



The Midweek

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Wesley Theological Seminary is providing daily devotionals for their graduates throughout the 40 days of Lent. The writer of this particular piece is a friend of mine and her words touched me this week as I have been facing fear on what the ramifications of General Conference will mean for our denomination. I had to read this over and over for it to really sink in and be part of my heart but I wanted to share it with you as well. To God be the glory.

"One summer evening as I was falling asleep, I heard a thump on my bedroom door. I panicked! I had no idea what was outside my bedroom. Slowly, I opened the door to one of my greatest fears. A bat was circling the hallway! I slammed the door shut in an attempt to hide.

In Psalm 13, the psalmist asks how long God will hide God's face. It is a legitimate question. But sometimes I think God asks us how long we will hide our faces in fear. How long will we hide and allow fear to dictate our lives?

When it comes to fear, we have a choice. We can hide from fear and allow it to continue to encircle and control us, or we can face it. Facing fear is the only way to overcome it. That night, I chose to reopen the door, and with gloved hands, caught and released the bat into the evening air.

Releasing the bat took all the courage I could summon, but when I looked at the tiny bat in my hands, I was amazed how something so small caused me such fear. When you have the courage to face your fears, you realize they were not as frightening as they once seemed. This Lenten season, may you have the courage to face your fears and allow God to heal and release you for the work God has for you in the world. Amen."

~ Hannah Sledge

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Henry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



From the desk of the Bishop

Arch of Justice

By Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

According to the Visitor's Center at the "St. Louis Arch" National Park, this city has always been "the gateway to the west." The earliest major trails that the settlers used to travel to points west went through St. Louis, MO. This city is also known for some strategic and historic court cases during the 19th century. One was the case of Dred Scott (1799-1858), a slave who petitioned the court for freedom in 1847. He won his freedom only to have this case face numerous appeals that eventually landed in the Supreme Court. They ruled that slaves were "property" and had no right to sue. He and his wife Harriet were sent back to bondage but in the years that followed, they returned to that same courthouse and were finally emancipated in 1857.

Another historic case in St. Louis dealt with the issue of women's suffrage. Virginia Minor (1824-1894) sued the state in 1874 for the right to vote according to the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. She was denied and her petition also ended up at the Supreme Court where the decision of the lower courts was upheld. Sadly, Minor never lived to see the passage of the 19th Amendment that finally gave the right to vote to women in 1920. However, her valiant efforts were part of the movement that eventually gave equal rights to women at the voting polls.

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church met in St. Louis last week (February 23-26, 2019) for an historic special called session of General Conference. The order of business was to decide about the denomination's ban on same gender marriage and the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexual people. For two and a half years a carefully chosen, inclusive group of 32 United Methodists from all over the globe gathered 9 times and presented three possible plans for consideration: "The One Church Plan," "The Connectional Church Plan" and "The Traditional Plan." The Council of Bishops overwhelmingly supported "The One Church Plan," however the decision was in the hands of the 833 delegates to this world wide denomination, who assembled to vote on this matter.

The gathering began with a spirited day of prayer, then a day of legislative committee work and finally a day of plenary voting.

The voting process was confusing to say the least with many amendments and points of order and rulings from Judicial Council. In the end the body voted to support "The Traditional Plan" by a narrow margin. This maintains our current policy that does not allow people who are self-avowed, practicing homosexuals to be our ministers and does not permit our pastors to perform same-gender weddings/holy unions. Some enforcements to the current Book of Discipline were also added in this plan. The full "Traditional Plan" is now in the hands of the Judicial Council who will vet

it for constitutionality. Some petitions have already been ruled as unconstitutional but time and the tedium of Parliamentary Procedure did not allow for much correction. The Judicial Council will rule on which parts remain valid at their April 23-25, 2019 meeting.

There is deep disappointment and a hurt in the LGBTQIA community and among their family and friends at this time. Hundreds of people came to St. Louis to advocate for “The One Church Plan,” which would have removed the restrictive language in the Book of Discipline and allowed pastors, churches, Boards of Ordained Ministry and Annual Conferences to act out of their conscience on these matters. Among those were 15,000 young adult United Methodists who signed a petition imploring the church to begin to open the doors to the LGBTQIA community. I encourage you to remember them in your prayers and reach out for comfort and conversation.

