



Camp Chapel United Methodist Church

Carol L. Pazdersky
Pastor

Gary Lushbaugh
Music Director

Judy Homberg
Office Manager

P.O. Box 15
White Marsh, MD 21162

Office: (410) 256-5561

Email
office@campchapel.org

Acorn Submissions
acorn@campchapel.org

Website
www.campchapel.org



A Message from Our Pastor



On the Baptism of the Lord Sunday just a few weeks ago, we renewed our baptismal promises, reminded ourselves that we are the forgiven and loved children of God, and re-committed ourselves to supporting Christ's Holy Church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. As the Body of Christ on earth, the Holy Spirit gifts us to be the tangible presence of God in the world as we feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, comfort the grieving, care for the sick, befriend the lonely, and perform numerous other outreaches in Jesus' name.

On another recent snowy Sunday, we prayed together, lifting our praises, giving our thanks, rededicating our lives, and petitioning for ourselves and others. Our prayers were offered out of love for God and in turn, God grew love within us for both God and neighbor. In this month when thoughts turn to love, consider being God's love for the world by offering others a discipleship pathway.

- Invite neighbors to join in a time of fellowship – offer to drive them to a church dinner (and perhaps even offer to pay for their meal), bring them to a concert, or have them join you in JOY (Just Older Youth).
- Bring friends along to a mission project – the Furniture Ministry, Food Pantry, Baltimore County Christian Work Camp, or other activities.
- Ask others to join you in a Bible class (Sunday morning, Monday morning, or at Vacation Bible School) and/or ask if their children can come with yours to Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.
- Provide opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship by bringing others to worship services and make the Hospitality Hour part of it.
- Be sure to pray for, listen to, and serve those around you at home, in the neighborhood, at work, and in the community.

As we share our lives in these ways, we are truly the Body of Christ and we are opening eyes and hearts to the reality and love of God. Be a blessing in 2025 as you have been blessed in 2024.

Peace,
Carol

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY



The Perry Hall Community Food Pantry continues to distribute food on a weekly basis to local families in need. Now that the holidays have passed and other charitable groups aren't having food drives, their inventory is running low. With NFL Super Bowl Sunday approaching, it's the perfect time to kick off the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

On Sunday, February 2nd and/or 9th, please bring in any of the items listed below or a monetary donation in any amount by cash or check made payable to Camp Chapel. The collection area will be visible in the front of the sanctuary and the chapel. Monetary donations and food items are welcome and appreciated at any time on an ongoing basis.

FOOD ITEMS REQUESTED:

- Canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.)
- Canned beef chili with beans
- Cereal
- Canned vegetables (carrots, potatoes, mixed)
- Boxed macaroni and cheese
- Canned black beans or kidney beans
- Packaged noodles or mashed potatoes
- Saltine Crackers
- Diced tomatoes
- Peanut butter

AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY.

Mike and Pat Ryan

SCOUT TROOP 433 SELLING FIRST AID KITS

Troop 433 will be selling first aid kits to help raise money for summer camp. It's important to be prepared for life's little emergencies. You may choose either a home first aid kit or an auto first aid kit. Both kits offer 40+ pieces, including a variety of bandages, antiseptic towelettes, alcohol cleansing pads, gauze, an instant cold compress, a first aid guide and more. The auto kit also includes a "Call 9-1-1" flag and an accident report guide. Both kits are in a small profile, sturdy plastic box, easy to keep in your car, home or desk at work.

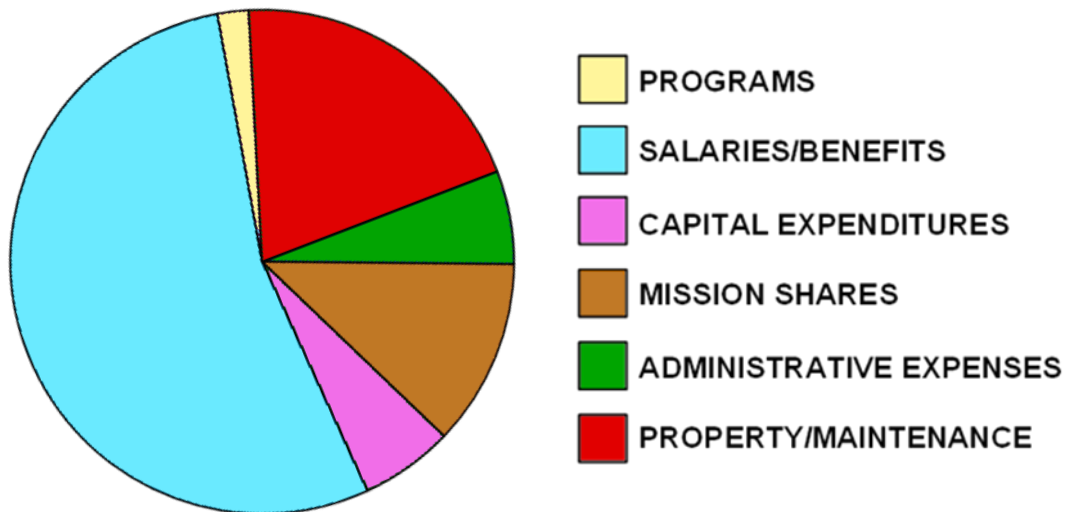
Cost is \$12 each or 2 for \$20. To place an order, please contact Angie Duckworth, Committee Chair for Troop 433 at amuir1@jhmi.edu or 301-693-2718. The last day to place your order is Fri, Feb 28. We really appreciate your support!

