



The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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Living the Questions

I still remember sitting at my parents' kitchen table, talking about my choice of college major with my mom. "Are you sure you want to choose social work? It just sounds so...complicated."

I was a 17-year-old high school senior, and the big question of college choice and career path lay before me. I had

excelled in calculus and environmental science, a testament to my physicist mother's ability to help me understand complex topics. And yet now, as I looked to higher education, I wanted to pursue social work, a field with no clear answers.

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Living the Questions

Endowment Fund Receives Generous Gift

The SPUMC Endowment Fund just received a generous bequest from the estate of Dorothy & Glenn Parker, Sr. who were long-time and active members of our church. Glenn was one of our leaders who helped to establish the Endowment Fund so it was a fitting gift from a family who believed deeply in the impact that legacy gifts could have to help sustain a thriving ministry for future generations. We are deeply grateful for their faithful commitment to our church over the course of their lifetimes and for their decision to make arrangements to support our church at the time of their passing.

If you'd like to know more about how you can make a legacy gift to SPUMC by including SPUMC in your estate planning, please contact Dick Morgan, Endowment Fund Chair, for more information. It's not hard to do and even a gift that represents a small percentage of your entire estate can make a big difference.

rmorgan@higdoninc.com



What Does the Future Hold for the UMC?

Join us on **March 8 & 22** in the Parlor from **9-9:30am** or **10:30-11:00am** for Information Sessions about various plans coming before General Conference in May as the UMC continues to work through our impasse over the issue of inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community. The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation is gaining a lot of support across a wide spectrum of groups in the UMC and would lead to a major restructuring of the church. Come find out what proposed timelines look like, what this may mean for our congregation and more. Visit our website for more.

severnaparkumc.org/a-way-forward

Easter Flowers

Order lilies and spring flowers on March 8 and March 15 in the Fellowship Hall, \$15/plant. mhollidge@verizon.net

Pancakes & Ashes: Lent Begins!

Signs of the beginning of Lent were out in abundance the last week of February. The Fellowship Hall was packed for the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper put on by Scout Troop 993 and the following day the church was full of flame, smoke and ashes. We burned last year's palms and combined them with our own confessions as part of the liturgy of the imposition of ashes at our Noon and 7pm worship services. Additionally, individuals, couples and families stopped by the church all day long for prayer and ashes with one of our pastors. Ash Wednesday is among the most sacred and moving days in our liturgical year and if you missed it this time, put it on your mental spiritual radar for 2021.



Living the Questions

Living the Questions

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“I guess I just always appreciated math,” my mom reflected. “Two plus two is always four. It’s nice to know there’s a clear answer.”

As the class of 2020 considers their own college choices, I’ve been thinking back on this conversation more and more. With so much anxiety about our world, and about the future, it’s nice to have clear answers and a solid plan. And yet, I am drawn over and over to the deep questions of life: Why Jesus? What is the kingdom of heaven like? What does it mean to be a child of God? These are the questions of our faith, questions that open the doors of our imaginations, questions that free us to be transformed.

This Lent, we are opening the gospel according to Luke as we spend 40 days Living the Questions of Jesus. Living the questions doesn’t mean just looking for the right answer - it means allowing yourself to take the time to ruminate on a question, allowing it to shape your heart and your life. Along the way we will find some answers, to be sure, but the best questions lead to answers that open new doors of questioning.

My prayer for you this season is that you step into the deepest questions of your faith unafraid. Our Savior loves us with a love that is not fragile, and He delights in our curiosity. May we enter into the story of Jesus once again, with hearts open to transformation.

Rev. Carissa



Living the Questions Worship Schedule

Sunday, March 1: *Luke 4:1-13*
“If You Are the Son of God...”

Sunday, March 8: *Luke 5:27-32*
“Why Do You Eat and Drink with Tax Collectors & Sinners?”

Sunday, March 15: *Luke 7:36-50*
“Do You See this Woman?”

Sunday March 22: *Luke 15:1-10*
“Who Wouldn’t Leave the 99?”

Sunday, March 29: *Luke 17:11-19*
“Where Are the Nine?”

Palm Sunday, April 5: *Luke 19:28-40*
“Why Are You Untying the Colt?”

Maundy Thursday: *Luke 22:39-46*
“Why Are You Sleeping?”

Good Friday: *Luke 23:13-25*
“What Evil Has He Done?”

Easter Sunday: *Luke 24:1-12*
“Why Do You Look for the Living among the Dead?”

Sunday, April 19: *Luke 24:13-35*
“Did Not Our Hearts Burn?”

Sunday, April 26: *Luke 24:36-49*
“Why Are You Frightened?”

February Births, Baptisms, & Deaths

Blessings & Congratulations to parents Becca & Chris Gay and grandparents John & Carol Gay on the birth of *Abigail Elizabeth Gay* on February 10.

