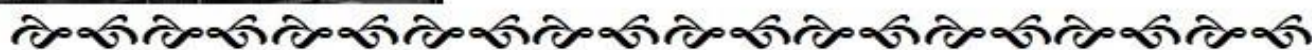


February 2024



The Perry Scope

Perry Hall United Methodist Church Newsletter
9515 Belair Road, Nottingham, MD 21236



A Message from The Pastor



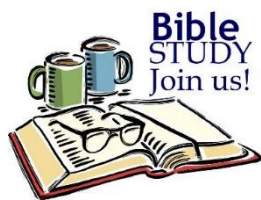
February contains two celebrations which we might consider to be opposites: Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Of course, Valentine's Day started as a celebration of a church saint, but it is certainly not a church holiday any longer. It is a celebration of love, primarily romantic love, but any love can be celebrated on February 14th. Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent and the day when we remember that we are mortal beings created by the almighty God. We are marked with ashes to remember that we were created out of mud and that we will one day return to the earth/mud/ashes. It would seem that there could not be two more

different holidays. Yet, both are gifts of God. Loving in its most general sense would not be possible for us without the capacity to love which God granted to each human being. Romantic love is most fully obtained as we seek to live out the nonjudgmental and generous love which we experience through God, and it is sustained as we learn forgiveness, compassion, kindness, and so on in our walk with God. On Ash Wednesday, we remember that all we have, even our very existence, is a gift from God, who loves us beyond anything we could imagine. We are God's children, created by God to love. We are to love God, one another, and ourselves with a complete and abundant love. Through Christ's love, we need not fear our mortality. We are granted eternal life through Christ, and we celebrate that death is overcome through Christ as we carry the mark of our mortality on Ash Wednesday. This February, we may or may not celebrate romantic love, but we most definitely celebrate the love of God, who created us and who grants us victory over death. Please join us on Ash Wednesday (which is also Valentine's Day) for ashes at Noon or at 7:00pm to receive ashes and partake of Holy Communion.

Blessings,

Pastor Margery





LENTEN STUDY BEGINS

Pastor Margery will be leading a Lenten Bible study for 6 weeks. The study will be held on Mondays, 2/19 – 3/25, at 7pm and on Tuesdays, 2/20 –

3/26, at Noon. We will use the book titled Savior; What the Bible Says About the Cross by Magrey R. deVega. The cost is \$15 for the book. There will be sign up sheets in the narthex or you may contact Pastor Margery at mlwschammel61@gmail.com to register.



Confirmation Classes beginning! Please contact Pastor Margery (mlwschammel61@gmail.com) if you or a youth of your acquaintance would like to know more about the Confirmation

experience. We will meet for 10 weeks of class, with a few field trips scheduled, too. An information/orientation session will be held on Sunday, Feb, 11th, after worship in the pastor's office.



by
Laura Hanna



HOLIDAY BASKET UPDATE

THANK YOU!!!!

For at least the last 20 years PHUMC has held a holiday food basket distribution. Most years the distribution provided all the dinner fixings plus even coats and toys to those in need. While COVID may have change things, it did not change the love you provided to the community! This year was no exception. Over 100 families signed up for the holiday distributions (between the Thanksgiving and Christmas events) and your kindness, generosity made that be possible! Not only were all the families that called were promised a beautiful, holiday dinner – but your generosity allowed even more. In fact, your kindness provided 'so much extra' that the shelves of the pantry were able to benefit and continue to give so much more to the community! The extras allowed the pantry to give pantry families that had not signed up for Christmas/Thanksgiving distribution also a chance to still have that perfect 'holiday dinner' – God Bless you and Camp Chapel UMC for your kindness and generosity!

Also want to thank all the brave 'Santa helpers' that helped with the distributions – while the weather was a little nippy, the sun was shining so the weather was overall good! Having the distribution as a drive through with the families already registered allowed the events to be easy for everyone and run very smoothly! Thank you to Paster Margery, Joe, Mike, Peggy Wh, Peggy Win., for your help and laughter !

God Bless you all for your contributions – you are the unsung heroes to so many families, you gave happiness and joy during this special time of year!

