



April 2019

Volume 5, No. 4

The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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The Holy Hinge

As much as I am enamored with the season of Advent that takes us on a yearning, brooding, hope-filled journey to Christmas, I think I love the rhythms of Lent, Holy Week and Easter even more. This year, we've been building to the pathos of the final week of Jesus' life by focusing on Peter,

the flawed but faithful disciple. Peter who is bold enough to step out of the boat to attempt his own water-walking – for a few steps. Peter who wants to build three tents to memorialize the presence of Moses, Elijah and Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

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Holy Week

April 14: Palm/Passion Sunday,
8, 9:30, & 11am

We're offering regular nursery care for babies, Sunday school for toddlers and elementary kids, and we'll enjoy a Palm Procession at all three services.

April 18: Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm
meal, 7pm service

Maundy Thursday will include a meal at 6:30pm and an experiential worship service at 7pm 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,
and treats

**If poor weather, activities will be inside*

Easter Sunday

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

New Easter Family Service this Year

Rev. Ron and one of our worship bands will be in Fellowship Hall at 9:30am on Easter morning to help lead a relaxed and joyful service geared towards elementary school children and their families. There will be music from VBS, a children's message and a shorter Easter sermon for the grown-ups, too. We'll also be offering our regular *Contemporary Easter Service* in the Sanctuary at the same time and Sunday School for our pre-schoolers. Lots of options!

Holy Week for Families

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

Palm Sunday

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.

Easter Family Worship Service

We welcome anyone, but especially families with elementary children to attend a Family Worship Service in **Fellowship Hall at 9:30am** on Easter.

ASP Auction Pics

The Fellowship Hall was full and bids were high as we got to enjoy the fun and the laughter of this annual event — not to mention a very large amount of sugary desserts — and the youth raised over \$14,000 to help fund their mission trip in June. Thanks to Ken Lore, entertaining bid-master supreme, Rev. Lee and to all who donated, baked, crafted, offered gourmet meals and more and to those who came out to support this project.



The Holy Hinge

The Holy Hinge

(continued from page 1)

As we move into Holy Week, we will see that Peter continues to play a starring role, even if he doesn't always come off looking so good. It is Peter who resists allowing Jesus to wash his feet; Peter who falls asleep in the garden while Jesus prays; Peter who follows at a safe distance and then denies Jesus three times before the cock crows; Peter who is as broken and lost by the death of Jesus as all of the rest of the disciples.

But betrayal, abandonment and death are not the end of the story for Jesus, for Peter – or for us. And thank God for that.

Cynthia Campbell, President of McCormick Theological Seminary tells the story of the great opera composer Giacomo Puccini who died suddenly before he was able to finish his final work, *Turandot*. One of his fellow composers, Franco Alfano, wrote two final scenes that completed the work. When the opera premiered at Milan's La Scala opera house in 1926, the famous Arturo Toscanini was the conductor. Toscanini got to the place where Puccini had left off, and dramatically, he stopped the performance, turned to the audience and with tears in his eyes announced, "This is where the master ends." Then after that sacred pause, he raised his baton again and said, "This is where his friends continue," and he went on to conclude the performance.

With Jesus' death and resurrection, the master ends. In the mysterious days of the resurrection appearances including Peter's redemption, new life is stirred until the Spirit comes dramatically at Pentecost

to give birth to the church. This is where his friends continue, and it is Peter, the flawed but faithful disciple, who is leading the charge: preaching to the bewildered crowds that day, interpreting his vision at Joppa as an ever-widening circle of grace, leading the early church to take on the work of spreading the good news.

Come join us for worship this Holy Week, Easter, and beyond as we join our story with Peter's and claim our place as Jesus' friends who continue life beyond death. Easter is the holy hinge that makes it all possible. And for that we say, "Alleluia!"

Rev. Ron

A Statement of Welcome from SPUMC's Pastors

SPUMC is a safe place to explore faith, to ask real questions and to be part of a community of people trying our best to live authentically and joyfully as disciples of Jesus in the 21st century.

We strive to be a "big tent" kind of church that welcomes people of diverse backgrounds, differing Biblical, theological, and political perspectives and varied life experiences.

We read the Bible with head and heart and draw upon our Wesleyan tradition for inspiration and guidance.

Most importantly, we believe it is the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God and our common commitment to follow Jesus that holds us together as the one body of Christ across all of our differences.

ALL children of God are welcome here.

A Response to 2019 General Conference from the SPUMC Church Council

Since the 2019 General Conference of the United Methodist Church announced new policies which affirm and strengthen prohibitions against full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons in the life of the church, we have felt and heard the deep hurt experienced by members and friends who hoped the global UMC would remove restrictions on marriage and ordination for LGBTQ+ persons. We have also felt and heard the concerns of those who approve of the decisions made by the global UMC, yet wonder whether they are fully welcome in our local church where others do not share their views. Through some difficult but loving conversations with one another, we are encouraged that the Holy Spirit is guiding us to remember our common identity as people in need of the grace of God, called to do the work of Jesus.

The lay leadership of Severna Park United Methodist Church affirms that in our local church, ALL of God's children are welcome and loved, just as they are. Our church deeply values allowing folks space to be true to themselves as they follow Christ, look to scripture with a heart for God's will and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is our tradition to love one another when there is disagreement on interpretation of scripture, and to listen to and learn from one another, even when we have different faith convictions. We believe that the true tradition of the United Methodist Church is to draw the circle wide. We strive to offer a big tent under which all can gather and grow on our path to deepen our love for God and one another, to serve God's people and to follow in the way of Jesus. Please know that all are welcome. We need you and love you.

