

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

February 2018

A Vibrant Multi-Cultural Church

Our Mission: To share the light of Christ with all people



Greetings! I hope that you are hanging in there during the cold winter weather. During December and early January, the church observed Advent, Christmas Eve and, on January 7, Epiphany Sunday. I am proud of your faithfulness during the Advent season.

We started a new year, 2018, with the installation of new church officers. The 2nd Sunday fellowship luncheon resumed in January, although it was a cold day. I give special thanks to Emmy Lear, who coordinated it for a long time. Now she is ready to pass the responsibility on to someone else. Fortunately, Tammy White, a new member, is willing to take it over.

We are getting close to another important Christian season, Lent. It will start on February 14th with Ash Wednesday. I expect you to be faithful again during the 2018 Lenten season. This year, the Ash Wednesday service will be held at Queens Chapel UMC.

I always wonder why Christmas and Lent are so close together on the calendar. The gap between them is just one-and-a-half months. During Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We participate in the suffering of Jesus during Lent. It is always difficult for me to separate the two different feelings. If they were farther apart, it would be easier for me to keep them separate. On the other hand, I think Christmas and Lent might represent the opposite aspects of life - good and bad, joy and sadness. Life is not always good, nor is it always bad. Every day, good and bad things pop up. Therefore, we need to be prepared for whatever might happen. This is what life is all about.

During Lent, I expect the church and church members to fully participate in not only the suffering of Jesus, but also the suffering of others, the reality of evil, and the dark side of life. If we experience illness, we appreciate health and life more. This also is true of spirituality. If we are able to reflect on suffering, we are able to appreciate joy. I hope that this year, Lent will provide a good opportunity to reflect on spirituality, get humility, and thank God and life.

Every time I approach Lent, I think about how dangerous it is to be inflexible in one's thinking. When Jesus started his public ministry, religious leaders couldn't recognize and accept the Messiah. In the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), there are several confrontations between Jesus and the religious leaders. Many of the conflicts and confrontations grew out of the religious leaders not liking the form and style of Jesus' ministry. For example, they questioned why Jesus healed people on the Sabbath, why Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors, and why the disciples ate grains on the Sabbath. They did not pay attention to the content of Jesus' ministry – how well Jesus took care of people and his beautiful, wonderful messages and sermons. Jesus was firm, not flexible, in loving and taking care of people. But he was flexible in the matter of style and form. The religious leaders weren't flexible. They thought that everyone in Israel had to keep the rules and laws. They were so upset that they put Jesus on trial and on the cross. It demonstrates how dangerous and destructive inflexibility is. Without flexibility, our theology, judgment, or thinking could be dangerous to those who have different styles and ways.

As we observe Lent, we need to check if our theology, values, thoughts, or judgments are flexible or inflexible. We need to remind ourselves how destructive inflexibility can be. The trial and death of Jesus were caused by inflexibility. Unless we change our inflexibility, we might make the same mistake the religious leaders made to Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to continue to support the church with your prayers, presence, ministry and gifts in 2018.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER



If it is decided to cancel Sunday worship because of bad weather, you will be notified by email if the church office has your email address.

A message also will be recorded on the church office telephone (301-937-7114) and posted on Emmanuel's Facebook page and website (www.eumcbeltsville.com).

BWC is Accepting Applications for Scholarships

Once again, the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be awarding scholarships for qualified students currently attending college, as well as high school seniors who plan to attend college in the fall of 2018. The application process closes March 7th. A variety of scholarships are offered to fit the diverse needs of students. To be considered for a scholarship, students must complete the online application, which includes uploading their current transcripts. In addition, students must provide contact information for their pastor and one additional church reference. For details about the individual scholarships or to apply for a scholarship, visit:

www.bwcumc.org/administration/finance/local-church-resources/scholarships/



WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

by Lorna Marselas

Another woman mentioned in the Bible is Elisheba. She is mentioned only once, as part of the genealogy of a man. Elisheba was Moses' sister-in-law, the wife of his brother Aaron. Elisheba and Aaron had four sons — Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. God called Aaron a prophet and gave him the role of speaking for his brother Moses, which left the responsibility of raising the children to Elisheba. Her faithfulness in caring for both their physical and spiritual well-being is evidenced by the fact that all four became priests. (Exodus 6:23)

Health and Wellness

by Ilene Forsbacka



With the beginning of a new year, we think about improving our health. February is Heart Month, and I would like to remind folks to **know your numbers!** I do blood pressure (BP) checks the last Sunday of each month. I leave the monitor in the Powell Parlor for all to use anytime. It's easy to do, but I request you leave it where you find it. Check with your doctor for your BP range, as it may change with chronic illnesses.

