

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

March 2014



Pastor Daniel Mejia

I'm not going to lie. I was very disappointed to see how Super Bowl 48 between the Denver Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks turned very quickly into a surprising blowout. Maybe I'm being a little bit over dramatic because my team didn't win. But regardless of who you were cheering for during the game, most of us did not predict a 43-8 victory by Seattle. I was personally hoping for a more exciting, competitive game that would help solidify Peyton Manning's legacy as one of the best NFL quarterbacks of all times. But all I got was a Super Bowl that was basically over in the first two minutes of the game after Peyton Manning fumbled the football in the first play of the game.

Yet this is precisely what makes sports exciting, the possibility that in any given game the underdog can come out of nowhere--like Seattle did --and defeat the favorite. Such is the history of sports, filled with surprises and unexpected endings. Such is the history of God's people too, filled with surprises and unexpected endings. I only need to mention David and Goliath and you will get what I

mean. As people of faith we are called to be in this constant state of expectation, surprise because God is always showing us new Ways and new Truths.

As we are about to begin the season of Lent, God is inviting us anew to experience one of those moments for transformation and surprise. Lent, which is the liturgical season of preparation for the celebration of Easter, comes every year with its typical expectations to potentially practice new spiritual disciplines or to give up chocolate and cursing or take on exercising for 40 very long days. If we are lucky, and really committed, we might be successful with one of our promises, and if that's the case, we may call Lent 2014 an extremely successful and Spirit filled Lent. End of the story, what's next?

Just for a brief moment I want you to consider with me the possibility that maybe this year God is hoping that we will see Lent in a different light. In fact, I'm going to be bolder and tell you straight up that God indeed wants us to experience Lent differently. This year I would like you to approach Lent as an opportunity not just for personal and spiritual transformation but as a church-wide, communal opportunity to do God's work together. Here is what I am proposing.

I want to invite you to join me in a financial fast during the entire season of Lent. Regardless of your financial situation for the next 46 days we can all learn the spiritual

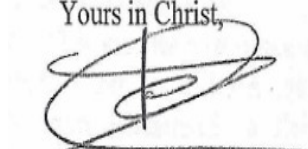
discipline of responsible spending and sacrificial giving.

What if we actually took a look at how and what we spend? What if during the season of Lent we made an intentional commitment to fast from spending on the things we don't need so that we might better serve the Kingdom of God? John Wesley wrote the following, "Having, First, gained all you can, and, Secondly saved all you can, Then give all you can."

Why a financial fast?

Through financial fasting we are exercising discipline in our spending and begin the process of changing our mindset toward the way we handle our money. I would suggest that you get a journal and write down all the instructions for your financial fast and organize a plan and schedule before we begin. This is important because once we begin the fast, you might try to convince yourself to quit. The journal and the schedule can then act as a contract/covenant you have made with the fast that you must keep. Remind yourself why you are doing the fast and remember that it is important.

See the Financial Disciplines Covenant on Page 3.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Mejia

Bartimaeus

By Ben Sloan

(Former Assistant Pastor Ben Sloan discusses sharing gifts.)

The story of Bartimaeus is one of my favorite stories of healing in the Bible. In Mark 10: 46-52 and Luke 18: 35-43 we're told that Bartimaeus hears that Jesus is passing by and cries out for him. Jesus calls him over and asks him what it is he wants. Bartimaeus responds that he wants to be cured of his blindness. The most powerful element of this story for me is how Jesus *asks* Bartimaeus what he wants. Though Bartimaeus' blindness would have been obvious, Jesus does not assume that this is what is in need of healing. I like to imagine that Jesus saw Bartimaeus as whole even with his blindness. I suspect that by asking, Jesus is teaching us not to make assumptions about what others lack. Bartimaeus does ask for sight, but he could have also asked for the forgiveness of sins (as Jesus grants to the paralytic at first instead of immediately having him walk). Jesus leaves it up to Bartimaeus to say what it is he's lacking rather than joining in society's rejection of differing abilities.

The first city in Nicaragua where we spent any time was Matagalpa.

