



April 2018

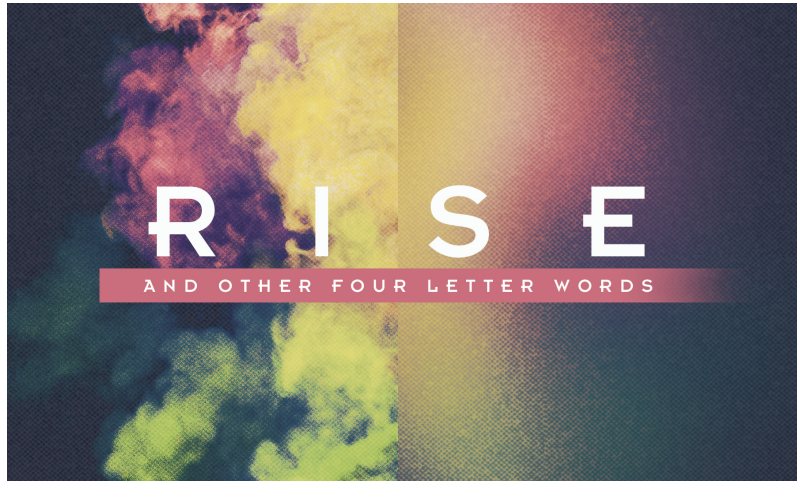
Volume 4, No. 4

The Easter Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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So Now What?

Recently I heard an incredible story on *Invisibilia*, a podcast that I listen to quite regularly. Host Hanna Rosin was talking about her 74-year-old mother's unexpected text that appeared on her phone one day with a link to a place called Skydive Philadelphia. She was thinking about taking the plunge and wanted to know if Hanna would join her.

She said this was hard to believe because her mom was "not at all physically (or any other kind of) adventurous, doesn't ride bikes or go jogging. She doesn't even eat at new restaurants. Like, the most adventurous thing she did before this whole airplane thing was probably fall asleep one night without her heating pad."

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VBS Registration

Priority online registration for volunteers and children of volunteers continues through April 8. If you are planning to volunteer for VBS (or have questions about what's involved) contact our Children's Ministry Director, Erica. VBS takes over 100 volunteers and you can be one of them. Registration for church members begins on **April 9 at 10am**. Stop by the donation board in Fellowship Hall and choose to donate.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org



Let's Do Life Together

The Young Adult Group (YAG) at SPUMC isn't just a Bible study. It's a small group of people in their 20's and 30's seeking a true community of faith. The group has singles, couples, parents and folks without children, men and women, professionals and those just out of college. Throughout the year, we get together every couple weeks to laugh, talk, eat, and serve. This year, we're using the Alpha Film series to talk about the biggest questions of our faith. Our group is open to all young people and we encourage you to join us anytime! Text **YAG** to (410) 983-3507 to receive text reminders and updates.

Come to Hang Out: Ice Cream Sundae Party on **Wednesday, April 11** – We'll provide the ice cream, you bring 1 topping to share! Come to relax and hang out from **6:30-8pm**; childcare provided.

Come to Talk: Alpha on Wednesday, **April 25** – What does the Holy Spirit do? Join us in the Parlor from **6:30-8pm** for deep discussions; childcare provided.

Come to Serve: Garage Sale on **Wednesday, May 2** – Our church throws the biggest garage sale you've ever seen on **May 5**, and our very own Lori is in charge of organizing the volunteers. Come out on Wednesday any time after **5pm** to help receive the first donations and get them organized! Childcare provided, 5-8pm.

Coffeehouse Save-the-Date

Make plans to join us for another fun and relaxed evening of great music featuring talented musicians from within our congregation and some friends, as well. It all takes place on **Saturday, May 12 at 7pm**.

Contact Chris Dillard if you are interested in performing. cdillard@severnaparkumc.org



Palm Sunday Joy!



So Now What?

(continued from page 1)

But her mother, Miriam, persisted in her wild scheme and Hanna began to understand why. Her husband and Hanna's dad, Eli, had died suddenly a year before and Miriam had gotten stuck in her grief. She couldn't eat, couldn't bring herself to go to the favorite places she and Eli had gone to over the 51 years of marriage. She felt guilty that she was living life while he no longer could.