It's also important to check your cholesterol levels. LDL (the 'bad' cholesterol) should be below 100mg/dl. HDL (the 'good' cholesterol) can never be too high, and should be **at least** 40 mg/dl. Triglycerides should be below 150 mg/dl.

What is Black History Month?

Shared by Jane Grays

Black History Month celebrates the contributions made by African-Americans to the history of the United States. The U.S. observes National African-American History Month in February of each year.

Why is black history celebrated in February?

In 1915, historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which later became the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History. This organization inaugurated the first formal acknowledgement of African-Americans' place in U.S. history by designating the week that included February 12 as "Negro History Week" in 1926. February was chosen because it was the month of famed African-American abolitionist Frederick Douglass' birthday, and the week of February 12 was selected because that date was President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Who started Black History Month?

In the late 1960s, the Black United Students at Kent State University voted to expand Black History Week into Black History Month. This designation expanded to other academic institutions in the early 1970s. In 1976, President Gerald Ford acknowledged the observance of Black History Month, and Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan continued that tradition.

In 1986, Congress passed a law officially designating February as Black History Month, and called upon the President to recognize the designation with a proclamation encouraging Americans to observe it with appropriate ceremonies and activities. In 1996, the Senate passed a resolution recognizing Black History Month and the achievements of black senators. Since 1996, each President has issued proclamations recognizing Black History Month.

Youth Group Update, by Rick Bergmann

The youth spent much of the fall giving back. They gave up their weekends to host several programs for local families and residents in Beltsville and the surrounding neighborhoods. There are approximately 13 students involved, and they are learning what it means to be a part of the broader community.

In October, the teenagers planned and held a community Halloween party for toddlers through 6th graders. The students spent a Sunday afternoon decorating the 2nd floor of the Education Building and putting together food and games for the party. This outreach is an annual tradition for them, and they always have a good time.

In November, they planned and held the first Youth Sunday in many years. Both services included 13 youth who did everything: reading scripture, leading the prayers, running the sound board, ushering, and more. The two services were well-planned and went off without a hitch.

In December, the youth planned a family dinner and visit from Santa for church members and residents of the community. They cooked lasagna, baked rolls, and provided salad and desserts for almost 50 people. They spent the afternoon before the dinner setting up the Fellowship Hall to make it festive and fun for their guests.

The teens also spent time in December making cookies and Christmas ornaments. Then, they visited the residents of Hillhaven's memory care unit. During their visit, they delivered the cookies to the staff of the nursing home, sang Christmas carols to the residents, and then visited with them and gave them each an ornament for Christmas.

The youth are learning to live this lesson from the book of Matthew: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' They hope you can join them for one of their many community events that will occur in 2018!



Are you in
Middle School
or
High School?

JOIN THE

**YOUTH
GROUP**

and

**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

Annual Pancake Supper



Emmanuel will host its annual Pre-Shrove Pancake Supper on Saturday, February 10th at 5 p.m. Pre-Shrove pancake suppers are a tradition that reaches back centuries. Typically, they are held on the Tuesday preceding Ash Wednesday, which is called Fat-Tuesday. Emmanuel holds ours on the Saturday preceding Ash Wednesday because we teach ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes on Tuesday evenings.

The dinner will include all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage. There also will be gluten-free pancakes this year, a new addition to the menu. Besides the meal, there will be games for kids and activities for everyone. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4-12. Children 3 and under are free. You may buy tickets on Sunday mornings between services, as well as at the door on February 10th.

For more information, visit our website at www.eumcbeltsville.com or call the office at 301-937-7114.

United Methodist Women Happenings

January 28 – Installation of the UMW Executive Committee at the 11:15 a.m. service.



February 17, 12 Noon: Please join us for this General Meeting of the United Methodist Women in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a “Souper” Gathering of Women and Call to Prayer. All women are invited to join us for a luncheon of homemade soups and breads. If you need a ride or a babysitter, contact Emmy Lear at [301-937-7341](tel:301-937-7341) by February 15th.

March 17, 10 AM—1 PM: the annual Rummage Sale. Gently used items can be dropped off in the upstairs hallway beginning March 10th. Please mark them for the Rummage Sale.

Ways that you can help:

- Donate items for sale
- Donate items for the bake sale
- Help set up and price items daytime or evening on March 15-16 (times TBA)
- Help serve breakfast/lunch
- Clean up after the Sale and box remaining items for pick-up

Let a member of the Executive Committee know how you can help. (Men are always welcome to help!)