After General Conference ended, I looked up and saw the Arch, this hugestainless-steel tourist attraction that reminds us about our history of western expansion. The slogan of the city is “still moving on.” Likewise, the church is still moving on in mission and ministry for Jesus Christ. Nothing can stop the church from evangelizing and doing the work of Christ. People of good-will who believe differently around the important issues that were voted at General Conference can “still move on” together to reach a hurting and broken world. We have a “charge to keep and a God to glorify” yet!



Something important happened for the United Methodist Church this week as well. We will never be the same. I believe with all my heart that eventually the United Methodist Church will become a welcoming and affirming denomination in ministry with the LGBTQIA community. The wait is long, the struggle goes on a long, long time. The temptation is to give up but I implore the church to continue the work of relationship-building and conversation until there is a new day, where the conscience of all will be respected.

Habakkuk 2:3 says “For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end, it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not delay.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITAL VISITS: Please help the pastors by calling the church office at (302) 422-8111 when someone from the church is hospitalized.

ELECTRONIC GIVING is being offered at Avenue Church. An *Information Sheet with Authorization Agreement* is available on the table in Fellowship Foyer. Simply fill out the authorization agreement and return it to the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you want to reserve a Sunday please call the church office then call Milford Plant, Flower and Garden Shop at (302) 422-4961. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK: Karen Williams and family, the Fisher family, everyone recovering from surgery, Brenda Beissel, Marti Seal, Muriel Gillespie, Kathy Kimmel Russ, Linda Rogers, Gerald Burbage, Jack Eisenbrey, Jenny Thomas, Fran Patterson, Gary Coulbourne, Joan Eisenbrey, M.L. Katchka, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Dee Ann, Ferd Nelson, Lida Wells, Craig, A.J., Buzz Gildea, Mrs. Lewis, all those who are seriously ill, Charlene Sandifer, the Saxon family, Doris Warren, Carlton Goodhand, Arvin and Linda Noel, Sally, Buxton, all those battling weight issues, the people of Venezuela, Christopher, the Pasmoe family, Loretta Wooten, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, Jay Adams, Carolyn, Cheryl Horst, John Gilmore, Linda Breedlove, Teresa Jarrell, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Jean Hutchman, Savanna C., Chris Dongls, Carson, Kassie, Jordan, Cole, Courtney, Charlie Fleetwood, Charlie Harding, Kathleen Friedline, everyone with job and/or financial issues, all those with marital and relationship concerns, Lynn Powers, Bill and Jill Gustin, Mark and Joyce Cain, the Hughes family, Gary Swain, Emily, Frank Mentusky, Wendy Mayle, Kay Green, Tony Johnson, Jon Terry and Leah.

Rejoice with: The caterpillars and staff on the boys Chrysalis weekend and Nicole Wilkins.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The Adams family, the family and friends of Kyle Moore, the family and friends of Sally Arbaugh, the Kersey and Abbott families, Betty Ziesel, Frances Rothermel Huey and family, the Fisher family, the victims of the Alabama tornadoes, Brenda Beissel, Marti Seal, Linda Rogers, Joan Eisenbrey, Ferd Nelson, Lida Wells, Craig, Buzz Gildea, Stella Markel, Kay Green, Frank Mentusky, all those who are seriously ill, Charlene Sandifer, Carlton Goodhand, the people of Venezuela, Christopher, the Pasmoe family, Carolyn, Linda Breedlove, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Jean Hutchman, Charlie Fleetwood, Charlie Harding, Kathleen Friedline, everyone with job and/or financial issues, all those with marital or relationship concerns, Bill and Jill Gustin, the Hughes family, the husband of Yvonne's friend, Vicki Shultes, Brittini Gustafson, those hurt by the General Conference vote and family and friends of John B. Caldwell.

Recently hospitalized: Kelly's father.

Rejoice with: All those whose lives were changed on the boy's chrysalis weekend.

Praise for: Yvonne and Tori Nelson, going to Rome to visit Addie (prayers also for traveling mercies).

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Gary and Marti Seal who will celebrate their **52nd** anniversary on **March 11th**.

Al and Linda Hanna who will celebrate their **47th** anniversary on **March 11th**.

