



The  
Octagon  
Severna Park United Methodist Church News

March 2019

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## Flawed & Faithful

Lent is nearly upon us, and we begin the season with “Pancakes & Ashes” at our church. I invite you into this holy season of deepening faith through participation in regular prayer, weekly worship and small group Bible study. We’ll be using a new resource by Adam Hamilton called *Simon*

*Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple* to help guide our spiritual journey and we hope you’ll think seriously about signing up for one of our small groups. The book offers an intimate portrait of this beloved, impulsive and extraordinary man...

*(continued on page 4)*



## *Worship*

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

**March 10:** Called to Follow  
Luke 5:1-11

**March 17:** Called to Trust  
Matthew 14:22-34

**March 24:** Called to Answer  
Matthew 16:13-19, 21-23

**March 31:** Called to Listen  
Mark 9:2-8

**April 7:** Called to Forgive  
Matthew 18:21-35

## *Holy Week*

**April 14:** Palm/Passion Sunday  
Palm Procession at all three services

**April 18:** Maundy Thursday  
6:30pm meal, 7pm experiential service  
in Fellowship Hall

**April 19:** Good Friday  
7:30pm Passion Service in the  
Sanctuary

**April 20:** Easter Eggstravaganza  
9-11am Easter Egg hunt with games,  
crafts, & treats  
*If poor weather, activities will be inside*

**April 21:** Easter Sunday  
6:30am Sunrise Service  
8am Early Service  
9:30am Contemporary Service  
9:30am Family Worship in  
Fellowship Hall  
11am Festival Service

## *Holy Week for Families*

On Palm Sunday, we'll offer regular nursery care for babies and Sunday School for toddlers and elementary kids. Nursery care will be available at each worship service during Holy Week. We welcome anyone, but especially families with elementary children to attend a Family Worship Service in Fellowship Hall at 9:30am on Easter.

## *Events*

### **Simon Peter & Pancakes**

Children kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us as we learn about Simon Peter while making and eating pancakes on **Tuesday, March 5, 9-11am**. Registration required. Sign up online.

[severnaparkumc.org/spp](http://severnaparkumc.org/spp)

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Come enjoy pancakes, sausage links, and brownie sundaes at Troop 993's Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, **March 5 at 5:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. \$7 for adults, \$5 for children, kids under 5 are free.

### **ASP Auction**

Our annual ASP Auction will be held **Sunday, March 24 at 6pm** in Fellowship Hall. This is the big fundraiser for the trip to the Appalachia Service Project this summer. 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](mailto:lferrell@severnaparkumc.org)

## **Easter Eggstravaganza**

Join us as a family on Saturday, April 20 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](mailto:ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org)

## *Studies*

### **Sunday**

9:30am: Saints & Sinners Class led by Nancy Landers & Dick Legare  
Begins March 10

11am: 11th Hour Sunday Schol Class led by Reid Reininger | Begins March 10

7pm: Great for MYF Parents led by Rev. Carissa Surber | Begins March 10

### **Tuesday**

9:30am: Women's Study led by Susan Brunk | Begins March 12

### *Childcare Available*

7pm: Meets at Heather Kraus' in Severna Park led by Rev. Ron Foster  
Begins March 12

7pm: Meets at Todd & Alicia Popham's in Millersville led by Todd & Alicia Popham | Begins March 12

### **Wednesday**

7pm: To Meet at the Church led by Chip Linehan | Begins March 13

### **Friday**

10am: To Meet at the Church led by Rev. Lee Ferrell | Begins March 8



### Flawed & Faithful

*(continued from page 1)*

who was deeply shaped by Jesus and who in turn played a major role in shaping the early Christian church. The subtitle captures the complexity and contradictions within him. He was truly a flawed **and** faithful disciple, not all of one or the other but a holy/human combination of both.

It is fitting that we should be studying his life in order to deepen our own discipleship during Lent on the heels of the Special General Conference of the UMC that just concluded in St. Louis this week. At that gathering of delegates from 39 countries representing the 12.5 million United Methodists around the globe, I think it is safe to say that we saw both our flawed *and* faithful church in action. Hoping for a clear and unified path forward on the issue of human sexuality, what was revealed as much as anything else is that we remain deeply divided. Here is what I posted on the night when GC2019 ended:

*Over the last few days, many times I have found myself in tears as I've witnessed our General Conference drawing harder boundaries instead of opening wider doors to friends, colleagues, brothers and sisters in Christ and those outside the church who are LGBTQI+. I had been so hopeful that we would find a way to disagree in love and make space in the UMC for all who passionately follow Jesus but may not see the issue of LGBTQI+ inclusion or read the Bible in the same way. Though the US delegates voted 2-1 in favor of the One Church Plan, the*

*Traditional Plan won the day and we will have to see what that means in the coming weeks and months even as its constitutionality is challenged.*

*I want to say unequivocally, especially to those who personally bear the pain or feel harmed by this decision, that you, your children, your siblings and friends are all welcome and loved unconditionally at Severna Park UMC. We are committed to doing the good, hard and joyful work that God has called us to in this community and the world as we LOVE. SERVE. FOLLOW. in the way of Jesus. My heart may be broken now but I still believe in and cling to the overwhelming, never-ending reckless love of God. And I hope and pray you will, too.*

All of our pastors join me in saying that our church is open to you – no matter your ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender identity, theological perspective, political affiliation or even where you come down on the question of loyalty to the Ravens or Redskins/O's or Nats. We are working as faithfully and lovingly as we can to keep this tent big and welcoming and there is a place for you!

