



Cedar Grove UMC

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The Beacon April 2018



Office Hours

Monday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm

REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

EASTER 2018

While Easter Sunday this year does fall on April fool's day the rising of Jesus from the dead is no April fool's joke, but rather along with the death of Jesus, the heart of the Christian Faith. Jesus died to pay the price of our sins so that we may be forgiven and He rose on the third day to let us know that He is our Lord and Savior and that by believing in Him we can have salvation and eternal life. No words can completely capture the truth and power of the resurrection, though every church on Easter Sunday will still most likely have a sermon and someone will try to capture it, and no analogy can adequately explain to us how it happened and what it completely means.

But we do know what happened in a basic sense. Jesus died, was buried, and when the women went to the tomb on the third day His body was gone. Mary Magdalene saw Jesus. Eventually according to 1 Corinthians 15 over 500 people saw Him. He had a body but not a body like we have or He had had. Yet it was certainly still the same Jesus because He bore the scars of the crucifixion, the disciples recognized His voice, and He commissioned the disciples to go throughout the whole earth sharing the Good News of His death and resurrection, baptizing, and teaching people the commandments of God. For over 2000 years this faith has been preached, believed, and lived. And while we can't understand in any modern scientific sense the how a completely dead person could not only come back to life but be transformed we can answer from a faith perspective how it happened--God did it. God made it happen. And thus we should be thankful to such a great God.

Finally, while none of us knows what it completely means to be resurrected, we know what Jesus told us that if we believe in Him we will be resurrected as well and we will live for eternity with God. While we look forward to that future life in heaven with God, the benefits of faith and that new life do not all await the resurrection day but rather today and everyday those who believe in Jesus, crucified and risen, Lord and Savior are blessed.

I hope and pray that you have a great Easter and that you share with everyone that the Christ has died and risen for you and for everyone and that by believing in Him you can have salvation and eternal life. That is an Easter truth even when told on April 1!

Your fellow servant of a crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ,

Glen



FASTING FEEDBACK

How did your fast go during Lent? How did it impact your walk with God? Two simple questions and I would like to hear from some of you your answers. If you are willing, answer each question with a sentence or two (typed would be great!) and place it in the offering plate any Sunday during April. Do not put your name on them unless you want to, though I am more interested in the impact the fasting had as opposed to knowing who was impacted by their fast.

In a future newsletter, if I get responses, I might share some in an article where I will not mention anyone's name. Additionally if any of you would like to contribute an article about how fasting favorably impacted your Christian walk I encourage you to submit it to our newsletter.

Pastor Glen Arnold



CHURCH NEWS

Scripture readers on Sunday mornings! It has been great having some different voices read the Scripture on Sunday mornings. We would love to have even more voices. If you are interested there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and if you do sign up we will send you the reading electronically or inform you over the phone as to what the reading is. If you find the reading to be too difficult (length or hard to pronounce names) you can always let Pastor Glen know you have changed your mind. So please sign-up.

New Members Class. If you are interested in joining the church, please let Pastor Glen know.

The **Tuesday morning Bible study meets at 10am** and is studying the Gospel of Luke and if you would like to come please do. We have usually 15-17 people present and have room for more. If you have any questions contact Pastor Glen.

The **Wednesday Night Dinners** have been a great ministry here at Cedar Grove UMC for many years. Recently attendance at the dinners has declined and unless we see more people showing up and making it clear this ministry should continue, there is the chance it will not return in the Fall. So, if you want to see the dinners continue in the Fall come out for a time of great food and fellowship. (Note: The last dinner before Summer break is on May 23rd.)

Our **Women's Bible Study** meets weekly on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm in the Parlor (after the Wednesday Night dinner). We hope you will join us!

Family Movie Night is **Friday, April 13 at 7:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We will watch the movie "JUMANJI." Wear your **CRAZY SOCKS** and you will get a free treat! Movie night is FREE and all ages are welcome! Our movie night snack bar will be open selling pizza, popcorn, candy, and sodas. Everything is \$1.00 or less. Hope you can join us for a fun evening! If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Crine at sweetbooboo16@aol.com.



