

THE MESSENGER

February 2021



Message from our Pastor

Love, Love, Love

Love. Love. Love. So, are you humming the famous lyrics of the Beatles yet? Love is the theme of February for so many. It is the month that we celebrate Valentine's Day. It is wonderful that we have a day to express these feelings. Yet how many days is love unexpressed?

Love is the theme throughout the Bible. The love of the Bible is not one of feelings, but of action. I was reminded of this again as we have been studying Epic of Eden by Sandra Richter. Love is an action which is present all throughout the Bible. Some would say that it is God's love letter to us. It demonstrates that God is willing to go to great lengths to have a relationship with us.

While Valentine's Day is part of February, the beginning of Lent is also present. In fact, it begins with Ash Wednesday just a few days after Valentine's Day this year. How appropriate that we focus on love and the sacrifice Christ made for us. Lent calls us to a time of self-examination while we focus on the acts of God's love to redeem us. He was even willing to sacrifice Jesus, "For God so LOVED the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) This is love with no strings attached.

So, what are we to do with this love? How do we respond to such a gift? We are to follow Jesus' Command to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39) Loving God is expressed through prayer (heart), study of God's word – the Bible (mind), and worship (soul). When we love God, we will love others because God loves them. (Remember, the love of the Bible is not just feeling but action.) Jesus said; "If you love me, obey my commandments." (John 14:15) Again, love is an action. It is one of obedience. Love has many expressions and forms. We need to open our lives to the Holy Spirit and the Spirit's leading and prompting in those actions. So, this year, may it not be only Valentine's Day, but may we love daily through word and deed. *

"For God so LOVED the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Around the Church

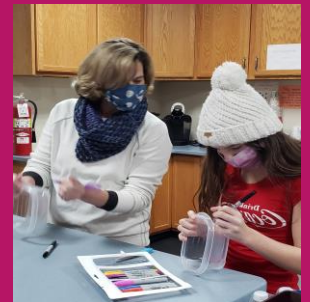
Youth Group makes chicken soup for "shut ins."



prepping soup



Cutting some veggies



decorating the to go containers

Outreach:

Reaching out into our Community to make a difference

By Larisa Thomas c240-994-5042, larisa97thomas@atlanticbb.net

Upcoming Outreach Opportunities For Our Congregation:

Feb. 3	10-12	CUMC Food Pantry
Feb. 17	10-12	CUMC Food Pantry
Feb. 17-20	5:30	Casseroles Needed for Homeless, delivered to KIUMC

Shelter Dinners Needed February 17-20

The Homeless Shelter is still only requesting our assistances with providing meals due to COVID. They are looking for a main dish, a meat and veggie casserole or pasta type casserole. A cooked vegetable side or fully prepared green salad would be nice, especially with a pasta dish. Casseroles should be fully cooked, hot and ready to serve when dropped off in a throw-away pan. Sandi or Karen will be at KIUMC each evening at 5:30 to take in the meal, transfer it into take-out boxes and deliver to our guests. I will be in contact with you to keep you updated on the number of guests we are feeding and any food allergies. We are currently serving 6 people. Sign up at Sign Up Genius (link on CUMC Website under Serve Tab) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094BAAA62EA75-shelter> or call/text Larisa.

Food Pantry

Before Christmas CUMC members Lynda Palmatary and Lisa Walls collected and handed out giveaways of toys and Christmas decorations during the Food Pantry. The amount and variety was huge! This created our biggest Wednesday Food Pantry attendance of 43 households. Our volunteers worked hard and distributed an incredible amount of food, most of which came from the Northbrook Food Drive. The guests were so thrilled with their decorations and gifts.

WOW! And another THANK YOU to the ACME Markets Foundation again! CUMC Food Pantry was selected to receive a generous amount of gift cards from the Fight Hunger Food Drive and ACME's generous customers. We will be dispersing them in the coming month. This will help supplement the items we do not have, like fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy.

Food Lion customers were not outdone. Over the holidays they donated Feed A Family Boxes, which contain the ingredients for a complete meal. Our Centreville Food Lion collected over 1,500 boxes! CUMC picked up over 500 of these boxes, distributing them through the food pantry and the backpack program. We were able to generously bless people with taking as many of these boxes as they needed.

I am so proud of our local community. Everyone has been so generous with donations, both monetarily and in food. We recently received a donation drive from Kennard Elementary School, which filled our shelves after the Christmas rush. We have also received a very generous donation from the Jeff Davis Post, who have consistently supported our Food Pantry. Thank you to all!

Volunteer: We still have need of a few more helpers with the Wednesday Food Pantries to aid guests in selecting food.

Donations Needed: Donations we can use are reusable bags/paper bags, toiletries, cereal, side dish packets, and hamburger helper.

Farewell Pastor Robyn

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

As a church, Centreville United Methodist Church has shared in a wonderful season with Rev. Robyn Brown. We have experienced the joys of Robyn beginning her ministry and her ordination as a Deacon in The United Methodist Church.

As many are aware, Robyn has been serving as a chaplain for Compass Hospice on a part time basis. It has been her hope to eventually become a full-time chaplain. The time is now. Robyn will begin her full-time position with Compass Hospice on February 1, 2021. In order to take on this new role, she will be stepping down from her position as

Visitation Pastor here are CUMC effective January 31, 2021.

