



March 2017

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The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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Reading John for Dear Life

Robert Capa was a famous photojournalist who covered five wars and was the co-founder of Magnum, the legendary agency for freelance photographers. His pictures taken at Omaha Beach on D-Day during WWII appeared in Life Magazine and quickly became American icons. Arguably the greatest combat

photographer in history, Capa's maxim was that if your picture wasn't good enough, it meant that you weren't close enough. He constantly strove through his images to take his viewers with him into the middle of the action and risked his life many times over to bring back those compelling shots.

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Easter Eggstravaganza Face Painters

We are looking for some face painters for the Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 15, 9-11am. If you would like to help with face painting or know someone willing, please contact Erica.
ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Youth (UMYF) News

Sunday, March 5

7pm Choice Night: Understanding Eating Disorders, Questioning God, Birth Order
8:40 pm ICU groups

Sunday, March 12

7pm Group building night
8:40pm ICU groups

Sunday, March 19

7pm Program night, games
8:40pm ICU groups

Sunday, March 26: ASP Auction

No regular meeting. Please bring homemade desserts to share.

SPAN Easter Baskets

SPAN would like to provide Easter Dinner baskets and children's Easter baskets to families in need. Easter baskets should be delivered to SPAN on **Monday, April 3, 10am-2pm**, and they will be distributed to the families on Tuesday, April 4. Please see the SPAN display in Fellowship Hall for more Information.



VBS Registration

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

Registration dates:

*Volunteers - March 20
Church Members - April 3, 9am
(Closes April 5, 3pm)
General Public - April 10, 9am
(Open until all slots are filled)

**Volunteers must be going into 6th grade or older and need to contact Erica in advance. All volunteers must complete our Safe Sanctuary process.*

Nursery Care Provider and Coordinator

Open part-time position

We are seeking a responsible, loving, faith-filled adult (21+) to care for our youngest children during our church services and evening classes. As a person of strong Christian character, the nursery care provider and coordinator will ensure that all children have a safe and warm experience in the SPUMC nursery. Weekly child care tasks would include coordinating volunteers and maintaining the nursery facilities. Please reply to Erica Benjamin if you are interested in this wonderful opportunity.
ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Wanted: Washer & Dryer

In 2015, SPUMC restored a house in Baltimore City and established Living Well on Wilkens, Inc. (or LWOW), a non-profit organization that provides a place of safety, love, hope, and Christian hospitality for women in the Wilkens Avenue community who seek a first step toward a new life journey. Today, this ministry continues to grow, constantly reaching new guests. One way that we show hospitality is by providing a place for women to do their laundry – but we are now in need of a new washer/dryer set so we can better serve our guests! If you have a set you would like to donate, please contact Rev. Carissa. carissa@severnaparkumc.org

You Bridged the Gap!

Many thanks to all who contributed to our **Mind the Gap** offering in February. We are excited to announce that because the response was so generous, we were able to entirely erase our 2016 deficit (\$31, 835) which puts us in a much stronger financial position at the start of 2017. Since we had already been carrying an accumulated debt position of around \$40,000 prior to the 2016 deficit (several years of small operating budget debt that accumulated during the capital campaign) this greatly improves our overall financial health. To date, 129 contributors have given a total of \$32,437 and gifts came in all sizes – from \$7 to \$1200 and everything in between! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Connection & Baptism Classes

If you are interested in joining SPUMC, you are invited to attend a **Connections Class, March 12 at 9:30am** in the Parlor. The class offers a chance to ask questions and connect to our ministries.

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, March 19 at 11am** in the Parlor. Contact Beth in the Church Office to RSVP to either class. Childcare is provided. bfrank@severnaparkumc.org

