



Camp Chapel United Methodist Church

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Report from Annual Conference

The 241st session of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference (BWC) was held in Baltimore May 13 through May 15, attended by clergy and laity from the conference, including, from Camp Chapel, Pastor Carol and this year's Lay Members, Frank Long and myself.

The first day began with a dialogue session called "Restructuring for Vitality" in which we were introduced to our new organizational configuration. On July 1, 2025, the BWC will consolidate from eight districts into six districts and 64 collaborative hubs. Camp Chapel will be part of the Reservoir District and the North Beltway Hub. After that the clergy and laity split for their individual sessions. During the laity session, Frank and I enjoyed a presentation from Rev. Chris Sledge, who spoke about bringing church to Millennials, Gen Z, and Gen Alpha (young people under 40).

That evening consisted of an uplifting worship service led by Bishop Latrelle Easterling. I wish you could all experience Bishop Easterling's preaching. She is dynamic and delightfully erudite, with a wry sense of humor and more energy than anyone I know! If you want to hear her, her sermon begins at the 44-minute mark here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXA_jOap_Is

The rest of the week's major business included voting on four Constitutional Amendments, the most impactful of which was Regionalization. Up to now, the worldwide church has been organized into eight Central Conferences plus the United States. Because the U.S. is not a Central Conference, we enjoy some advantages but also have some disadvantages. Under regionalization, the Central Conferences will become Regions, and the U.S. will be added as a new region. All regions will be equal, and although all regions must adhere to the core identity of United Methodism, they will also have the power to, among other things, alter certain parts of the Book of Discipline, publish their own hymnals and books of worship, set their own requirements for ordination and lay membership, and develop their own practices for marriages, funerals, and other rites and ceremonies that align with the context of their different cultures. The other three amendments strengthened the United Methodist commitment to inclusion in worship and racial justice and established requirements for clergy voting at General Conference and Jurisdictional Conferences. In addition to normal business, like approving the budget and other boring stuff, we approved an African American statement of faith, created a parental leave policy for clergy, denounced the war in Sudan, issued a warning regarding the rise of AI, voiced support for the LGBTQ+ community, and denounced the growing trend toward religious nationalism.

Bill Smith

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

CONGRATULATE CAMP CHAPEL'S 2025 GRADUATES



Tyler Diggs



Maya Gaskin



Zoey Jackson

Tyler Austin Diggs

Tyler is graduating with honors from Perry Hall High School. He will be attending Stevenson University on a full scholarship to major in biology in the fall of 2025. He is the grandson of Ruth and Jay Diggs.

Maya Gaskin

Maya is graduating from Perry Hall High School. She will be attending The University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the fall of 2025 in the pre-pharmacy program with the long-term goal of obtaining a PharmD and pursuing a career as a clinical pharmacist or pharmacologist. She is the daughter of Angela and Peter Gaskin.

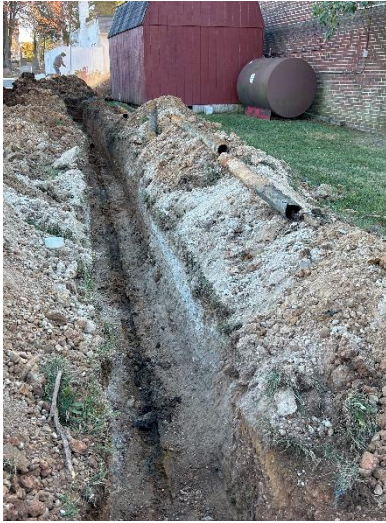
Zoey Jackson

Zoey is graduating from Perry Hall High School. She will be attending The University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the fall of 2025. She is the daughter of Kate Jackson.

CAMP CHAPEL EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE FUND

Camp Chapel had to pay for two expensive emergency repair projects recently. The sewer line repair project in November cost \$12,000. The oil tank leak clean-up and tank replacement project cost \$33,000. The trustees cashed in a \$20,000 Certificate of Deposit (CD) to help cover the costs of these repairs. We are starting an Emergency Maintenance Fund drive with the goal of raising \$20,000. These funds will be designated for investment in a new CD that can be used to cover potential emergency maintenance repair costs in the future.