Lisa Dziuk

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

CAMP CHAPEL 2025 BUDGET RELEASED

The Finance Committee is pleased to share with you information about our 2025 budget. The total operating budget for 2025 comes to \$371,977. The pie chart gives you a breakdown of how General Funds will be spent during the coming year. General Funds come entirely from our congregation's tithing and offerings and are used to pay our operating expenses. This does not include our ministries that carry out their work from donations that are above and beyond offerings and tithing.



Here's a bit of further explanation:

Programs include adult Bible study, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, hospitality, marketing, history, and other worship costs.

Salaries and benefits are for our pastor, music director, and church administrator, including Social Security, Medicare, and state and federal withholding taxes. Benefits include health insurance and pension for our pastor.

Capital expenses is the money spent on acquiring and maintaining fixed assets.

Mission Shares are determined by and paid to the Baltimore Washington Conference to contribute to mission and ministries beyond our local congregation and community.

Administrative costs include office supplies, photocopier use, postage, our Zoom membership, website costs, and Safe Sanctuary (which pays for background checks for our members who interact with children).

Property maintenance includes ground and building maintenance and upkeep, insurance and utilities.

In God's Peace,
Sharon Ward, Treasurer

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

DATE FOR RETIREMENT LUNCHEON SET



Please save the date – Sunday, March 16 in Fellowship Hall following the 11 am service – to join with your fellow members at a reception and luncheon for Judy Homberg to thank her and celebrate her many years of service and devotion to Camp Chapel.

Judy has served faithfully, keeping the church office running smoothly for almost twelve years. Join us for a time of remembrance and gratitude for all that she has meant to our congregation and wish her well as she starts a new phase of her life.

CAMP CHAPEL YOUTH LEND A HAND

On Tuesday, January 14, the Camp Chapel Youth Sunday School class gave a helping hand to the Streets of Hope Men's Shelter in Essex. Four of our youth and four adults served dinner to the residents of the shelter. The men and the workers at the shelter were very grateful for the hot meal, salad, and dessert that were provided. The youth also were grateful for the experience of serving and lending a helping hand.

A big thank you goes to the participants from Camp Chapel:

Briella Almony, MaryAnn Plummer, Maya Gaskin, Angela Gaskin, Landon Beveridge, Maggie Taylor, and Sue Wallace. Another big thank you goes to the parents from the youth class who donated items: Sharon Beveridge, Angela Gaskin, MaryAnn Plummer, and Katie Klemm. A special shoutout to Sue Wallace for coordinating and making the main dish to serve. The Youth Sunday School class plans on continuing this activity next year.



Karen Knauer
Youth Sunday School Teacher



Snow and Ice Policy

In the event of inclement winter weather (snow or ice), we may have to close the church. During the week, any time Baltimore County schools close for winter weather, all activities at the church are cancelled. Saturday events are cancelled if a snow emergency is in effect. Sunday worship will be cancelled to protect our members' safety if our parking lot and walks cannot be safely cleared. The decision about cancellation of worship is made the evening before based on the information we have at that time. Safety is always a priority. Announcements of closure will be posted on our website and on the church office answering machine.



Upcoming Events



J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

Wednesday, February 5, 11 am in Fellowship Hall

Join us and enjoy an afternoon of lunch, games, and fellowship with other Camp Chapel members. Bring a sandwich and a drink for lunch (dessert will be provided). Feel free to bring your favorite board game, cards, or dominos. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month.



All Are Welcome!



