



February 2018 Volume 4, No. 2

The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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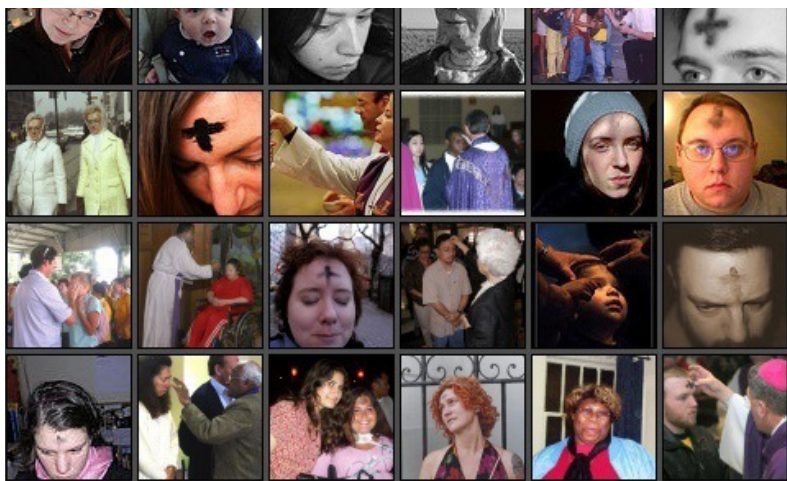
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Lent & Other Four-Letter Words

For some of us, Lent is a scary, bad word. Or at least not a very inviting one. We picture a season of austerity: giving up chocolate or sweets, having to attend extra Wednesday night worship services (a standard for many years), a somber, serious six weeks of “sack cloth and ashes.” To be clear, the season of Lent historically has

been characterized by repentance and spiritual introspection. Originally a time of rigorous preparation for those who would be baptized at Easter, eventually Lent became a season for all Christians to join with the new catechumens in prayer, fasting, study and worship all as a way of returning their hearts to God.

(continued on page 6)

Lent & Other Four-Letter Words



PRAY

February 14: Ash Wednesday | **TURN**
6:30am-4pm Ashes & Prayer available
12noon Service
7pm Service with Communion

February 18: **HEAR**
Matthew 4:1-11

February 25: **RISK**
Mark 8:31-38

March 4: **REST**
Deuteronomy 5:12-15

March 11: **CARE**
Matthew 25:31-46

March 18: **TELL**
Mark 5:1-20

HOLY WEEK

March 25: Palm Sunday | **WALK**
Palm Procession with all Elementary
Children in Worship | John 12

March 29: Maundy Thursday | **WASH**
6:30pm meal, 7pm experiential service
in Fellowship Hall | John 13

March 30: Good Friday | **LOVE**
7:30pm Passion Service in the
Sanctuary | Mark 14:26-15:47

March 31: Eggstravaganza | **HUNT**
9-11am Easter Egg hunt with games,
crafts, & treats
In poor weather, activities will be inside

April 1: Easter Sunday | **RISE**
6:30am Sunrise Service
8am Early Service
9:30am Contemporary Service
11am Festival Service
John 20:1-18

HOLY WEEK FOR FAMILIES

On Palm Sunday, we'll offer nursery care for babies and Sunday School for toddlers. Elementary kids will worship in the sanctuary.

Nursery care will be available at each worship service during Holy Week. We welcome elementary children to attend a special Sunday School program on Easter.

PLAY

Picturing Lent

Whether or not you are part of Rev. Ron's *Sacred Lens* class on Photography & Prayer, you can use this season to go on a photographic pilgrimage with our theme words as your guides each week. Send your images to Rev. Ron.

ron@severnaparkumc.org

Pancake Supper

Come enjoy pancakes, sausage links, applesauce, and brownie sundaes at Troop 993's Pancake Supper at 5:30pm on, February 13 in Fellowship Hall. Cost: Adults (\$6), Kids ages 5-12 (\$4), and Kids under age 5 are free.