Don and Pat Fisher who will celebrate their **52nd** anniversary on **March 18th**.

SYMPATHY TO:

† Family and friends of **Kyle Moore** who passed away **March 2, 2019**.

† Family and friends of **John B. Caldwell** who passed away on **March 2, 2019**.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♫Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Music Room

♫MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♫Mispillion Children's Chorus

Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m., Music Room

♫Praise Team

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♫Sanctuary Choir

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

♫AveNotes

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? If you are interested in using your musical gifts here at Avenue Church please contact Kevin Chamberlain, kbchamberlain@avenueumc.com or (302) 236-1276.

UPCOMING

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLE MEETINGS. New members are welcome to join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 for Esther Circle. Locations will be announced in midweek the week before for Esther and Sarah Circles. Sarah Circle meets the third Tuesday each month at 9:45 am and Mary Martha Circle also meets on the third Tuesday at 1:30 pm at Avenue. A book report will be given each meeting by our own Helen Holleger. YOU won't want to miss these informative and fun reports.

UMW Reading program books and Response magazines are available to borrow on UMW shelf in Foyer library. If you prefer an electronic circle so you can stay aware of the UMW events happening, contact Beth Parker at bparke42@comcast.net. What about a Reading Program Circle? Everyone reads the same book each month and comes together to discuss and share?

LENT: Until Easter the Church is in a season of self-denial and self-examination called Lent.

During Lent we recommend these special services. The season of Lent begins on Ash **Wednesday, March 6th**.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will be held at Avenue at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Child care will be provided.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES are held each Wednesday at noon followed by a soup luncheon at various churches. The schedule is:

March 6th, Calvary UMC
March 13th, St Paul UMC
March 20th, Mt. Enon Baptist
March 27th, Milford Church of the Nazarene
April 3rd, Avenue UMC
April 10th, First Presbyterian Church
April 17th, Avenue UMC (Snow Date)

MILFORD INTERDENOMINATIONAL LENTEN SERVICES are held each Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. at various churches. The schedule is:

March 6th, Wesley Chapel
March 13th, Bethel A.M.E.
March 20th, New Beginnings.
March 27th, My Father's House
April 3rd, Faith, Hope & Love
April 10th, Word of Life Comm.
April 17th, Upper Room
April 18th, Mt. Enon

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

CHRISTIAN BELIEVER CLASS: Our next class is on **March 10th** at 2:00 p.m. in the Holzmueeller Room. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **March 12th** we will continue our study: A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place by Beth Moore in the Grier Room at **10:00 a.m.** Any questions contact Ginny Van Tine (302) 422-4282, Brenda Powers (302) 422-8821 or leave a message in the church office if you would like to join us.

KNIT/CROCHET GROUP: A large amount of yarns were donated to the church to be used for Prayer Shawls, as well as cold weather articles for homeless, Code Purple, school children and any other community needs. Knitters and crocheters, please come to the Grier Room any Wednesday afternoon (1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.) to pick up yarn and patterns for any of these articles.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class for adults meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. Our study for March is "Discipleship and Mission." The lessons are: March 3rd "Called to Humility and Hospitality" based on Luke 14:7-14; March 10th "A Costly Call" based on Mark 1:16-20; Luke 14:25-33; March 17th "Calling the Lost" based on Luke 15:11-24; and March 24th "Calling to Salvation" based on Luke 19:1-10. Please plan to

attend for these exciting lessons.

A new class **started on Sunday, January 20th at 8:00 a.m.** for people who want to attend Sunday School and 9:30 a.m. worship service. The class is being led by Dan Nelson and Tom Chilton. They started a study of the book of Ephesians. If you have questions contact Dan Nelson at (302) 349-4842 or Tom Chilton at (302) 725-1333.

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS will meet on **March 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.** The class will be exploring the Bible. To register, please call Dave Reynolds at (302) 503-3933.

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH BOOK CLUB will meet on **Sunday March 17th at 12:15 p.m.** in the Grier Room. We shall conclude our study of Adam Hamilton's Book Unafraid, studying section five, Chapters 17-20. We are also looking for new books to study. If you have any recommendations, bring them with you at our next meeting. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY

MATTHEW PROJECT: A family is in need of TV, small table and 3-4 chairs, full size bed sheets and blankets. Thank You!