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS



Part of the sewer line replacement project

The total replacement value of our church, chapel and fellowship hall was determined to be \$3,350,000 in an appraisal completed in 2021, but it is not possible to put a monetary value on how important the church, chapel and fellowship hall are to Camp Chapel's worship programs and ministries. We need to make every effort to maintain and care for these buildings now and in the future.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to our Emergency Maintenance Fund. You can donate to this fund by writing a check to Camp Chapel UMC and writing "Emergency Maintenance Fund" on the memo line. Donations can also be made directly from the church website in the giving section. Please specify in the notes that you would like the funds designated for the Emergency Maintenance Fund.

The Trustees

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

For the last several months our Sunday School has moved to the fellowship hall due to the oil tank leak. During this transition all age groups have been taught together as one class. This goes from our youngest, age three, to our oldest, age 20. These kids and their parents have been amazingly flexible and helpful to each other. The children have displayed love and kindness to each other despite their age differences and being in the one large class. The kids have also been extremely respectful of the fact that the Adult Bible Study is also in the hall.



The Sunday School teachers would like to give a big thank you to Kelly Burgess who leads the kids with Christian songs and Jackie Brawn who always has a creative craft ready for them. Karen Warren has been an amazing leader during this transition.

We would also like to tell you about a "God moment" that happened last Sunday. As they were walking out of Sunday School, I heard a mom ask her 3-year-old little boy, "Should we go home or go on to church?" The little boy responded, "Mommy! We go to church!" That was a happy moment for that Sunday School teacher!

We would like to thank the parents for sharing their beautiful children with us every Sunday morning. It is a true blessing and honor to share the love of Jesus with each one of them.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." - Matthew 19:14

Susan Wallace

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

2025 ANNUAL FLOWER SALE A SUCCESS!

After several consecutive rainy Saturdays, God truly blessed us with a beautiful sunny day to hold our annual flower and plant sale. Added to this year's variety of sale merchandise was an informative display of plants that are native to our area.

We are so appreciative of the wonderful support from Camp Chapel and especially thankful for the number of pre-orders we received. Thank you!

Highest praise goes to the volunteers for not only their hard work, but for their insightful ideas and happiness they expressed while serving others, Camp Chapel and God!



Pat Ryan

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO: COUNTING COMMITTEE



L-r: Joyce Kraft, Cheryl Kempler, and Anita Obinger busily counting money on Sunday morning

Before anyone else touches them, your offerings and other monetary gifts to Camp Chapel are given first to the Counting Committee. There must always be three members present when money is counted. Our Counting Committee is made up of the Financial Secretary, Cheryl Kempler (who has held this position for 15 years); Lead Counter, Anita Obinger; and Counter, Joyce Kraft. The committee meets every Sunday at 9 am to start processing checks sent by mail and occasionally counts money collected from church events like the yard sale, the shredding event, and the flower sale. Next, the collections from each of the three Sunday services are counted as they are received.

These collections contain member and visitor envelopes, loose money and checks, special envelopes for such things as UMCOR, the fuel fund, memorial donations, etc. There is a lot of copying required, a lot of calculating, with many checks and balances in place and a lot of forms to fill out. Once the counters are done for the day, the Financial Secretary still has two to four more hours of work to do at home.

The role of the Financial Secretary includes:

- Preparation of the weekly contributions sheet for the Treasurer and the Finance Committee
- Reconciling the weekly receipts with the weekly bank deposits (completed on Sundays)



CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

- Assignment of new envelope numbers
- Preparation of weekly contribution data by envelope number. The Financial Secretary uses this data as input to the accounting software (Realm) that tracks member attendance and contributions; Realm is also used by the church office manager to generate the year-end contribution statements to donors
- Recording of annual pledges
- Weekly tracking of pledged contributions. This includes pledged versus non-pledged general fund contributions. The Financial Secretary reports this data to the Finance Committee and provides copies weekly to the Treasurer, Internal Auditor, and Finance Committee. This data is also included in the Annual Conference Statistical Report
- Preparation of data for and attendance at Finance Committee meetings.
- Obtaining all electronic receipts every Sunday for website donations and credit card transactions. These activities are also reported on the weekly contributions sheet

Please know that when you donate money to the church, the Counting Committee are the people who make sure it definitely goes to wherever you designated it to be used.

