

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



At one church I served, I helped with the youth group. Most of the youth did not have a church background. During one session, we raised a question "what is Easter?" As we started talking about Easter, one youth earnestly asked, with confusion on her face, "wait... I thought Easter was about celebrating bunnies." While many folks raised in the church would find this statement funny/sad, I imagine if you polled young people, many would have similar answers.

In our larger culture, many celebrate Easter as a secular event focused on bunnies, eggs, and chocolate. You can easily navigate through our society and miss the point. I would argue that even some folks who know on a technical level why we started observing Easter as Christians may miss the point of Easter too. Part of the reason is that some do not understand the context of Easter.

Many Christians skip Holy Week. They attend Palm Sunday and then they attend Easter Day. What they miss is Maundy Thursday/Good Friday. Skipping Holy Week means going from one celebration to the next. When we skip Maundy Thursday, we lose Jesus' challenge to love one another as a witness to our discipleship. Good Friday is even more challenging.

Good Friday raises so many questions. Can it be the Savior of the world would die for me? What was Jesus willing to suffer for our sakes? If Jesus died to atone sin, what sins in my life do I refuse to surrender? Maundy Thursday/Good Friday gives us the context to better understand Easter.

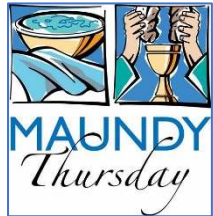
Observing Holy Week helps us better appreciate and celebrate Easter day. I invite you to be part of our Holy Week and Easter day services. To fully appreciate Easter, we need to observe Holy Week. Also consider inviting someone to join us for our services. Easter is one of the worship experiences that breaks through into our larger culture-despite all the bunny talk. It is a time when folks are more open to coming to church. I hope to see you as we commemorate Jesus' last week and celebrate his glorious resurrection.



Don't forget to invite
a **friend** to
Easter Sunday
Service!

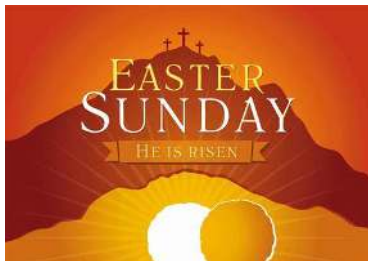
Spring Worship Schedule

April 2 (Palm/Passion Sunday)
10:15am Worship
Sermon Series: The God Story
Scripture: John 12: 12-19
11:00 Potluck Luncheon



April 6 (Maundy Thursday)
7pm Service
Scripture: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

April 7 (Good Friday)
7pm Service
Passion Narrative the message



April 9 (Easter Sunrise)
6:30 am
Londonderry School
Scripture: Mat 28: 1-10
(Easter) 10:15am
Sermon Series:
The God Story
Scripture: John 20: 1-18

April 16 – Pastor Andrew on vacation
Worship led by our Youth and Young adults
11:00 am Cookies and Fellowship

April 23 (3rd Sunday of Easter)
Native American Ministries Sunday
Sermon Series: Turn It Around
Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

April 30 (4th Sunday of Easter)
Hunger Fund Sunday
Sermon Series: Turn It Around
Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16

May 7 (5th Sunday of Easter)
Sermon Series: Turn It Around
Scripture: Matthew 5: 21-26
11:00 am Potluck Luncheon



May 14 (6th Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day)
Sermon Series: Turn It Around
Scripture: Matthew
NO Cookie Sunday

May 21 – Pastor Andrew on vacation

May 28 (Pentecost)
Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21
Hunger Fund Sunday



June 4 – Peace with Justice Sunday
Pastor Andrew on vacation
11:00 am Potluck Luncheon

June 11 (2nd Sunday after Pentecost)
Summer Harvest for the Food Pantry
Sermon Series: Turn It Around
Scripture: Matthew 6: 25-34
NO Cookie Sunday

June 18 (3rd Sunday after Pentecost, Father's Day)
Scripture: Matthew 9:35 – 10:8
6:00pm VBS opening night

June 25 – Hunger Fund Sunday
Pastor Andrew on vacation



In an effort to keep the congregation aware of our financial situation, the finance committee has provided the following chart. This shows our current monthly expenses. It does not include yearly items such as property taxes and business licenses.

We have been running at a deficit for some time. In the past we have taken money from our

investment accounts to make up the difference. But with the current state of the stock market, we do not believe that is prudent. Our income for January 2023 was \$19,440. This was a 5-week month and so helped a lot. Our income for February was \$12,838. Please prayerfully consider helping us to meet our expenses more consistently.

