

The Caller



610-543-2110

SWARTHMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081
www.swarthmoreumc.org

March
2018

From the Pastor:

Lent is a preparation for the Resurrection of Christ resting on a tripod of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. In Lent, we are called to take a step back from the everyday bustle of our lives and concentrate on Christ again. It's a renewal period, a time to start over, and focus on being members of the body of Christ – instead of the world. The three elements of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are instituted —not to make our lives miserable — but to help us achieve our goal of growing closer to God in the Lenten Season.

During Lent, many of us give up chocolates, candies, meat, or TV. However, we should remember fasting is not just about giving up certain foods or something that we like. Fasting teaches us to discipline and control our body's wants and desires. We are then supposed to use this control to focus on abstaining from sin, which brings us closer to God.

Here are some ways we can practice giving up things that keep us from loving God, loving one another, and loving our neighbors in our daily living. (Selected from *the Anglican Digest*).

- Fast from worry; feast on trusting God.
- Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
- Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.
- Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast from unceasing prayer.
- Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
- Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
- Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.
- Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.
- Fast from gossip; feast on purposeful silence.
- Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that sustains.
- Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.

Love and Peace,

Sukja

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Thank You for Your Service!

Readers:

March 4: Nanette Tobin
March 11: Judy Luzak
March 18: Sam Parsons
March 25: Sue Kelly

Children's Message:

March 11: Rich Cresson
March 18: Sukja Bang
March 25: Nanette Tobin

Ushers:

March 4: Wes and Christine Hutchinson
March 11: Rick Sultzer and Susan Kelly
March 18: Cresson Family
March 25: Carr Family

Fellowship:

March 4: Sheila Bell and Mary Drott
March 11: Susan Kelly
March 18: Pot Luck Luncheon
March 25: Joyce Ciampa

Counters:

First Sunday Andy Lewis
Second Sunday Rick Sultzer and Hogie Hansen
Third Sunday Bill Flick and Harriet Hudgins
Fourth Sunday Barb Weir and Charlie Hoover
Fifth Sunday Bill Flick and Harriet Hudgins

Altar Flowers:

March 4: Honor of Hogie Hansen's Birthday, by Anne Hansen and family
March 11: by Susan Kelly
March 18: In honor of my grandchildren:
Will, Scott, Laura, Katie and Peter by Mary Ann Patterson
March 25: In honor of Andrew Ciampa's birthday, by the Ciampa family

Please call Peggy Mattox at the church office (610-543-2110) to let her know if/when you cannot serve on the date for which you signed up so that a substitute may be arranged.



All the World's a Stage Theater Groups at SUMC

MARPLE-NEWTOWN PLAYERS-SPOTLIGHT THEATER

Performances at Swarthmore UMC

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SUMC

Please join us for the following events:

- March 4: Education Committee following the Faith and Life Class
- March 11: UMCOR Sunday
- March 12: Trustees, 7:30 pm, Centennial room
- March 13: Finance Committee, 7:30 pm
- March 14: Book Club, 7:30pm, Carolyn Stephens' home
- March 19: Administrative Council, 7:30 pm, Centennial room
- March 21: PBJ Night, 7:45 pm, Centennial room
- March 25: Strategic Planning Report to congregation after worship, followed by lunch
- March 26: Outreach Committee, 7:30 pm at Caimpa's home

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Deadline for the March Caller is Tuesday, March 20th

Be sure and let the Church office know about any events you would like published

WORSHIP NOTES



- March 4: Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Cor. 1:18-25, John 2:13-22
- March 11: Numbers 21:4-9, Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22, Eph. 2:1-10, John 3:14-21
- March 18: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ps. 51:1-12, Heb. 5:5-10, John 12:20-33
- March 25: Mark 11:1-11, Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29

Faith and Life Class

March 4: Bruce Stephens will facilitate a discussion of the lectionary readings for March 11. Scripture to be studied includes Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10 and John 3:14-21. The intent is to familiarize attendees with those passages to better understand next week's sermon.

March 11: The art and literature world has contemplated the meaning and power of the Lenten season as expressed through artists' and writers' ideas. Christine Hutchinson will share poetry of this sacred season for our own contemplation.

