

Please note that our online newsletter is modified from our print edition. If you would like to receive our unmodified newsletter, please contact the church office at 717-944-6181 or eumch.org/contact-us



The Messenger

Evangelical United Methodist Church

157 East Water Street, Middletown, PA 17057
717.944.6181 www.eumch.org

From the Pastor's Pen



Easter comes with great expectations. Expectations of our favorite Easter hymns. Flowers in the sanctuary. The chill of worshipping outside for our sunrise service. An Easter meal with family and friends.

For some, they focus the expectations on Easter day. For me, I have found that I look forward to both Holy Week and Easter Day. Holy Week encompasses the triumph of Palm Sunday. Experiencing the intimacy of Jesus' last words before his execution on Maundy Thursday. Journeying with Jesus to the cross on Good Friday.

Singing "Up from the grave he arose;" or "Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!" has extra power and meaning when you can go through the whole Holy Week experience. The joy and triumph of Easter is deeper and realer when you prepare your heart by experiencing all that Holy Week offers.

Please consider joining us not only for our Easter services but also our Holy Week services as well. As you make plans to attend, consider inviting family and friends who do not have a church home. This is a time of year; people are more open to invitations. I look forward to worshipping with you this Holy Week and Easter Day.

Technology Project Thank You

Last year, with the help of the trustees, finance committee, and church council, I proposed upgrading our office's computer equipment and creating a Zoom Room. The computers in the office were really struggling. It was time to replace them.

I proposed a Zoom Room hoping we might have Bible studies, small group sessions, and meetings differently. While not meeting in-person because of the pandemic presented many challenges, it offered some persons the opportunity to take part who might not normally be able to take part. When you can call in or join using the Zoom app, people could attend our meetings and Bible Studies that might normally not be able to do so. I hoped that when the pandemic waned, we could try something new.

With the Zoom Room, we can now meet in-person and have people join us via Zoom. While I found getting the room up and running to be complicated and work intensive, using the room now that we have set it up is easy. When we invite the room to a meeting or Bible study, it takes pushing a button on a touchscreen twice to start the session with video. I am thankful for Stephen, Justin, Jamal, Warren, and our other helpers in setting it up.

If you do not have the time to travel, you need to watch a child; you do not want to drive; you feel under the weather; you are in the middle of a project, whatever the reason, you can still join us for a Bible study or a meeting. While the Zoom Room has some acoustic issues that I will ask the trustees to help us mitigate, we have now successfully used it multiple times.

Thank you for your generosity and support. All of this is only possible because of your giving. I am so thankful Evan took my concerns about our computers seriously and supported the vision of a Zoom Room. We as a church are so blessed by your faithful support. You were so generous; we actually had some funds leftover. Which was a great blessing when our financial secretary needed a computer to enter information into Servant Keeper and our children's education director needed a computer for her work with our children and youth. Again, thank you!



April 3 (5th Sunday in Lent)
Series: How is it w/ your soul?
Scripture: John 12: 1-8

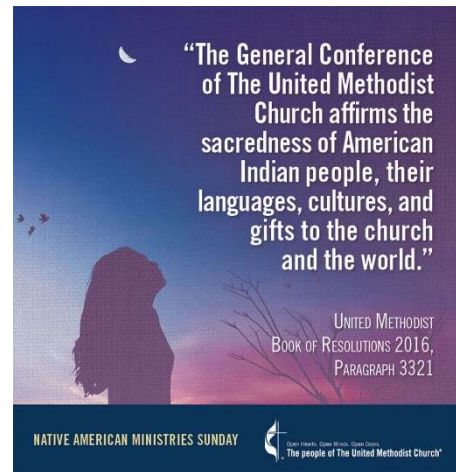
April 10 (Palm/Passion Sunday)
Series: How is it with your soul?
Scripture: Luke 22: 54-61

April 14 (Maundy Thursday) 7pm
Focus: Maundy Thursday
Scripture: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

April 15 (Good Friday)
7pm in the sanctuary
Hosting Highspire & Wesley UMC

April 17 (Easter Sunday)
Sunrise 6AM Londonderry Elementary
Scripture: Luke 24: 1-12
10:15 AM Evangelical sanctuary
Scripture: John 20: 1-18

April 24 – Rev. Cliff Flick
With a dramatic monologue of Judas
Iscariot



May 1 (Native American Ministries Sunday)
Focus: Jesus mission to others
Scripture: Luke 4: 13-30

May 8 (Festival of the Christian Home/Mother's Day)
Focus: Calling of Levi/criticism for eating with sinners/doctor for sinners
Scripture: Luke 5: 27-31

May 15
Focus: Neighbor not other
Scripture: Luke 10: 25-37

May 22 (Heritage Sunday)
Focus: Jesus heals the leper/only Samaritan comes back
Scripture: Luke 17: 11-21

May 29 (Ascension Sunday)
Focus: Outreach and Change
Scripture: Luke 19: 1-10

Don't forget the last Sunday of each month is **Hunger Fund Sunday**. Help us fill our canisters with change to benefit the Raider Pack program.



