



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

MARCH-APRIL 2020

the Clarion

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LENTEN STUDY WITH MOUNT JOY UMC

Our Lenten Group Study with Mount Joy UMC will begin at Mount Joy on Wednesday evening, March 4, from 6:30-8 pm. For four Wednesday evenings, we will meet for dinner, as well as, to watch and discuss Methodist Pastor Adam Hamilton's video series *Catch*, a comprehensive program for invitational evangelism. In these challenging times when the local church is declining in numbers, this newly updated resource shows us how to attract visitors to our church, connect them with our faith community, and help them learn to know, love, and serve God in the world. Please plan to be a part of this important relationship we share with Mount Joy and to learn how we can grow our church here at Saint Paul's. - *Pastor Dave*

RISE AGAINST HUNGER – SATURDAY, MARCH 14

The Mission's Committee has organized another Mission event with Rise Against Hunger on Saturday, March 14, from 9 am – noon, in Fellowship Hall. Our goal this year is to pack 14,000 meals of beans, grains, and nutritional supplements, for hungry people around the world. This year we are hoping to exceed the 40+ volunteers we had last year. Everyone is invited to attend and to bring a friend!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 9 Holy Thursday service at St. Paul's with Mt. Joy at 7:00 pm

April 10 Good Friday service at St. Paul's at 7:00 pm

April 11 Easter Service at 9:30 am

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAY – SATURDAY, MAY 2

Mark it on your calendar! The Mission's Committee has organized a workday with Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, May 2, at 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, in the city of Wilmington. We have room for 15 volunteers, age 15 and older. We will begin signing up volunteers in April. Look for more upcoming information in the Grapevine. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Dave.

THINKING OUT LOUD – PASTOR DAVE



IN HIS SERVICE

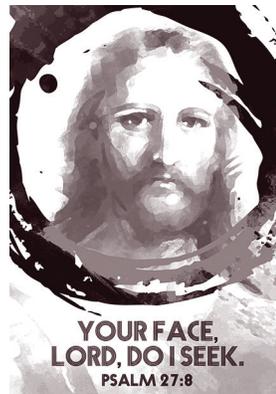
“Come, my heart says, ‘seek his face.’
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.”
— Psalm 27:8

I can still see my grandmother sitting quietly, an afghan draped across her lap, her aged and weary body of ninety-seven gratefully accepting the comfort of her chair, her now transparent hands revealing the life she had fashioned for herself and others. And yet, it was her face that drew me: a simple face of Irish descent, of sky blue eyes, and fair complexion. Though, there were no overriding marks of distinction, except for its overall look of ease and acceptance, it said to me, “Come seek my face for my gathered years have taught me well. Many things are important, but few are necessary. Come and sit beside me and tell me your dreams.”

We all possess a storehouse of faces; faces we remember from our childhood, school, or the armed service, faces of family and friends, or acquaintances, faces of the living and of those we loved, but see no more. They are faces which remind us of who we are, of where we’ve come from and where we’re going. But more than just faces, they have been for us a certain presence.

Which are the faces that still call out to you saying “Come seek my face?” Which are the faces that come to mind in times of quiet reflection, moments of sadness, loneliness, or joy... a grandmother or grandfather, a mother or father, spouse, sibling, or friend?

The Bible tells us that there are more than just human faces which speak to us of place. There are faces of the deep, faces of the sky, and faces of the land. And still, there is another face imprinted behind and upon every face. “When thou didst say, ‘Seek my face,’ my heart said, your face, Lord, will I seek.”



The Hebrew word for face in Psalm 27 is *panim* which is also the word used for presence, as in to enter into the presence of a king. In seeking the face of the Lord, the psalmist is requesting an audience with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As a spiritual discipline, I am trying to remember whatever the face I gaze upon or recall, whether it is the face of a person, a child, friend, or stranger, or the face of the water, sky, or land, behind and imprinted upon each is the face, the presence, of God. It is this presence, this glory, that we beheld in the face of Christ, that unites us to one another, to time and place, and eternity.

Prayer: “O Lord, when thou didst say, ‘Seek my face,’ my heart said, your face, Lord, will I seek. Amen.



