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The Newsletter of Fairfax United Methodist Church  
**LENT 2019**

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## *Fear Not*

As 2018 came to a close and we celebrated Christmas, the words delivered throughout Luke's Christmas story stuck in my mind. In the first two chapters of Luke, angels appear to Zechariah, Mary and some shepherds to proclaim God's message, and each proclamation begins with "fear not."

These words convicted me at the time, and they continue to do so as 2019 gets well underway.

I am more and more convinced that we live in a culture of fear. This is reflected in the perceived prevalence of fear and anxiety in public discourse and relationships, and the negative way this affects how people interact with one another.

The call to play to our deepest fears rings loud and clear in many areas of our lives today. Our state and national politics – from all across the political spectrum – are based on presenting the worst case scenarios and emphasize the worst of humanity. The news constantly calls attention to the most negative stories, helping us believe that these stories represent the norm and not the unusual. TV shows play off our fears by dramatizing these news stories with skillfully edited and scripted interpretations.

It seems that even our weather reports follow this pattern. I used to hear reports about potential thunderstorms. Now, it seems each storm is accompanied by a dire warning from the weather teams, who interrupt ongoing programming, to hunker down and hide in the basement. Ugh. How are we supposed to live like this?

This is when I have to stop and remind myself and others of God's words: "Fear not!" The angels were announcing earth shattering news, but each time they began with a reminder not to be afraid. God was at work in this world, and was coming to humanity in a life-altering, death-shattering way.

Christianity has always been, and should always be, counter-cultural. Jesus proclaimed a counter-cultural way of living and loving others in all his words and actions. And his followers are called to continue to trust God and live as Jesus did.

When we are tempted to act and react out of fear, let the familiar words of the messengers of God ring in our hearts and minds—fear not!

Peace,

*Rev. Amy Grant*



## What is Lent?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, self-examination and reflection in preparation for the coming of Easter.

### LENTEN SERMON SERIES

## Give It Up: Six Burdens to Give Up This Lent

Many of us give up something we enjoy for the forty days of Lent, and it can be a very beneficial thing for us. It is a way to remind us of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and to prepare ourselves for Easter. Once Easter arrives, we again enjoy the pleasure of what we gave up for Lent. What if this Lent were different? This year our Lenten sermon series will challenge each of us to deepen our faith by exploring six things that God wants us to give up, not just for forty days, but forever.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Everyone is invited for pancakes (regular or blueberry), bacon, and eggs on March 5 from 5:30-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the United Methodist Men. The custom of Shrove Tuesday pancakes is from the tradition of using the cooking fat and milk before the fasting of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the following day. Bring your entire family and enjoy the meal and the fellowship. Reservations are not required. A freewill offering is received. Invite a friend or neighbor.

## Ash Wednesday is March 6

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the holy season of Lent, a time for reflection and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter. For centuries, Christians have received a cross of ashes on the forehead as a reminder of mortal failings and an invitation to receive God's forgiveness.

- Early Morning Ashes are offered from 6:30-9:00am. All are invited to drive up to the covered west entrance off the parking lot and receive the imposition of ashes with prayer while remaining in their car.
- Traditional Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes is in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm. All are invited to begin this journey through the Lenten Season in worship together.

## LENTEN STUDY

### Powerful Prayer

During March, *Powerful Prayer* is Lenten study led by Pamela Kipps, the Wesley pastoral intern. The study touches on the history of prayer, examines an array of contemporary prayer practices, and guides students in how to construct powerful prayers. The group meets in Room 112 at 10:45 on March 10th, 17th, and 24th. Please plan to be a part of this time of discovery! .

## FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP

### Popcorn and a Movie

Come and enjoy *Coco* in the Fellowship Hall on Friday night, March 8 from 7-9pm. This is a great time to relax and share family time in community. Feel free to bring your lawn chairs. Family Movie Night is sponsored by the Mission and Learning Pillars.

**The Youth Winter Lock In** immediately follows the movie from 9pm on Friday to 7am on Saturday. Bring a friend for a fun night of games, fun, fellowship and food!.

### Once Upon a Parable

A Children's Musical presentation by Tom Lang and Allen Pote is on March 17 at the 9:30 and 11am services. The children's choirs have been working hard to prepare for their interpretation of scripture for the past few weeks. *Once Upon a Parable* is directed by Rachel Ackerman, Associate Music Director of Children's Music, and accompaniment is provided by Tommy Webster, Director of Music Ministries. The children are so excited to share their performance and the message of Jesus through the parables.

