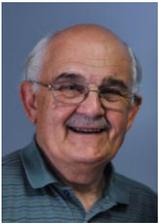


The Happenings!

Pleasant Grove UMC
March - May 2015



Notes from the Pastor

A Winter Blessing

This morning, as the sun was rising in a beautiful red and crimson sky, the temperature outside was -2 F. In some areas of central Maryland, a century old temperature record low had just been broken. From the warmth of our heated porch, I was able to marvel at the beauty of the winter. The recent snows had painted a white coating on the leaf covered floor of the woods which was in contrast with the stark gray of the tall slender poplar trees. The forest was beautiful. Against the white of the snow, the red-headed flickers darted from the suet to the seeds for their morning meal. And the coffee was hot and strong, as usual.

So began my morning quiet time. It is during this time that I bounce between giving thanks to God for another day to writing notes of what I should do during the day. It always has been hard for me to be singularly focused, so a pencil and paper along with the steaming coffee and the beautiful sight of the dynamics of the winter woods, always gets my day started on a positive note.

As many of you know the last six months have been stressful for Ann and me. With the beginning of the diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma of Ann and the multiple visits to the doctors coupled with the dynamics of the side-effects of chemotherapy all combine to add stress to our daily lives. The quietness of the winter woods and early morning birds feeding come together as a blessing.

Many of us know first-hand that God's blessing come in many forms. Sometimes it is very hard to see the blessings as they are masked by the cold winter days. But, when we look close – very close—in the quietness of the morning, we see and experience the blessing that comes – a sense of peace in the midst of chaos, beauty in the depths of the winter morning and the hope in life that comes as the birds flutter back and forth.

And then a robin appears – the certain sign that spring is nearing – and hope abounds as God sends me another blessed sign.

Blessed winter,

Dick



Lenten Worship

"...that you might have life..." **Jesus in the Gospel of John**

John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. He includes some of the loftiest and most loved verses in all the Bible: "The Word became flesh...", "For God so loved the world...", "You who are without sin cast the first stone...", "I am the resurrection and the life...", "I am the way, the truth and the life." His writing is filled with rich images and profound truths to help us understand who Jesus is, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that his readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "might have life in his name."

With the help of the extensive resources available from the UMC, The Church of the Resurrection, we will be looking at Jesus in the Gospel of John for Lent. Here is what we will be doing:

- February 22nd "A Different Love"
- March 1st "The Word Made Flesh"
- March 8th "The Miracles of Jesus"
- March 15th "The 'I Am' sayings of Jesus"
- March 22nd "The Farewell"
- March 29th "The Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion"
- April 5th "Eternal Life" - Easter



Education

Young Children class is led by Sara Taylor's and revolves around stories from the Bible which are enhanced by music, games and crafts. Sara and her daughters are very dedicated to the Christian education of the young children.

Older Children class led by Helen Kemp is looking into digging deeper into the events and stories about the life of Jesus. Crafts are becoming key to helping the youth explore and develop their faith.

Both classes meet in the Sanctuary for the opening portions of worship and then depart at 10:45 to the Tracey Building for their classes.

Adult Class Beginning March 15th we will begin a video based study of "The Passion -The purpose and person of Jesus Christ" Join your friends and neighbors at 9AM on Sunday morning to participate in this deep Bible study of the passion of Jesus.



**Sunday, March 29th
Palm Sunday -- 10:30 AM PGUMC**

We will again pause to remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with the palms and reflect upon the passion of Jesus.

**Thursday, April 2nd
Maundy Thursday -- 10:00 AM**

We will leave PGUMC and travel to the Seton Grotto located in Emmitsburg, MD to walk the "Stations of the Cross." **Please let Pastor Dick know if you plan to attend.**

**Thursday, April 2nd
Maundy Thursday -- 7:00 PM**
at Boring UMC.

**Friday, April 3rd
Good Friday worship - Noon at PGUMC**

This is the most solemn day in the Christian year. We will walk with Jesus through the crucifixion.

**Friday, April 3rd - Good Friday Worship
7:00 PM - Mt. Zion UMC, Upperco, MD**

**Sunday, April 5th - Easter Sunday
6:30 AM - Sunrise service at PGUMC
10:30 AM - Easter Morning Worship PGUMC**
Please be bold and invite your family, your relatives and friends to attend the worship services.



