

WUMC Weekly E-Notes

WILLIAMSBURG UMC WEEKLY ENOTE FOR MARCH 7, 2019: Welcoming Neighbors, Nurturing Faith, Transforming our World

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY – March 10, 2019

Lent is here again. Lent is supposed to be a time of formation, a time to reflect on one's identity as a follower of Christ and to figure out exactly what that means. Discipleship, after all, is supposed to be a way of living and being rather than a label or "club membership." During this Lenten season we will be exploring "Encounters with Christ: Men and Women of Faith." This Sunday, Pastor Bill will preach on the story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, "Meeting Jesus at the Well." Our Scriptures are Romans 10:8-15 and John 4:5-30, 39-42. Join us in worship at 8:15 or 11:00 am. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:30 am. Stop by the atrium for coffee fellowship and greet your fellow worshipers.

WEEKLY PRAYER - submitted by Cindy Banek:

On the Road of Discipleship: Beginning Lent

Read Matthew 4:1-11

"Dear Jesus, as you exposed yourself to temptation in the wilderness, help us to put our trust in you and not to shy away from the issues and challenges that face us, so that we may truly respond to your call to love, serve and obey you in all circumstances. Amen."

(Gordon Giles, "At Home in Lent," BRF Publishing)

SUNDAY EVENTS – March 10, 2019

WORSHIP SERVICES 8:15 and 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary

SELECTED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Several of our adult Sunday School classes will begin a special Lenten study beginning Sunday, March 10. "Simon Peter," by Adam Hamilton will consider the life of an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. Simon Peter left everything to follow Jesus, yet he struggled with doubt and fear. If you do not usually attend a Sunday School class, now is a good time to join with a class on this six-week journey through the life, faith and character of Simon Peter. Adult Sunday School meets from 9:30 – 10:30 am every Sunday. Here are the classes participating in this study: Aldersgate (Wesley Hall), Bishop McKendree (room 102), World Religions (room 101), Searchers (room 171), Marvin Willard Bible Class (room 174), and Christian Life Connections (room 309).

YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY SCHOOL

This Sunday is a "Mission Moment" with Pastor Meghan. Join her for an opportunity to help out with children's Sunday School at 9:30 am.

Breathe Cafe in the evening, 5:30 pm in the Youth Center.

Looking ahead, on Sunday March 17th we'll be holding a St Patrick themed evening. Can't think why....?

UPCOMING EVENTS

MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church will be Tuesday, March 12 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Our theme for March is, “Dusty Drawing, based on a story found in John 8:1-11 about forgiveness, kindness and friendship. Who is the kindest person you know? How can we follow the example of Jesus and reach out to others who are in need of a kind word or a friendly hand? And why was Jesus writing words in the sand? Come to Messy Church, and we will learn more about this story through Messy crafts (using items from the trash!), Messy games (throwing something really messy!) and of course, our always unpredictable “Celebration Time.” Dinner this month will be breakfast: pancakes with all the fixings. Messy Church is free, and we invite you to join us! Any questions about Messy Church, please contact Cindy Banek, 229-1771.

RECHARGE WEDNESDAY

Join us for dinner on Wednesday, March 13 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. The cost for the meal is only \$6/adult, \$3/child (ages 3-12) with a \$20.00 family maximum. Please make a reservation by completing a dinner form found at Connection Corner or in the pew racks, by calling the church office (229-1771) or on the church website. Reservations should be received by noon on Tuesday before the Wednesday dinner. Menu for March 13: Taco casserole with cornbread, dessert
Kitchen Team: Church Staff

RECHARGE CLASSES BEGINNING MARCH 13

The Search for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land

Wonder how the continuing occupation of the Palestinian territories has harmed both Israeli and Palestinian societies and what are the realities of the contemporary human rights concerns in the occupied Palestinian territories?

Learn about this and more through, “The Search for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land,” a five week small group created by Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), offered each Wednesday in Lent, March 13-April 17, 6:45 -8:30 pm and led by David Hindman and David Benedict. Register now by contacting Cindy Banek, 229-1771 or cbanek@williamsburgumc.org

SENIOR PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

We will begin a six-week Lenten Bible Study on March 13/14 (Wednesday evenings; repeated Thursday mornings). Our study will be “Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Week,” authored by professor and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine. Through her insightful DVD and our study of the Bible, we will delve into the history and literature surrounding the last days of Jesus’ life. From Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his prayerful agony in Gethsemane, Levine brings forward aspects and details that open doors for beginners as well as seasoned readers of the Bible. We will look at how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

On Wednesdays, March 13, 20 and 27 from 6:15- 7:15 pm, Pastor Meghan will lead a course on spiritual disciplines to be held in the Williamsburg UMC Chapel. Participants will be introduced to the concept of spiritual disciplines and practice three concrete forms of prayer that lead people toward God, inward and outward. A resource list of other spiritual disciplines will be provided to use during the season of Lent and beyond.

CONNECT 101

If you are new to WUMC or interested in becoming a member, our next Connect 101 orientation session will be held next Sunday, March 31, from 9:30 to 10:30 in the church parlor. If you wish to attend you may fill out a blue card in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday, sign up online at our Website or call the church office.

UNITED METHODIST WOMENS BOOK CLUB

The UMW Book Club will meet on Monday, March 11th at 7 p.m. at the home of Susan Griffin, 116 Heathery, in Ford's Colony. We will be reading and discussing *Because I am a Girl, I can Change the World*, by Rosemary McCarney with Jen Albaugh and Plan International. It is in the Leadership Development category of the UMW Reading Program. All are welcome. For more information, contact Carol Brinkley at 258-0617 or cpbrinkley@aol.com.

