sin led to this moment of brokenness. As Joseph and Nicodemus bury Jesus in a garden, we'll wonder how life can go on after such a loss. And on Easter morning, as we kneel at the tomb with Mary we will meet the risen Christ in a garden. As in the beginning, we will walk in the garden with God, the same one who formed us and knows us by name.

For many of us, Easter still means time with family, special celebrations, bunnies and baskets. But this year, my prayer is that you will find yourself swept up in the story of creation and new creation. God is doing a new thing, right here, right now. Let's look for the risen Christ in the gardens of our life, and join him in the walk.

grace and peace,

Rev. Carissa

Church Offices Closed

The church offices will be closed on Monday, April 17.

Operation Welcome Home

Our supply of handmade cards is getting very low and we need card donations. Each snack bag that we distribute contains one of these cards. We distribute 3000-5000 cards each month and the supply will soon be depleted due to increased demand.

Check out the OWH site: owhmd.org and look under "What to Do" for suggestions regarding cards.

Typically, donations become low between May-Sep when schools, scout troops, and other groups are on Summer break, but this year we are at that point in March. We need your help!



Reading John for Dear Life



Ripples of Grace

Since January, your mission dollars have been at work in Moyamba, Sierra Leone, helping Trinity United Methodist Church and the June Hartranft Primary School to make several essential building repairs. This month, the school has been replacing the 47-49 windows and sealing and painting the exterior walls. Overwhelmed with blessing, the Church Council met to direct the gifts received by the church. In the coming months, they'll focus on needed renovations, pastor stipends, and other long-awaited needs. Thanks to your generosity, the school and church are also providing much-needed jobs to local construction and trade workers as they work to make the necessary repairs. The ripples of God's grace keep flowing!



ASP/VIM Trip to WV

Our third ASP/VIM just finished a week of serving the community in Rainelle, WV in late March. Team members laid flooring, spackled ceilings, worked on outdoor grading and drainage and moved one home to the point where it is just days away from having the owners move back in. Many thanks to *Betty McManamay, Cathy Pette, Mel Merritt, Dan Dickerson, Pierce Chaisson, Joey Feldmann, Beth Smith, Clint Provenza & Connor Meyers* for representing Christ and our church so well!

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