Matagalpa is in the mountains in the northern part of the country. The Rio Grande de Matagalpa starts as a small creek just above the city. However, because of the lack of an adequate sewage system, the river is polluted by the city of Matagalpa right near its source. Some years back, German environmentalists came in with a scheme to save the river. They had developed a way to treat sewage through a naturally occurring bacteria. So they dug out three large ponds to treat the drainage of the city before it flowed into the river. However, gasoline also got caught in the runoff, killing the bacteria. Now, in addition to their polluted river, Matagalpa has three giant ponds of sewage water. The German environmentalists, out of funds, returned home, tails between their legs. I'm not knocking environmentalism. I really appreciate what the Germans were trying to do, and I really wish that it had succeeded. However, I suspect that the reason they failed was that their idea of a solution was something that came from the outside without enough consultation with the people of Matagalpa. They didn't ask to be healed, or at least not in that way.

One of the primary tenets of the organization I work for is popular education. In popular education, the

goal is break down top-down forms of learning. Teachers are learners and learners are teachers. I'm teaching English in a community center, not because I think that it is what folks need to pull themselves out of poverty, but because it's what they ask for. My students guide their own process of learning, directing me to topics and themes that they are interested in. I've seen how this process energizes and empowers my students. I've witnessed youth grow in self-confidence and self-understanding. It's been beautiful to see how English classes have served as a gateway to much greater learning and development. It's not because I'm a great teacher. It's because I'm not wasting time trying to heal what doesn't need healing.

Almost all of us are given gifts. We all have money or talents or time. In my understanding these gifts aren't given solely for our enjoyment. They're lent to us to be shared with others. In the story of Bartimaeus and in my experience in Nicaragua, I'm being led to see how important it is to establish a relationship as we give. Without a relationship, how can we know how people want to be healed? How can we know how to share our gifts?

The Widow's Group

The newly formed widow's group will be meeting the first Thursday of each month at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The first meeting was held on November 7, 2013 with nine widows present. The purpose of the group is to support one another and discuss issues and problems confronted as widows and sharing ideas for handling these. The group is unstructured and no work is expected of anyone. All widows are welcome to attend and need not be members of Emmanuel. If you have friends or neighbors who are widows please let them know about the group. For further information, call me at 301-937-1114 or send an e-mail to nursenewell@verizon.net.

Hazel Newell, Facilitator



Join COSROW in this community event as we explore the challenges and joys of serving elderly family and friends.

March 29, 2014
2:00pm—5:30pm

At the Conference Center
\$10 Donation Requested

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Wayne DeHart

Director of Church Relations for Asbury Communities

Break Out Session Topics

Traditional: sandwiched between aging parents who need care and/or help and their own children

Club: people in their 50s or 60s sandwiched between aging parents, adult children and grandchildren, or those in their 30s, with young children, aging parents and grandparents

Open Faced: anyone involved in elder care

For more information contact

Jane Grays

LadyJaneGra@aol.com

301-937-6392



Sponsored by Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church Commission on the Status and Role of Women
bwcumc.org

Mark Your Items in the Refrigerator

The refrigerator in the kitchen has been cleaned and organized. Items have been thrown out if there was no designation of ownership.

Please mark your items to let others know that you wish to use them again.

If you find anything unmarked, please use it. This will leave space on the shelves.



FINANCIAL DISCIPLINES COVENANT

PRAY: daily for God to give you direction in managing your finances.

READ: books, blogs, & websites on financial empowerment.

SET FINANCIAL GOALS: Work toward paying down your highest bill first.

MAKE A COMMITMENT: Open up a savings account or deposit money into your existing savings account at every pay period.

SAVE: \$5 a day and give a sacrificial offering of \$200 at the end of the fast.

PREPARE: a weekly budget for your household (only spend what you plan for).

TRACK YOUR SPENDING: Write down all expenses (include everything i.e. gas, coffee, lunch, etc.) You will be surprised at how much you spend in a week on these items.

COOK: meals at home (as much as possible) –Limit dining out.

AVOID: using Credit Cards.

STAY AWAY FROM THE MALL, let me repeat, **STAY AWAY FROM THE MALL.**

STAY AWAY FROM UNNECESSARY ONLINE SHOPPING

INVEST: in your children’s future...research ways to help your children understand fiscal responsibility and put them on a financial plan with you.

EXPECT: your “net worth” to grow, your “faith” to be stretched, and your life to become more generous and giving.