Joyce Kraft

TOES TAP AT BLUEGRASS MEMORIES CONCERT



On Sunday afternoon, February 4, the sanctuary was packed for an informal concert of bluegrass music presented by a group of fine musicians calling themselves Bluegrass Memories.

Bluegrass Memories consists of Tim Kidd on fiddle, brother Jeff Kidd on mandolin, Dave Langrehr and Carroll Swam on guitars and vocals, Steve Street on acoustic bass, and Mike Mumford on banjo and harmony vocals. The men are good friends and get together frequently to play.

Tim and Jeff Kidd have a unique connection to Camp Chapel. Their uncle and grandfather were the contractors who built our Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and former parsonage. Tim mentioned that they had accepted invitations to watch the construction several times.

The concert was organized and hosted by choir member Roger Price, who plays a decent mandolin himself. Concertgoers were treated to an evening of great entertainment and were regaled by such favorites as *You Are My Sunshine* (which they dedicated to Edna Halcott), *Banks of the Ohio*, *I'm Using My Bible for a Roadmap*, an instrumental version of *John Hardy*, and *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*.

Upcoming Events

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

Wednesday, June 4, 11 am
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!



Camp Chapel Community Yard Sale

Saturday June 7, 8 am to 1 pm
(Rain Date June 14)



**ALL VENDOR SPACES HAVE BEEN
SOLD! THANK YOU VENDORS!**

Volunteers Needed!

Help is needed for directing traffic, parking, set/clean up, white elephant and food/bake table. Please consider giving of your time to help at this event.

6 to 8 am	Vendor Parking Assignment
8 am to 1 pm	Parking for Shoppers
7 am to 1:30 pm	White Elephant table
8 am to 1 pm	Food/Bake Table

Calling All Bakers!

Please consider baking cookies, a cake, brownies, or other goodies for the bake table. Donations of baked goods are needed.

Contacts:

- Parking, set-up, cleanup, **Barbara Thompson 410-665-8049**
- Bake table, **Angela Gaskin agaskin5525@gmail.com**
- Setup/take down the White Elephant table, **Anita Obinger 410-931-6841**

Camp Chapel Film Seminar Presents Movies About Angels

Saturday, June 7, 6 pm Via Zoom

Recent widower David Abbott sublets a San Francisco apartment and all he wants to do is take time to get his life back together. He's soon surprised by the appearance of a confused woman who doesn't know who she is, but insists the apartment is hers and wants him out. David is shocked to discover that she is immaterial, but she insists that she can't be a ghost, because she's absolutely certain she isn't dead!

Just Like Heaven (2005), directed by Mark Waters, stars Reese Witherspoon and Mark Ruffalo, and has a running time of 95 minutes.

Join us for a classic movie and discussion! To check the flyer on our web site, click this link:

HEAVEN or scan the QR code ►



Zoom information will be sent via email



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Join us as we discover the BIGNESS of God in the smallest of things! **Magnified** VBS will encourage kids to examine the details of God's creation and realize how much God loves them. Come and find out how we're made to magnify God!

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, July 8 to 10 – 6 pm to 8 pm

CLOSING/PARTY SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1:30-3 pm

Ages 3 to 10

Registration will begin the first week of June on our website, campchapel.org

(FYI - Adult Bible Study will be offered again this year and will be open to the entire congregation to attend!)



Upcoming Events Continued



BALTIMORE COUNTY CHRISTIAN WORKCAMP

Do You Feel Called to Serve Others?



If Pastor Carol's recent messages have landed and you feel motivated to help out someone in our community who needs a handicap ramp, here's your opportunity to "walk the walk". You don't need to be a skilled carpenter. All you need is a willing heart, and two working hands and legs. We can put them to work, even if it is to be a carrier! Building materials, tools, and lunch will be provided. More details will be forthcoming.

DATE: July 22 and/or July 23 (either or both)

TIME: 8:30 am – ???

PLACE: Somewhere in east Baltimore County.

If you are interested, please contact Mike Ryan at 410-303-0517 or email Pat Ryan at pryan21236@comcast.net



**The Deadline for Submitting Articles for the July
Acorn Is Monday, June 16**



SAVE THESE DATES!