Pantry News

WOW! Who would have ever thought that your "little" pantry would be the 'giant' it has become in helping the community! Back in January, 2023, the pantry served 122 families and we thought that was 'a lot' – well things have certainly changed. Each month the pantry has been increasing it's help by about 10 families and at the same time retaining the families it had been helping. This January, 2024, we have almost 200 families scheduled – which means that is also true for February!.



NUMBERS TELL THE STORY:

Here are the facts that 2023 produced:

Pantry days open: 159 days

Pantry Volunteer hours: Approximately at least 2400 hours

Pantry Food Donations:

- *From Maryland Food Bank – about 40,000 pounds
- *From Camp Chapel UMC – at least 10,000 pounds
- *From the Community (individuals and organizations) – at least 5,000 pounds
- *From monetary donations/purchases – at least 13,000 pounds
- *From Weis Bakery (located on Joppa Rd) - hundreds and hundreds of baked bread and desserts. Each week they donated 2 shopping carts filled with 'in- date' baked items!

These donated items represent the weight of frozen meat, non-perishables, and personal hygiene items. These donations came from food drives, monthly food donations, weekly food donations, and monetary donations! While the numbers are staggering what is more staggering is that all of these donations are literally gone and replaced weekly – in other words, the pantry shelves are constantly being restocked! The little pantry goes through hundreds of cases (yes cases) of food every month!

*Number of families served in 2023: 1795 (many of these families come once a month, every month)

*Number of individuals served in 2023: 5065 (average family size is almost 3)

Ages of individuals served:



31% were 0 – 18 year
18% were 19 – 35 year olds
24% were 36 – 59 year olds
27% were 60 and older

Thus, as you can see, our families/individuals are truly of all ages!

Bags of food given: approximately 10 per household which means approximately 17, 950! Each of these bags contains food that were donated by you, by Camp Chapel UMC, by the community, and by Maryland Food Bank – but all of these items were prepared by the duo team Mary and Cindy plus their helpers! Each Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday the bags and family boxes are ready to be given to the families that are scheduled those days – all with wonderful items, all filled with items that will help the families ‘stretch’ their budget.

Our Volunteers:

Margaret Hubbard; Christy Moore; Peggy Whiting; Sue Funk; Joe Orzolek; Peggy Winchester; Deborah Lucas; Ken McCracken; Judy Mayes; Nancy Schmidt; Kay Pokrzywa; Bettye Gramlich; Kathy Burke; Pat Smith; Mike and Pat Ryan; Kathy Whitson; Martha and Rich Spero; Dave and Bob Ross; Renee Smith; Mary Raab; Cindy Sebal; Dotty McDougal; Kathy and Dennis Bentz; Liz Appel; Bonnie Rowe; Donna Gilman; Marjorie Brown, Rita Talley; Sandy Boenig; Dawn Knauer; and Diane Keller.



So, as you can see, your ‘little pantry’ has been very, very busy. We have about 31 volunteers that work a ‘schedule’ they chose. Some work with the families, some work preparing for the families, some work on delivery day of the Maryland Food Bank, and some work it all! These volunteers may work once a month or once a week or several times a week! They are all heroes!

But the bottom line, without our volunteers and without your generosity, none of this would have occurred! So Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!! You made 2023 the year of ‘breaking records’ possible!

As always, the pantry is always needing to restock! If you wish to donate monetarily, we will do the shopping of items needed at that particular time (it always changes). If you wish to donate food items – we love to have your donations. Obviously, the items must be in date and not open – but we love all donations!



FOOD ITEMS:

Tuna fish - Cereal - Boxed /bagged rice (2# size) or boxed mashed potatoes - Pasta, pasta sauce - Diced tomatoes - Canned pasta – Soup - Peanut butter – Jelly - Side dishes (like flavored rice or noodles) - Macaroni

and cheese - Canned beans: pork/beans, black beans, kidney beans - Canned vegetables: peas, potatoes, corn carrots, mixed vegetables, green beans - Canned fruit: peaches, pears, mixed fruit, applesauce - Ramen noodles - Boxed crackers or cookies - Canned chili - Canned meat like spam or canned chicken.