Ice Skating Night on the Avenue



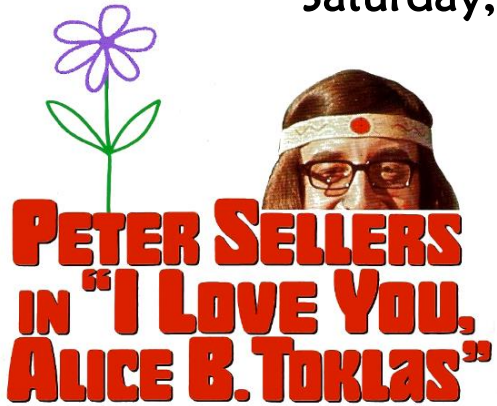
This event is still in the planning stages, so – sorry – there are few details available at this time. This event is being planned for mid-February. It will be posted on our Facebook page, we will have flyers displayed on the bulletin boards, and flyers will be distributed to our Sunday School children. Keep an eye out or contact Jackie Brawn for additional information.

Jackie Brawn

Upcoming Events Continued

Camp Chapel Film Seminar Presents Movies About Angels

Saturday, February 15, 6 pm Via Zoom



In 1960s Los Angeles, after Harold Fine, a dull, straitlaced attorney, meets a beautiful flower child and eats some of her “magic” brownies, his whole life changes!

I Love You, Alice B. Toklas (1968), directed by Hy Averback, stars Peter Sellers, Jo Van Fleet, and Leigh Taylor-Young in her film debut, and has a running time of 94 minutes. Join us for a classic movie and discussion!



To check the flyer on our web site, click this link: **ALICE B.** or scan the QR code ►

Zoom information will be sent via email



35th Annual Talent Auction

Saturday, March 1

4:30 - 7:30 pm

Dinner 4:30 – 5:30, \$5/person

The Auction Begins at 5:30 pm



Suggested Donations Include:

Car Detailing

Gift Baskets

Homemade Crafts

Rides to/from Airport

Sporting Event Tickets

Computer/Tech Support

Baked Goods

Dinner & Movie

House Cleaning

Lawn Care

Homemade Food Items

Only new/unused items accepted. This is NOT a white elephant event nor an opportunity to clean house and get rid of used items. **Donations Deadline: Sunday, February 16.** Donations may be registered online at <https://campchapel.org/event/talent-auction/> or scan the QR code ►



The auction is always a fun evening of fellowship. All church members and their guests are invited, and we'd love to see new faces!

Auction bills will be made available Sunday, February 23

Call 301-704-0893 for additional information

The Camp Chapel Music Ministry Presents Katelyn Hemling

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, March 23, 4 pm



We will have a wonderful vocal recital by Katelyn Hemling on Sunday March 23 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Katelyn sang with the Chancel Choir last year for the All Saints Sunday service and also this year for the Christmas Concert. She is an extremely gifted musician with a beautiful voice.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 12, 10 am - 12 pm



This is a free event for children and families, including crafts, games, prizes, & Easter Egg Hunt.



Online registrations will open February 15
<https://campchapel.org/event/easter-egg-hunt/>

Or scan the QR code ►



Easter Candy and Donations Needed

Donations of individually wrapped candy, stickers, toys, (small enough to fit in eggs) are welcome as well as drinks and snacks. Please leave all donations in the box inside the side entrance to the church, and thank you.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help fill eggs, hide the eggs, manage crafts, serve the food, etc. If you would like to help with this event, please contact **Kellie Smith** at 443-691-2677 or email kellie.smith99@gmail.com

Departed

Thelma Rose Moore January 21, 1932 - December 21, 2024



We regret to inform you of the passing of Thelma Moore. She was the beloved wife of the late John "Jack" Moore; devoted mother of Patricia Messenger, her husband Scott, and the late Linda Moore, and Douglas Moore; loving grandmother of Sean Messenger, his wife Joanie, Jackie Williams, her husband Shawn; cherished great grandmother of Jaxon, Raelynn, Bennett, Maya, Hallie; and loving nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Memorial donations may be made in Thelma's name to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 6704 Hagerstown, MD 21741 or www.cancer.org. Condolences may be left for the family at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/nottingham-md/thelma-moore-12139283>

[moore-12139283](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/nottingham-md/thelma-moore-12139283)



Thank You

Thank you for the Christmas bonus. The funds will be used to purchase airfare to visit my family in Florida. Your acknowledgement of my efforts and generosity are truly appreciated.

Judy Homberg



Thank You

First, I want to thank the Camp Chapel family for their continued support for the music program. It was wonderful to see so many people at the Christmas Concert. Second, thanks for the cards, prayers, and concerns during my health problems. I am still not "out of the woods" yet. Third, a special thank you for the generous Christmas bonus. I had not been included in the staff bonus until this year, which made it such a surprise.

Thanks again,
Gary



Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the lovely cards I receive throughout the year, especially at Christmas. May God shed His blessings of health, peace, happiness, & love upon you this year.