*Rev. Ron, Rev. Carissa, Rev. Lee, Rev. Byron*



## Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies need several food items for our next packings on Sunday, March 10 and March 25: Chef Boyardee, shelf life milk (white or flavored), granola bars, pudding cups, nut packs, peanut butter crackers, juice boxes, applesauce, peanut butter (14-16 oz. jars) and Ritz or saltine crackers. All items should be single serving size, and can be placed in the marked basket in Fellowship Hall.

*nlgraber@gmail.com*

## Clothing Ministry

Thank you for your generous giving of gift cards which has made possible the purchase of over 100 requested items in the past several months. Please check the first and second Sunday of each month for requested items posted in Fellowship Hall. AHOH and the Clothing Ministry Team appreciate your support.

## Nursery School

Do you love working with AMAZING children and adults? The SPUMC Nursery School needs substitutes to fill in on occasion for our teachers and aides. It's FUN (and a great way to earn a little extra money). Nursery School hours are 8:30 to 3:00 Monday through Friday. Please stop by or call Heidi or Robin at 410-987-8339 to find out how to apply.

Also, the SPUMC Nursery School is now registering students for the upcoming school year. Seats are filling fast, so please contact Robin or Heidi at 410-987-8339 to arrange a tour. Register online.

*severnaparkumc.org/nursery-school*

## ALL Trips

Join Adults Loving Life at the Sunset Restaurant for "Death and Taxes", a funny social satire, on **Tuesday, March 26**. Dinner starts at **6:30pm**. Since this activity is not at the church, a registration form must be completed and sent to Lou Kamm with, check and food choice. If you need a ride, please indicate that on the signup form as well as select your entree choice. Hurry! The deadline to sign up is March 5, and we must have 30 participants.

ALL is also sponsoring a multi-day trip to the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum in Kentucky, September 23-26. Let's all go 2 by 2 for a once in a lifetime chance to see an exact replica of Noah's Ark. This trip will include Botanical Gardens and a Gospel Riverboat Cruise and much more! Detailed information is available in Fellowship Hall. We are accepting reservations through June 1st, with full payment due by August 26th. This trip is open to adult church members, their family, and friends. Come join us!! Contact Lou Kamm with questions. *cheetahed1@yahoo.com*

## ALL Lunch Recap

The survey says: The ALL Team are the winners in the ALL Members vs. Church Staff friendly Family Feud battle. Special thanks to our own Steve Harvey, Chris Dillard. Over 50 people attended this ALL-sponsored luncheon and enjoyed good food, laughter, and Christian fellowship. Rumors swirl that Staff want a rematch!

### ASP Auction

Join us Sunday night, **March 24** at **6pm** for our annual Talent/Service Auction. This is our greatest fundraiser for the youth's Appalachia Service Project in July. It can involve and benefit everyone, as well as raise necessary funds for a week-long mission trip. You can do 2 things...

1. Think of what you might donate to this auction. We are looking for talents or services (not things, please) such as baking (cookies, lasagna, soups, whole dinner), lessons, leaf raking, child care, gift baskets, etc. All these items will be up for bid among fellow church members. The winner of each item has a year to claim that item, OR you may have something completed which can be at the auction and taken home that night by the winner.
2. Plan to be here. It is a fun, sometimes raucous evening of friendly bidding. The youth serve desserts and beverage, and provide child care, all at no cost. ASP is a life-changing opportunity for our youth and their leaders. But it is costly, as we will need building materials for about 10 homes and a few rental vehicles for the week. Please encourage our youth and treat yourself to some fun by joining us for this year's auction!

### UMW National Cathedral Tour & Tea

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring a tour and tea at the National Cathedral in DC on **March 26**. Cost is \$50. Contact Vera Summers for more information.

[verasummers@verizon.net](mailto:verasummers@verizon.net)

### Don't Keep It a Secret (Part 2)

Last month, we reminded you to make sure your employer, broker, or retirement account administrator notes you as the source of a gift being sent to SPUMC on your behalf. Unless you intend for such a gift to be anonymous, the church needs to know (and you need the church to know) it came from you.

Along that line, the church also needs to be able to match up all gifts received with the proper donor. All parishioners who wish their gifts to the church to be noted as coming from them need to have an account number with the church and need to note that account number on their check, bill-pay remittance, etc. This used to be called an "envelope number" but since not everyone uses the church envelopes these days (to save paper), the church is now referring to it as a "giving number." Do you have a giving number? Do you know your giving number? If you are not sure of your giving number, please be in touch with the church office.

