



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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April 2017

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“Reflections”

As Holy Week quickly approaches in hours more than days, people of faith across the globe are being challenged and, in certain locations, threatened by individuals, political parties, dictators of nation states and our own uniquely broken set of political circumstances. Syria and Russia used chemical weapons on helpless civilians and North Korea fired another missile on the same day. Pain, death and hatred are shaking the very life of the world to its core. The chaos of the 21st century resembles life as it was under the domination and oppression of the Roman Empire.

This Holy Week and Easter brings us to the challenges of the ages. Whose world is this – God’s, ours, or both? Whose hands should hold the kingdoms of our lives? The vigil that Jesus experienced as his life came to a close throughout those awful final hours should always bring us to our knees in remembrance. We, too, need God’s presence to kindle a fire to burn the chaff of our privileged lives away and clear the way for meaningful discipleship and purpose-filled service. We, too, need to choose if, when, where and to whom God’s everlasting light shines through us.

Before we get to this Easter, we have some important places to go and be in scripture: we will cheer as Jesus rides into Jerusalem, not as a King or a conqueror, but as an ordinary person who has an extraordinary message of transformative love. We will hear the crowds change their tune from a cheer of celebration to cries of “Kill him.” We will listen as a fly on a wall while Jesus is mocked, questioned and finally, crucified as a felon who committed a crime against the State.

We will face our own culpability in creating this situation of fear of the different: of those who challenge authority, of someone who lives and talks of love and not hate; common bonds and not differences. And we will face our own guilt as those who would have been in the crowd shouting both times, denying Jesus as Peter did three times, and then running away like the disciples. All of these are things we have to travel through before we get to the Good News.

The joy, though, is that in the end, it is Good News: God has the last word during Holy Week and it is one of love and new beginnings – for everyone! So, come and join us for our services as we finish our Lenten journey together and make our way through Holy Week to that glorious declaration of Easter morning: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Peace be in your journey... Rev Bev

General Synod News

Snacks, Snacks, and more Snacks

Please help achieve the goal of 40,000 prepackaged snacks for this summer's General Synod in Baltimore. All church Ambassadors have received the information regarding the donations from their church. Each church's donation, whether it be monetary or prepackaged snacks, is important to reach our goal. These snacks will help provide our Extravagant Welcome and Hospitality to our guests from across the country.

If you have questions, please be in touch with Linda Matthias at lindamatthias@verizon.net or Steve Matthias at smatthias@verizon.net

Volunteers Needed for Sign Language Interpretation and CAC Booth Support

If you are a Sign Language Interpreter, we need you! If you would like to help out in the CAC booth in the Exhibit Hall, we need you too! Please visit the CAC General Synod website for more information and to register as a volunteer interpreter or to help in the CAC booth.

As of the writing of this update, we have 333 volunteers signed up, however only 243 have registered for General Synod! Don't forget to use the emailed Volunteer Code to register for General Synod at www.ucc.org. Also, don't forget to make your hotel reservation if you will be staying in Baltimore – very few rooms in the Synod hotels are still available!

REMEMBER: If you don't register for General Synod, you will not be given access to Synod and therefore not able to volunteer! We need each and every one of our volunteers so don't forget to register!

Join Us!

You're Invited to a Stuffing Party!

When: Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 2 pm.

Where: St. John's UCC, Catonsville, MD Social Hall

To do what? Assemble 4000 Welcome Bags

Why? To provide an Extravagant Welcome to General Synod attendees!





April Birthdays

- 09 — Jim Getz
- 12 — Rana Froman
- 12 — Beverly Simpson
- 13 — Elizabeth Riggins Miller
- 19 — Ed Lanehart
- 21 — Alayna Pfefferkorn
- 30 — Hayden Hendrix



From the UCC...

April 29th Climate March in Washington, D.C.

The UCC Council for Climate Justice along with Justice and Witness Ministries are official co-sponsors of the climate march in Washington, DC. This march is being organized by the [People's Climate Movement](#) which spearheaded the 2014 march in New York City that had 400,000 in attendance. [Let us know](#) if you are planning to come, so we can coordinate a strong UCC presence at the march.

Upcoming Events

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 9

Wilkins Police Community Relations Organization (WPCRO) meetings – Tuesday, April 11 – Citizens are invited to attend WPCRO meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Maiden Choice School, 4901 Shelbourne Road in Arbutus, 21227. Join the precinct commanders at these meeting and discuss what's happening in your community.

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 13, 7:30 pm service

Good Friday – Friday, April 14, 7:30 pm service

Easter – Sunday, April 16; Easter Breakfast – sign up sheet on the hallway table

Earth Day – Saturday, April 22

Chesapeake Association Spring Meeting – Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Immanuel UCC, 5401 Whitehall Road, Cambridge, MD 21613 – 10:30am to 2:45pm, Registration begins at 10:00am

Consistory Meeting – Sunday, April 23



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Lectionary Readings

(Day-Date; First Reading; Psalm; Second Reading; Gospel)

Fifth Sunday in Lent – April 2, 2017

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Sixth Sunday in Lent, Palm/Passion Sunday – April 9, 2017

Liturgy of the Psalms: Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Maundy Thursday – April 13, 2017

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday – April 14, 2017

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Holy Saturday – April 15, 2017

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Easter – April 16, 2017

*Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Second Sunday of Easter – April 23, 2017

*Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter – April 30, 2017

*Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

* During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible. On the Day of Pentecost, if the Old Testament passage from Numbers is chosen for the first reading, the passage from Acts is used as the second reading.

Prayer Concerns

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY:

Libby Walter's ability to stay at home may be changing in the immediate future. Please pray for her extended family throughout their search for quality and safe care; Richard Canter recovering after surgery; Larry Dunham's brother-in-law, Jeff Lavault, recently diagnosed with stage 3 cancer and beginning chemo treatments; Central Atlantic Conference; General Synod 2017.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN OUR REGION:

Refugee families in Baltimore County; victims of hate crimes and gun violence; anti-Semitism; Federal employees and civil servants; undocumented residents.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Syrian victims and their families after the use of chemical weapons; North Korea; Russian aggression; families fearful of deportation; storm victims; wildfires; California flooding; prayers for our country; refugees across the world; all U.S. military deployed and stateside.