In Christian Love,
Shirley Curtain

Enough

Enough is a point on a spectrum. The spectrum goes like this: too little (or too few) - less than enough – enough - more than enough - too much (or too many). To keep things shorter, let's call it the TL-LE-E-ME-TM spectrum. The question to consider is, at what point does enough become more than enough, and when does more than enough become too much or too many? When does enough become less than enough and less than enough become too little or too few?

I read an article that claimed most people use more than enough laundry detergent in each load. Having more than enough detergent doesn't cause the wash to come out any cleaner, so in that way, using more than enough detergent is inconsequential. However, an excessive amount of detergent can cause traces to remain in the fabric because the amount exceeds the ability of the rinse cycle to flush it all away. It's also possible the extra detergent could leave a residue to accumulate in the plumbing and shorten the life of the washer. Then there's the obvious fact that using more than enough detergent will cause you to run out faster, meaning more trips to the store and more money spent. In that way, more than enough could be damaging.

By all this, you'd probably guess that I'm a laundry nerd – that I treat doing the laundry like an experiment in high school chem lab. If so, you'd guess wrong. I'm one of those people who see doing the laundry much the same way I view going to the dentist. Oh heck – that time again already? Laundry nerds have a laundry day. For me, laundry day is the day after I notice that there are just two pairs of skivvies left in my underwear drawer, or I'm down to my last clean shirt. Laundry nerds use the measuring cup that comes with the detergent to determine precisely how much liquid or powder to pour into the dispenser. They read and follow the directions printed on the bottle or box – this much for delicates, this for a light load, this much for heavy soil... Me, I ballpark it based on how heavy and how funky. My washing machine has a whole bunch of settings. I use two. Undies, linens, and towels get the “Sanitize” setting. Everything else I wear gets “Permanent Press”. My laundry protocols were established when I was a college freshman, and they haven't changed in the sixty years since then. I hope that's not TMI.

But doing the laundry is just an example of the way we all experience the TL-LE-E-ME-TM spectrum. You can measure a lot of stuff on that kind of scale. Think about pizza crust, cologne, tire pressure, air conditioning, country music, hair gel, snow, kale...

...or money. How about money? Is there such a thing as too much money?

In my twenties I became a teacher at a school in the Baltimore Archdiocese. Parochial schools do not pay their teachers very much, and in 1971 they paid teachers a lot less! During the two years I taught at Most Precious Blood Catholic Elementary School I learned all I ever want to know about having too little money! Too little money was tough! I owned a car, but I was forced to live with my parents, and I paid them a small sum each month so that I didn't need to face the realities of living on my own and paying for rent, utilities, groceries – all the material stuff that keeps body and soul together. Still, looking back, I understand that I sat in the upper part of the “too little” end of the spectrum. I never went to bed hungry. I didn't sleep in my car

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

or in the open. That's reality for many people down there in "too little" territory, but not for me. I thank God for giving me parents who provided food and shelter for me, and I pray for those who don't enjoy advantages like I had. Even later in my life, when I was without an income for eight months after having been laid off, I had reserves I could draw from so that I never had to make a choice between buying groceries or paying to visit the doctor. But those are decisions that many of our fellow humans must make each day.

Not enough money describes a lot of the years that followed my teaching career, but eventually, through hard work and not a little luck and divine providence, I got to a station in life that – if I'm honest – I'd say is enough. More than enough money is a country I'm afraid I will never get to visit, and too much money is about as out of reach as a trip to Jupiter or Mars for me.

What would it be like to have more than enough money? When I was in the Navy, my ship visited the island republic of Malta. There was a casino in the capital city Valletta, and a few of us put on our best civilian duds and went there one evening. My outfit was a pair of skintight black bell-bottom trousers (it was 1970, remember), a fitted pink dress shirt, black tie, a custom-tailored double-breasted dark green Glen Urquhart plaid jacket, and a pair of dark green leather Stacy Adams shoes that all together cost me more than I had paid for my first car. I looked good. I strode confidently across the threshold of the casino, and suddenly I looked like a peasant compared to the attire, accessories, and grooming of the wealthy gentlemen at the gaming tables. Near the end of the evening, I have an indelible memory of watching a man in an impeccably crafted tuxedo enter the building, approach the roulette table, purchase 10 thousand American dollars' worth of chips, put it all on twelve, watch the ball land on 26, shrug, and leave the building as if he did the same thing every day. The scene probably took less than ten minutes. It would have taken me more than two years to earn what he had just lost.

What would it be like to have more money than more than enough? I can only fantasize about such a condition. Yet today, there are several individuals who have accumulated wealth on a scale never before known. Compared to the likes of Bernard Arnault, Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, or Mark Zuckerberg, Egyptian pharaohs and Roman emperors were paupers. I'm not making this up – Bernard Arnault is richer than Qatar – the whole country! Elon Musk could purchase Costa Rica and Luxembourg and still have enough wealth left over to buy Barbados!