June 1	Summer Worship and Sunday School Schedule Begins	June 24	Church Council
June 3	Trustees Committee (Zoom)	June 25	Circle of Sisters
June 4	Band of Brothers	July 8–10	Vacation Bible School (VBS)
June 10	Finance Committee (Zoom)	July 12	VBS Closing Party
June 11	Circle of Sisters	August 3	Faith Grows by Pizza Garden Party (Camp Chapel)
June 18	Band of Brothers	August 30	Children's Carnival
June 22	Faith Grows by Pizza Garden Party (St. Ursula, Parkville)	August 31	Summer Worship and Sunday School Schedule Ends



HELP WANTED!

PILLOW PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

As many of you know, with the help from dedicated volunteers, the Pillow Project Ministry supplies heart and rectangular-shaped pillows to Franklin Square's ICU, Oncology and The Women's Pavilion. We also supply heart-shaped pillows to the Cardiology Department at Union Memorial. The Pillow Project Ministry is now looking for a few volunteers who would be willing to wash and lightly iron donated material and a few volunteers that would be willing to cut the material into heart and rectangular shapes using patterns that would be supplied. Please reach out to Joyce Williams (joyce.a.williams0125@gmail.com, 410-218-5690) or Debbie Kalendek (dikalendek@gmail.com, 410-746-9731) if you can help.

Thank you!
The Pillow Project Ministry



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success! Please reach out to Jackie Brawn (jackiebrawn@gmail.com) if you can help in any way!




Thank You, Camp Chapel, for What You Do

Thank you, Flower Sale volunteers! Wow, what a team of hard workers we had! Thanks to Briella Almony, Sandy Boenig, Luz Cabotaje, Pat Fish, Debbie Howes, Karen Knauer, Frank Long, Kathy Martin, Rachael McCracken, Mary Ann Plummer, Pat Ryan, Tammy Stipek, Rita Talley, Maggie and Michele Taylor, Sue Wallace, and Sharon Ward.

Special thanks to those who worked behind the scenes to help keep things running smoothly: Phil Graham, Mike Ryan, Alan Smith-Hicks, Don Stipek, and Ron Wolf

Selling flowers and plants to benefit the church's maintenance and repairs was our goal. However, being present in and interacting with patrons from the community is the real bonus as we represent Camp Chapel with love and friendliness and as the active and vibrant beacon of light on the corner.

Pat Ryan



Sincerest thanks to all who supported our May 17th paper shredding fundraiser. We were so thankful for the beautiful day and for repeat customers! We made about \$1,300.00 after expenses. This event is not possible without our wonderful volunteers of Winston B., Angela G., Ryan G., Debbie K., Joyce K., and Diane Z. Thank you so much!

Thanks,
Lisa

Church History: The Chase Circuit, Part 2

In 1940, Orem's United Methodist Church decided to withdraw from the Chase Circuit to become an independent charge. The Circuit then consisted of the three remaining churches, Camp Chapel, Cowenton, and Ebenezer.

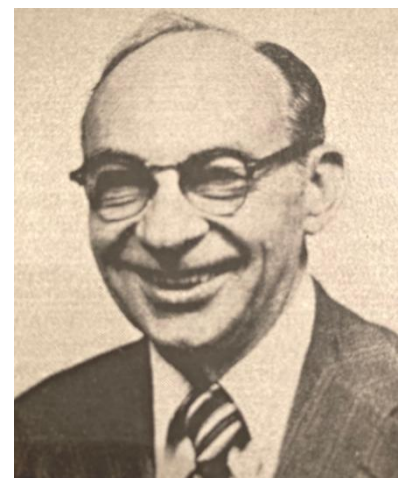


Rev. Joseph Riley

The following pastors were assigned to the Circuit beginning with Joseph Tucker Riley. He was born in Annapolis, Maryland in 1912. In 1936 he graduated from Penn State University with the A.B. Degree and in 1939 he graduated from the Union Theological Seminary in New York with the B.D. Degree. While in New York he served as a social worker part time in the lower East Side in a settlement housing development. In 1938 he was ordained a Deacon and in 1939 an Elder. Upon returning to Maryland, he joined the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Church. His first appointments with the Conference were Howard Street and Smithburg Charge. He was assigned to serve the Chase Circuit from 1940-1942. Having previously served as a Chaplain he entered the Military Chaplaincy after he left the Chase Circuit and served in World War II in the Pacific. After his discharge from the military,

he returned to the Baltimore Conference and served the Western Run Charge in Cockeysville, Maryland, Bethesda and Woodlawn Churches. On June 1, 1959, he was appointed to the Protestant Chaplaincy at Springfield State Hospital in Sykesville, Maryland. While there he ministered to over 3,000 patients providing them with Christian support. In January 1971 he suffered a heart attack and was granted Disability Leave from the Conference in May, 1974. He passed away in August 1974 at his home in Reisterstown, Maryland. His funeral was held at the Reisterstown Baptist Church.

