

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

February 2015



Pastor Jacob Young

I greet all of you in the name of Jesus Christ!

January has been relatively quiet and not active in comparison with other months, because January is a cold, wintry month used to prepare for the rest of the months in the year.

On January 4, we celebrated Epiphany, the revelation of God in the person of Jesus, focusing on the visitation of the wise men to child Jesus. A church member gave me frankincense and myrrh, so I was able to show them to the children and youth during the children's sermon. I would like to give thanks to the church member. Whenever you think of something that might be a useful biblical resource for the church, please feel free to share it with me. Then, I will make good use of it for the church.

For 2015, I have a couple of goals. First, I will make the church more visible to the community. One of the best ways to do this is to publicize Emmanuel with articles in the Beltsville News. I will write articles as often as possible, so that community people are aware of the existence of the church. Second, I will maintain a partnership with the local public schools by finding various ways Emmanuel can support them. Third, I will encourage youth to be a part of Sunday worship services. Those are my current goals for 2015. Please pray for them and support my ministry for Emmanuel.

On February 15, the church will have Pre-Shrove Sunday. Usually, churches celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes. But Tuesday is not a good day, because the ESOL classes meet on Tuesdays. Therefore, this year we're scheduling it on Sunday, having pizza, and calling it "Pre-Shrove Sunday." It will be the last time for us to feed ourselves as much as possible before starting our Lenten journey. The Lenten journey is long enough, 40 days. So we need to get ourselves prepared for it. Lent starts with the Ash Wednesday service on February 18. If possible, please join us at the Ash Wednesday service this year.

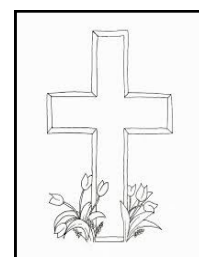
During the Lenten season, I would like to suggest a couple of ways we can go together along the Lenten journey. The first way, I

call "Simple Life." Last year, it was called "Financial Fasting," but this year, I want to change the name to "Simple Life." Following a "Simple Life" means spending less, eating less, playing less, and studying the Bible more. Second, I will lead a Bible class which is focused on the suffering and the Lenten journey of Jesus. If able, please join the class. The date and time will be announced soon.

Lastly, I would like to mention the inclement weather policy. If very bad weather, such as lots of snow, happens on Saturday night or early Sunday morning, and you want to know if Sunday morning services are cancelled or not, please call the church office and listen to the recorded message. If you have internet access and have given the church office your email address, you will be notified by email. You also can check it on the church website or on Facebook.

We have been faithful throughout Advent. Let us be faithful during the Lenten journey, as well. I am proud of you in Jesus as prisoners of Jesus Christ.

In His name,
Pastor Jacob



What is Lent?

Lent is a season of the Christian Year when Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

When is Lent?

Lent is the forty days before Easter, excluding Sundays, because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithing of time). Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter. In 2015, Lent lasts from February 18 (Ash Wednesday) until April 5 (Easter).

What is Mardi Gras? What does that have to do with JESUS??

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday." It refers to the day before Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent). Because Lent always starts on a Wednesday, the day before is always a Tuesday. It's called "Fat" or "Great" because it's associated with great food and parties. Mardi Gras is February 17 this year.

In earlier times, people observed Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. They didn't want to be tempted by sweets, meat and other distractions in the house, so they cleaned out their cabinets. They used up all the sugar and yeast in sweet breads before the Lenten season started, and fixed meals with all the meat available. It was a great feast! Through the years, Mardi Gras has evolved (in some places) into a pretty wild party that has little to do with preparing for the Lenten season of repentance and simplicity. Oh, well. Christians still know its origin, and hang onto the true Spirit of the season.

So the real beginning of Lent is Ash Wednesday?

Yes. Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras, usually includes a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God, and return our lives toward Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to changing our lives over the next forty days so that we might be more like Christ. In an Ash Wednesday service, usually a minister or priest marks the sign of the cross on a person's forehead with ashes.

Why ashes?

In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

Where do the ashes come from?

On the day we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little water (like tears) or oil. It's symbolic.

What do Christians do with ashes?

At an Ash Wednesday service, folks are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. The minister will make a small cross on their foreheads by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness. It's a powerful, non-verbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

So what is LENT?