### "Egg"-citing" Easter Fun coming on Saturday, April 13

Eat some delicious pancakes, bacon, eggs, biscuits and gravy at the monthly Pancake Breakfast from 8-10am. At 9am, the church offers plenty of activities for children from 3 to 12 years old—games, weaving Easter baskets, and special egg decorating. It promises to be a great time for family and friends.



# 2019 Easter Flowers

If you would like to place an Easter flower in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 21st in honor or in memory of a loved one, please complete the form below. Place it in the offering plate or mail/deliver it to the church office along with your check.

Orders must reach the church office no later than 9:00a.m on Tuesday, March 26th for the flowers to be ordered and the information to be included in the bulletin. The flowers you ordered may be picked up after the 11:00 service on Easter morning. We anticipate that flowers will be picked up by the honoree, unless other arrangements are made.

## Please record your order!

.....  
Please print clearly and mark with number desired:

Easter Lilies (\$11.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Geraniums (\$6.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Hydrangeas (\$18.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN MEMORY OF

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN HONOR OF

\_\_\_\_\_  
GIVEN BY

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE

If you would like to make a contribution to The Hermitage or an Endowment gift in honor or memory of a loved one, please indicate:

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN MEMORY OF

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN HONOR OF

\_\_\_\_\_  
GIVEN BY

Please make check(s) payable to FUMC.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Flowers

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ The Hermitage

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Gift

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

# Lent Missions Offering 2019

**D**uring Lent, we practice sacrificial giving as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice for each of us. Beyond our weekly stewardship commitments and gifts, additional financial gifts are received as a special offering and used to focus on many diverse needs in our local and global communities.

Sacrificial giving is a meaningful practice for each of us, regardless of age. Some persons use the money they would have spent on eating out, buying coffee or going to the movies and instead donate those funds for a special Lenten gift. Children can save an allowance that they might have used and share it with others. There are many creative ways to incorporate sacrificial giving into your Lenten disciplines.

This year, Fairfax UMC has identified selected ministries that are especially important to the congregation. Each minister will receive a portion of the Lenten Offering. Prayerfully consider making your special gift during Lent to support these life-changing ministries.

## **Short Term Mission Projects/Honduras: \$2500**

Fairfax Church provides support to those members who would like to take part in short term mission projects. This ministry also provides avenues to partner with other churches in the area to address specific needs in the local community and around the globe. We are also continuing to offer mission opportunities in rural areas of Honduras.

## **Local Mission Teams: \$1,500**

Fairfax Church provides aid to our faith community in supporting short term, local mission projects of interest to them and supported by FUMC. Support is also available to team up with other individuals and churches to address specific needs in the local community. If you have an idea for a local mission project, please contact Kyle Johnson at [kjohnson@fairfaxumc.org](mailto:kjohnson@fairfaxumc.org).



## **FACETS: \$2,000**

### **(Fairfax Area Christian Emergency & Transition Services)**

Founded in 1988, FACETS is a well-established nonprofit organization that touches and improves the lives of thousands of families and individuals every year. FACETS helps people meet their emergency shelter, food, and medical needs, to assist in gaining safe, sustainable and permanent housing and working with them to end the cycle of poverty through educational, life skills and career counseling programs.

On the first and third Fridays of each month, FACETS volunteers from FUMC prepare and deliver Hot Meals for families and individuals who are homeless in our community. Volunteers to cook and deliver the meals are always needed. Please contact Bob Cockrell at [rlcockrell@aol.com](mailto:rlcockrell@aol.com) for more information.

## **UMCOR: \$2,000**

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. UMCOR's work reaches people in 80+ countries, including the United States. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own. Volunteers provide assistance throughout the year, based on needs. Groups and individuals of all ages are needed to plan, assemble, and distribute items such as backpacks, hygiene kits, and flood buckets throughout the year. Donation of various supplies are collected at designated times throughout the year. Monetary donations are also accepted to purchase additional supplies. Prayers for those affected by suffering around the globe are also welcome. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Christie Johnson at [CAJohnson@fcps.edu](mailto:CAJohnson@fcps.edu).

## **2019 Youth Summer Missions**

FUMC youth are serving in Costa Rica (Senior Highs) and Savannah, GA (Junior Highs) for a week in these communities. Every opening is filled on these trips with more than 25 youth from Fairfax and New Life International participating. Thank you for your prayers and continual support for our youth as they seek to serve in these communities. For more information, please contact Kyle Johnson at [kjohnson@fairfaxumc.org](mailto:kjohnson@fairfaxumc.org).

## **Food Pantry: \$2,000**

Fairfax Church provides food to our neighbors primarily through Britepaths. Britepaths' Food Assistance Programs provide emergency and short-term food assistance to Fairfax County area residents who are struggling to make ends meet, helping them bridge the gap until they can recover from a crisis. For more information, contact Sue Almond at [almond@cox.net](mailto:almond@cox.net).