Reverend Thomas Wesley Sunderland was born in Calvert County, Maryland on March 8, 1914. He was the fifth son of Thomas Stanley and Ella Lane Sunderland. He attended public schools in Calvert County. His education included taking a business courses at Eaton Burnett Business College in Baltimore. He went on to study at American University in Washington, D.C. and graduated in 1940. While attending the University in the late 1930's, he served as a student pastor in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. While studying at Westminster Theological Seminary in Westminster he served the Texas United Methodist Church in Baltimore County from 1941 to 1942. In 1943 he graduated from the Seminary. In 1942 he was ordained a Deacon and in 1943 an Elder. In 1953 he received the degree of Master of Sacred Theology from Westminster Theological Seminary. Out of Seminary in 1943 he was assigned to the Chase Circuit remaining there until 1947 when he was transferred to the Methodist Church in Berkley Springs, West Virginia. In



Rev. Thomas Sunderland

1951 he returned to Maryland and served as pastor of the Kempton Charge in Montgomery County. Two years later he served at the former Highland Avenue United Methodist Church in the Highlandtown section of Baltimore City.

In 1960 he was assigned to Eastport United Methodist Church in Annapolis. From 1963 to 1969 he served Epworth United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. His last assignment was at St. John's of Lutherville where he served from 1970 to 1976 before taking Disability Leave.

He met his wife Carrie Belle Wagner at Mt. Lake Park during Epworth League Days (later to become the Methodist Youth Fellowship). They were married September 5, 1936, at Hiss Memorial Methodist Church in Parkville. They had two sons, Thomas Stanley and John Frederick. Upon retiring he lived at his home in Mr. Airy, Maryland where he died May 21, 1982, at the age of 68. His funeral service was held here at Camp Chapel. Rev. Sunderland baptized me in the Chapel in the Spring of 1946. I had the honor of playing the organ for his funeral service. He and his wife are both buried here in the church cemetery.



Following Rev. Sunderland, Henry Hosie Rowland was assigned to the Chase Circuit. He was born in Delmar Township, Tioga County, Pennsylvania in 1884. He entered Harvard University in 1902 where he completed the four-year program in Greek in three years. While there he won numerous academic and athletic prizes. After completing his studies there, he took a year of theology at Colgate-Rochester Seminary. During that time, he served as assistant pastor at the First Methodist Church. For two years he taught Latin and Greek at Genesee Wesleyan Seminary followed by studies at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University in New York City where he earned the A.M. in 1911 and the B.D. in 1912.

Rev. Henry Rowland After his marriage to Mildred May Ament in 1911, they began a four-year tour of missionary work in China. While there he taught at the Changli Boys School. Upon returning to the United States, he spent three years as a pastor in Montana. He returned to China for another tour as a district missionary where he went through famine and a civil war.

Returning to the United States in 1923, he earned a master's degree in theology at Colgate-Rochester and had his thesis, "Native Churches in Foreign Fields" published in 1925 by Abingdon Press.

He began his service as a member of the Baltimore Conference in 1924. He served the Chase Circuit from 1947 until 1950. In 1957 he retired from the Conference and resided in Berkley Springs, West Virginia. He died November 30, 1968, in West, Virginia where his funeral service was held at Francis Asbury Church with interment in the local cemetery. Sixty years of his life was spent in the active ministry of the church.

In the next issue of the Acorn, I will finish with the pastors that served the Circuit before Camp Chapel became an independent church.

Doris Akehurst Tarleton
Church Historian



Devotions for Home and Camp Chapel Gatherings

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

Reflection: *Jesus is the perfect role model for Christians who seek silence and solitude... This is the time for the long breath... when all the hurts and big aches could be absorbed, and the mind could be freed of immediate demand... when there could be the deep sharing of the innermost secrets and the laying bare of the heart and mind.* Howard Thurman

At this moment, let's use our united power of prayer; know others are in this same reflection. Leave the world aside, reflect on these questions, as if we were gathered together in prayer.