Prison Ministry



Kairosprisonministry.org

“I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25: 35, 36 (CEB)

I’d like to share with you a very special ministry that I am involved with....Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. (KPMI). Kairos began in a Florida prison in 1976. **Kairos Inside** is a volunteer non-denominational lay-led Christian ministry that conducts a highly structured program designed for use in male and female correctional institutions in the US and around the world. The mission of Kairos ministries is to bring Christ’s love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and all those who work with them, as well.

The **Kairos inside Program** strategy brings together inmates who have been identified as having leadership potential and those seeking another way of life, for a 3-1/2 day weekend event of carefully coordinated talks, discussions, chapel mediations, and music led by the loving spirit of the volunteers. After the weekend, inmates are encouraged to establish strong Christian communities within their institution.

I am sharing this information with

you because I am excited to report that God has blessed us to minister at the only prison for women in the State of Maryland: Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCI-W) in Jessup, Maryland! I will be one of the team members serving on Kairos #12 MCI-W which will be held April 3-April 6, 2014.

Kairos means God’s special time; and, in the lives of these women, we know it will be a very special time for them with God. Your prayers and financial contributions will help make it possible for this very important ministry to continue.

If you would like to commit to prayer (1/2 hour sessions are available throughout each day) please let me know so I can sign you up. We need to keep everyone prayed up through the entire weekend while we are working inside. We have many different time slots that require prayer for **everyone** in the entire compound. Please contact me so that I can include your name along with the other “Prayer Warriors.”

Donations of all amounts are greatly appreciated! As with all mission trips there are costs to sponsor volunteers and inmates for this weekend. Volunteers must pay for lodging and meals. The team goes into the prison from 8 am to 8 pm. We eat meals with the inmates in their “chow hall.” Believe it or

not we actually pay for the privilege to eat prison food! There are also additional costs for paper goods, Bibles and crosses (that each inmate receives at the end of the weekend). Any size donations would truly be a blessing. **Please take a few minutes to remember these women and to prayerfully consider a tax-deductible contribution.***

On Sunday, April 6, 2014 there is a closing ceremony where outside guests (family, friends, & Kairos recruits) are invited. An application must be submitted providing driver’s license, social security number, date of birth, race and sex. The information will be forwarded to Maryland Correctional Institution for Women, 7943 Brockbridge Road, Jessup, Maryland 20784 for a background check. The approval process takes several weeks.

If you are interested in attending the closing ceremony, I can provide you with an application and address any concerns you may have.

Volunteers can also support **Kairos inside** by letter writing, making posters for the meeting room and placemats for the meals. *Reminder*, only first names and age are listed on placemats/posters. Church name, location and last names are not permitted. This could be a special project for EUMC Christian Education groups.

KAIROS continues on next page

KAIROS

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The 2014 fundraising event, *Faith, Hope & Love Line Dance* Fundraising benefiting Maryland Kairos Inside for Women, will be held Saturday, March 15, 2014 at Severna Park UMC, 6 to 8 pm. Put on your dancing shoes and join the Kairos volunteers in mission team in this fun activity. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. Tickets are \$10 per person, but we'll accept any donation. I have tickets and sponsor sheets.

Thank you for your help as we share the goodness and graciousness of God with the inmates, correctional officers and the prison staff. This worldwide ministry brings the love of God and the light of Christ into prisons.

In His Service

Jane Grays

LadyJaneGra@aol.com

Home: 301-937-6392

*Checks should be made payable to **Kairos in Maryland**. Please note MCI-W#12 in the memo field and either give to me to turn in or mail to:

Kairos in Maryland
Jessup, MD 20794

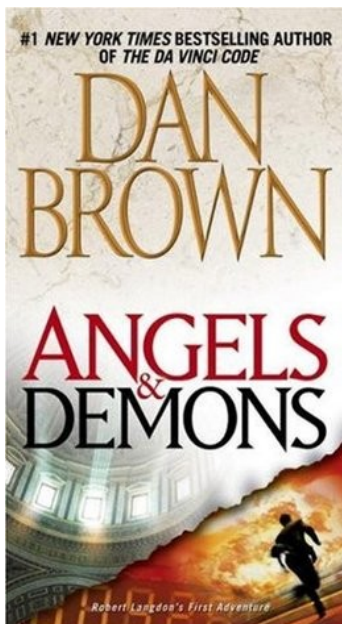
P.O. Box 174

Faithful Readers Book Group

Angels and Demons, by Dan Brown is our next read for the Faithful Readers.