## **Rising Hope Capital Campaign: \$1,500**

Rising Hope UMC is a mission of the Alexandria District of The United Methodist Church. Rising Hope is in the second year of a 3 year \$500,000 goal Capital Campaign to replace well used kitchen equipment, the refrigerator and freezer in the food pantry, the HVAC system, and purchase a new church van to transport individuals to and from Rising Hope and other locations. Campaign contributions may also help decrease the building mortgage and provide additional financial resources for the church's ministry and mission. Our support will help Rising Hope meet their Capital Campaign goal.

**Confirmation 2019 has begun!** For the next 10 weeks, this class of 7 students is digging into their faith and learning more about what it means to be a part of Christ's church. Confirmation Sunday is April 28th during the 9:30 service.

**FUMC Summer Missions Teams** are serving in Costa Rica and Savannah, GA for a week in 2019. Every opening on these trips is filled with over 25 youth from Fairfax and New Life International participating. Thank you for your prayers and continual support for our youth as they are seeking to serve in these communities.

**Spring Senior High Retreat** is Friday May 3 through Sunday, May 5 in Bethany Beach, Delaware for a weekend of fellowship and fun. This is a time for students to step away from all the busyness of life to deepen their relationships with one another and Christ. Registration is now open and the cost is \$130. Contact Kyle Johnson to sign up!

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## Endowment Grant Applications

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that funds are available for grants in 2019. If any member of the church congregation or staff has a worthwhile project that can improve any of our ministry pillars: missions, worship, and learning, or improve our church facilities, and the item or project is not already a funded line item in the church budget, you are encouraged to complete a grant application. Applications are available at the church office or on the church website. The completed grant application must be delivered to Libby Barricks at the Church office not later than March 11, 2018 to be considered by the Endowment Committee. If approved, grants will be funded in April.



# HOLY WEEK

## PALM SUNDAY

April 14 at 8:15, 9:30, and 11:00am

We enter the Sanctuary on Palm Sunday to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem waving palm branches and saying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna! The Hosanna and Alleluia Children's Choirs will be participating in the service.

## HOLY THURSDAY

April 18 at 7:30pm

All are invited to Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) to commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. Maundy comes from the Latin, meaning "commandment." This refers to Jesus' new commandment to love with humility by serving one another and remembering his sacrifice.

## GOOD FRIDAY

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE | April 19 at 7:30pm.

The word "tenebrae" comes from Latin, meaning "darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that uses gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of the week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through the burial of Jesus.

As we continue our walk through the Holy Week, the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists lead us in remembering Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

## EASTER SUNDAY

April 21

6:00am (Sunrise Service)

Our youth are leading the community Easter Sunrise Service at Old Town Square in Fairfax at 6:00am. Please come and bring a friend to rejoice in the good news of Easter morning.

8:15, 9:30, and 11:00am

Come Sunday morning to proclaim in the community of believers, "Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen indeed!"



Please bring fresh flowers to add to our Easter cross on the lawn.

## We Welcome New Member ...

Jane Ciorba of 4203 Summit Manor Court, #102 Fairfax, VA

## The Sacrament of Baptism ...

Administered on February 17, 2018 to **Olivia Faye Gilligan**, daughter of Ryan and Elaine Gilligan, born on October 5, 2018.

## Our Sympathy is Extended to the Family and Friends of ...

- **Alice Louise Henry.** Alice died on November 14, 2018 in Fairfax, VA.
- **William Jack Burkholder.** Jack died on December 1, 2018 in Ashburn, VA.
- **Eileen Driver.** Eileen died on December 15, 2018 in Gardner, MA.
- **Sheila & Mike Carney.** Thomas Ryan, Sheila's Father. Died on December 31, 2018 in Fairfax, VA.
- **Allen & Jane Johnson.** Corrine Emily Johnson, Allen's sister, died on December 20. In Xenia, Ohio.
- **Jennifer Holbrook.** Wilma Jean Barbour, Jennifer's mother & Natalie Gray's Grandmother died on January 2, 2019 in Ashland, KY.
- **Pat & Allen Kriskowski.** Max Marci, Pat's father, died on December 15, in Gardner, MA.
- **Bill Jacobson.** Dorothy Sarber, Bill's Aunt, died on December 10, 2018 in Cincinnati, OH.
- **Verna & Bob Williams.** Roberta Deberry, Verna's sister, died on December 6 in Masontown, WVA.
- **Audrey Thomas.** Audrey, mother of Jennifer Hudders and Suzanne Herring, died on January 31, 2019 in Winchester, VA.



## Fairfax United Methodist Church

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