- *Jesus took time away outside in the early morning stillness.* Is morning a good time for you to meet Jesus in the stillness?
- *Jesus took time away late in the evening... to pray alone and in the quiet.* Is evening a good time for you to pray alone in quiet?
- *Do you believe that quiet listening in the presence of God is as essential as eating and drinking?*

For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for God's good pleasure. Ph 2:13.

Make a plan to take time away to pray and listen. Note how your time away changes you, your prayers, your day.

(Reflections based writings by Howard Thurman and Lerita Coleman Brown, *What Makes You Come Alive*, 2023)

With Peace and Blessings,
Kathy Martin



From the Camp Chapel Garden Coordinator

Since accepting the role of coordinating the gardens at Camp Chapel I have been considering how the gardens look to the community, from the outside folks looking at our campus. It is somewhat daunting in scale and perhaps has a bit too many spots to see in one glance. My work in the gardens will aim for creating biodiversity for our environment by first “doing no harm” with minimizing plastic and pesticide use and creating an environment for folks to see as welcoming with long term goals including a seating area or two in our shady spots. Please feel free to see me or email me with thoughts and suggestions.

Rita Talley



“Truly I Tell You, Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise”

I am absolutely certain that all of you reading this know plenty about the events recorded in the Gospels surrounding the death of Jesus on the cross. I’m extremely confident in making that statement. After all, if you haven’t heard about the crucifixion by now, why are you even reading this? I mean, even the atheists I know are pretty familiar with what happened on Good Friday. What have you been doing all your life? Were you raised by wolves?

Dozens of movies have been made about Jesus, I’m sure you’ve seen at least one of them, and almost all of them include how he died. They all tell the same story. David McCallum betrays Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Jesus is arrested and brought to scheming High Priest Martin Landau. The high priest tears his robes and sends Jesus to the gruff Roman prefect, Rod Steiger, who says, “This is a Jewish matter,” and bundles Jesus off to the dissolute Jewish king, Peter Ustinov, who sends him right back to Rod Steiger.



From The Greatest Story Ever Told



From Jesus of Nazareth

Meanwhile, James Farentino denies Jesus three times. Rod Steiger has Jesus flogged and presents him to the crowd, asking them if they want him released. When the mob cries out to have Anthony Quinn set free instead and demands that Steiger crucify Jesus, he washes his hands and says he’s innocent of Jesus’s blood. So, Jesus takes up his cross and begins carrying it up the hill to Golgotha, the place of execution. Jesus is weak from loss of blood and the cross is heavy and he falls under it a few times, and it seems that he is so broken that he may die before they have the chance to kill him, so Sidney Poitier is commanded to carry the cross the rest of the way. When they get to Golgotha, Jesus is nailed to the cross and, after an agonizing time, dies. Then Ernest Borgnine, or maybe John Wayne, says, “Truly this man was the Son o’ God.”

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

A violent storm breaks over the hill. In the rain, Charleton Heston's mother and sister are cured of leprosy. Jesus is taken down from the cross and given into the arms of his mother, Olivia Hussey. James Mason has a newly excavated tomb nearby and Jesus is laid to rest there.

There are lots of details that the four Gospels include in the crucifixion story, and I'd bet you could quite easily tell me what I left out of my summary. I bet you know what parts those actors played in the movies about Jesus, too. But I want to talk about one of those details.

Specifically this one: Jesus wasn't the only person who was crucified on Good Friday. There were two men who were executed with him.

The Gospels of Matthew and Mark tell us that rebels were on crosses to either side of Jesus and that both of them insulted him as they hung there. John just says that Jesus was crucified between two other men and doesn't elaborate further.

Luke tells us a little bit different story. According to him, Jesus was crucified between two criminals. One of them insulted and mocked Jesus, but the other rebuked the first.

Luke's version is the one I'd like to focus on, and there's a lot to unpack in it.

First of all, it's pretty obvious that these men knew about Jesus. We don't know how they were aware of who Jesus was, but from the nature of the insults that the one man spat at him, they obviously knew that he was said to be a miracle worker and maybe even the Messiah: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" And from the nature of the rebuke offered by the other, that he knew Jesus claimed to be preparing us for a new kingdom.