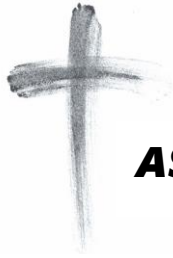
While we celebrate with Robyn, we will miss her and want to wish her blessings on her ministry as Chaplain for Compass Hospice and Pastor to St. James and Salem UM Churches. *



**Centreville United
Methodist Church**
608 Church Hill Rd.
Centreville, MD 21617
410-758-0868

Sunday Worship

Contemporary Service	8:40 am
Traditional Service	11:00 am
Sunday School	9:50 am
Youth Group (6 th – 12 th grade)	5:30 pm



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Although Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, it does not appear in the rituals of The United Methodist Church or our predecessor denominations until the 20th century.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During a pandemic, the worship committee worked to find alternatives to the imposition of ashes keeping your health and safety in mind. We will offer an online worship service the evening of Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7pm. As an act of preparing for Lent, we encourage everyone to write a prayer or letter of confession (introspection). Beginning Sunday, January 31, 2021 there will be a container to place the prayers/letters in the church narthex. There will be paper and pencil there as well. You are welcome to bring one from home or spend a few minutes in the sanctuary preparing your offering. The container will be available up until noon on Ash Wednesday. It will be during this time that they will be burned our offering to God. This will be recorded and included in the Ash Wednesday worship service online.

We pray that God will use this time of preparation to draw us in that we may experience the gift of Christ. Remember Christ shared his mission statement as expressed in Isaiah 61:1 and recorded in Luke 4:18; "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free." *

Red Sand Project

Human Trafficking Awareness

The Red Sand Project educates the public and brings awareness to human trafficking. Participants pour sand into cracks on sidewalks to symbolize those who "fall through the cracks" and use this time to start a discussion into the causes and effects of human trafficking and exploitation.

The sand represents victims of Human Trafficking who have slipped through the cracks, yet may be hiding in plain site.

Join For All Seasons Behavioral Health and Rape Crisis Center to help raise awareness. Support the Project by filling a sidewalk crack outside of your building anytime during the **week of Jan 25th -29th**



To participate email: kmirando@forallseasonsinc.org
We will deliver the sand kit to you.
Then follow the steps below:

- Fill a sidewalk crack outside your building with red sand.
- Snap a photo with your phone.
- Text or email the photo to Kristy Mirando 443-995-1420 or kmirando@forallseasonsinc.org.



forallseasonsinc.org

CUMC FACEMASKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

If you would like to purchase a CUMC facemask, please contact Shelly at the church office at 410-758-0868 or office@centreville-umc.com. The cost of the mask is \$6.00.





This Lenten season will share in the sermon series that spends time in The Psalms, or songs. It is my hope to connect much of what some of us are feeling and direct us to Christ through each one.

The Psalms were originally sung. We do not have the tunes or detail other than the words, or lyrics. They are raw with emotion and expression. What we do know is that we connect on a different level with one another and God through the gift of music. It is this backdrop that we will venture closer and closer to the cross as we ask Jesus to search us and know us.

There are a couple of resources that may enhance this time even more. There are several artists that have recorded 40 of the psalms to familiar tunes/hymns. They are available to you along with daily devotions (online or you can purchase a book). To access both the music and devotions visit <https://soundtrackforlent.com/>

ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRPERSONS

Administrative Council

Jerry Thomas

Staff Parish Relations

Rhonda Knotts

Trustee

Henry Covington, Jr.

Finance

Todd Turner

Lay Leader

Will Covington

United Methodist Men

Dukes Meeks

Methodist Women

Phyllis Hoffman

Outreach

Larisa Thomas

CLERGY & OFFICE



Senior Pastor

Rev. Karen Handy

khandy@centreville-umc.com

Office Manager

Shelly Illemszky

office@centreville-umc.com

Newsletter ideas & article submissions should be sent to Shelly Illemszky at office@centreville-umc.com



...CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEBRUARY 2021

FEBRUARY 1

TRUSTEE MTG. – 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 2

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – 10 AM

FEBRUARY 3

FOOD PANTRY – 10AM-12PM

EPIC OF EDEN BIBLE STUDY – 1PM & 7:30PM

PRAISE BAND – 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 4

CHOIR – 6PM

JOY RINGERS – 7PM

FEBRUARY 9

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – 10AM

SPRC – 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 10

EPIC OF EDEN BIBLE STUDY – 1PM & 7:30PM

PRAISE BAND – 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 11

CHOIR – 6PM

JOY RINGERS – 7PM

FEBRUARY 12

BLOOD BANK – 10AM – 5PM

FEBRUARY 16

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – 10 AM

FEBRUARY 17

FOOD PANTRY – 10AM – 12PM

ASH WEDNESDAY VIRTUAL SERVICE – 7PM

FEBRUARY 18

CHOIR – 6PM

JOY RINGERS – 7PM

FEBRUARY 23

ADMIN. COUNCIL – 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 24

EPIC OF EDEN BIBLE STUDY – 1PM & 7:30PM

PRAISE BAND – 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 25

CHOIR – 6PM

JOY RINGERS – 7PM



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