ASP Auction

Our annual ASP Auction will be held Sunday, March 18 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

Easter Eggstravaganza

Join us as a family on Saturday, March 31 from 9-11am for an egg hunt, games, crafts, and treats. Please bring a basket. In the case of inclement weather, all activities will take place inside. If you would like to help on Saturday morning at 8am, let Erica know.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org



Women's Retreat

The Sisterhood ministry's 9th annual spring retreat is April 6-8 at the Skycroft Conference Center in Middletown, MD. Cost is \$160 for two nights and includes five meals. Contact Dawn Cullis for more info. dcullis@severnaparkumc.org

Lent & Other Four-Letter Words

SEEK

Class List

Many of our Lent classes this year are studying *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet* by Adam Hamilton. Regular and large print books are \$15 in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday

9:30am in Room 301: **Saints & Sinners Study of Moses**. Begins February 18

Tuesday

4:30-5:30pm in the Library: **SPark Kids Learn with Moses** in March. Email Erica by February 27 to register your 2nd-5th grader. ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

7pm in Room 301: **Adult Study of Moses** led by Rev. Lee Ferrell. Begins February 20

Wednesday

*9:30-11:30am in Room 115: **Women's study of Moses** led by Susan Brunk and Ann Chaffee. Begins February 14

10:30am in Room 301: **Seven Deadly Sins and Seven Virtues** led by Rev. Byron Brought. Attend any or all classes; bring your Bible. Begins February 21

7pm in Room 302: **The Sacred Lens: Praying with Your Camera** led by Rev. Ron Foster. A 5-week exploration into how the practices of prayer and photography overlap. Begins February 21

Friday

10am in Room 301: **Adult Study of Moses** led by Chip Linehan. Begins February 16

*Childcare available

5-MINUTE MOSES ONLINE STUDY

5-Minute Moses with Rev. Carissa Surber and Erica Benjamin is an online group for young adults and young families to study Adam Hamilton's book on Moses through videos and discussions, five minutes at a time. Go to tinyurl.com/5MinuteMoses to join today. We kick it all off **February 12!** Email Rev. Carissa for more information. csurber@severnaparkumc.org

FINDING HOPE IN EXILE

Please join Pasadena UMC from 7-9pm on Wednesday, February 21, for an extraordinary Lenten talk "Finding Hope in Exile" by Dean Bruce Birch of Wesley Theological Seminary. Youth and adults are welcome! Let this be a way to enrich you during Lent.

UMYF News

February 11, 7pm: Singing for Winter Relief. **Use the far back door

Friday-Saturday, February 16-17: LOCK-IN

February 18, 7pm: Choice Night, games.

February 25, 7pm: "Girl/Guy Face-Off"

March 4, 7pm: "Dealing With Stress"

Super 6th News

February 11, 1-3pm: Bowling at SP Lanes, \$10 per person gets you unlimited games, shoe rental and a pizza lunch! Arrange your own rides to and from.

February 25, 5-6:30pm: McDonald's Dinner and Game Night!

Consider Summer Camp

Our Baltimore-Washington Conference has ongoing programs at two beautiful campsites. Both offer a full variety of summer camping experiences.

West River Center is right here in Anne Arundel county, 17 miles south of Annapolis, along the West River. There are programs for children grades 3-12. Camps offer a variety of activities: sailing, golf, basketball, and a special “Grandparents Camp.”

Manidokan is located in the mountains of Washington County along the Potomac River across from Harpers Ferry, WV. Besides the basic “adventure” camp, there is a horseback adventure, deaf camps, and explorer camps.

Brochures are available on the back counter in Fellowship Hall or go online for more information.

Funfriendsfaith.com

ASP Auction

Our annual Talent-Service Auction to benefit the 2018 Appalachia Service Project will be **Sunday, March 18** at **6pm**.

This unique event raises as much fun as it does funds for our summer trip. Anyone can be involved, from donating some talent or service to showing up and bidding on these fantastic items, like:

cookies, candy, pies | leaf-raking lessons | meals brought to you pet or kid-sitting | all kinds of gift baskets handcrafted items | blankets, quilts oil change | use of a beach home

The list is endless! We prefer *not* to have purchased items given, but for this to be a service rendered or product made.

Think about what you might donate, and save the date. Refreshments and child care included at no cost.

Flood Bucket Photos



Lent & Other Four-Letter Words

Music Rehearsal Schedule

We would love for you to come be a part of our ensembles. If interested, email Chris Dillard.

cdillard@severnarkumc.org



Praise Bands
Wed. 7-8:30pm

Cherub Choir
Thurs. 6-6:30pm

Adult Bells
Thurs. 6-7pm

Adult Choir
Thurs. 7-8:30pm

Early Risers
Sun. 7:30am

Children's Choir
Sun. 9:30-10:30am

Lent & Other Four-Letter Words (continued)

This year as we journey toward the cross together at SPUMC, our theme is “Lent & Other Four-Letter Words.” We will have a new four-letter word to guide us each week like *Turn, Hear, Risk, Rest, Care, Tell, Walk, Wash, Love, Rise* as we dig into the Bible together and seek to deepen our faith. There will be creative options for engagement in worship, study (online and in-person) and photography (see the article on “Picturing Lent” under the **PLAY** section on page 3) throughout the season. We are offering multiple ways for you to look inward, outward and upward as we re-orient our lives toward God.