New Sacred Worth Group

We are in the early stages of starting a group for LGBTQ+ persons, family members, and allies as a place for support and ongoing conversation about ways that we can be more welcoming in our church. If you're interested in joining us or simply want to find out more, please contact Rev. Ron.

ron@severnaparkumc.org

Want to Be a Nursery School Substitute?

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 8:30am to 3pm Monday through Friday. Please stop by or call Heidi or Robin at 410-987-8339 to find out how to apply.

severnaparkumc.org/nursery-school

Faith & Race Book Group

After a break during Lent, we'll resume on **Tuesday, April 23, 7pm** in the Parlor to discuss *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*. Books in the Fellowship Hall, \$15.

Farewell Celebration

The farewell celebration for our District Superintendent, Dr. Evan Young will take place Sunday, April 14th at 3pm at West River Center. Evan and Donna are relocating to Nashville, TN where Evan will be taking on a new role with the UMC's Discipleship Ministries after serving five years as our DS.

SPONSORED BY VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION & UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Save the Date **AND** *Save Your Stuff*

SATURDAY, MAY 4
GARAGE SALE
8:30AM - 1PM

Drop Off Days

WED, MAY 1:
AFTER 5PM

THU, MAY 2:
8AM-8PM

FRI, MAY 3:
8AM-2PM



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

ALL FOUR DAYS,
FULL OR PART TIME,
AS MANY HOURS
AS YOU CAN GIVE!

SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP
HALL BEGINNING APRIL 14.

Suggested donations

**CLOTHING • SHOES • JEWELRY
HOUSEWARES AND LINENS
BOOKS AND MEDIA • HOLIDAY ITEMS
FURNITURE • ELECTRONICS • COMPUTERS
TREASURES AND ANTIQUES
OUTDOOR ITEMS • SPORTING GOODS
CHILDREN'S ITEMS • TOYS/GAMES**

ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE IN GOOD CONDITION. VISIT THE
WEBSITE FOR THE LIST OF ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED



FOR LARGE ITEM PICKUP:
CALL MEL MERRITT @ 410.703.6372

QUESTIONS? **EMAIL KAREN MYERS**
KMYERS@SEVERNAPARKUMC.ORG

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

SEVERNA PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
731 BENFIELD RD. | SEVERNA PARK, MD
SEVERNAPARKUMC.ORG/SALE

UMYF News

Sunday, April 7, 7pm:
Program

8:35pm: ICU groups

Sunday, April 14, 7pm:
Middle high welcomes the Super 6th graders to show them what MYF is like. Senior high will have a program. Also, the DEADLINE for retreat sign-ups.

8:35pm: ICU groups

Sunday, April 21, 7pm:
EASTER! No meeting or ICUs.

Friday-Sunday, April 26-28:
Sr. High Retreat

Sunday, April 28, 2pm: Sr. High Returns

7pm: Middle High will meet. No ICUs.

Super Sixth

All 6th graders and friends are welcome!

April 14, 7pm: Super 6th attends MYF to see what it's all about.

May 5, 5pm: Final Meeting of the year. Super 6th Olympics!
lferrell@severnaparkumc.org

Madeline & Katherine Barger

The Barger girls each sang solos at the 9:30am service on March 31 and Katherine again with the choir at 11 am. They moved us all with their heartfelt renditions of *Known & Broken Vessels* respectively.



Parking Lot Island Garden

We are in need of a few extra hands to help with the maintenance of this area. Please help us to keep this area beautiful and welcoming

If you are able to help with planting, summer watering, weeding and fall clean-up, please contact Lynnette Cloughley.

lynnettecloughley@gmail.com

Connections

If you're new, curious, or ready to join, you're invited to attend a Connections Class on **Sunday, May 5 at 11am** in the Parlor. Learn about what is at the heart of SPUMC and discover ways that you can get involved. Childcare is provided. RSVP to Beth.

bfrank@severnaparkumc.org

The Holy Hinge



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.

Church Member registration opens **April 8 at 10am** and closes Wednesday, April 10 at 3pm. Registration to the **public** will then open at **10am on April 15**.

Your donations help keep VBS costs low so we can ensure all families are able to come. Visit the website for donation information. And if you want to provide more hands-on help, come out for **VBS Prep Day on Saturday, May 11, 9am-2pm**. You can come for the entire time or for an hour. We will be prepping some of the large onsite decorations. Additional prep days are June 3, 6, 10, 13, 9-12noon. While these will include decorating, there will be other projects such as sorting t-shirts and CDs. All are welcome to come help!

severnaparkumc.org/vbs

UMM Tour of BMI

The United Methodist Men are sponsoring a trip to tour the Baltimore Museum of Industry on May 11. The group will depart church parking lot at 7:45am by carpool & rental van to local restaurant for breakfast, then arrive at Museum at 10am for guided tour before returning to church about 1:30pm. Spouses and friends are welcome. RSVP to Reid by May 5. reidr@aol.com

Museum website: thebmi.org

ALL April Lunch

Just in time to motivate us to clean out for the garage sale, Adults Loving Life will host Kater Leatherman, professional organizer/home stager and author on **Tuesday, April 23 at 12noon**. Ms. Leatherman has a passion for living simply and will help us understand what makes us keep stuff we don't need or use. Contact Pam for info.

geepamela@aol.com

Kairos Line Dance

Dance into Spring with Kairos on **April 13, 6-8pm!** Even if you have never line-danced, come to learn and have fun doing it!!! Proceeds support MCI-W #22, Kairos Prison Ministry in Maryland. Light refreshments & snacks provided. Tickets are \$10/person or a table for 10 can be reserved for \$90. Contact Janice for info.

jgreene4462@gmail.com

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