Also, please make sure the church has your current mailing address. The church sends out quarterly gifting reports, yearly tax statements and other correspondences and if the church does not have your current address, these mailings will not reach you.

Do you know all the possible ways to remit your monetary gifts to the church? If not, check out the website. More and more, parishioners are remitting their gifts electronically which is a win-win for all.

[severnaparkumc.org/giving-options](http://severnaparkumc.org/giving-options)

## UMYF News

### **Sunday, March 3, 7pm:**

Celebration for Ray

**8:35pm:** ICU groups

### **Sunday, March 10, 7pm:**

Program on "Boundaries."

**8:35pm:** ICU groups

### **Sunday, March 17, 7pm:**

Program: Choice Night

**8:35pm:** ICU groups

### **Sunday, March 24, 6pm:**

Help with ASP Auction

No ICUs

### **Sunday, March 31, 7pm:**

Program

**8:35pm:** ICU groups

***Remember, the Penny War is still on!***

## Super Sixth

All 6th graders and friends are welcome!

**March 10, 5pm:** St. Patrick's Party. Wear green and come ready for some fun!

**March 31, 5pm:**

"Everybody's Birthday" Party

[lferrrell@severnaparkumc.org](mailto:lferrrell@severnaparkumc.org)

## Thank You, Ray

Mr. Ray Guhse, one of our most experienced and beloved UMYF counselors, has retired after 31 years of service to our youth. The MYF will hold a party to celebrate Ray and all he has given to our youth over the years.

Ray was actually recruited by the youth themselves, after his first trip on ASP. They told Rev. Lee they thought he would make a good counselor and she agreed.

In his time with the youth, Ray has led many small group discussions, co-led many years of Youth Disciple Bible Study, been away for MANY youth retreats, umpired softball games, shared plenty of bad jokes, shared wisdom and inspired hundreds of us, led the sale and distribution of Christmas greens, set up countless bonfires, drove our church bus (when we had one!), and so much more.

Ray is a smart, friendly and humble servant. The youth love him for his strong character, his willingness to be a rule enforcer and hold them accountable, his careful treatment of people, his humor, his ability to do everything and willingness to be the clean up guy. All of this comes from his deep faith and concern for the kids. His love of family is one of his favorite topics and sets a great model for our youth.

We already miss him on Sunday nights, but those who he touched will remember his influence forever.

## Garage Sale

The next Garage Sale is closer than you think – **Saturday, May 4.** While the weather is still cold, take an opportunity to pull out some Garage Sale donations. Check your closets, kitchen cabinets, the playroom, basement, and don't forget the garage. When May finally gets here, you will be so happy that you are prepared to drop off your donations, beginning Wednesday, May 1.

## Connections

If you're new, curious, or ready to join, you're invited to attend a Connections Class next **Sunday, March 10 at 11am** in the Parlor. Learn more about what where you might fit in at SPUMC. Childcare is provided. RSVP to Beth.

[bfrank@severnaparkumc.org](mailto:bfrank@severnaparkumc.org)



# You're Welcome (Really)

## LIFT

LIFT (Linked In Faith Together) is a new fellowship opportunity at SPUMC. Everyone is invited (regardless of age or where you are in life)! Meetings will be the **2nd and 4th Thursday** of every month in the Parlor at **6:30pm**. Childcare is available. There's no preparation required, just show up. Let's learn and grow from one another through Christ-centered spiritual conversations and fellowship in a loving environment.

## Winter Relief Thanks

What an amazing congregation! It was a blessing to experience SPUMC's Winter Relief mission from start to end. We witnessed love and compassion from everyone who shared their time, energy, and gifts with our less fortunate neighbors and friends. We saw our congregation following Jesus: daring to be interrupted from daily routines, daring to be a new creation and open their hearts to others, daring to reach out in witness, and daring to truly listen to and be influenced by our guests. Thank you for your outpouring of grace and mercy.

*Pam & Rob Biddlecomb*

## UMM Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, March 9 at 7:30am and hear church member Cecil Wells' reflections of his service in the Merchant Marines during WWII.



## Vacation Bible School

Roar VBS is this summer's mane event! This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. This will be a week full of fun, superb music, and a wild setting.

It is our prayer that your kids will discover a wildly refreshing understanding of how God is good- touching lives, changing hearts, and drawing kids closer to our God who loves them.

We welcome 300 kids each summer and hope that your child will be one of them.

[severnaparkumc.org/vbs](http://severnaparkumc.org/vbs)

## SPAN Easter Baskets

Share the blessing of Easter with others by providing food for an Easter meal. Easter Basket information is available in the Fellowship Hall. Call Francie Seaman with questions and to sign up.

Email completed form in Fellowship Hall to Francie Seaman if you'd like to provide an Easter dinner for a family.

[fas925@gmail.com](mailto:fas925@gmail.com)

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