Pleasant Grove UMC MD



Thank-You Pleasant Grove UMC

To the Congregation of Pleasant Grove Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers that you sent for our father Joe Tracey and for all of the lovely visits and cards.

He was so fond of all of you and enjoyed his many years at Pleasant Grove Church and had many pleasant memories.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness,
Barbra, Joe and Gracie Beal & JoAnn Tracey



Getting to Know Us . . .
Spirit and Spice

Submitted By: Linda Morrow

The Spirit & Spice Prayer & Bible Study Group would like to invite you to join us as we study the Book of Daniel. The title of our study is "God's Blueprint for Bible Prophecy" by Kay Arthur. She states "If you love prophecy or are curious about the future, it will be helpful to familiarize yourself with the Book of Daniel. The Book of Daniel provides us with someone we can pattern our lives after." Daniel was a man highly esteemed by God because of his incredible faith.

Please join us from 10 AM until Noon, every Thursday of the month. We enjoy fellowship, followed by prayer and then bible study. If you know of anyone you would like us to pray for, please call Emily Bolte at 410-429-8960.

One of our greatest joys is supporting our list of missionaries. A collection is taken the first Thursday of each month to help finance their important work of sharing the gospel.

We look forward to having new members join us as we are entering a New Year.

**ADDITIONAL DIRECTORIES
ARE NOW AVAILABLE!**

A Special Thanks from Spirit and Spice

The Spirit & Spice Prayer and Bible Study Group would like to give a special thanks to Rev. Kenneth Bowen for his ongoing support of the missionaries that we sponsor. He stated he would like his recent gift to be in memory of Vernon Bolte, Roland King and Kay King. He has been supporting our missionaries for many years and is a wonderful blessing to our group.

We would also like to thank Pat Collins, a former member of our group who no longer lives in the area. She continues to support our missionaries. She recently sent us a very generous gift. We miss her so much and appreciate her love for the Lord and enjoy many fond memories of her years spent with us!



UMW and Shepherd's Staff Need Your Help!

UMW makes bags for Shepherd's staff for the homeless to be given when they come in for a shower. We need the little bottles of shampoo, soap, etc. We also can use small plastic empty bottles about 4" or less in height with tight tops in which they can then fill. These can be found at the Dollar Store. Food stamps do not pay for any of these items nor laundry powder. Please give your items for donation to Vola or Sharon if Vola is not available.



PLEASANT GROVE UMC ANNUAL FLEA MARKET & SILENT AUCTION

MAY 2ND 8:00AM - 2:00PM

Flea market space \$15

Item donations are needed for the silent auction!

For more information contact
Bob at 443-324-3296
Rain Date May 30th

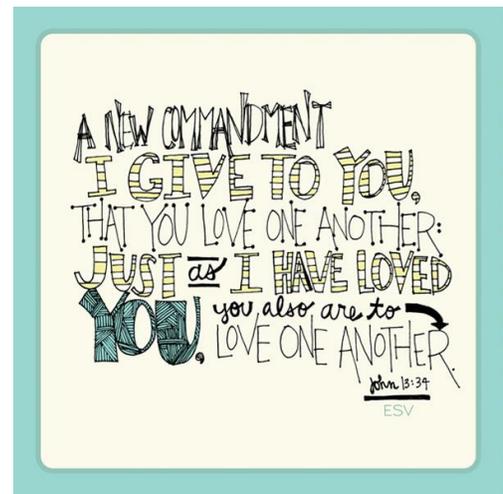


March, April & May Birthdays

3/11	Sally Fuller
3/13	Tim Harvey
3/20	Barbara Oliver
3/24	April Schriefer
3/27	Sharon Osborn

4/1	Tim Kemp
4/2	Sarah Sterling
4/4	Taylor Coffey
4/5	Eleni Karanikolis
4/7	John "Ed" Lambert
4/10	Christopher Clatterbuck
4/21	Vola Osborn
4/26	Joan Prall
4/30	Miranda Albee

5/11	Robin Montgomery
5/15	Claudia Hubbard
5/26	Don Coffey
5/27	Stacey (Wesley) Ford
5/31	Bob Kirkland



Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church
Established 1868
Our Mission is to Know, Share and Serve the Living Christ!
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15300 Dover Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136
Church phone: 410-429-5080
Email: pgchurch@verizon.net
On the Web at: WWW.PleasantGroveUMCMD.org