Then one day a switch flipped in her heart. She began to imagine how things would be had she died and Eli lived. "I reversed the feeling," she said. "Would I like him to enjoy life, to continue doing whatever he continued to do with the grandkids, to continue with friendships, to continue? And the answer was immediate, on the spot, a hundred percent yes."

The story ends with them up in the plane, her mother wanting just one more connection with her husband, a mid-air renewal of vows of sorts... a symbolic releasing of her to the next chapter of her life. She sat by the plane's door, mouthing over and over, "I love you, Eli, I'll be doing it for you. I feel you. I really do." And then she jumped and she didn't look back.

Miriam Rosin's story is an Easter story, a story of claiming new life in the face of death. Just like the women at the tomb and then the disciples in the midst of their grief are offered a reconnection with Jesus that transcends time and space, so, too, are we. The good news is: "He is not here. He is risen!" So now what?

Our new worship series, **So Now What: Easter Aftershocks** will help us explore this question, the ripple effects of resurrection. We invite you to this continuing celebration of Easter and what it means to be people who serve and follow a living Jesus. Hope you are willing to jump in with us!

Be God's,

Rev. Ron



So Now What? Worship Schedule

April 8: Now We Reimagine
Luke 24:13-35

April 15: Now We Doubt & Believe
John 21:19-29

April 22: Now We Baptize & Teach
Matthew 28:16-20

April 29: Now We Get Up & Go
Brian Diggs of UMCOR West
One Great Hour of Sharing

May 6: Now We Draw the Circle Wide
Acts 8:26-39

May 13: Now We See God Everywhere
Acts 17:22-34

May 20: Now We Are Inspired
Acts 2:1-21
Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday

Seeking Angel Donors

Each year, our church provides over \$14,000 of assistance to local community members who come to our church facing eviction, shut-off notices, and other emergency needs. This generosity is made possible through the Good Samaritan Fund, which is supported by the congregation (in large part by our two Communion offerings each year) and overseen by the pastors. For the past several years, we have been especially blessed by the generosity of a single “angel” donor, who has turned small business success into God’s abundance by donating over half of the funds needed each year. Now, as this donor has found it necessary to scale back, we are seeking new donations to keep the Fund full so we can continue to respond compassionately to ever-increasing needs in our community.

Would you be interested in supporting our neighbors through the Good Samaritan Fund? Are you able to be an “angel” donor? Contact Rev. Carissa with interest or any questions.
carissa@severnaparkumc.org

Fellowship Clubs Picnic

The Closing Event for the groups this year will be a PICNIC on Sunday afternoon, **June 3, 3-7pm**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Feel free to invite others who might enjoy this event too.

We’ll be at Laurie & Hank Sims’ home on the waterfront in Pasadena. To help you decide on your RSVP headcount, water-safe family members are invited to join with their parents/grandparents, but there will be NO lifeguards available for the event.

We’d like you to give us your “best guess” headcount ASAP so we can complete the plans. Send this information to Dixie Catlett at dixiecatdc@gmail.com. We’ll be having barbeque as the main entree, and we are asking you to contribute \$10 per person to cover incidentals. Bring your favorite outdoor chairs, and a side dish or dessert to share. Musicians are invited to share their talents too.

We look forward to being together for a fun time!”

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross will be here in their Blood Mobile for our community blood drive on **Wednesday, April 4 from 2pm-730pm** on our front parking lot. To schedule your lifesaving donation, visit redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: **severnaparkumc** or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Thanks and blessings!

Women’s Book Study

Ann Chaffee and Susan Brunk are hosting a 4-week women’s book study on Kay Arthur’s “Lord, Teach Me to Pray” that will meet on **Wednesdays, 9:30-11am** beginning **April 11**. Childcare is provided. For more info, contact Ann. cann2468@verizon.net

Did You Know?: Serving Joyfully

Our church is passionate about serving joyfully as we walk in the way of Jesus. Seeking justice and loving our neighbors is at the heart of our identity as Christ-followers. We have over a dozen different active mission projects – and you are always invited to jump in! Here are some of the ways you can serve this spring:

Backpack Buddies is a mission by kids for kids, providing backpacks of food for 24 local children facing food insecurity on the weekends. Each month, our Sunday school children participate in this mission by packing bags of food to share. You can get involved by donating nonperishable food items, coming to Monday evening packing sessions (**April 23** and **May 7**), or by delivering food to the school. Contact Norma Graber or for more details. nlgraber@gmail.com