Why do some of us idolize these people so? Why do we follow their activities? Is it as simple as envy? Let's face it, other than biology, we have nothing in common with them. Do you imagine Elon Musk has ever gone into a grocery store to buy eggs? Do you think he knows – or cares – how much a jug of milk costs? People with that level of wealth don't need health insurance or Medicare or Social Security or Medicaid. They don't change their oil or shovel snow or wash their clothes or take out the trash and recycling. How many billionaires does it take to change a lightbulb? Nobody knows – billionaires don't change lightbulbs! These people have lifestyles that are so vastly different from ours, how can you imagine that they could possibly understand the challenges you and I face as we live our lives.

And what do they do with all that money? (Sorry – this is where I get a bit judgmental.) A lot of it, they just hold on to. They buy toys. I honestly don't begrudge them that. They worked



hard to acquire their fortunes and earned the right to buy toys, or at least daddy or granddad earned that right for them. Some of them give some of their money to charitable causes or fund grants for humanitarian purposes. But you and I know that they just hold on more than they'll ever need. I can't imagine what that looks like; what it feels like. Maybe they have a huge room in one of their mansions, a money bin where they keep it all, and like Scrooge McDuck, they spend some time there every so often, diving in and splashing about as if it were a vast swimming pool filled with gold coins. But last time I checked, there are still kids who go to sleep without having eaten, still people who can't pay for a roof over their heads, sufferers who can't afford the care or the medicines that would make them well. The last time I checked we still hadn't found a cure for cancer or Alzheimer's. Money can't solve all our problems, but those – maybe.



Scrooge McDuck © The Walt Disney Company

Paul the Epistle writer said in his first letter to Timothy, "...the love of money is the root of all evil;" and Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." I have to believe they were onto something there.

If you have a few billion dollars, isn't that enough? More than enough? If you have 233 billion dollars, or 195 billion, like Arnault or Musk, that's more than more than enough, that's too much. It's even more than too much – it's way too much! You've left the spectrum!

My question, then, comes down to this: If someone has that much wealth, when does it become time to stop counting the money and living the good life and start thinking about how you could use some of that money to make a better life for everybody else?

Enough about money, though. In closing, I want to mention that there are lots of things for which the whole concept of the TL-LE-E-ME-TM spectrum doesn't apply, for example, love or prayers or grace. You can never have too much love, right? No such thing as too many prayers! God's grace has no limits! We don't really need ways to measure things like that.

Some people (okay, me) would include chocolate in that "spectrum doesn't apply" category.

Or puppy breath.

Or gelato.

Bill Smith



Church History: Early Preachers and Circuit Riders

As people gathered for the camp meetings at Camp Chapel on Sunday mornings, some of them would lead the service. At other times, circuit riders would visit and preach to those gathered.



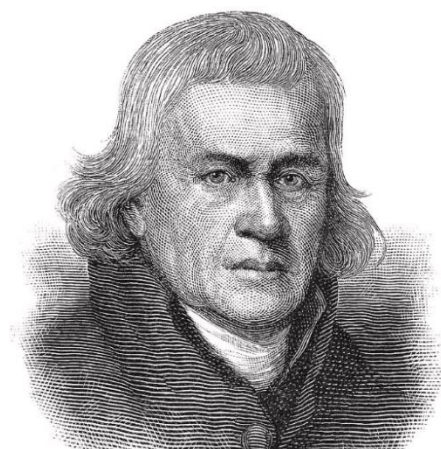
Robert Strawbridge



Freeborn Garretson

Some of these circuit riders included Robert Strawbridge, the great American pioneer of early Methodism in America. He preached his first sermon, found the first society, and built the first meeting house for Methodists in Maryland. He was a friend of Charles Ridgely and frequently visited him, and on one of his visits he arranged to meet here at Camp Chapel.

Another historic figure in the early stages of Methodism in America was Freeborn Garretson. He was converted to the faith in Perryman, Maryland and in 1809 preached here at Camp Chapel.



Francis Asbury

Camp Chapel found a place on the lengthy circuit of organizer of American Methodism, Francis Asbury. Asbury was a frequent visitor at the Perry Hall home of Harry Dorsey Gough. On March 20, 1809, he preached here at Camp Chapel. He devoted all his time in Maryland. He, along with Thomas Coke, saw the need to organize societies of Methodists in Maryland, so in 1784 they called for the historic Christmas Conference to be held at the Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore. There was a wide latitude of beliefs in the practice of the faith in the early days of the Church. Francis Asbury and Robert Strawbridge disagreed about what sacraments were to be provided in the colonial church.