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The Diaper Pantry is opened WEEKLY on Wednesday morning from **10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** We need 8 people to commit to one day a month and we will have it covered. Would you like to see young mothers smile?? See how happy they are that people care?? Contact Tita or Diane so we can establish a calendar. We need 2 people each week.

Milford Community Pantry always needs cereal and bar soap. Thank You for all your support!



UNDER THE DIRECTION OF **DONALD BUXTON** we proudly present...

Sunday, March 10, 2019

@ 3:00 p.m.

Dover Downs Rollins Center, Route 13, Dover

Spring Classical Concert

Selections include

Lalo Cello Concerto
Jennifer Crowell Stomberg,
soloist

Bizet Carmen Suite No.1

**Borodin's In the Steppes of
Central Asia
& More**

*Dover
Symphony
Orchestra*



Jennifer Crowell Stomberg



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Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency,
in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Division promotes Delaware arts events on
www.DelawareScene.com

Prices are:

Adults - \$20



Seniors/Students/Military/

First Responders - \$15

Young people 18 & under free with a paying adult

Tickets can now be purchased online at

www.doversymphony.org

Or Call 302-270-1903

**Milford Middle School
Steering Committee Meeting**
(Lakeview Avenue Property)

The Public is Invited to Attend

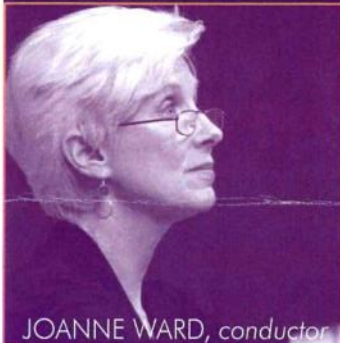
**March 12, 2019
6:00 PM**

Milford Central Academy
Cafeteria



Cantabile

WOMEN'S CHORUS



JOANNE WARD, conductor



Finding Our Voice

A WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CONCERT

IN SUPPORT OF PEOPLE'S PLACE, MILFORD

SUNDAY
MARCH 24, 2019
4 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church
30486 Lewes Georgetown Hwy
Lewes, Delaware

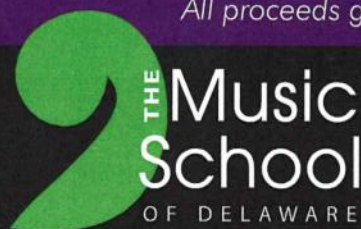
A full program of music **honoring women composers** and **strong women** throughout history. A free will offering will be taken with all proceeds going to support the wonderful work done by **People's Place** in Milford, Delaware for **women and young girls at risk**.