NON-FOOD ITEMS:

Shampoo - Soap – Toothpaste – Detergent -Toilet paper

*The pantry also tries to keep available: diapers; incontinent products; feminine hygiene products; baby food/formula; and dried milk

DON'T FORGET: the pantry has 2 collections sites: the Giant on Belair Rd near Outback and the Weis on Joppa Rd near Belair Rd. Both sites have collection bins where donations can be left. Our volunteers collect from the bins twice a week!!

As with all our physical donations – each item is checked to make sure the item is ‘in date’ and ‘not damaged nor open’ before they go on the shelves to be given out.

The pantry may be small in size but big in heart! The love of the community in donations keeps the love and hope giving towards the families it serves! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO THE PHUMC FOOD PANTRY! You truly make a difference in so many lives!



Month of FEBRUARY

Acolyte

2/4 Catherine Reinhart
2/11 Sophia VanHook
2/18 Leona Mager
2/25 Sydney Lee

Children's Story

Sherri Wilmer
Pastor Margery
Heather Mager
Denise Boyd

Altar Guild

2/4 Kim Cole-Evans & Diane Lawrence
2/11 Pat Walter or Kim Cole-Evans & Gloria Barlow
2/18 Judy Brown & Carol Walker
2/25 Bettye Gramlich & Lois Welsh



The Board of Trustees main focus has been getting quotes to fix the leaks we have in the flat roof on the education wing. We have spent a lot of time meeting

and deciding which company to move forward with to complete the job. In December, we voted to move forward with Superior Roofing and sent our proposal to the Finance Committee.

Melanie N. Nolet
Chair of the Board of Trustees



We had a great turn out in December for the gingerbread house building for family ministries! We had a recent meeting and children and family ministries are joining forces to plan some fun things for our families in 2024! We are so grateful to have Gloria Barlow and Peggy Winchester joining Debbie Siegert and I to help plan the fun.

We had a fun winter themed craft project on January 28th after church. Everyone had a great time.

There is a Valentine themed "Minute to Win It" game day coming up on February 18th after church in the fellowship hall. We will have snacks too!

Future plans include an indoor mini-golf outing in March, Spring craft in April, Pool party outing in the summer months, back to school picnic in September, corn maze outing in the Fall and gingerbread house building in December.

We also discussed service opportunities for our youth.



by Joyce Ziegler
At their December meeting,
the Women of Faith Ladies

Group was busy making refrigerator magnets and signing Christmas cards to take to some PHUMC folks who don't get to church very often. The magnet, which



captured a beautiful rainbow appearing behind our church one day after a storm, was very much appreciated by the church members visited.

Many thanks to Peggy Whiting, Judy Brown and Joyce Ziegler for their trips to 19 PHUMC friends to hand deliver Christmas cards with the church magnet tucked inside and then visit awhile.

It was wonderful catching up with those members we've missed seeing in church.



CALLING NEW ACOLYTES !!!

We are planning our annual Acolyte training session for children who have signed up to begin acolyting this year.

Tentatively scheduled is one hour-long meeting in the sanctuary on a Friday evening in February.

If your child is at least 8 years old and is interested in becoming a PHUMC acolyte this year, please contact Joyce Ziegler to be included in the training session.

THANK YOU, LILY and TRYSTAN!

It's time to say goodbye and THANK YOU to our most senior acolytes, Lily VanHook and Trystan Boyd. They have both been so faithful for many, many years, not only acolyting themselves but also training and helping many of the PHUMC acolytes following behind them.

Lily began acolyting on Pentecost Sunday in 2016. Then, in 2019, she trained her younger sister, Sophia, on how to serve as a PHUMC acolyte. Currently, Lily is a Junior at City Neighbors High School. Lily's favorite thing in the world to do is to read. AP language is her favorite class this year because she gets to read a wide variety of genres. Having earned her Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards during her last 12 years in scouting, Lily will be starting on her highest award, the Gold, this year. Lily has also accepted a position on the General Board of the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland as a delegate this year; she is excited to learn and be part of this new adventure. Having just completed an internship with Enoch Pratt Library, Lily is looking forward to exploring different options in the Library Science field to pursue for her future.



Trystan trained as an acolyte when he turned 8 years old. He really enjoyed serving his church and was always willing to step up whenever needed. He is now 14 and a freshman in high school. He attends Joppatowne High School and is in the PTech Magnet program (studying cybersecurity), which works in conjunction with APG and Harford Community College. His high school may be extended an extra year, but he will graduate with his AA degree.