MISSIONS CORNER

The Missions we are highlighting this month are **The Blue Ribbon Project** and the **Homeless Ministry**)

➡ **The Blue Ribbon Project** is a local non-profit organization whose main purpose is to directly *assist children within our community who are victims of abuse, neglect, and child sexual abuse.* Counties served are Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Charles, Kent, and Queen Anne's. These children depend on us to speak up for them and stand up for their safety.

One important project that The Blue Ribbon Project sponsors is called "**Backpacks of Love**". These backpacks are not filled with school supplies- instead, they carry essential necessities and are delivered to children in the moment they are being removed from an unsafe situation into foster care. This helps get the kids through the first 24-48 hours, a time of confusion and fear. Instead of having to carry around a trash bag with a few of their items hastily thrown in (which sadly happens all the time), they are given something nice to call their own and hopefully offer a bit of comfort and hope during the difficult transition into foster care. Backpacks are gender and age-specific (spanning newborn to 17 years) and include items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush, children's soap and shampoo, changes of clothing, books, and small toys. Donations are collected and sorted at the headquarters in Crownsville, then packed into backpacks so they are ready to go at a moment's notice.

During the months of April and May, our church will help show love to these children by collecting some of the most-needed items to complete backpacks currently on hand. A list will be provided. You can buy one or several items on the list (or multiples of the same item!). Every donation will help keep the backpacks stocked. If you are interested in building an entire backpack or items for a specific age/gender, that is an option too. Just let Kristen Wood know and she can get you a checklist of what is needed for each age/gender category (also can be found on website below). **All donations will need to be brought to church by Sunday, June 10th.** On that afternoon, from 2-4 pm, Kristen will deliver the donated items to the office in Crownsville and participate in their bi-monthly Volunteer Day. This a day where individuals or groups assist with sorting and checking donations and assembling backpacks. If you would like to join Kristen for Volunteer Day, there will be a sign-up sheet. For more information about the organization, visit their website at blueribbonproject.org, or contact **Kristen Wood** at kcrohrer@gmail.com or **301-873-4669**.

➡ **A Note From Pam Morton, Leader of the Homeless Ministry:**

I want to take this time to thank each and every one of you who have helped this Ministry by your Prayers & Contributions. Without you this Ministry could not succeed. I can see that it is making a difference to our Brothers & Sisters on the street. As I said when I spoke at the March 18th Sunday service, we are asking a favor of each of you involving making Health Kits that we take with us on our trips each month. The health kits are one of the items that is most requested, so we want to be sure we have many of them to give out.

Our Homeless Ministry travels to DC the third Sunday of every month to deliver these health kits, along with meal bags, clothing, and blankets to our homeless brothers and sisters. Going on one of these trips it is a “life changing” event. It will make you appreciate what you have all the more. This is also great for young people as they see firsthand what it is like to live on the streets. If you would like to go on a trip, please see me, Pam Morton, so that we can get you on the schedule.

We are currently in need of help making Health Kits. So, we are asking if each member of the Church would consider making one health kit each month and bring it with them on Sunday. We will have a box in the Narthex to collect them. To put together a health kit, please place in a large Ziploc-type baggie **1 each of the following items:**

- * Toothbrush
- * Travel-size Toothpaste
- * Bar of Soap
- * Travel-size Shampoo
- * Travel-size Deodorant
- * Comb
- * Razor
- * Wash Cloth



Pictured is an example of what is included in the health kit. You can find these items at most dollar or drug stores. If you have questions, please contact me or the Church office. ***Thank you!!***

All this is done to “Glorify the name of our Lord and Savior.” We are following His teachings by helping those less fortunate.