In 1793, the Reverend Henry Smith was licensed to preach in Maryland. In 1807, he was appointed to the Fells Point circuit, where he had twenty-three regular appointments, classes, and meetings. He served as a traveling preacher for forty-two years. In September 1812, while preaching at Camp Chapel, he could hear the guns firing during the Battle of North Point twelve miles away.

The Reverend Robert Cadden was also appointed to the Fells Point circuit. His travels took him to Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. He was appointed to the Hiss Methodist Church in Parkville from 1849 to 1850. He was the first pastor to reside in the parsonage at Hiss. Regular services were held at Camp Chapel until the middle 1840s when the church closed. In 1850, he relocated from Hiss to reopen and lead the congregation here at Camp Chapel.

Camp Chapel was for many years served by rotating pastors from the Fells Point circuit, later to be called the Great Falls circuit.

These pastors and all that have served our church will be highlighted in future issues of the *Acorn*.

Doris Akehurst Tarleton
Church Historian



Devotion at Camp Chapel Gatherings

Continuing the theme of Gratitude, think, reflect and listen deeply daily.

Preparation suggestions: breathe in, breathe out, 3 times, each time a bit deeper and slower.

Gratitude - Think and reflect as if we were gathered in prayer. Think and reflect in gratitude:

- What gave you Joy today? (*pause*)
- Name 1 item of the work of Camp Chapel for which you are grateful today. (*pause*)
- Write a word that describes how you feel today, using our united power of prayer. (*pause*)

Knowing others are in this same reflection, your response each day may be the same or different. Use these thoughts and reflections as you feel called; *start a journal, enter notes on a calendar, write a story, ...*

The next time you hear the words: “*Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*” wrap them in your heart and be grateful for those who sing praise with you. The times you feel a negative coming on, think of these lyrics, inviting praise to the situation. Share the Joy that G_d has placed on your heart.

Let Us Pray: Guiding Spirit, show me the way. Amen.

With Peace and Blessings, Kathy Martin

If you would like to chat on these reflections, look for me on Sunday between services in the hall or reach out to me at kathymartin@comcast.net. (Reflections based on Linda Douty's, *Rhythms of Growth*. Upper Room Books, 2014.)



Creation Care Corner

It has been quite a cold start to the new year, and winter can often feel endless with its monochrome grey tones. Yet, as we move into February, we find ourselves in a season rich with overlapping sacred traditions that are sometimes overshadowed by Lent or dismissed as commercialized holidays. Embracing these observances in meaningful ways can provide fresh perspectives during what is often seen as the bleakest time of year.

Saint Brigid's Day, Candlemas, Groundhog Day, and Saint Valentine's Day each mark midwinter with unique rituals and traditions that distill down to a shared theme: the anticipation of renewal of God's creation and humanity's connection to it. For centuries, Christians in the West have celebrated the turning of midwinter and the beginning of agricultural spring, and we can draw on these traditions to reflect on our role as stewards of God's creation and find inspiration for living in harmony with the earth.

The first of February is the feast day of Saint Brigid of Kildare, Ireland according to Catholic tradition and became an official public holiday in the Republic of Ireland in 2023. St. Brigid was renown in medieval Ireland for her generosity to the hungry, hospitality to the homeless and deep connection to the Irish landscape. Brigid lived by the Lord's command in Isaiah 58:10, "if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday." How can we be generous to others and nature during the coldest time of year?

Candlemas is celebrated on February 2 to commemorate the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. This feast of light celebrates Jesus as the light of the world with the promise of salvation for creation. Traditionally, parishioners would bring their candles to be blessed for the year. While we no longer use candles to light our homes, are we using energy efficient technology and sustainable practices in our house to light and heat our homes? Let us commit to being lights of sustainability and hope in our communities.

Groundhog Day occurs on the same day as Candlemas and is also a holiday rooted in light that harbors a profound truth: our deep desire to understand our Lord's creation. Respect for the wisdom of nature and creatures other than humans reminds us of God's covenant between us and all creation, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and *every living creature* that is with you, *for all future generations*: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." (Genesis 9:12-13). Honoring all creation honors the Lord who entrusted it to us in covenant.

Halfway through the month of February stands a holiday that causes a visceral reaction like none other: Valentine's Day. While "St" has been dropped from the name in recent years to secularize the holiday for our modern American (and now global) society, we can still learn from the Roman Valentine who lived the Gospel through love in action with compassion and care for others while facing severe persecution. Let that inspire us to extend love to all of God's creation even in the face of ridicule.