March 18: TBA

March 25: The Strategic Planning Group will present updates on future plans for SUMC. A brief meeting will be held after the service, followed by a potluck lunch of good food and fellowship. Please bring a dish (with food in it) to share.

*He has showed you, o Mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord **require** of you?
Just this: To do Justice; To love Kindness; and to walk, humbly, with your God.*



OUTREACH—Touching Lives for Christ

For as much as you have done unto these, you have done unto me.



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

March 2018

On Sunday, March 11 we will be receiving the annual offering for UMCOR Sunday, formerly known as “One Great Hour of Sharing.” UMCOR is the main missional arm of the United Methodist Church with outreach across the globe and locally as well. The offering that we will collect that day is to support the infrastructure of the missions work of UMCOR such that whenever there are special collections for specific needs, 100% of any special collection can go to the direct mission work. So this is not the glamorous piece of the mission work, but a very necessary part of it. Please give generously.

Instead of giving up something for Lent, we are asking you to set aside an offering each week (e.g. the equivalent of the cost of a medium latte) that we will collect at the end of Lent so that we can purchase supplies for UMCOR health kits. The health kits go to the mission central warehouses and then are distributed as needed in times of crisis, such as for hurricane relief. We will plan a time after church some Sunday in April to assemble the health kits with the purchased supplies.

The Chester /Delco Chapter of Heeding God’s Call is supporting the “Demand the Ban” on assault rifles that is being sponsored by Delco United for Sensible Gun Policy. This rally is taking place on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Arch Street Friends Meeting House at 4th and Arch Streets. At the rally, an assault weapon will be melted down and made into a garden tool. The group will then process to Senator Pat Toomey’s office at Second and Chestnut Streets to deliver the garden tool and to request that Senator Toomey cosponsor Senate Bill 2095, the Assault Weapon Ban of 2017. Please contact Ralph Ciampa if you would like more information about this.

Wednesday, March 21 is also our next PBJ night to benefit the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County and City Team in Chester. Bring two loaves of sliced bread and make PBJ sandwiches with friends. We start at 7:45 p.m. and are finished before 9:00 p.m. Light refreshments are served.

We also still collect weekly for City Team nutritious foods and items for mothers and babies. Place your donations on the table in the narthex. Thanks for your support.

SUMC Book Club Dates

*Meetings are the second **Wednesday** of each month, at 7:30pm*

March Book Club will meet on March 14th at the home of Carolyn Stephens:

133 Park Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081

The discussion book is *Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo.



Strategic Planning Report, March 25th

The Strategic Planning Group has continued to meet regularly with our consultant, Hal Taussig.

On Sunday, March 25, 2018, we will again report to the congregation following morning worship. A pot-luck lunch will follow to continue informal conversation on our future.



APRIL 14th 9am-noon

Trustees' Clean up Day



Dust off your dusters! Break out your work gloves.

Trustees are planning for a work day to spruce up the church - inside and out.

Is there any area of the church you think needs attention? Let any of us know.

Penni Flick, Charlie Hoover, Alison Masterpasqua,
Ed Parent, Linton Stables, Carolyn Stephens



Meet the SUMC Administrative Council:

Nanette Tobin, Chair
Sukja Bang, Pastor
Janice Ciampa, Outreach
Ralph Ciampa, Staff Parish Relations
Andy Lewis, Treasurer
Christine Hutchinson, Education
Penni Flick, Trustees
Anne Hansen Lay Member for Annual Conference
At Large: Kay Hoover, Mark Stewart

What we do:

The purpose of the church council is to provide planning a program of nurture, outreach, witness and resources for our church. Our meetings are scheduled on the 3rd Monday of the month in the Centennial Room at SUMC. We have agreed that, if there are no pressing issues, we can meet alternative months. Admin Council works closely with the Strategic Planning group on the future of our church; indeed, we have many members on both.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas for Administrative Council to address, or if you are interested in joining as an at-large member, please contact Nanette Tobin or Pastor Sukja.

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Swarthmore United Methodist Church
129 Park Avenue
Swarthmore, PA 19081



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE
FORTY
DAYS
of LENT



RETURN
to the
LORD
YOUR
GOD



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®