At Jesus' baptism, the sky split open; the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus; and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Spirit, where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time in the wilderness, he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterward, he was ready to begin his ministry.

Why “DO” Lent? How do I start?

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It’s pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work.

Lent is a great time to “repent” -- to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It’s a 40-day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. You might try one of these practices for Lent:

FASTING: Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that’s not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, TV, soft drinks, cigarettes or meat, as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some *activity*, like worry or reality TV, to spend time outdoors enjoying God’s creation. What do you need to let go of or “fast” from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life, in terms of what you eat, wear, or do?

SERVICE: Some Christians take something *on* for Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, co-worker or friend every day of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

PRAYER: Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God.

Christians from many different traditions celebrate Lent. How will you use the time to grow closer to God?

Top Ten List: THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

- 10. Try an electronic fast.** Give up TV, Facebook, texting, tweeting, email and all things electronic for one day every week. (or every day of Lent!) Use the time to read and pray.
- 9. Start a prayer rhythm.** Say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear an ambulance, or check your email. Before you text someone, pray for him or her.
- 8. Read one chapter in the Bible each day.** (Matthew is a good book to start with. Psalms, too.)
- 7. Forgive someone who doesn’t deserve it** (maybe even yourself).
- 6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee.** Give the money you save to the church as extra mile giving, to be used for mission/outreach projects.
- 5. Create a daily “quiet time.”** Spend 30 minutes a day in silence and prayer.
- 4. Cultivate a life of gratitude.** Write someone a thank-you letter each week, and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way.
- 3. Be kind to someone each day.**
- 2. Pray for others you see** as you walk to and from classes, or drive to and from work.
- 1. Volunteer one hour or more each week** with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home, prison ministry, or the EUMC food ministry.

Help the Altar Guild

Emmanuel UMC has an altar guild. Our responsibility is to see that the sanctuary is clean and properly decorated for services. This includes changing the paraments; polishing the brass; and arranging for votive candles, altar flowers, flowers for Christmas and Easter, and banners. We don't have meetings. Everyone knows their duties. Flowers-Lynne Miller, Ruth Smith, Bob Miller and crew; paraments, votive candles-Kathryn Griffin; banners-Pat Allen, Carol Clatterbuck, Barbara Butcher and anyone else who wants to work with them; polishing the brass-Ann Rowland. Thanks to John and May Stewart for polishing in the past. Everyone is invited to help with any of these activities. If you have questions, please ask Kathryn Griffin.



Sing in the Choir



YOU can sing in the choir! In the near future, the choir will invite you to sing with us during the service. This will not require attending a Thursday rehearsal. We will meet in the sanctuary at 10:45 am and practice a familiar hymn or anthem. If you are in Sunday school, come late. Teenagers and elementary school people are welcome. You can sing any part you want. STAY TUNED! Any questions, ask Kathryn Griffin. (I'm at the organ).

Votive Candles During Lent

Votive candles will be available again during Lent. We invite you to light one for a loved one before the service, after Communion, or after the service. These candles should remain burning between services. Please use the light sticks to light your votive, bringing the light stick to the candle. Do not remove the votive candle from the rack. After lighting the candle, douse the lighted end of the stick in the vase full of sand.



Second Sunday Lunch

Bring a delicious dish and come to the 2nd Sunday Lunch on February 8th at 12:30 pm. After our meal, we will do a Valentine craft project. The UMW will take the valentines to the Crescent Nursing Home for the patients to enjoy. So COME! Enjoy the FUN!!!

Candied Pecans Available on February 1 and 8



The United Methodist Women still have some candied pecans for sale. They are DELICIOUS!!! These special candies will make a Wonderful VALENTINE gift. They sell for \$10 a bag, and will be available at the church on Sunday, February 1. We also will be selling them at the 2nd Sunday Lunch on February 8th. Don't miss out! For more information, call Karen Mackey at 301-937-3301.



Angel Tree

Many thanks to everyone who participated in providing a merry Christmas to the Angel Tree children. You helped make the season bright with your love and generosity!