March 25th – Deadline for UMCOR Personal Hygiene Kits

For \$12, you can prepare a kit that provides basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Hygiene kits also are used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes. The deadline is March 25th so that the kits can be delivered to UMCOR on time. See the flier in the Narthex for instructions. The flier also will be provided in the March Lamplighter.

A REMINDER from the Trustees —

Please do not leave clothes, toys, or any other items in the corridor to be distributed to the people who come for food. (There is a sign in the corridor clearly stating this). We have enough at present.

The Food Distribution Ministry will let us all know when they have a need for particular items. Thank you for your continued support of this special ministry!

THANKS FOR HELPING!

by Ilene Forsbacka, Health and Wellness

I want to thank those who made donations to restock the first aid kits! I have placed them in the Sunday School building and church kitchen. I labeled the room doors and cabinets where they are located, so they should be easy to find. **There is one in the library, one in the Chester Stewart room, and one in the cabinet next to the stove in the kitchen.** I will check them periodically and restock as needed.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Advent Devotional booklet. It was a blessing to all who read the daily devotions. The Lenten Devotional booklet should be available to begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. God Bless you during this period of reflection.

~ ~ ~Kathy Mellott

2017 Christmas Card Project

Thanks to all the angels who participated in the 2017 Christmas Card Project for Community Place Café. It was a HUGE success! We were able to distribute 104 cards with stamped envelopes to all the diners at the café. We also distributed Emmanuel UMC pens for use in addressing the cards. (I guess you could say, Emmanuel's "stuff is on the streets," literally)!

If you recall, we had hoped that by enabling the many homeless people who eat at the café to send a Christmas greeting to whomever they wished, it might be the trigger that would reunite them with loved ones! One incident in particular may have helped us obtain our goal.

As a disheveled young man approached the table, he asked how many cards he was allowed to take. When asked how many he needed, he replied, "I would like to have three, please; one for my mother, one for my sister, and one for my brother." It brought tears to my eyes to think that, by the grace of God, we may have accomplished our mission. Miracles continue to happen!!! Praise to You, Lord.

Hugs to all for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018.

~ ~ Elsie Cline

Little Known Black History Facts MARY JANE PATTERSON (American, c. 1840-1894) Educator

It is no coincidence that Mary Jane Patterson, a pioneer in black education, was affiliated with two great institutions for black education: Oberlin College in Ohio and Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C.

In the mid-1850's, after gaining his freedom from slavery in North Carolina, Henry Irving Patterson moved his family to Oberlin, Ohio. There he took advantage of educational opportunities for his daughter Mary and her siblings, and for the black students who would later board at the Patterson home. Oberlin College already was known to provide high-quality, equal education for all—including black women. Today, their list of graduates is an illustrious one, with historical achievers such as Mary Jane Patterson prominent among them. Patterson graduated in 1862 and is now widely recognized as the first black woman to earn a four-year bachelor of arts degree from an American college.

Degree in hand, Patterson looked east for a teaching position and encountered Fanny Jackson, another stellar graduate of Oberlin and a suitable role model for Patterson's aspirations. Jackson, then a head principal, brought Patterson on as an assistant at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia, known today as Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, the nation's oldest historically black college. After marrying Rev. Levi J. Coppin in 1881, Fanny Jackson Coppin would become the namesake for another historically black educational institution, Coppin State University in Baltimore, MD.

Patterson ultimately made her mark in education at the Preparatory High School in the nation's capital. In 1871, she became the school's first black principal and is credited with developing educational programs and establishing the intellectual standards that led to its success. Under her leadership, the school (today named Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School) graduated the top black students in the United States and trained capable, committed black teachers. Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia (1995) states, "Her pioneering educational attainments and her achievements as a leading Black educator influenced generations of Black students."

~ ~ Submitted by Jane Grays

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INSPIRATION
FOR DAILY LIVING



United Methodist Now is a biweekly e-newsletter for church members to highlight examples of Christian living, share inspirational messages, and focus on what it means to be part of our connection.