A whopping 736 pages might scare off some, but not this group!

We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday April 5th, 10-11 am. Questions? Contact Bryant Davis, or Carol Clatterbuck.



Items from Church Bulletins (Not Ours!)

- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- There will not be any *Women Worth Watching* this week.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- The Rev. Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
- Don't let worry kill you, let the church help.

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7114
<http://www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net>



Saturday, March 15 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Furniture, Household Goods,
Jewelry, Pocketbooks,
Toys and Books

Fresh Baked
Goods for Sale

Rent A Table And Have
Your Own Yard Sale

Please Call 301-937-7114
For More Details



Breakfast sandwiches and hot
drinks available starting at
9:15 a.m.

Chili Dogs will be available
for lunch

*Proceeds Benefit Women
and Children Through
Approved UMW Mission
Programs*

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM
Deadline for all orders is April 7

PLEASE CIRCLE COLOR YOU ARE ORDERING

- Lily (5- 6blooms) \$11.50
Daffodils (5- 6blooms)..... \$11.00 (yellow)
Hyacinths (3 blooms) \$11.00 (white, pink, blue)
Tulips (5- 6 blooms) \$11.00 (red, pink, yellow)



DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS IS _____

Please order _____ of _____ given by _____
number name of flower name & phone number

IN MEMORY OF _____

Please order _____ of _____ given by _____
number name of flower name & phone number

IN HONOR OF _____

Total amount of order _____ Check enclosed _____ Date received _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EUMC—EASTER FLOWERS

(Please check one) I will take my flowers home: _____ (not eligible for tax credit)

I will donate my flowers to the church: _____



Maranatha Choir

By Kathryn Griffin, Choir Director

The Maranatha Choir of Emmanuel United Methodist Church will participate on March 2 in the Children's Choral Festival sponsored by the Capital Beltway Chapter of Chorister Guild. The Festival program will take place at 7 p.m. at The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, 15300 New Hampshire Ave. in Cloverly. It is free and open to the public. Choir members are Dara Hassan, Dare Hassan, Olamide Oluwafemi, Tia Dorsey and Jamiia Lewis.

2014

Emmanuel Church Officer and Committees

Please note: CC indicates a member on the Church Council

Lay Leader CC	Ann Rowland
Chair of Church Council CC	Doug Galloway
Recording Secretary CC	
Lay Members of the Annual Conference CC	Jane Grays, Andy Onukwubiri
Membership Secretary CC	Dottie Gilbert
Church Historian CC	Margie Mock
2nd Sunday Lunch CC	Emmy Lear
Angel Tree CC	Becky Cavallo/Jane Grays
Asbury Guild Representative CC	Dottie Gilbert
Adult Coordinator/Christian Education CC	Todd Reitzel
Children's Ministries CC	Scarlet Robertson
Community Meals Committee CC	Elsie Cline
Coordinator of Communications	Rick Bergmann
Deaf Fellowship CC	Roy White
EMERGE CC	
ESOL CC	Pat Allen
Food Closet CC	Carol Clatterbuck
Homeless Ministry CC	Julie Pavelka, Theresa Timity
Music Ministries..CC	Staff: Kathryn Griffin
Prayer Ministries CC	Ernie Kilbourne/Ann Anderson
Scout Advisor CC	Julie Pavelka
Superintendent of Sunday School CC	Dee Lewis
United Methodist Men CC	Rick Bergmann
United Methodist Women CC	Becky Cavallo
Visitation Ministries CC	Ann Anderson
Worship Ministries CC	Pat Allen
Youth and Young Adult Ministry CC	Byron Bobo
Van Maintenance	Paul Cruz

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Chair CC Bobbie Deegan
 Helen Akers, Roy White, Jaime Hiner,
 Bryant Davis, Alexandra Scotland
 Lay Members to the Annual Conference - Andy Onukwubiri
 Lay Leader - Ann Rowland

Trustees of the Church

Chairperson CC Mike Hatton
 Lynne Miller, Cale Fuller, Barbara Butcher
 Jimmy Bello, Abraham Scotland, Paul Cruz