CHOIR

The Sanctuary Choir is always open for new members! Rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7:00 pm and Sunday mornings 30 minutes before the service(s). For further information contact Lou-Anne Smith, Director of Music Ministries, lsmith@williamsburgumc.org.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl ministry is accepting donations of yarn, completed shawls, etc. We meet on the second Wednesday and fourth Thursday from 6-7:30 pm. If information, please contact Wendy Geiger at wendy.geiger@cox.net or 757 579-4656.

KIDS MORNING OUT

Wednesday, March 20th (5:30-7:00pm)

Let's Chat! Parents Of Little Ones (POLOs) is hosting a group discussion for parents this month. We will be chatting about potty training (tips for success, hearing from other parents, and sharing what worked for you!) and introducing a new sibling! These are two areas that can be really challenging for families, and we want to help. This is open to ANY parent or caregiver in the community! We'd love to have you!

Childcare provided from 5:15-7:15. Want to grab dinner to go while you are here? Register in advance for ReCharge Wednesday dinner! More information at www.KidsMorningOut.org/polos .

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The Bereavement Support Group is Wednesday, March 13. The meeting is held from 12-1pm in the Den at WUMC.

SILVER SAINTS IN MARCH

The next meeting of the Silver Saints will be on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring \$1.00 for the fried chicken, a side dish or dessert to share and donations for FISH, our local food pantry. The program will feature Scott Brubaker, from Apex Physical Therapy, who will discuss problems with balance that can be helped with physical therapy. He will also discuss problems with dementia such as Alzheimer's Disease. There will be plenty of time for questions after the presentation. The Silver Saints is a fellowship group for those 50 plus years-old, and we enthusiastically welcome new people! If you have questions about the Silver Saints please call Eloy Villa on 757-564-0083.

MISSION TRIP – HONDURAS

We are happy that once again several of our church members will make the trip to Limon, Honduras to help provide basic healthcare needs and supplies to those in need. Please pray for our team, which will be working with the Carolina Honduras Health Foundation (CHHF) March 8-16 alongside Honduran Physicians.

UNITED METHODIST'S WOMEN'S SUNDAY

Please plan to participate with us for our annual Williamsburg United Methodist Women's Sunday on March 24th. We are proud to welcome Rev. Nancy Robinson as our guest pastor for a service focused on the legacy of the United Methodist Women's 150-year history. Join us for a birthday celebration in the atrium after each service for coffee and birthday cake – we're 150 years old this year and proud of it!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S SERVICE PROJECT – BLOOD DRIVE

In commemoration of the 150th birthday of United Methodist Women, our Williamsburg UMW unit is hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross on Saturday March 30th from 9am to 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. You may secure an appointment for your donation by registering online at redcrossblood.org and using sponsor code WilliamsburgUMC or by signing up at the CrossRoads Table between services on Sunday March 24th. Our goal is 30 pints of blood. Your single donation can save up to 3 lives. Help us to reach our goal and be in service to our community!

LITERACY FOR LIFE

No previous teaching experience is needed

Complete nine hours (3 x 3 – hour sessions) of initial training

Available to tutor 1.5 hours per week for one year

Complete the online training registration form and select the training series that works best for your schedule at <https://literacyforlife.org/tutors>

For more information call 757-221-3325

CONFIRMATION IN 2019

Pastor Meghan and Youth Director Andy invite youth from 8th - 12th grade who have not been confirmed to participate in our 2019 Confirmation class. In the United Methodist Church, Confirmation is an opportunity for people to recognize God's work of grace in their lives and embrace being disciples of Jesus Christ. Pastor Meghan will hold an interest meeting on Sunday, March 17 from 10:30 -11:00 am. Confirmation sessions will be held May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Recharge dinner will be provided at no cost to the participants. Confirmation Sunday will be on Pentecost Sunday, June 9. Questions, please contact Pastor Meghan at mclayton@williamsburgumc.org or Youth Director Andy Glascott at aglascott@williamsburgumc.org.

A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR ON GENERAL CONFERENCE 2019

The decisions that were made at the recent General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in St. Louis regarding full acceptance, inclusion, and love of LGBTQ persons were heartrending for many folks in our churches. The Traditional Plan prevailed though many people felt that the One Church Plan would have allowed for more people to be church together. Recognizing that we are not all of one mind on this issue, the clergy and lay leadership of WUMC would like to continue the conversation. Regardless of where you stand on this issue, your clergy desire to be pastoral support for you and invite conversation with you. We realize that some in pain and discouragement may leave our church and seek community elsewhere. We understand this. And this is a great loss to our congregation. In the coming days and weeks, the clergy and lay leaders will be working on how we at WUMC are going to respond to the General Conference decisions and how God is leading us to be in ministry reaching out to ALL God's children to welcome them through our doors and into our fellowship and to let them know they are loved by God and by our church. We invite your thoughts and ideas, your questions and concerns. WUMC has a great tradition of loving and caring for all God's children in this community and beyond – "welcoming our neighbors, nurturing our faith, transforming our world." That will not change. In true Wesleyan fashion, we will continue to show great grace. As John Wesley put it, "I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God's creational intentions."

Blessings, Bill Jones

WUMC Communications Director, Thomas Redmond (757-229-1771 ext.353) compiles and edits weekly E-notes. If you have corrections, suggestions for improvement of the format, or new relevant information please call or email him at: tredmond@williamsburgumc.org