To subscribe, go to the denominational website, www.umc.org, and click on the red box that says, "**GET A FREE UNITED METHODIST NEWSLETTER.**"

ALTAR FLOWERS

- February 4 — Cruz
- February 11 — Rodeffer
- February 18 — Cruz
- February 25 — Heath

The flower chart for 2018 is posted in the hallway next to the mailboxes at the end of the hall. Arrangements are \$30. Please fill out a Flower Request Form when you sign up and leave it in the office mailbox. **Indicate on the form whether you will take the flowers home or leave them for a shut-in.** (Flowers that you take home are not tax-deductible). Thank you.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1. Elmer Padgett
2. Sarah Rodeffer, Charles Pavelka
3. Patrick Mellott
9. Georgia Reitzel
13. Barbara Butcher, Dean Hoch, Emma McNealy
14. Emmet Croson
16. Glenn Colburn, Julie Pavelka, Patrick Young
17. Sheun Bello
20. Patrick Elliott, Bob Rodeffer
21. Tobi Oluwafemi
22. Karen Mackey
24. Nancy Zerbe
26. Gary Heath, Rebecca Kirby



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- 2. Katie & John Kaufmann
- 20. Pauli & Glenn Colburn

GUESTS visiting Emmanuel on one or more Sundays in November or December included:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Jillian & Molly Bredbenner | Pamela Lindley |
| Elizabeth & James Summers | Brett Gibson |
| Kerstin Landwer | |

We welcome you to our church family! Please worship with us again soon.

IN MEMORIAM



Christian love and sympathy to:

Andy, Ikenna, Andrea, Chinasa, and Joelle Onukwubiri and family on the death of his wife and their mother, Therese, on December 16th;

Janet Reed and family on the death of her father, John Sylvester Reed, on December 28th;

The family of Ray Doetsch, who passed away on December 29th;

Rev. Robert Rodeffer, Kathy Rodeffer, Mary Ann Vaughan, and their families on the death of his wife and their mother, Jean Rodeffer, on January 14th.

May the Holy Spirit comfort and sustain all of the families who are mourning the loss of a loved one, especially during the holiday season.

BE A GREETER OR SCRIPTURE READER!

Help make Emmanuel a friendly and welcoming congregation! Share the Word of the Lord! **Greeters and Scripture Readers are needed for all services in February and the rest of the year!!**

To volunteer to cover one or more Sundays as a Greeter or Scripture Reader, please put your name on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Sanctuary.

No experience necessary — we will train!

MEMORIAL & COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

are still available for just \$100. See the poster in the hallway. If interested, please fill out an order form and leave it in the offering plate or turn it in to the Church Office. "Your" brick will be added to the memorial square surrounding the Cross in the spring, when the weather is more favorable for bricklaying. Questions? Please contact **Ted Ladd at 301-937-6796 or TedLadd02@aol.com.**



To get in touch with Pastor Jacob, please call the Church Office at 301-937-7114, or email the Pastor at Jacob.Young@eumcbeltsville.com.

Please do not use his personal email address, because that makes the church's computer network vulnerable to worms, viruses and other undesirables. Thanks!

To contact Lamplighter editor Bobbie Deegan with an article, suggestion, or story idea, please phone her at **301-937-7070** or email her at **BobbieDeegan@aol.com**.

Contributions will be accepted gladly! Many thanks to Jane Grays, Rick Bergmann, and UMW (formerly Lorna Marselas and now Kathy Mellott) for their faithful participation.



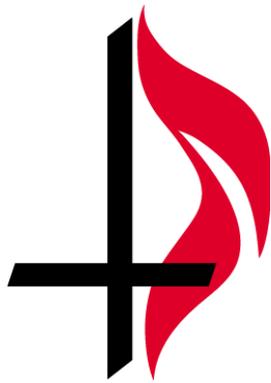
February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 7 pm Bible Study	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 5 pm NA
<i>4</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm UMW Executive Meeting 12:45 pm Chancel Choir	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 7 pm ESOL	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 7 pm Bible Study	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 5 pm PANCAKE SUPPER 5 pm NA
<i>11</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School & Sign Language Class 2 nd Sunday Lunch 12:30 pm Youth Fellowship 12:45 pm Chancel	<i>12</i> 7 pm Trustees 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<i>13</i> 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL	<i>14</i> ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT QUEENS CHAPEL UMC	<i>15</i> 7 pm Bible Study	<i>16</i> 11 am Community Place Café	<i>17</i> 12 Noon — UMW General Meeting 4 pm — Movie “Hidden Figures” 5 pm NA
<i>18</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School & Sign Language Class 12:45 pm Chancel	<i>19</i> 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle 7 pm SPRC	<i>20</i> 7 pm Sisters In Spirit Circle 7 pm ESOL	<i>21</i> 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle 7 pm Worship Committee	<i>22</i> 7 pm Bible Study	<i>23</i> 7 pm Food Prep	<i>24</i> 10 am Food Distribution 5 pm NA
<i>25</i> 9 & 11:15 am Worship Services 10:15 am Sunday School & Sign Language Class 12:30 pm Youth Fellowship 12:45 pm Chancel	<i>26</i> 7 pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<i>27</i> 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL	<i>28</i> 7 pm Church Council			

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