FREE WILL OFFERING
All proceeds go to People's Place II

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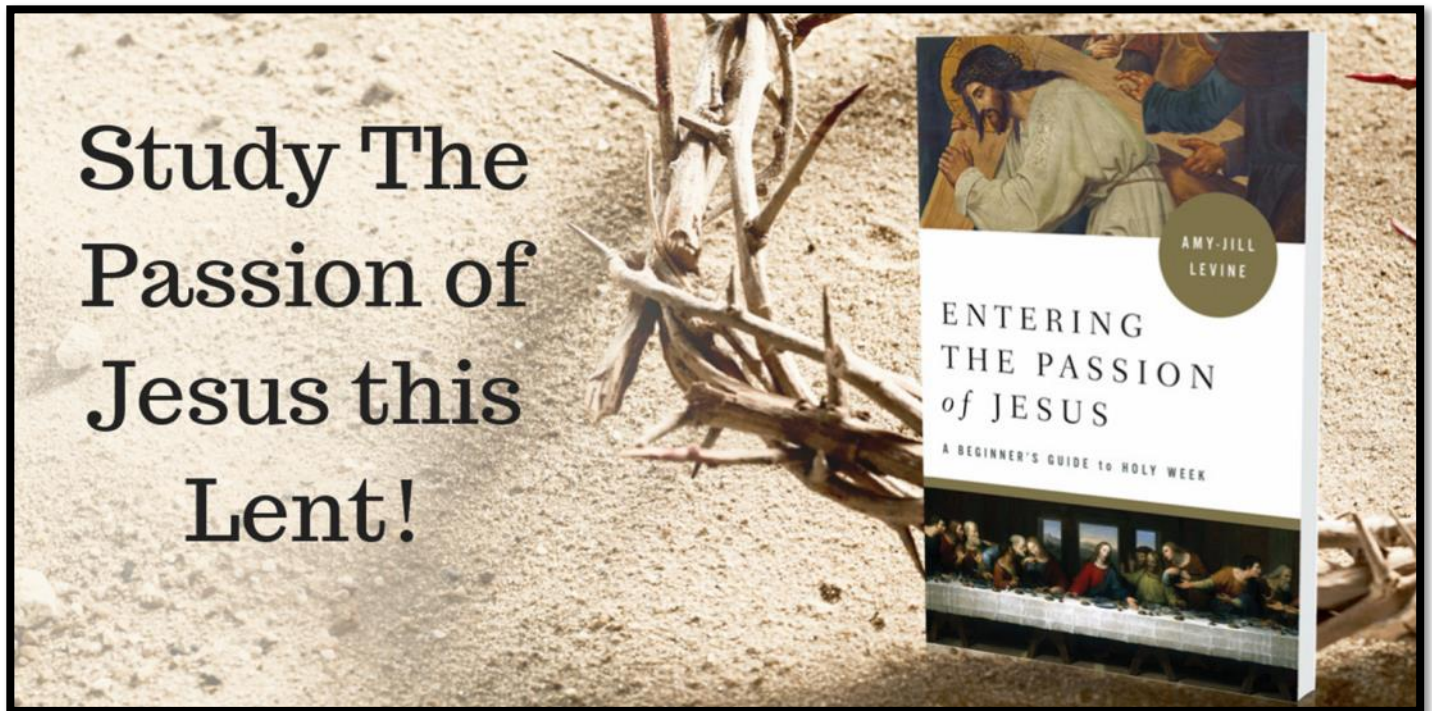
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DELAWARE COUNTY FUND FOR THE
ARTS

**Wednesdays at 7pm
During Lent
Starting March 13th
Heritage Room**



Although the Bible gives us insights into what Jesus was thinking between the time he entered into Jerusalem and the night he spent in the Garden of Gethsemane, we can't totally relate. But what if we look at the "ordinary" people who witnessed the Passion events...the women around Jesus and his disciples? Or the "bad" guys... Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas? If we look closely at the people who were part of Jesus' life during the last days before the crucifixion—their relationships and roles in the story—how might that deepen our understanding of what happened? In *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story to help us fill in the blanks.

Avenue United Methodist Church

Lenten Organ Recitals

March 7, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Taylor Harvey,
Salisbury, Maryland

March 14, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Jackson Borges,
All Saints' Episcopal Church, Rehoboth Beach

March 21, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Herb Parkes,
Christ Episcopal Church, Milford

March 28, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

TBA

April 4, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

TBA

April 11, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Kevin B. Chamberlain,
Avenue United Methodist Church, Milford

All recitals are held at Avenue Church.

A luncheon of homemade soup and bread will be served in the
Fellowship Hall immediately following the recitals.

All are invited.

Lenten Organ Recitals are part of the Concert Series of Avenue Church.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 3/10

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 8:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believer's Class, Holzmueller Room
- 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272, Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room & Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 3/11

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Theater, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den Meeting, Nursery
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room

TUESDAY 3/12

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room
- 12:00 p.m. Card Ministry, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley Room
- 5:00 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus, Music Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Improv Group, Heritage Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central DE Chess Club, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. General Conference Briefing, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 3/13

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting/Crocheting Group, Grier Room
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Explore the Bible Study, Holzmueller Room
- 7:00 p.m. Esther Circle, Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study, Heritage Room

THURSDAY 3/14

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Reunion Group
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 12:05 p.m. Lenten Organ Recitals, Sanctuary
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group
- 6:30 p.m. Experiencing God, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Pathway, Holzmueller Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Heritage Room

FRIDAY 3/15

- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 3/16

- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 3/17

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 8:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 12:15 p.m. Exploring Faith Book Club, Grier Room
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believer's Class, Holzmueller Room
- 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272, Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room & Fellowship Hall