The Clothing Ministry is one way that we partner year-round with Arundel House of Hope, a local organization providing emergency, transitional, and permanent affordable housing for those experiencing homelessness. Our Clothing Ministry fulfills the clothing needs of AHOH's clients. On the 1st Sunday of the month (**April 1** and **May 6**), look for yellow cards on the "Serve" bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. You can help out by taking a card home and returning it the following Sunday with the item requested. Contact Martha Hollidge for more details. mhollidge@verizon.net

Heaven's Kitchen is a year-round ministry providing meals, Christian fellowship, and more in partnership with Brooklyn Community UMC. Each month, 25 volunteers gather on the 4th Saturday (**April 28** and **May 26**) to help set up, cook, and serve a midday meal. You can get involved by baking sweet treats to share or by showing up to prepare and serve the meal. Contact Chip Linehan with questions or to let him know you'd like to serve. boxslsman@aol.com



Operation Welcome Home is a mission of Adults Loving Life (ALL) that seeks to support military personnel returning to the USA from overseas. You can help by writing a supportive note in a stack of greeting cards, available on the counter by the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Contact Francie Seaman with questions. fas925@gmail.com

SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods)

is our local assistance organization, providing food, financial support, and other resources to those who find themselves in difficult life circumstances. You can help by donating nonperishable food items. Drop items in the baskets marked "SPAN" in Fellowship Hall. You can fulfill current needs by donating non-food items as well, including toiletries, feminine hygiene products, and toilet paper. Contact Francie Seaman with questions. fas925@gmail.com

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) is an active group of adults who serve through short-term mission trips locally, nationally, and internationally. VIM is currently planning a trip to Costa Rica (August 2018), Puerto Rico (October 2018), and Mission Central in Utah (October 2019). We love to have new participants traveling with VIM around the world! To learn more about these trips, come to a VIM Meeting at **7:15pm** on the 4th Monday of each month (April 23 and May 25) or contact Chip Linehan. boxslsman@aol.com

Abundant Thanks

This January, you gave \$1,322 through the Communion offering to support Trinity UMC in Moyamba, Sierra Leone, and the associated June Hartranft Memorial Girls School. This gift enabled the school to make some general repairs, while the church added windows to the parsonage. We are thrilled to continue a personal connection of support and love, and we look forward to the day when we can take a team to Sierra Leone. Thank you for your continued support of our sister church and girls' school!



UMM Museum Tour

Join the United Methodist Men on **Saturday, May 12** for group & individual tours of the new Museum of the Bible.

We'll carpool from the church at **7:30am** to the Metro station and have lunch near Museum, the return to church by **3pm**.

Cost: \$15 per Adult and \$10 per child under 13. For more info, visit museumofthebible.org.

Sign up by April 22 in Fellowship Hall or by emailing Reid. reidr@aol.com



Have You Been Framed?

Check out the display boards in Fellowship Hall with over 260 pictures of families, couples and individuals who have been “framed” over the last month. Now that you’ve had a chance to challenge yourself to see how many people you could name, we’ll be adding names to the photos starting Sunday, April 8. It’s a great way to get to know other members and friends of our congregation. If you haven’t had a chance to have your picture taken yet, just find Rev. Ron or Ryan Hennesy, our Communications Director some Sunday and we’ll get you on the board!



Holy Land & Passion Play

Rev. Ron & Holly are hoping to host a pilgrimage to Israel and Oberammergau in June of 2020 to explore the Holy Land and to see the famous Passion Play that happens every 10 years in this small community in Germany. In Israel, the itinerary will include the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Megiddo, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, and Jericho. Then we’ll fly to Munich and transfer to Alpine Village where we will visit castles, churches, and other sites of interest. The next stop is Salzburg where we’ll spend a day before taking in the Passion Play in Oberammergau. We’ll travel to Innsbruck, Austria and then return to the US. The cost per participant is \$4598 which includes airfare from New York.