SERMON NOTES

While the central story of redemption in the New Testament is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the central story of redemption in the Hebrew Scriptures is God’s deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt into the Promised Land. During the season of Lent, we will explore the book of Exodus and the relationship between God, Moses, and the Israelites, as they are led from captivity to freedom. After Holy Week, on Sunday, April 12, we will gather together to celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord. We will then begin a new sermon series on the Epistle of I Peter who is writing to the church diaspora of how to live as strangers in a home that is not their own. Come and worship the Lord in holy splendor. Come and offer to God your praise. – *Pastor Dave*

March 1	“Turning Aside” - Exodus 3, Communion	Pastor Finch
March 8	“A Helper for Moses” - Exodus 4	Theresa Miller
March 15	“Let My People Go!” - Exodus 5-12	Pastor McMillan
March 22	“By a Roundabout Way” - Exodus 13	Pastor McMillan
March 29	“Wilderness Formed” - Exodus 19-20	Pastor McMillan
April 5	“Holy Play” - Exodus 21-40, Palm Sunday, Communion	Pastor Finch
April 9	“Love One Another” - Holy Thursday, Communion (7 pm)	Pastor Powell
April 10	“Near the Cross” - Good Friday (7 pm)	Pastor Finch
April 12	“Unraveling Our Winding Sheets” - John 20:1-18, Easter	Pastor McMillan
April 19	“A Living Hope in Hard Times” - I Peter 1:3-9	Theresa Miller
April 26	“Set on God” - I Peter 1:17-23	Pastor McMillan



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



ALL READERS AND LISTENERS WELCOME !

March 8, 2020 – Susanna Wesley Lounge – 12:30

The Woman in the Window
by A.J. Finn

Led by Anne Murphy

The Woman in the Window by A. J. Finn is a psychological thriller that has been compared to books such as *The Girl on the Train* and *Gone Girl*.

Anna Fox, an agoraphobic, is a well-developed protagonist/character, but the story presents things that are not as they appear. When a teen-aged boy, Ethan Russell, who has recently moved into Anna's Harlem neighborhood, befriends her things start happening. Has Anna really seen the things she reports or is she hallucinating? Themes in the book include alcoholism, agoraphobia and the Internet. Join us to discover what is the real truth!

April 19, 2010-Susanna Wesley Lounge-12:30

Cod: A biography of the Fish That Changed the World
by Mark Kurlansky

Led by Sherry Clark

Cod spans a thousand years and four continents. Mark Kurlansky introduces the explorers, merchants, writers, chefs, and of course the fishermen, whose lives have interwoven with this prolific fish. He embellishes his story with gastronomic detail, blending in recipes and lore from the Middle Ages to the present. And he brings to life the cod itself: its personality, habits, extended family, and ultimately the tragedy of how the most profitable fish in history is today faced with extinction. He tells a story that brings world history and human passions into captivating focus.



God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

— Exodus 3:14

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday, March 22

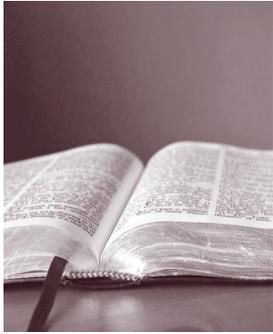
On Sunday, March the 22, the United Methodist Church is celebrating "One Great Hour of Sharing" on behalf of our United Methodist Committee on Relief. As the humanitarian relief and development arm of the Methodist Church, UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters - be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. Recognized nationally and internationally for its efficiency and effectiveness, UMCOR not only provides emergency relief but technical support and training to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.



If you have been following the news over the past several months, you'll know that emergency agencies have had to respond to numerous national and international crises. While funds have been provided for UMCOR through our 2020 Mission's budget, if you feel so led, additional individual gifts may be made out to the church with UMCOR noted on the memo line of your check or envelope, and placed in the church offering plate on Sunday, March the 22nd. These gifts will be submitted along with our monthly remittance to the Conference on behalf of UMCOR. - *Pastor Dave*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday 11:00 am to 11:45 am



As Jesus called his first disciples saying “Come and follow me and I will make you fishers of men”, so he continues to call us. To be a disciple of Christ entails “following” by being grounded in the Bible, our Master Story, and in the life-giving Christian disciplines of silence, prayer, Christian fellowship, and service.

Our Adult Sunday School Classes afford us a wonderful opportunity to do just this: to read and learn from the Bible, to learn to pray, to fellowship with other Believers, and be encouraged to put our faith into action in the world. I encourage you to consider attending one of our three classes which run from 11:00 am to 11:45 am, every Sunday, following our fellowship time. I trust, you will be glad you did. - *Pastor Dave*



MEN'S BREAKFAST



On the first Saturday of each month, the men of St. Paul's are invited to join me at the Hollywood Grill at 8:00 am for a brief Bible reflection, discussion, breakfast, and time of fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend! I hope you'll come. - *Pastor Dave*



THURSDAY MORNING WORK CREW

For a number of years now, we have been fortunate to have a group of men and women who come to church every Thursday morning from 8:00 am to around noon to do a list of odds and ends including: cutting grass, trimming shrubs, weeding flower beds, changing light bulbs and batteries, watering plants, fixing doors and windows, painting, etc... Their help saves our church a lot of money. Are you retired? Do you have a few hours on a Thursday morning that you would be willing to give to your church? All you need to do is show up. You will be given opportunities to make yourself useful. - *Pastor Dave*



By day the Lord
went ahead of
them in a pillar of
cloud to guide
them on their way
and by night in a
pillar of fire to give
them light, so that
they could travel
by day or night.