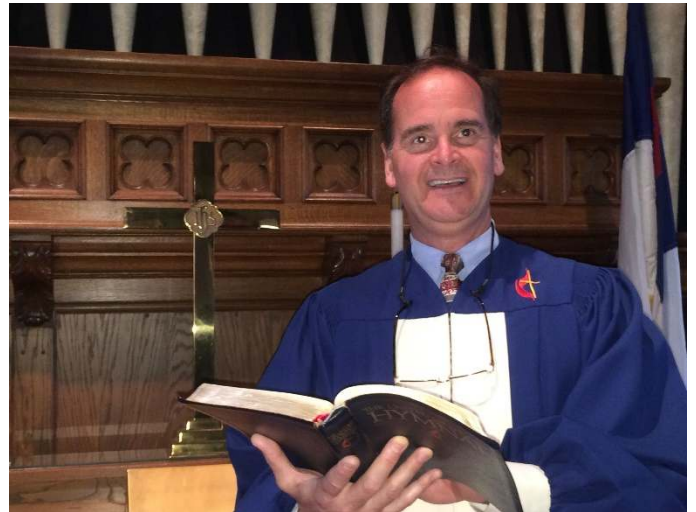
PASTORAL COVERAGE – Pastor Andrew will be on vacation starting Monday, April 18 through Sunday April 24. The Reverend Robert Ryder (Centenary/Wesley) will be covering pastoral emergencies.

Rev. Cliff Flick to present dramatic monologue in worship, Sunday April 24th:

Judas Iscariot represents the ultimate in misunderstanding. His refusal to change was his undoing. Whatever we choose to believe about the authenticity of his motives, his is potentially the story of every person. We are all vulnerable to the pressures of our times and the temptation to interpret everything in light of our favorite causes. We all share the tendency to misunderstand and to act tragically on that misunderstanding. Any one of us could, in the name of what we think is right, betray Jesus for a meager amount of wealth, prestige, or personal glory.

Come experience Pastor Cliff’s portrayal of Judas.

Learn more about Judas’ participation in God’s plan for the redemption of humanity. The worship service will also include an Earth Day focus for Children’s Time.



Welcome

Brooke

into our family
of faith
by Baptism

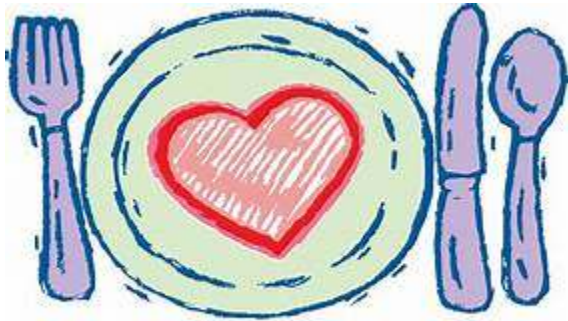
on Sunday,
March 27, 2022.



We are so grateful to all the

MEALS-ON -WHEELS
VOLUNTEERS

who helped deliver meals in
February. Our seniors are so
blessed by your compassion
and dedication. God bless!



COMMUNITY DINNER

Information on September, October and November dinners will be out in our next newsletter.

Our community dinners are back with one of our most popular entrees: Roast turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, beverage, and dessert. The first dinner is on April 11 and the second one is on May 9 from 4-6:00 p.m. (or until sold out) in the social hall. We will have dine in or take out available. Everyone is invited to enjoy a home cooked meal, meet new folks, and get reacquainted with perhaps someone you have not seen for a while. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children under age 12. Hope to see you there.



Mark your calendar: Vacation Bible School on Water Street will be held in **June** of 2022. VBS will run from 6 until 7:30. Stay tuned for more information as we get the exact dates determined.



Bible Study

Pastor's Bible Study on Job

The book of Job wrestles with one of the biggest questions in life-why do bad things happen to good people? Many people in the time of the Old Testament believed that if God was happy with you would be materially blessed. If you were suffering, God must be upset at you. Most Old Testament books have this perspective to greater or lesser degrees. The book of Job was included in the Bible as a challenge to this perspective. Over the course of six weeks, we will explore how the Book of Job speaks to the questions and problems we wrestle with in our daily lives. Job's questions are often our questions. The study will be both on Zoom and in Room 3 (next to the fellowship hall) at the church facility. Each session will start at 7 PM and be about an hour long.

April 25-Introduction (Job 1 & 2)

May 2-Why? (Job 3-5)

May 9-God on trial (Job 9-10)

May 16 Miserable comforters (Job 15&16)

May 23 Looking for redemption, wisdom, meaning in pain, and monsters (Job 19: 21-29; 28: 12-28; 33: 14-30; 40: 15-24; 41: 1-4, 25-34)

June 6 Seeing God (Job 42)



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April/May 2022