God's blessings on those who were baptized in February: Henry James Felt (February 9), Jacob Thomas Humphries & Cora Joy Humphries (February 16), Marielle Unger (February 16), and Aspen Capri Dodson (February 23).

Prayers of sympathy for the families of those who passed away in February: Beverly Brougher (February 6), Bruce Rayburn (February 8), Gil Brazier (February 13), Nancy Landers (February 19), and Sandie Sweeney (February 21).



Connections & Baptism Classes

If you're looking to learn more about our church, you're invited to attend a Connections Class on **Sunday, March 15** at **11am** in the Parlor. This is a great place to ask questions and learn more about how you can be part of our ministry.

And, you can join us in the Parlor on **March 29** at **11am** if you are interested in having a child baptized at SPUMC.

Childcare is provided. RSVP to Beth. bfrank@severnaparkumc.org



Lent Study Classes

Luke is a unique book among the four gospels. It contains material not found in the other three, and expands on stories common to one or more of the other gospels. Luke, the physician, was interested primarily in two things: love of Christ and desire for the facts.

Monday Nights: Rev. Lee
Resource: Life Lessons from Luke by Max Lucado. 7pm, starting March 2

Tuesday Nights: Rev. Byron
7pm, 5 sessions starting March 3

Wednesday Nights: Rev. Ron
Resource: Luke by N.T. Wright (optional)
7pm, starting March 11

Thursday Mornings: Rev. Carissa
Resource: Luke by C.D. "Jimmy" Agan III
10am, starting March 5

Sunday Mornings:
Resource: Luke by N.T. Wright
9:30am, starting March 1
Resource: Luke by Max Lucado
11am, starting March 1

Sign-ups are in Fellowship Hall, and you can also find more information or sign up online. severnaparkumc.org/lent

Living the Questions

UMYF News

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Sunday, March 1, 7pm – Group building night. 8:35 pm, ICUs.

Sunday, March 8, 7pm – Program TBA. 8:35 pm, ICUs.

Sunday, March 15, 7pm – “Stranger Danger” plus St. Patrick goodies. 8:35pm, ICUs.

Sunday, March 22, ***6pm – Talent/Service Auction for ASP. MYF needed to help with homebaked goods and serving desserts. NO ICUs.

Sunday, March 29, 7pm – Super 6th visits Middle High; senior high program night. Retreat information available. 8:35pm, ICUs.

Super Sixth

Sunday, March 15, 5pm – St. Patrick’s Day Party

Sunday, March 29, ***7pm – Super Sixth comes to middle high MYF to see what it’s like!

40 Years of ASP

Talent/Service Auction

Our big fundraiser is coming up! On **March 22 at 6pm**, we will auction off various services and talents, proceeds from which go to our youth’s home repair ministry in central Appalachia. *We welcome your specialties* – cakes or pies or cookies, dinners of various sizes, hand crafts (quilting, cross-stitch, etc), artwork, woodworking, etc...whatever you do that others might enjoy. *We welcome your services* – yard work, home repair,

lessons of any kind, child care, car maintenance, use of your vacation home, ride out on your boat. Persons who win the bids technically have one year in which to claim their purchase, and must respect the donors’ conditions.

This is a great way to support this amazing mission and our awesome youth and give to a worthwhile project even if you can’t go yourself. Watch in Fellowship Hall as some of the auction items are on display. Save the date, and think about what you might contribute. Thank you!

40th Anniversary Celebration

All are invited to join us for a celebration of 40 years of service to the Appalachia Service Project! On **Saturday, April 4, 4-7pm** join us for an authentic ASP Picnic, Bluegrass music, displays of ASP memorabilia and pictures, and recognitions of various persons who have been an important part of ASP since its beginning.

We will have an anniversary shirt for sale (\$15). You would also have the opportunity to sponsor a volunteer for a mere \$40. Come and catch the riveting spirit that is ASP! If you know alumni, please tell them about this. All of the information, including how to make a reservation, is on our website. severnaparkumc.org/asp

For the last 40 years, SPUMC has joined ASP in an effort to make homes warmer, safer, and drier. Come celebrate such commitment and spirit with us! With questions, email Rev. Lee.