—*Exodus 13:21*

MISSION MOMENT

Remember Second Mile Giving



SECOND MILE GIVING is a Lenten tradition at St. Paul's. It is based on Jesus' words, "And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to anyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you." It is a call for both giving and service, which when paired together can have a great impact on the many in need in our community and world. Second Mile Giving will

begin on February 23 and will end on April 19.

The first \$4,200 of this year's Second Mile Giving will be funding our Rise Against Hunger meal packing event on March 14. The remainder of money will be shared between St. Paul's Youth Mission Trip and Kind to Kids.

Rise Against Hunger

RISE AGAINST HUNGER is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable, mobilizing the necessary resources to end hunger by 2030. Rise Against Hunger operates meal packaging locations in 28 cities throughout the U.S. and five international locations in South Africa, Malaysia, the Philippines, Italy and India. In the past year, more than 430,000 volunteers from corporations, churches, schools and civic organizations packaged Rise Against Hunger meals. Since 1998, volunteers in the U.S. and worldwide have packaged about 500 million meals and provided aid in the form of emergency relief, medical supplies, clothing, school supplies and more to people in need. On Saturday, March 14 St. Paul's will host a meal packing event from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome. We plan to pack 14,000 meals.



Kind to Kids



KIND TO KIDS, a service for children, believes that every child deserves a future of possibility.

In Delaware, there are 60,000 children in poverty and 750 in foster care. To help these children through the difficult times in their young lives, Kind to Kids delivers educational programs, support services and supplies. For example: UGrad is a successful Kind to Kids case management program that helps youth in foster care to graduate from high school and succeed in college and careers. Life Skills is an after-school Kind to Kids program that teaches under-served children the socio-emotional and academic skills needed for a bright future. Help-A-Kid Services, another Kind to Kids program, includes distributing My Blue Duffel emergency care kits to kids who are victims of child abuse, neglect, and trauma and providing joyful life experiences (gifts, trips) to children in need. To date Kind to Kids has served over 15,000 of Delaware's most vulnerable children.

Youth Mission Trip

St. Paul's Youth Mission Trip will be to Appalachia from July 4-10, 2020. More details to follow.



◆

The King will reply,
'Truly I tell you,
whatever you did
for one of the least
of these brothers
and sisters of mine,
you did for me.'

— Matthew 25:40

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for their faithful financial stewardship of our church here at Saint Paul's. We finished 2019, \$2,000 to the good. That is, our income exceeded our expenses by \$2,000. A good year!



2020 is looking promising. We received financial pledges for this year that slightly exceed last year's. With a little help from our endowment fund, we also entered the year with a balanced budget. At the end of January, our income was \$48,423 and expenses (including over \$15,000 of unexpected expenditures for a pipe break and 78 new fire alarm sensors) was \$48,897.

Attending our monthly meetings, I can attest to the faithfulness of our Finance Committee to be the best possible stewards of our financial resources. Thank you again for your prayers and generosity that allow our church to thrive in our life and ministry together. - *Pastor Dave*



FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

The 2020 budget was approved by the Church Council in January and plans are moving forward for the new year. So far, the outlook is good for this year. Thank you to our team of program leaders for working so hard to do so much within budget. Also, a big thank you to the congregation for their support of our wonderful ministry and church programs. - *Kathy*



Jesus said to her,
"I am the
resurrection and
the life. The one
who believes in
me will live, even
though they die;
and whoever lives
by believing in me
will never die. Do
you believe this?"

—*John 11:25-26*

Risen!

EASTER SUNDAY



In your unfailing
love you will lead
the people you
have redeemed.
In your strength you
will guide them to
your holy dwelling.