Finance Committee

Chairperson CC..... Andy Onukwubiri
 Financial Secretary CC..... Frances Cruz
 Treasurer CC..... Beverly Ward
 Chairperson of Church Council..... Doug Galloway

Lay Leader.....Ann Rowland
 Lay Members to Annual Conference..Andy Onukwubiri
 Trustee Representative.....Mike Hatton
 Staff-Parish Chairperson.....Bobbie Deegan
 Mary Planthold, Kemi Oluwafemi, Frances Cruz
 Katie Kaufmann, Wanda Scotland

Memorial Committee

Lois Rodriguez, Margie Mock, Evelyn Adkins
 Lay Leader, Trustee, Church Council Chair

Web Site Managers.....Rick Bergmann, Patrick Elliott

Coffee Hour Manager.....Pat Allen, Evelyn Adkins

Committee on Lay Leadership

Chairperson – Pastor Daniel
 Lay Leader – Ann Rowland
 Bryant Davis, Linda Hiner,
 Lois Rodriguez, Margie Mock
 Scarlet Robertson

Worship Committee:

Chairperson CC Pat Allen
 Margie Mock, Cheryl Grays, Scarlet Robertson, Sarah Elliott, Kathryn Griffin,
 Patrick McGroarty, Karl Norris, Rogers Beasley, Pastor Dan.

United Methodist Women Sponsored Activities

Easter Craft Workshop

Feeling crafty? Looking for a worthy project? Come spend an hour of fun and fellowship on Sunday, March 9, when sisters in spirit are sponsoring an Easter craft workshop following the Second Sunday lunch (about 1:30 pm). For those executive board members who are going to our board meeting, we will have a short meeting and then we can help with the craft. We will be donating our artistic endeavors to a worthy cause!