Iferrell@severnaparkumc.org

March Pray & Play

Register your kids (grades Kindergarten through 5th) for a day of games, crafts, storytelling, and more as we learn about what makes a hero on **March 10, 9am-3pm**. \$30/child, register by March 8. More info available online.

severnaparkumc.org/playpray



VBS Registration

To Mars & Beyond Vacation Bible School will take place **July 13-17** and **20-24** this year. Registration begins for volunteers **March 9**. Prayerfully consider how you will volunteer this year. Station leaders (Bible story, crafts, games, etc.) and Crew leaders (build relationships with the same group of kids throughout the week) are always needed for both our preschool and elementary groups. Registration for church members is March 25 and community members April 1. Contact Erica for more information.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

VIM Costa Rica Trip

Volunteers in Mission will be returning to Costa Rica **August 1-8**. We anticipate that we will be working on further improvements at the Methodist Retreat Center where we worked last year. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Mel. mailmerritt@gmail.com

Moms Connect

Moms Connect is a semi-monthly gathering of moms who desire to connect with one another, grow in their faith, and form a community of care and support. All moms are welcome. The group gathers the first and third Thursdays of each month. Childcare is provided. Text "Mom" to 410-983-3507 to get updates. Email Erica for more info.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Upcoming Topics:

March 2 - Keeping Secrets

March 19 - Confronting Bullies



Souper Bowl 2020 Report

This year, almost 4,500 youth groups participated in raising over \$10 million, 100% of which went to charity. At SPUMC, our youth raised \$1565. Thank you so much for your generous, caring support!

Living the Questions



Garage Sale

The next Garage Sale is closer than you think – **Saturday, May 2**. 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, April 29. Thank you for your support of the Garage Sale!

Holy Week Schedule

- April 5:** Palm/Passion Sunday
Palm Procession at all three services
- April 9:** Maundy Thursday
6:30pm meal, 7pm experiential service
in Fellowship Hall
- April 10:** Good Friday
7:30pm Passion Service in the
Sanctuary
- April 11:** Easter Eggstravaganza
9-11am Easter Egg hunt with games,
crafts, & treats
If poor weather, activities will be inside
- April 12:** Easter Sunday
6:30am Sunrise Service
8am Early Service
9:30am Contemporary Service
9:30am Family Worship in
Fellowship Hall
11am Festival Service



Garden Clean-Up

As spring approaches, we invite you to take a few moments to visit our stunning Memorial Garden, and consider participating in our spring clean-up on **Saturday, March 28 at 8am**. Anyone can volunteer an hour (or more)!

For more info, contact Lynnette Cloughley.
LynnetteCloughley@gmail.com



Daylight Savings

Don't forget to adjust your clocks forward an hour (at least the ones that don't adjust themselves) before going to bed on **Saturday, March 7**. But, even if you show up an hour early for church, we'll still be glad you've come!

Love Songs at Libations

SPUMC musicians took their talents out of the Sanctuary and into the community on Sunday night, February 23, as the culmination of our (Not So) Silly Love Songs worship series. A bunch of folks were on hand to hear Josh, Meg, Chris, Summer, Carlos and Wes fill the restaurant with love songs of all kinds and lots of bystanders got to join in the fun, too and be part of this outreach. We may make Sunday nights at Libations a more regular thing, so stay tuned for upcoming dates. Thanks to everyone who came out and performed or cheered on our musicians and special thanks to Chris Dillard for making the night happen.



Living the Questions

ALL Events

Adults Loving Life March Lunch

Join us at **12noon** on **March 24**, as Maggie Sansone brings a unique beauty and vision to her compositions and the ancient music of the Celts. You'll be amazed at her hammered dulcimer's percussive yet melodious sounds. Expect a St. Patrick's song or two, and be sure to wear something green.

2020 Day Trips

ALL has exciting day trips planned for 2020, and we want everyone to pick up a yearly calendar in the Fellowship Hall and check them out.

- May 27 - Sight & Sound, Lancaster, PA
- July 29 - Lighthouse Bay Cruise
- October 28 - 9/11 Museum
- December 9 - "Deck the Halls"

February ALL Lunch Moments

We loved the love songs performed by our own Chris Dillard and Nicola Patterson (and friends!) at our luncheon on February 25. Be sure not to miss March's lunch!





(Not So) Silly Love Songs



Winter Relief Thanks

The Winter Relief mission was a powerful week where we were blessed with the opportunity to provide shelter, food, laundry services, sewing repairs, transportation to jobs, and showers to 57 men and women. We'd like to thank our incredible leadership team and the 300+ volunteers who helped out in every way, putting in over 1300 hours to make the Winter Relief week a success. It was seven days of wonderful meals, new and renewed friendships, families serving alongside one another, newcomers and long-timers working together. It featured multiple games of Bingo (always a hit!), haircuts, laundry, dental visits, music by Emmett Ward, Chris Dillard & our youth and so much more. We even had one of our

guests do a rockin' rendition of Joe Cocker's "Unchain My Heart" at our 9:30am worship service!

Our volunteers and leadership team served them with their hands, feet, hearts, and time, but most importantly they loved them as Jesus would have loved them.

If you did not get a chance to participate in the Winter Relief Mission this February, please consider getting involved in our Winter Relief week November 2-9, 2020. We would ask you to keep all of the homeless population in your prayers.

Thank you,

Carolyn Heim & Pam Sherman

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