Take some time this month, in the doldrums of winter, to plan and pray on how you are going



to serve the Lord's creation and make that commitment. Love for creation can take many forms: planning a garden and starting seeds for spring planting, taking a mindful walk or hike, cleaning up litter, meditating and journaling in nature, and even researching tax credits to update inefficient heaters. While it may seem dreary outside, let us remember Paul's advice to Galatians (6:9), "And let us not grow weary of doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."

Frank Long
Creation Care Team Co-Leader



Thank You, Camp Chapel, for All You Do

I would like to thank everyone who participated in and attended the Live Nativity on Saturday December 21. It was a spectacular night filled with wonder and awe. The never-ending line of cars was just amazing and the responses from those that attended just warmed my heart.

This event would never have been possible without the help of some amazing volunteers:

James Ward – Electrician, Construction, and Advisor
Mike Ryan – Construction, Signs, Parking Attendant, and Advisor
Karen Warren – Decorating, Welcoming Committee, and Advisor
JoAnn Bowers (and her sister, Doris) – Costumes
Keith Klemm – straw bales
Katie Klemm – Hospitality Committee
Angela Gaskin, Maya Gaskin, Zoey Jackson, and Pat Ryan – Parking Attendants
Elizabeth McDonold, David McDonold, Winston Bain, Keith Klemm, Frank Long,
Josh Klemm, and Leah Klemm – Actors



Thank you again!
Jackie Brawn

Birthdays

February Birthdays

Philip Graham	February 2
Darlene Grief	February 3
Paul Gyr	February 4
Benjamin Craven	February 7
Andrew Brawn	February 12
David Borgerding	February 13
Carolyn Glorioso	February 20
Cathy Zink	February 22
Allison Anderson	February 24
Faye LaBar	February 27

March Birthdays

Emma Gyr	March 2
Anna Delkoon	March 3
Weston Beveridge	March 4
Ron Wernsdorfer	March 6
Faye Warehime	March 7
Kelly Finney	March 7
Joshua Klemm	March 7
Ethan Morrow	March 8
Mary Lynn Lentz	March 10
Amy Borgerding	March 13
Sue Ellen Hickman	March 13
John Diggs	March 14
Dar Pendergrass	March 14
Marbara Price	March 14
Jason Taylor	March 17
Doris Tarleton	March 18
Linda Herbert	March 19
Mylene Amador	March 20
Bill Smith	March 22
Grant Wickenheiser	March 23
Mark Yanson	March 24
Larry Daubert	March 27
Kathleen Whitson	March 30
Nathan Dziuk	March 31



Having a Birthday?

The *Acorn* would love to celebrate every single birthday of every member of our congregation, but sometimes we do not have that information in our files! Each month, we list the birthdays for this month and the next. If your birthday does not appear, please send an email to acorn@campchapel.org with your name and the month and day you were born. WE DO NOT NEED TO KNOW THE YEAR! Your age can be your secret!

Lectionary Readings

February

February 2: 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6 (UMH 794)
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

February 9: 5th Sunday after Epiphany

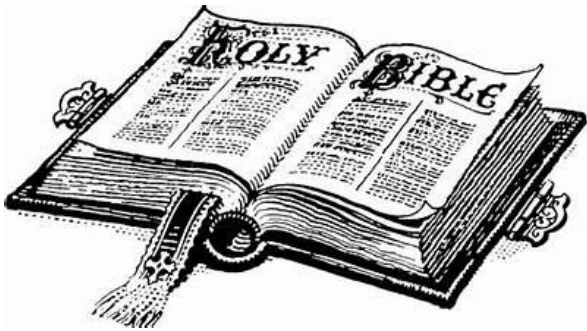
Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
Psalm 138 (UMH 853)
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 16: 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1 (UMH 738)
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

February 23: 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (UMH 772)
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38



March

March 2: Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99 (UMH 819)
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

March 5: Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 766)
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9: 1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (UMH 810)
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 16: 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27 (UMH 758)
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 23: 3rd Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8 (UMH 788)
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 30: 4th Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32 (UMH 766)
2 Corinthians 5:6-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Bible Is the Word of God

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Handicap Parking

Because there is such a demand for the limited number of handicap parking spaces, if you are currently accustomed to using one of these spaces and the driver of your vehicle is able, please consider having the driver drop the passenger off, park in one of the regular spaces, and pick up the passenger when the service or the event is over. Thank you for your consideration.



SPRC Message About the Pastor's Work Week

Just as we respect Judy's days off, please respect Pastor Carol's regular days off (Fridays and Saturdays - her "weekend") by not calling or texting her unless it's an emergency. Before you call or text, please pause and think about it: most things can wait until Monday.



Prayer Requests



Cards are available to anyone who wishes to request prayers. The cards are available in the Narthex of the Chapel and in the pews in the Sanctuary. You may place the card in the offering plate, hand it to an usher prior to the service, or give it to the pastor after the service.