Prayer Ministry

By Ann Anderson and Ernie Kilbourne, co-chairs



The Prayer Ministry continues its work in 2015. This group of dedicated ladies meets with Pastor Jacob twice a month. We go over the names of people who need prayers that the congregation and others have given us. Pastor Jacob prays for them. Then, we write a note to each person and continue to pray for them daily.

There also is a Telephone group (for those who cannot come to the meetings) who get the names by phone and call the next person on the telephone list. They also pray.

Would you like to join us? We need men, also!!

United Methodist Women—Welcoming Women in All Stages of Life

The United Methodist Women would like to extend a special invitation to all women at Emmanuel UMC and the community to meet and greet us on **Saturday, February 14, 2015, noon**. We will share a pot luck meal, followed by a presentation in the Fellowship Hall at EUMC.

We welcome all women, including those who may be divorced, retired, new mothers, recently unemployed, single mothers, widows, women grieving the loss of a family member or a victim of abuse. There may be someone reading this invitation who may be in one of these phases, as well. You may want to meet new friends, reconnect with old ones, or simply want to communicate in a safe space.

Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

For more information, please contact Jane Grays at LadyJaneGra@aol.com or 301-937-6392.

Imagine No Malaria

Jesus called us to “do unto others,” and you did. We connected with United Methodists across the globe to end deaths by malaria. Emmanuel UMC was one of the many churches in the Baltimore-Washington Conference whose monetary donations enabled the conference to exceed the \$2.1 million goal. On Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2014, EUMC sent the conference \$765 for the *Imagine No More Malaria* campaign, and the funds were matched. Emmanuel has additional monies collected from loose change jars and individual donations which will be sent to the treasurer of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Malaria is preventable, treatable, and beatable. Struggling countries will continue to help people eradicate this killer disease by providing insecticide-treated bed nets, through education, and through trained health care workers. We thank you again for reaching out to our global neighbors.