Thank you, the members of the Finance Committee

Larry Greenawalt, Chairperson

Category/Vendor	Monthly Amount	Comments
Church Licenses	\$30.00	Servant Keeper software
Church Maintenance	\$200.00	Church/Parsonage
Church Supplies	\$300.00	
Conference - Shares of Ministries	\$3,800.00	
Conference - Pension	\$3,000.00	
Elevator	\$90.00	Maintenance contract
Marco Copier (black/color)	\$300.00	
Office Supplies	\$200.00	
Payroll Salaries	\$8,000.00	
Payroll Services	\$175.00	
Radio Station	\$160.00	\$40.00/service
Service Oil Company	\$398.00	Parsonage
Telephone/Internet (Verizon)	\$225.00	Church/Parsonage
UGI - Gas	\$1,200.00	
Vanco	\$55.00	Online giving service
Water/Electric/Sewage	\$1,000.00	Church/Parsonage
	\$19,133.00	

PASTORAL COVERAGE –These are the reverends who will be covering for Pastor Andrew while he is on vacation. Please contact them at the numbers listed as needed.

April 10-16, Pastor Bob Ryder, Centenary/Wesley.

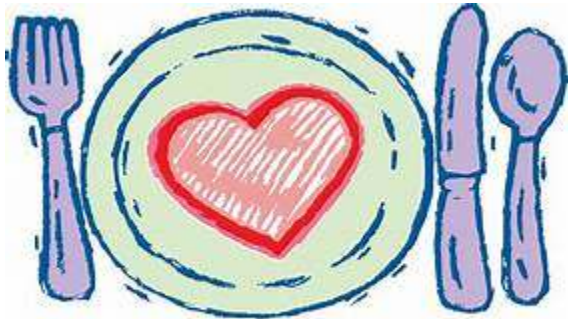
May 21-27, Pastor Adam Wells, Orthodox Presbyterian.

May 31-June 6, Pastor Amy Raser

June 24-June 30, Pastor Amy Raser



Geyers/Highspire



COMMUNITY DINNER

- April 15 Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Corn and Cranberry Sauce
- May 20 Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, and Applesauce
- June No dinner, summer break

All dinners include a dessert, dine in or take out. Adults are \$12.00 and children under 12 are \$5.00.

EXERCISE YOUR FAITH



This summer join Evangelical UMC during our 5-day long VBS. Mark your calendars now on June 18 – 22 from 6:00 to 7:30pm. Watch for more info and registration form to come!



After the close of God's Closet and Threads of Hope, we are attempting to find new homes for the clothes hangers (plastic, wire, wooden) and rolling Z Racks. The hangers are free to anyone who can use them. The Z racks are \$50.00 a piece. These are very sturdy and in excellent condition. They are perfect for extra storage of out of season clothing in a spare room or basement. If you or anyone you know would be interested in either of these items, please contact Ken Frisbie or Louise Morgan.



Sermon on the Mount: a beginners guide to the Kingdom of Heaven
Pastor's Sunday School Class

9 AM on Zoom or in Room 3 in the basement of the educational wing.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus preaches and teaches about the Sermon of Heaven. His invitation to his disciples is to live into the Kingdom of Heaven. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? How do we live into the Kingdom of Heaven? What should we make of Jesus' challenging teachings about loving our enemies and turning the other cheek? Can we really be perfect like our heavenly Father?

Participants should pick up a copy of Amy-Jill Levine's *Sermon on the Mount: a beginner's guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*. If you would like the church to order a copy of the book for you, please contact the church office (office@eumch.org or 717-944-6181). The cost of the book is \$12. If the cost of the book will be a problem, please talk to Pastor Andrew. If you would like to order through the church, please let us know by Sunday, April 9.

Schedule

Date	Assigned Reading	Topic
April 23	Introduction and Chapter 1	The Beatitudes
April 30	Chapter 2	The Extensions
May 7	Chapter 3	Practicing Piety
May 14	Chapter 4	Our Father
May 28	Chapter 5	Finding Your Treasure
June 11	Chapter 6	Living into the Kingdom

Ephesians

Pastor's Bible Study

7 PM on Zoom or in Room 3 in the basement of the educational wing.

Ephesians is a challenging and inspiring book of the Bible. Famous for the "Armor of God" passage. Controversial for the author's call for submission, especially in terms of husband and wife/slave and master. How do we submit to each other in Christ? In a world of war, Ephesians invites us into the peace of Christ. With so much division in the world and church, Ephesians invites us to "preserve unity of the Spirit" as a church. In April and May, Pastor Andrew will lead us through a study on Ephesians to see how this book speaks to us today.

Each study will be on Zoom and in-person on most Mondays in April/May. We will start at 7 PM for each class. The schedule is below. All are welcome.

Schedule

April 17-Introduction and Ephesians 1

April 24-Ephesians 2 and 3

May 1-Ephesians 4

May 8-Ephesians 5:1-6:9

May 15-Ephesians 6:10-24 and conclusion

UPCOMING GRADUATES: The time for caps and gowns will soon be here. Please contact the office with information of any 2023 graduates in our church family. We would like to be able to congratulate and honor them. The church phone number is 717-944-6181 or email office@eumch.org.



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Middletown, PA 17057-1888

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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****June 15, 2023 is the deadline for articles to be submitted for our next newsletter.****

April/May/June 2023