Another way to request prayers is through Camp Chapel's Facebook page on which members may post their joys and concerns throughout the week. Other members can respond with an emoji expressing their support or with a comment offering an encouraging word. Yet a third way to request prayers is by using the Prayer Request page on the church web site:

<https://campchapel.org/prayer-request/> or scan the QR code ►



Each week, prayer requests from these sources are collected and lifted up at the worship services.



Scam Alert: “Grandparent” Scams

Grandparent scams attempt to take advantage of the fact that you care for your family. The way these scams work is that someone calls you claiming to be a doctor or a nurse phoning from a hospital and tells you that your grandchild (or other family member – it’s called a grandparent scam, but it could involve any relative) has been in a traffic accident or has suffered some other kind of terrible injury. They tell you that all they could find in terms of identification or contact information was this number. Your grandchild needs immediate care, but they cannot verify insurance, and you need to come up with a sum of money quickly or they could die. There are a number of ways that the rest of the scam plays out: they may suggest having someone meet you at the bank; they may send a “courier” to your house to pick up the cash; you might be given a Venmo account to send the money to... you get the idea. They are hoping that your fear and concern for your grandchild will override your common sense, and you will just fork over the money. After all, what if your loved one really was in an accident?

There are several variations of this scam. You may be called by a scammer impersonating a police officer or your loved one’s attorney saying that he or she has been arrested and needs the money for bail, to pay the lawyer, or some other reason. You may get a call purportedly from a foreign country where your grandchild has been arrested or injured or had his or her money stolen. Some scammers even have elaborate setups in which they actually pay young people to impersonate the grandchildren of their victims. Some scammers have become even more sophisticated and will provide a case number, telling you to contact your own attorney or the local prosecutor. This is a pretty shrewd psychological trick, because they know that nine times out of ten, your lawyer or the city or county prosecutor will ask for the case number and tell you that they’ll check it out and get back to you. When you call the scammer back, they know that they have established a level of credibility with you, and also that you have shown yourself to be willing to comply with their instructions.

So, how do you protect yourself? First of all, don’t panic; keep your wits about you. The caller will give you some reason for keeping the situation a secret. That and the scammer’s insistence on getting the money right now should be your first clues that something fishy is going on. After you have finished talking to the person on the phone, and absolutely before you give them any money, call or text your loved one at their usual number and check to see if they are really in trouble. If you can’t get hold of them, call other family members or maybe friends. If you’re still not sure, look up the number and call the hospital or police precinct directly.

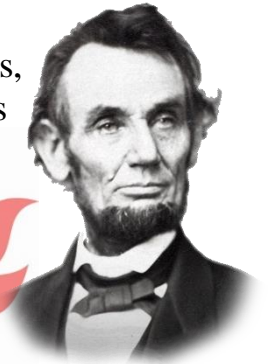
Whether or not you fall victim to this or any other scam, to help protect other potential victims, please report the incident to one of these agencies: your local police or sheriff’s office, or your state attorney general’s office. The scammer may also be violating federal law (often the case). The site www.usa.gov has a list of agencies and the types of crimes to report to them. If they have managed to steal your identity, www.identitytheft.gov has the steps to take to recover from that and protect yourself from it in the future.

Finally, don’t be embarrassed if you have been a victim of any scam. These con artists have studied for years how to separate people from their money. It happens.



What's Happening in February?

Among other observances, February is Black History Month, American Heart Month, Cancer Prevention Month, Creative Romance Month, International Month of Black Women in the Arts, International Friendship Month, and Humpback Whale Awareness Month



- February 1-7 Women's Heart Week
- February 1 Change Your Password Day
- February 2 Candlemas
- February 2-8 Boy Scout Week
- February 2 Groundhog Day
- February 3 Groundhog Day
- February 3 The Day the Music Died
- February 4 National Thank Your Mail Carrier Day
- February 5 National Girls and Women in Sports Day
- February 9 National Pizza Day
- February 9 Super Bowl Sunday
- February 11 International Day of Girls and Women in Science
- February 11 Peppermint Patty Day
- February 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- February 14-16 Girl Scout Cookie Weekend
- February 14-20 Random Acts of Kindness Week
- February 14 Valentine's Day
- February 15 Susan B. Anthony Day
- February 17 Presidents' Day
- February 20 World Day for Social Justice
- February 23 World Understanding and Peace Day
- February 21 National Caregivers Day
- February 22 George Washington's Birthday
- February 25 National Clam Chowder Day
- February 26 Black Lives Matter Day
- February 27 International Polar Bear Day
- February 27 National Chili Day
- February 28 National Tooth Fairy Day