In His Service, Jane Grays, INM Co-coordinator

Altar Flowers

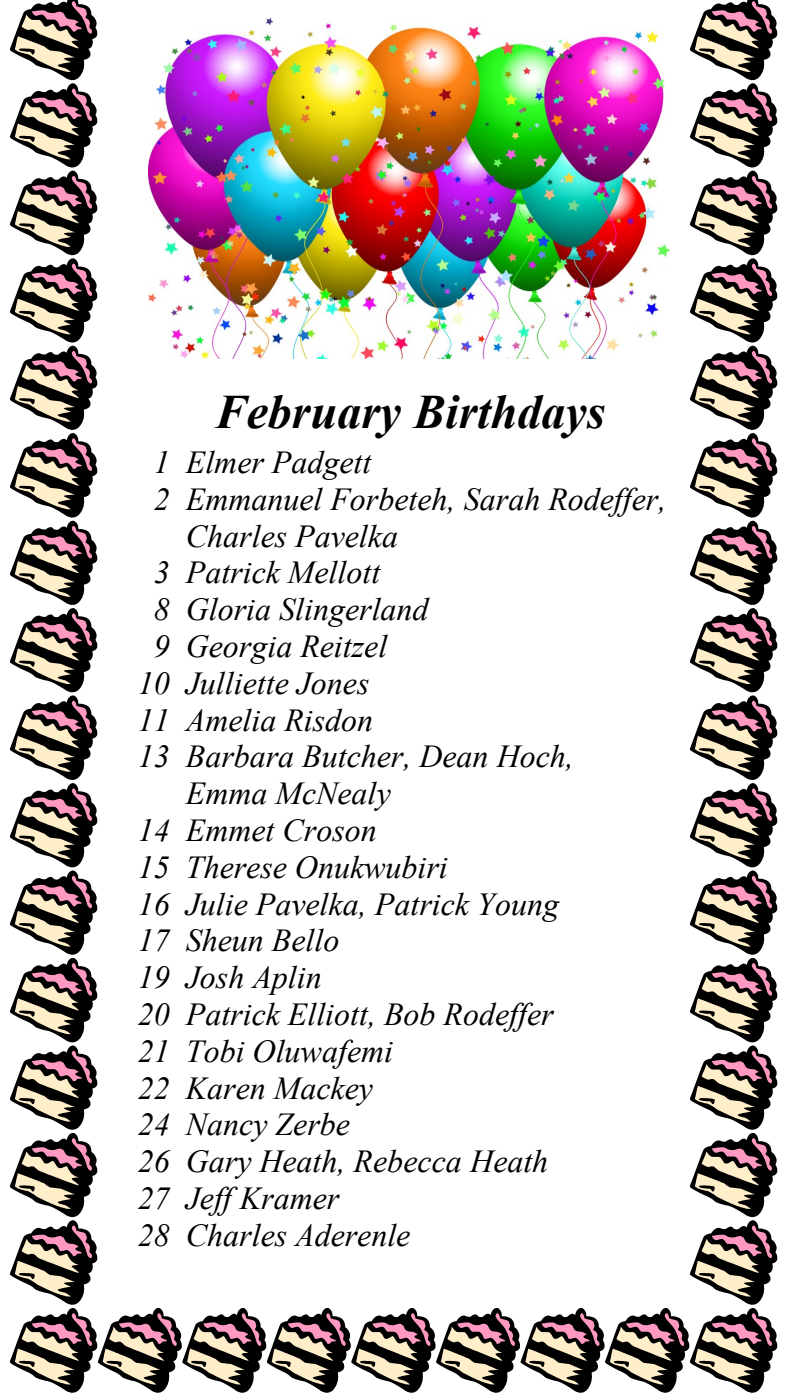


Flowers are available for the whole month of February. The flower chart for 2015 is posted in the Narthex next to the mailboxes. Arrangements are \$30. Please fill out a Flower Request Form when you sign up and leave it in the office mailbox.



February Birthdays

- 1 Elmer Padgett
- 2 Emmanuel Forbeteh, Sarah Rodeffer, Charles Pavelka
- 3 Patrick Mellott
- 8 Gloria Slingerland
- 9 Georgia Reitzel
- 10 Julliette Jones
- 11 Amelia Risdon
- 13 Barbara Butcher, Dean Hoch, Emma McNealy
- 14 Emmet Croson
- 15 Therese Onukwubiri
- 16 Julie Pavelka, Patrick Young
- 17 Sheun Bello
- 19 Josh Aplin
- 20 Patrick Elliott, Bob Rodeffer
- 21 Tobi Oluwafemi
- 22 Karen Mackey
- 24 Nancy Zerbe
- 26 Gary Heath, Rebecca Heath
- 27 Jeff Kramer
- 28 Charles Aderenle



February Anniversaries

- 2 Katie & John Kaufmann
- 4 Mary Lou & Donald Galloway



Moving Day

After 26 years in Beltsville, Cheryl and I sold our house and bought another in the Victoria Falls community. Our new address is 7118 Piney Woods Pl, Laurel, MD 20707. Our telephone numbers remain the same.

Jane and Cheryl Grays

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9 & 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>5:30 pm Super Bowl Party</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 7 pm ESOL</p>	<p>4 7 pm Woman's Community Club of Beltsville</p>	<p>5 1 pm Widow's Group, TJ's</p> <p>7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6 7 pm Maranatha Choir</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Boy Scout Sunday</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>Second Sunday Lunch</p>	<p>9 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</p> <p>7 pm Trustee Meeting</p>	<p>10 10 am Prayer Fellowship</p> <p>7 pm ESOL</p>	<p>11 6 pm Worship Committee</p>	<p>12 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>13 7 pm Maranatha Choir</p>	<p>14 8:30 am Church Family Breakfast</p> <p>12 Noon UMW General Meeting</p>
<p>15 Pre-Shrove Sunday</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>16 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle</p>	<p>17 7 pm ESOL</p>	<p>18 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle</p> <p>12 Noon Dorcas Circle</p> <p>7 pm Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>19 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20 11 am Community Place Caf�</p> <p>7 pm Maranatha Choir</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9 & 11:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>12:30 pm Youth Fellowship</p>	<p>23 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group</p>	<p>24 10 am Prayer Fellowship</p> <p>7 pm ESOL</p>	<p>25 7 pm Church Council</p>	<p>26 7 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27 7 pm Maranatha Choir</p> <p>7 pm Food Prep</p>	<p>28 10 am Food Distribution</p>

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
11416 Cedar Lane
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7114
Web: www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net
Address Service Requested

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