That other man – the one who defended Jesus – is often referred to as the "Good Thief." But he was probably involved in a lot more awful stuff than just stealing other people's things. Death on the cross was a form of capital punishment that could be protracted for days of the most excruciating pain you could imagine. It was also humiliating because those who were sentenced to die this way hung there completely exposed and vulnerable to all sorts of abuse. Crucifixion was usually reserved for the most heinous of crimes. So, this "Good Thief" was most likely neither a thief, nor, by any stretch of the imagination, "good."

He has often been referred to by the name Dismas or Demas, but his name was added to the story hundreds of years later, as sometimes happens – people love to embellish a good story. None of the Gospels mention any names, so the reality is that his identity is lost to history.

But according to Luke, this criminal did what he could to protect Jesus from the verbal abuse of the other man. Maybe he was able to shut the other guy up, maybe not – we don't know. What he said was, "We are getting what we deserve, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then, turning his attention to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom."



By his words, we can tell a bunch of stuff about him. First, he recognized exactly who Jesus was. I wonder how. Was he among the crowds who jostled to get a look at Jesus when he entered Jerusalem? Did he ever hear Jesus teach? Did he take those teachings to heart? Did he repent of his sins? Was he trying to turn over a new leaf when he was arrested for his crimes?

I would hazard a guess that maybe he had heard Jesus teaching at some point in the recent past, because from his words we can tell that he comprehended the nature of the kingdom Jesus had been preaching about. It's clear that he was aware that the Kingdom was not of this earth, because why talk about Jesus coming into a worldly kingdom when it was inevitable that they were both going to leave this world very soon?

To me, it appears that he understood who Jesus was and what Jesus was about better and more perfectly than many of Jesus' disciples! But he also knew the nature of the person that he was, and he took responsibility for the things he had done to deserve to be put to death. He admitted that he was a sinner. Admission is an essential step for forgiveness.

It's also most interesting to me that he didn't ask to be saved. He asked only to be remembered. He demonstrated self-awareness, faith, and humility – all in a couple of sentences!

And Jesus responded to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Insofar as the Gospels tell us, Jesus made seven statements while he hung on the cross, and this was one of the most significant. Jesus, exhausted, in agony, dying, in the middle of all of that reached out beyond himself to a repentant sinner and assured him that he was saved. His terrible deeds? Forgiven! The fact that his profession of faith came after what we assume was a life of serious crime and just hours – maybe just minutes – before he would die? Didn't matter!

From this, we can learn that even sinners like that criminal, or for that matter, like you and me, are the beloved of God. If we can learn from that criminal, salvation is ours!

Later that day, we can just imagine the criminal arriving at the gates of Heaven. The angels look askance at the man and wonder who is this ruffian standing there, but he tells them, “It's okay – Jesus said he'd vouch for me.”

There's hope in this incident at the cross. We're all sinners, but if we can learn self-awareness, faith, and humility from this nameless criminal, then Jesus is our salvation too. However, I'd recommend not putting it off until the last moments of our existence on earth. But if we follow the example of that criminal so long ago, after our lives are done, on that day when the angels look askance at you or me, Jesus will be there to tell them, “It's okay. I vouch for this one.”

Bill Smith

“This day, thou shalt be with me in paradise!”



Birthdays

June Birthdays

Dorothy DeCarlo	June 1
Jennifer Moriarty	June 1
Heather Akehurst-Krause	June 3
Sharon Beveridge	June 7
Judy Homberg	June 7
Terry Kempler	June 11
Ryan Beveridge	June 13
Gloria Marks	June 13
Roger Price	June 13
Glenn Porter	June 16
Lynette Vitanza	June 16
Brenda Grande	June 22
Zoey Jackson	June 24
Michael Palmer	June 24
Pat Ryan	June 26
Helen Fringo	June 28
Mary Laubner	June 30

July Birthdays

Joyce Kraft	July 3
Pat Fish	July 3
Luz Cabotaje	July 4
Bob Delkhoon	July 6
Cheryl Stephens	July 6
Gio Amador	July 9
Allen Zink	July 9
Shirley Curtain	July 12
Nate Pendergrass	July 13
Richard Spero	July 13
Kay Glisan	July 14
Janet Rogers	July 15
Bill Groth	July 16
Frank Long	July 19
Susan Smith	July 20
Laurie Stephan	July 20
Henry Delkhoon	July 22
Ed Mathus	July 22
Beth Olcott	July 23
Bob White	July 24
Lisa Dziuk	July 26
Katie Klemm	July 27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Having a Birthday?