Our hope and our prayer is that you will see Lent – and all of our other four-letter words – as life-giving and life-changing. For the “Word become flesh” Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas is the same Jesus who comes to save and bring us new life at Easter. Lent is the road that takes us there. Join us on the journey!

Be God's,
Rev. Ron

The Sacred Lens: Praying with Your Camera

Join Rev. Ron on **Wednesdays at 7pm** beginning **February 21** for a 5-week exploration for a hands-on exploration into how the practices of prayer and photography overlap. What can we learn about prayer from the practice of making photographs? And vice-versa, how might photography become a spiritual discipline for us? You don't have to be an expert (in either) to join in but we will be praying and photographing in creative ways throughout our time together.

2018 ALL Trips

Adults Loving Life has four trips planned for 2018. Pick up a Trip Packet in Fellowship Hall! Contact Lou or Kathie Kamm with questions. 410-647-5914

May 16: “The Life of Jesus” at Sight and Sound - \$127

July 25: “A Chorus Line” at Riverside Center - \$105

September 26: St. Michaels by Land and Sea - \$117

December 5: Christmas Show at American Music Theater - \$110

Talking to Winter Relief Guests

As we prepare to host another Winter Relief, here are some thoughts on how we can interact with our guests. During Lent, as we journey with Christ toward the cross, we are reminded of our brokenness and ways we can move closer to God and be His hands of healing and wholeness. Winter Relief provides an opportunity for each of us to impact the lives of others. Sometimes that is not easy: when guests don't want to converse, when gracious words are not uttered with humble appreciation, when you look into the tired eyes of an addict, when you see the same guest year after year wondering why they don't do something to change their situation. What can you say to someone you have nothing in common with? What can you do in a single week to make a difference in the life of a total stranger? How can you share God's grace and mercy with someone so obviously broken? We can all make a difference in the lives of others if we dare to be creative in how we share the word of God.

Our Winter Relief guests are no different than us; they want to be acknowledged and accepted. Acknowledge their presence and meet them where they are without judgment. Some conversation starters include simply asking where they grew up, or how their day was. Avoid questions that reference their family or job status. Never ask what situation led them to homelessness (believe it or not this is a common question)! Ask simple questions and then listen. Give your full attention to their thoughts and experiences and they are likely to see you as someone who

cares about their well-being.

Many of our guests are suffering from multiple issues, from mental disabilities to drug and alcohol addiction. We can't always fix what is wrong, but we can spend time loving on them and sharing God's amazing grace and mercy. If you have never participated face-to-face with our Winter Relief guests, I invite you to share some time with us during our hosting week. Abraham and Sarah's generous hospitality to three visitors reminds us that though the strangers whom they welcomed were but men, they might be special messengers of God. May God help us to reflect His love through our love for one another, and may we be His voice of kindness and acceptance.

Pam Biddlecomb

AHoH Winter Relief Coordinator



ALL February Lunch

The February 27 ALL luncheon features our wonderfully talented music staff, Chris Dillard and Nicola Patterson, presenting "A Recital Celebrating the American Melody." Sign up in the Fellowship Hall by February 25. Cost is \$10 at the door. Call Pam Gerolstein for additional information. 410-923-1091



YAG Apps & Alpha

Our Young Adult Group loves talking about deep questions over good food so we can do life with one another the way Christ intended. On **February 21**, we're discussing "Why and how should I read the Bible?" Bring an appetizer/snack to share and join us from **6:30-8pm** in the Parlor, with childcare in the nursery.

csurber@severnaparkumc.org

Picture Month

February will be "Picture Month" at SPUMC. We'll be looking to get to know each other and connect in some creative ways.

1) Check out the weekly options to take pictures or have your picture taken in some fun ways in Fellowship Hall or the lobby area. For instance, be part of our "Guest Book Project" or have your picture taken in an "I Love SPUMC" frame starting February 11.

2) Send us a favorite recent picture of yourself or you and your family for our SPUMC Photo Board in Fellowship Hall.

3) Watch for other challenges and ideas in the weekly insert or on Facebook.

Send your questions and your pictures to Rev. Ron. ron@severnaparkumc.org.

Sunday School Missions

This school year our Sunday School kids chose 3 missions to collect offering for each week. September through December they collected over \$200: \$90.78 for UMCOR, \$50 for Backpack Buddies, and \$61.13 for Heaven's Kitchen. Talk to your kids about why you tithe, why these missions are important, and encourage them to tithe during Sunday School.

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