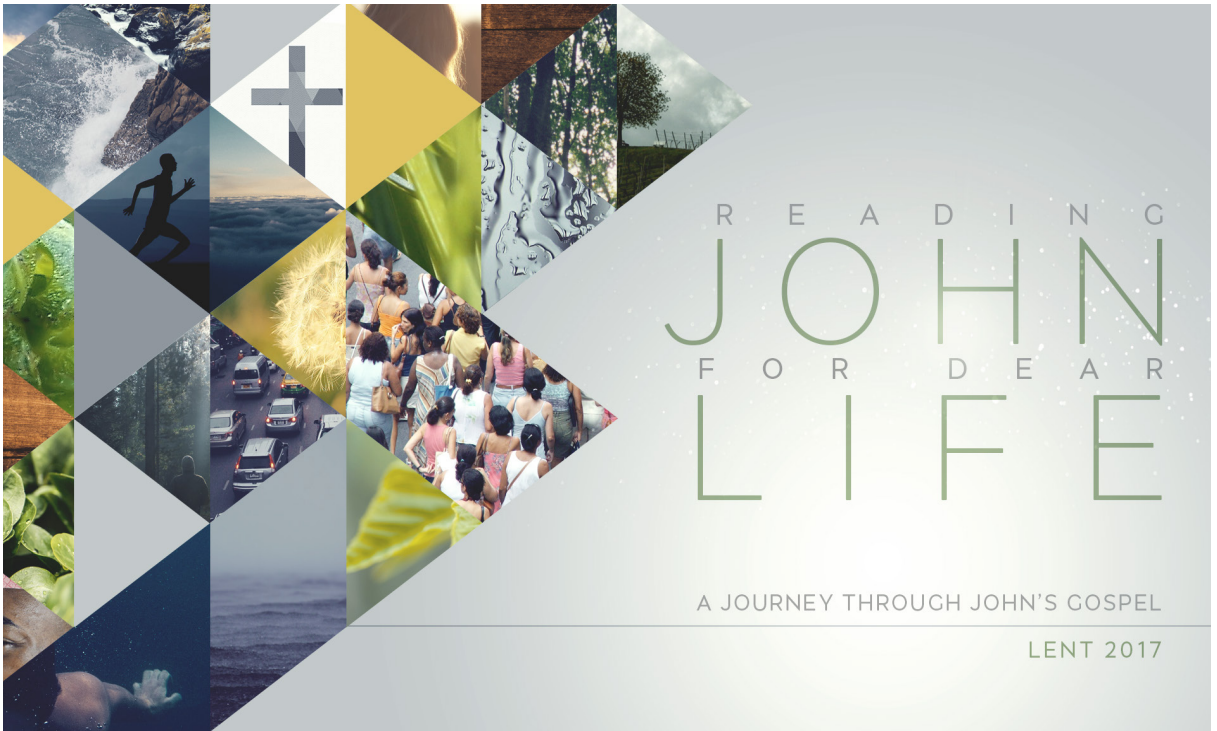
Beal Family Thanks You

Thank you so much for blessing our family at Christmastime. Your generosity overflowed and we felt your love! The gift cards you gave will allow us to both acquire some necessary items and a few treats too - we will be thinking of you as we use them throughout the Spring! (And thanks especially for the Operation game - did you know that Michaela has wanted that game for years? she LOVES it!)

-Bruce, Heather, Michaela and Joshua Beal

Introducing Hubworthy

You can now visit the virtual bookshelves of our pastors and staff that list the books, movies, and music that they have found to be inspiring and faith-forming. And, you can buy through Amazon directly from Hubworthy! severnaparkumc.org/hubworthy



Lent 2017

Worship

March 5: "Your One Wild & Precious (and Abundant) Life" | *John 1*

March 12: "Night Moves" - Jesus & Nicodemus | *John 3*

March 19: "Healing at Bethsaida" - Jesus & the Man on the Mat | *John 5*

March 26: "Unbinding Your Life" - Jesus & Lazarus | *John 11*

April 2: "The Original Vineyard Vine" - Jesus & the Disciples | *John 15*

April 9: Palm Sunday with Procession
Passion Reading | *John 12*

April 13: Maundy Thursday | *John 13*
6:30pm meal, 7pm service
"Footwashing Feats"

April 14: Good Friday | *John 19*
7pm "The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John," led by the Choir

April 16: Easter Sunday | *John 20*
6:30am Sunrise Service
8am Early Service
9:30am Contemporary Service
11am Festival Service

April 23: "The Breakfast Club" | *John 21*

Study Classes

Sundays

9:30am in Room 301: Saints & Sinners Class. Begins February 26

*7pm in Room 203: Chip Linehan. Begins March 5

Mondays

7pm at the Burdick's Home in Severn: Wayne Burdick. Begins March 6

Tuesdays

*7pm in Room 302: Rev. Lee Ferrell Begins March 7

Wednesdays

*9:45am in Room 115: Susan Brunk Begins March 1 | Women's Study

*6:30pm in the Church Parlor: Rev. Carissa Surber. Begins March 8 Young Adult Group (YAG)

*6:30pm in Room 300: Lori Sexton Begins March 8 | YAG Alumni

7pm at the Johnson's Home in Shipley's Choice: Pam Johnson. Begins March 8

7pm at the Kraus's Home in Lakeland: Rev. Ron Foster. Begins March 8

Thursdays

7pm at Matt Pugh's Home in North Cape Arthur: Rev. Jim Pugh. Begins March 9

Fridays

10am in Room 301: Rev. Lee Ferrell Begins March 10

*Childcare Available

A class designed for children will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

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

Good Friday Cantata

On Good Friday, April 14, we will have special evening worship at 7pm featuring Christopher Walker's "The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John." The work features choir, organ, & dramatic readings that highlight Christ's Passion.

Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

Join us as a family on Saturday, April 15 from 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

ASP Talent/Service Auction

Our annual ASP Auction will be held Sunday, March 26 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. This is the big fundraiser for the trip to the Appalachia Service Project in late June. Plan to attend on the evening of the auction, and think about what you might donate. All profits go to ASP. Everyone can do something! Contact Rev. Lee for more information. lferrell@severnaparkumc.org

Book Fair

The Children's Ministry is hosting a book fair, a great place to get family resources to celebrate Easter, in Fellowship Hall on Sundays in March. Save up to 50% (and free shipping)! Plus, SPUMC will receive 20% of the proceeds.

Reading John for Dear Life

Photos from the week of February 26



Reading John for Dear Life (Continued from Cover)

I was reading about him the other day in a new photography book I had just gotten and thought about how his approach to his craft might have something to teach us about Lent. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, when we are called to come face-to-face with our own mortality (“From dust you have come, to dust you shall return”), through the drama of Holy Week (last words, betrayal & crucifixion) and onto the joy of Easter (the surprise of resurrection), this is a season that brings us to the edges of life and death. Though it’s tempting to remain safely on the sidelines, Lent invites us to place ourselves within the Jesus story and get ourselves close to the action.

Over the next 6 weeks in worship and in small groups, we will be Reading John for Dear Life and getting an up-close and behind-the-scenes look at Jesus through the eyes of the writer of this gospel. Among the four portraits of Jesus that we have in the New Testament, John’s is the most unique and

in many ways the most intimate. There are intense encounters with extended dialogs – Nicodemus, the healing at the pool of Bethesda, the story of the woman at the well, the raising of Lazarus – that are intended to draw us in so that we can encounter Jesus firsthand.

I encourage you to find ways that allow you to deepen your faith and find your life renewed in Christ this Lent. Sign up for one of our small groups. Set aside time each day to reflect and pray. Or check out our new Hubworthy page on the website, so you can discover a good book to read. And if you find that your Lent isn’t good enough, in the words of Capa, perhaps you aren’t close enough.

severnaparkumc.org/hubworthy

Be God’s,
Rev. Ron

Winter Relief Thanks

Carolyn Heim and Pam Sherman extend their thanks for all the help during Winter Relief. Visit the webpage to read the thank you letter.
severnaparkumc.org/relief

Sisterhood Spring Retreat

Please join the Sisterhood Women’s Ministry, March 31-April 2, 2017 at Sandy Cove Retreat Center for our eighth annual spring retreat. We will sing, laugh, dance, fellowship and celebrate our love of Jesus. The cost is \$215 and includes two nights lodging and four meals. To register or get more information please visit the Nurse’s table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays.
dcullis@comcast.net



Thank You for Blessing Sierra Leone

Dear Severna Park UMC Family,

Thank you so much for so warmly welcoming Rev. Jane Lahai into our Church and for giving her the opportunity to share her message and love for our heavenly Father. From seeing her name on the church marquis to speaking one-on-one with some of you, Jane was over the moon with joy during her day with us.

Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation for your generosity. I've never known Jane to be at a loss for words but she was speechless when I told her the Church had raised around \$7,000 to support the work of her school and church in Sierra Leone. To say we were touched is an understatement and I wish I could find the right words to explain what this means to us and the people of Moyamba. After consultation with her District Superintendant and Bishop - and with the blessing of our Missions Committee - your generous gift will be used in the following ways:

\$1,000 will go to help cover stipends of the volunteer teachers that have gone unpaid for the past 4-7 years. Because of your kindness, these hard working teachers will be closer to earning a livable wage this year.

\$2,000 will go towards urgent structural needs in the primary school's boarding home. The second story floors in the boarding home have become so weak that a child fell through and are no longer safe. The window screens are old and

torn allowing mosquitoes to slip through at night. New screens will keep the mosquitoes out and help reduce malaria.

\$4,000 will go towards Trinity United Methodist Church to support the pastoral staff and their efforts to reach out to neighboring villages. In addition to addressing urgent structural needs and making progress on a parsonage, the Church plans to purchase a bicycle for the pastors to use when traveling and perhaps even a projector for worship services. This gift will keep on giving over the years through the pastors' work to continue to share God's love with their own congregation and those in surrounding villages.

As Jane works to implement these funds, we will get plenty of pictures and updates from our new church family in Moyamba. I look forward to sharing these pictures with you as they come in. Thank you so much for your kindness.

Wishing you love, light, and blessings,

Jennifer Carr Pilholski

President, Sierra Leone Education Fund
and SPUMC Member



Severna Park United Methodist Church
731 Benfield Rd. Severna Park, MD 21146
410.987.4700 | severnaparkumc.org