The *Acorn* would love to celebrate every single birthday of every member of our congregation. 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

June

June 1: 7th Sunday of Easter (Ascension Sunday)

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97 (UMH 816)
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

Readings for Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 (UMH 781)
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

June 8: Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826)
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17 (25-27)

June 15: 1st Sunday after Pentecost (Father's Day)

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8 (UMH 743)
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

June 22: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-15a
Psalm 42 (UMH 777)
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 29: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 (UMH 798)
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

July

July 6: 4th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30 (UMH 762)
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13: 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82 (UMH 804)
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 20: 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-2
Psalm 52 or Psalm 82 (UMH 804)
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 27: 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85 (UMH 806)
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13



The Holy Bible Is the Word of God



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Handicap Accessible Parking



Because there is such a high demand for the limited number of handicap accessible 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.



Prayer Request 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 a 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.



A Message from the Finance Committee



On behalf of the Camp Chapel UMC Finance Committee, I am requesting that everyone take a moment to consider how important Camp Chapel is to you and to others. Our church programs provide valuable support not only to members of our congregation, like our worship and Bible study activities, but also to people beyond our congregation, such as those assisted by our furniture ministry. Our church's essential needs do not diminish during the summer months but attendance at Sunday services typically does. So please prayerfully consider before vacations start how you can continue to make your weekly or monthly contributions to CCUMC via Bill Pay, online giving, or mobile giving even when the distractions of warm weather activities take you away.

Congregational giving may not be at the front of your mind this summer season as you daydream about tropical destinations, mountain vistas, cool sea breezes, places to visit, and sights to see, but you can most definitely believe that it's on the mind of your Church Treasurer. For most churches, attendance declines during the summer months, and when attendance shrinks, giving decreases as well. There's even a name for that – the “Summer Slump!” But you can be sure that when it comes to the cost of maintaining the church buildings and grounds and providing for the services supported by the church, there's no such thing as a slump.

So as the weather gets warmer, please remember that we depend on your generosity and your financial support year-round to maintain the mission and ministries of Camp Chapel even when you cannot attend Sunday services in person. Thank you so much for your continued support and have a wonderful summer!

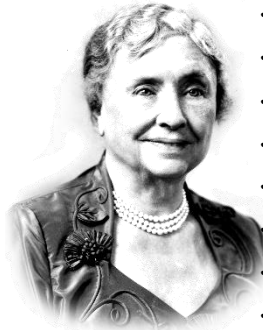
Winston Bain
Chair, Finance Committee



What's Happening in June?



Among other observances, June is Employee Wellness Month, Pride Month, Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, Caribbean-American Heritage Month, National Zoo and Aquarium Month, National Oceans Month, and National Rivers Month.



- June 1-7 Pet Appreciation Week
- June 1 Ascension Sunday
- June 1 Oscar the Grouch Day
- June 1 National Cancer Survivors Day
- June 2 American Indian Citizenship Day
- June 5 World Environment Day
- June 6 D-Day
- June 8 Pentecost (wear something red to church)
- June 9 National Donald Duck Day
- June 9-15 National Men's Health Week
- June 11 Corn on the Cob Day
- June 11 Making Life Beautiful Day
- June 12 Loving Day
- June 14 Flag Day
- June 14 Birthday of the U.S. Army
- June 14 National Strawberry Shortcake Day
- June 14 World Blood Donor Day
- June 15 Father's Day
- June 15 Peace with Justice Sunday
- June 16-22 National Pollinator Week
- June 17 Global Garbage Man Day
- June 19 Juneteenth
- June 20 Summer Solstice
- June 20 World Refugee Day
- June 20 National American Eagle Day
- June 22 National Chocolate Éclair Day
- June 24 Midsummer
- June 25 Global Beatles Day
- June 27 Helen Keller Day
- June 28 National Paul Bunyan Day



JUNETEENTH
A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