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7)



Sanctuary/Sunday Committee

The new Sanctuary/Sunday Committee members have been selected and we will hold our first meeting after church on Sunday, April 8, 2018. The committee was established to coordinate and when necessary perform the various tasks that support the Church during Sunday Worship. The functions include but are not be limited to greeters, nursery and bible school help, ushers, and preparation of the chancel and sanctuary areas. The members of the Committee are Sandy Burns-- Chairperson, Ida Mae Williams, Marjorie Johnson, Randy Smith, Debbie Huffman, and Alice Rohrer. Committee members will be reaching out to church members to help them to identify functions and processes. Please feel free to contact one of the members or myself if you have any questions or if you would like to partake in any function. I can be contacted at sandraburns87@gmail.com or 410-867-7897. God Bless All.

Sandy Burns



BOOK CORNER



The Women of Genesis: From Sarah to Potiphar's Wife
Sharon Pace Jeansonne Fortress Press 1990 152pgs

As I teach my once a month class here at Cedar Grove UMC this year on Women of the Bible as always I am buying different books and read them to prepare the classes. One of the books that I bought was The Women of Genesis. Sometimes I buy books and they are great, sometimes a complete waste, and sometimes in between but this book by Sharon Pace Jeansonne has been excellent. What usually makes a book excellent in my opinion can vary. One, it might be a book that I think represents our faith clearly and correctly. Two, it could be a book that explains mysteries of our faith and Bible. And three it can be a book that challenges my thinking or opens my mind to other views, not meaning I always agree with these other views but never the less expands my understanding of the text. In some ways this book does all three of these and thus for me makes it a great book.

The book is written in a scholarly way and it is serious in tone. It does not seek to be inspirational, but rather to carefully look at the stories of these women and really dig into some of the mysteries of their stories. While the book is attentive to feminist values (one of the reasons I wanted to read it) and wants to bring the woman's perspective the book does not go to extremes nor does it have completely off the wall views of the Bible that any book of any perspective can do if it gets carried away.

The following women each have a chapter: Sarah; Lot's daughters, Hagar, Rebekah, Rachel & Leah; Dinah; Tamar; and Potiphar's wife. The book also has an introduction and a conclusion. Each chapter directs you to the appropriate biblical text which allows you to read the Bible (which is always a good thing) and compare the text with what the book is saying. And regardless of when I agreed with the book or wasn't sure, it made me think about the Bible and what it was saying. Again, always a good thing!

One of the things I most liked about this book is it was not satisfied with easy answers and asks probing questions about these women and their stories. For example what can we understand about Rachel stealing the household idols of her father Laban? Does it imply that Rachel believed in idols? Or was it the value of the idols that Rachel wanted? Maybe it had nothing to do with what Rachel wanted in a material sense, but rather simply trying to get back at Laban for his deceitful acts?

As I mentioned, this is a serious book but it is not hard to understand and anyone can read it and benefit from it. Would I recommend this as your first book on the women of Genesis I am not sure but even if it is your first book on this topic you will learn from it. If you are curious about the details of the lives of these women of Genesis, from Sarah to Potiphar's wife, you will enjoy this book. I know that I enjoyed it.

Pastor Glen Arnold

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Save the Date

Friday
April 20, 7:00PM

Jennifer Rd. & Ordnance Rd. Corr. Centers
ANNUAL BANQUET

Crofton Country Club
1691 Crofton Parkway
Crofton, MD 21114

INFO: 410.222.4937 or 410.222.4549
brit.fletcher@goodnewsjail.org
chase.wood@goodnewsjail.org



Bringing Hope to the Forgotten

**9th Annual Southern High Sports
Boosters Golf Tournament**

Friday, June 1, 2018
Oak Creek Golf Club
Upper Marlboro, MD

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

6:30am	Registration: Continental Breakfast / Gift Bags / Driving Range Available
8:00am	Shot Gun Start: Scramble Format. Lunch and Beverages provided on the course. SHEEHY LEXUS Hole-In-One Contest / Longest Drive / Closest to the Pin
2:00pm	Dinner: Awards / Silent Auction / Door Prizes

Calling all golfers and sponsors - Registration is now open for the Southern Sports Boosters Golf Tourney! Early bird rate available until April 6. Register via mail or online at <https://southernathletics.org/boosters-golf-tournament>