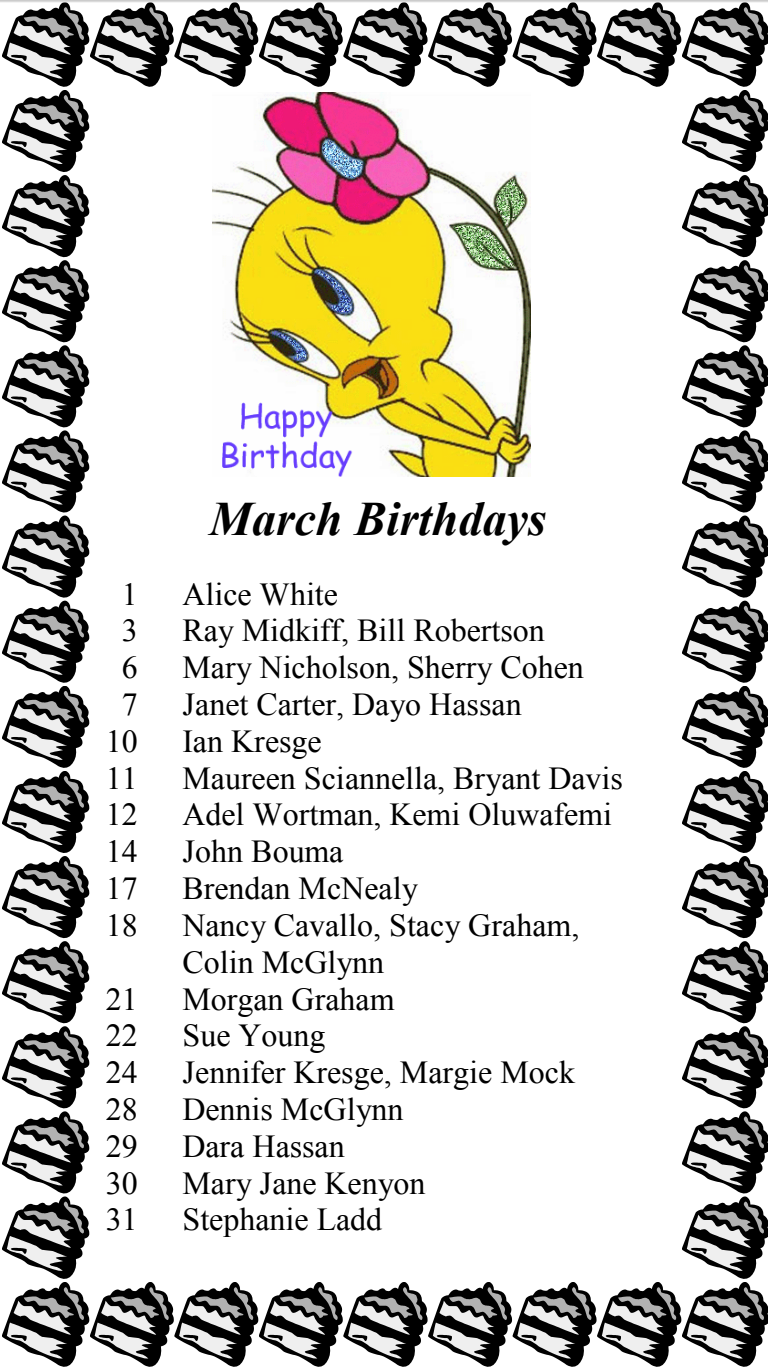
Ladies’ Communion Breakfast

Also, mark your calendars for May 3 for the annual Ladies’ Communion Breakfast (previously known as the Mother-Daughter breakfast) at 9 am. Reservations will be taken in April. Look for more details in the April Lamplighter!

Great Secret Sister Reveal

Also, look for information on the Great Secret Sister Reveal coming up in May!





Happy Birthday

March Birthdays

- 1 Alice White
- 3 Ray Midkiff, Bill Robertson
- 6 Mary Nicholson, Sherry Cohen
- 7 Janet Carter, Dayo Hassan
- 10 Ian Kresge
- 11 Maureen Sciannella, Bryant Davis
- 12 Adel Wortman, Kemi Oluwafemi
- 14 John Bouma
- 17 Brendan McNealy
- 18 Nancy Cavallo, Stacy Graham, Colin McGlynn
- 21 Morgan Graham
- 22 Sue Young
- 24 Jennifer Kresge, Margie Mock
- 28 Dennis McGlynn
- 29 Dara Hassan
- 30 Mary Jane Kenyon
- 31 Stephanie Ladd

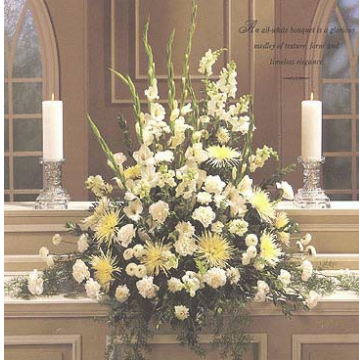
Happy Anniversary

March Anniversaries

- 9 Isaac & Kemi Oluwafemi
- 22 Nancy & Samuel Shipllett

Altar Flowers

- March 2
- March 9 Kemi Oluwafemi
- March 16 Peggy Wells
- March 23 Ann Rowland
- March 30



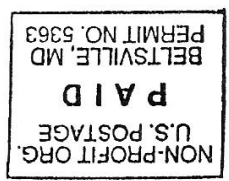
*Come join us for Sunday school as we examine
 current faith issues and world events through FaithLink
 - where we talk about everyday issues and our belief.*

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 6 pm Pancake Supper
2 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	3	4 7 pm ESOL	5 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service will be at Queen's Chapel UMC	6 1 pm Widow's Group 7 pm Chancel Choir	7	8 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
9 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School Second Sunday Lunch 1 pm Youth Fellowship 1:30 pm UMW Exec Meeting	10 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Depression/Bipolar Support Group 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting	11 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL	12 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir	13 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	14	15 10 am Rummage Sale
16 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Youth Fellowship	17 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle	18 7 pm ESOL	19 10 am Susanna Wesley Circle 12 Noon Dorcas Circle 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir 7 pm Sisters In Spirit	20 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	21 11 am Community Place Café 7 pm Food Prep	22 10 am Food Distribution
23 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Youth Fellowship	24 7 pm Church Council 7 pm Depression/Bipolar Support Group	25 10 am Prayer Fellowship 7 pm ESOL	26 6:30 pm Maranatha Choir	27 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	28	29
30 9 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	31					

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Web: www.emmanuelumcbeltsville.net

Address Service Requested



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