Trystan had this to say: "Honestly, my life has changed a lot since I've joined (the acolyte team). I gained a hobby in coding and playing video games, and even writing novels. I then applied my coding hobby to join a special magnet school, where I'll be taking my first college course this summer! Like, life has had a bunch of bumpy rides but if you make it through, you'll come out greater than you expect to be, and become a better you."



Thank you, Trystan and Lily, for serving God and our congregation as awesome PHUMC Acolytes.

- Joyce Ziegler



Adult Game Night from last month has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 24th at 7 pm at the home of Janeen Beebe. For informations or directions, contact Peggy Whiting at 443-257-2874.



February 17, 7-10 p.m.,
featuring **Doug Alan Wilcox**
<http://www.dawilcox.com/>).

Doug Alan Wilcox brings singer/songwriter perspective to a seamless marriage of bluesy folk and soul. Intimate, thought-provoking, and, on occasion, wryly humorous, Wilcox delivers music that will stick in your head - as well as your heart. His set starts around 8:15. The evening begins with an "open mic" at 7:00. The open mic resumes after Doug's set. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. The Folk Music Night schedule, along with additional information, may be found at <http://www.folkmusicnight.com/>. Questions may be directed to Neil Zimmerman: 410-529-7176 or ndzimmer@comcast.net.

- Neil Zimmerman



★ **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** will be held on Tuesday, February 13th from 4:30-6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to this free event. (A goodwill offering will be taken) We encourage you to come in your Mardi Gras finest! Menu includes: Pancakes, sausage, potatoes, fruit cup/applesauce and drinks.

★ **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt** will be held on Saturday, March 23rd from 9:30-11:30 am. Be sure to make your reservations for all your little ones. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, nieces and nephews and grandchildren. There will be crafts to make, games to play, and of course, the Easter Bunny himself will be there! A delicious breakfast will be served featuring scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, sausage gravy and biscuits, mini donuts and muffins, fruit cup/applesauce, home fries and drinks. We end the morning with an egg hunt. We will need lots of help for this event, so be looking for information soon!



UPCOMING EVENTS



(Outside Group Events Not Included)

- February**
- 1** – WISH Group 10:30 am
 - United Women of Faith 7 pm
 - 3** – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - 4** – Coffee Hour after church
 - 6** – Bible Class 11:00
 - 7** – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
 - 10** – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - 11** – Coffee Hour after church
 - 13** – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
4:30-6:30 pm
 - 14** – Ash Wednesday Church
 - 12 pm – no communion
 - 7 pm – with communion
 - 15** – Perry Scope article deadline
 - United Methodist Men 7 pm
 - 17** – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - Folk Music Night 7 pm
 - 18** – Coffee Hour after church
 - 19** – Bible Study 7 pm
 - 20** – Bible Study 12 pm
 - 21** – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
 - 24** – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
 - Private Party FH 1-5 pm
 - 25** – Coffee Hour after church
 - 26** – Bible Study 7 pm
 - 27** – Perry Scope Mailing 11 am
 - Bible Study 12 pm
 - 28** – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm



INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION



**Our policy is to close
when Baltimore
County Schools close.**
If schools delay

opening, morning meetings are cancelled. If schools close early, evening meetings and events will be cancelled at church. On the weekends, the schools may still cancel or delay their weekend events, so please check the Baltimore County Schools website. On Sundays, we may also need to cancel worship and Sunday School if our parking lot is not accessible, regardless of school cancellations- check online or call the church office (voicemail message should have current information). Please check our Facebook and website for all cancellations and delays. Be safe!

God's Valentine

For God so lo**V**ed the world
that He g**A**ve
His on**L**y
begott**E**n
So **N**
tha**T** whoever
believes **I**n Him
should **N**ot perish
but have **E**ternal life

Encourage by Angie



What can I give to Jesus
On this special Valentine's Day?
How can I tell Him I'll love Him,
And follow Him, come what may?

How can I show I need Him?
Should I send a red heart, with lace?
How can I thank Him enough
For his sacrifice, love and grace?

What Valentine can I give Him,
My adoration to impart?
I'll give to Him what He wants most;
I'll yield to Him my heart.