—Exodus 15:12-13

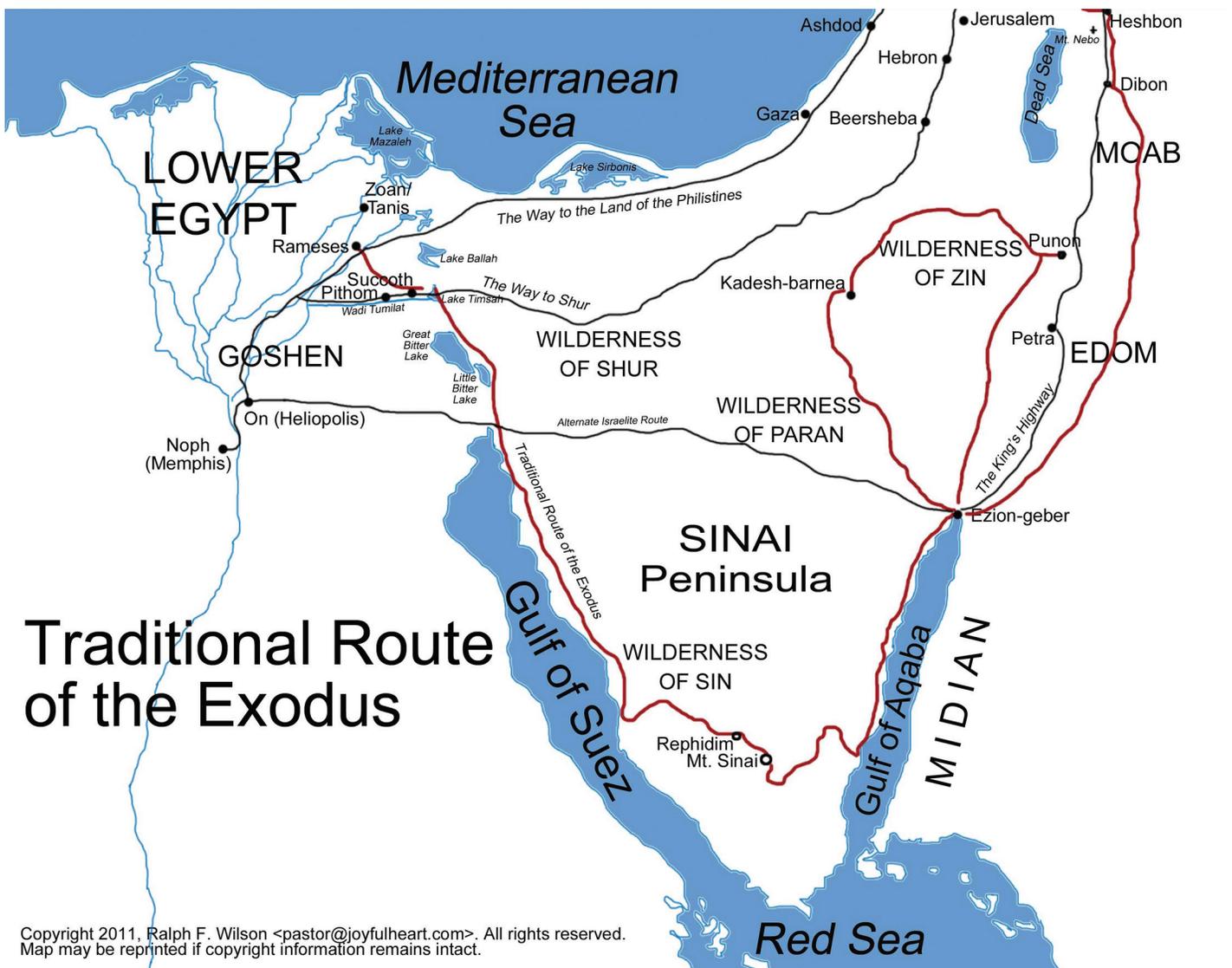
CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

Do you have an inspirational story or testimonial to share? How about a poem or drawing? We are always looking for items to include in the Clarion from our congregation members. Please don't keep those talents hidden! Send your material to:

Barbara Barto at barb.barto@comcast.net

Carol Apanowicz at apanowicz@msn.com

All ages are welcome!



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SCHEDULE FOR THE CLARION

May/JuneArticles due April 10
July/August Articles due June 12
September/October.....Articles due August 14
November/December..... Articles due October 9

Timely submission ensures your article will be included in the newsletter.

When submitting photos please provide the highest resolution possible.

Inquiries please contact Barbara Barto in the church office at 302.478.3135.

- Thank you!

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Easter is around the corner so we are now planning for the Easter flower display for Sunday, April 12, 2020. If you are interested in providing a plant for Easter Sunday, please fill out the form and provide a check or cash to accompany the form. You can take your plant that day, after services.

___ No. of Lilies @ \$10.00 (6" pot)

___ No. of Hyacinths @ \$10.00 (6" pot)

___ total number of plants

Total amount \$ _____ Cash/check payment \$ _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Donated by _____

If using a check please put "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. **The deadline for orders is Monday, March 30.**