We’ll be traveling with Educational Opportunities,

a group that regularly arranges travel for churches and religious groups (I think they are #1 among United Methodist Churches). We led a group and traveled to the Holy Land in 2013 with them and they were great to work with. There will be an introductory information meeting on **Sunday, April 29 at 10:30 & 12noon** in the **Parlor** for anyone who is interested. You can also contact Rev. Ron with questions or to let him know you may be interested and want to be kept in the loop.

rfoster@severnaparkumc.org



ASP Auction Recap

Another fun night of laughter and generosity marked our annual Talent-Service Auction to benefit the Appalachia Service Project. Items as small as baby booties and a plate of freshly-made fudge to trips as far as Cancun, Kissimmee, and St. Simon's Island all drew great attention and high bids. We raised over \$13,000, which will primarily buy building supplies for 12 Appalachian homes, and pay for the rental of necessary vehicles.

Some arrive at the auction certain of what they want and how much they will spend. Some are drawn in by the magical phrase, "Going once, going twice..." Some, upon seeing who is bidding against them, get more humorously intentional; others back out giving the item up to a stranger. Many thanks to Dan Dickerson for the generosity award of the night!

Thanks to ALL who donated this fabulous array of gifts and talents. Thanks to those who were able to place their own property up for auction. Thanks to the UMYF for the homemade desserts and help with child care. And thanks to members who are local business owners who share items with us:

- Sue Gauthier, *The Cottage*
- Ken Menzies, *Tax Preparation*
- Steve Kendall, *Kendall Hardware*
- Clayton McCarl, *McCarl Dental Group*
- Lynne & Maury Chaput, *Canine Fitness Center*
- Matthew & Carissa Surber, *UMC's West River Center*

Thanks to several parents/veterans of ASP who helped out considerably:

- Lisa Domshick
- Becky Hogan
- Carole Parker
- Beth Frank
- and especially our amazing auctioneer, Ken Lore!

Our youth are well aware that their congregation supports them in this endeavor in every way. They are happy and proud to belong to a church that provides them this opportunity to make homes in Central Appalachia warmer, safer, and drier.



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 5**

8:30AM – 1:00PM

DROP OFF DAYS:

WED, May 2 – After 5PM

THUR, May 3 – 8AM to 8PM

FRI, May 4 – 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

ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact Karen Myers

kmyers@severnaparkumc.org

FOR LARGE ITEM PICKUP:

Call Mel Merritt - 410.703.6372

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

NO RECALLED ITEMS PLEASE

GARAGE SALE DONATIONS

We appreciate how busy everyone is, but many of you have asked what you can do to help make our garage sale process run more smoothly. We've given this a lot of thought and have come up with the following **suggestions** on how you can help us.

1. When possible, separate and label boxes and bags.

All **Holiday Items** in a box or bag marked "Holiday"

Group **Housewares** together (kitchen items, bath, office, decorative items)

Separate and mark bags of **Clothing** (men's, women's, children's)

Group **Books, DVDs, tapes, CDs, records** together in the same box

2. Clothing

If possible, **bring clothes on hangers**. Wire is best.

3. Electrical Items

If an electrical item works, mark it with tape and say, "**It Works**"

Use tape to secure remote controls, instructions, and other parts to the item

Please send **clean appliances**, especially inside microwaves and toasters

Empty vacuum cleaners or remove full bags

4. Computers

Identify whether it works or not

Secure supporting books and disks to the computer

Secure all other parts (mouse, cable, and keyboards)

5. Collectibles and Treasures

We have a special place on the stage for our treasures, so please identify higher-value collectibles to make sure we do not miss them.

6. Linens

If possible, mark **sheets and bedcovers** with sizes (King, Queen, Full, Twin)

Please mark **rug sizes** (2x4, 8x10)

Please donate no matter what!
Thank you for making the Garage Sale possible!

So Now What?



Blessing of the Animals

We'll hold our 2nd annual Blessing of the Animals on **Sunday, April 22**, at **5pm** in our newly renovated Memorial Garden. Tell your dogs, cats, birds and hamsters now so that they can make plans to join us – and you can come, too. Last year we had over 50 people join us for this joy-filled gathering. Each animal will receive a personal blessing from one of our pastors and you are encouraged to invite neighbors and friends to come join in this great celebration of Earth Day and God's good creation.

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. You might even be ready to take the plunge and join our church. We invite you to attend a Connections Class **Sunday, April 15** at **11am** in the Parlor, 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

Baptism Class

Our church is full of families and children, and baptisms take place several times each month. If you are interested in having a child baptized at SPUMC, please join us in the Parlor next **Sunday, April 8** at **11am** to learn about what is involved. RSVP to Beth.
bfrank@severnaparkumc.org

Severna Park United Methodist Church
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