



**Camp Chapel
United Methodist
Church**

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LENT

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often referred to as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. This means that it's a time for personal reflection that prepares people's hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.

Ash Wednesday (February 18, 2026) is the first day of Lent. The smudge of ashes we get on our foreheads symbolizes grief for the things we've done wrong and the resulting division of imperfect people from a perfect God. They are also a symbol of the dust from which we were made and a reminder that our life on Earth is temporary and that our bodies will eventually return to that dust.

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving or charity.

Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting, or turning away from our sins, and receiving God's mercy and love.

Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common thing people talk about during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of our lives, like eating dessert or scrolling through social media, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity, and love. For example, people may spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It's important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus' sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to rescue us from ourselves.

Jesus sacrificed himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment of all our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. He was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting, and giving can make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter even more meaningful.

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



To paraphrase President John F. Kennedy, “Ask not what Camp Chapel can do for you --- ask what you can do for Camp Chapel, our congregation, and for our community.” As we begin a new calendar year, it’s time to look at expanding, refreshing, and renewing our volunteer pool. There are so many opportunities available to make a difference in the lives of those in our own community, even within our church, and some that you might not even know about!

With the blessing of the Church Council, I have volunteered (ironic, right?) to take on a new role as Volunteer Coordinator. This happens to mirror the last position I held in my working career. My first step will be to meet with ministry, project, and fundraiser leaders to better understand their needs for volunteer help. Then I will meet individually with as many congregants as possible to learn about their areas of interest, skills, and general availability. Last, with this information, I will develop and maintain a database to utilize in matching up volunteers to identified needs.

Camp Chapel has always been blessed with a core of dedicated volunteers, and please be assured that our appreciation for them is unwavering. Most will tell you they feel they receive more from volunteering than they feel they give. One of many examples is Keith and Josh Klemm who annually commit their time and energy to the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp. Keith says, “I am committed to volunteering with the Baltimore County Christian Work Camp for a number of reasons. I feel strongly that Christian faith is about doing, not just talking. We are supposed to help others whenever possible, and this is a way for me to put my skills and experience toward a worthwhile cause. Furthermore, I get to share these experiences with my family, who works alongside me, and I get to make lots of memories with other church volunteers who also participate. I truly look forward to this event every year.” Josh (age 15) says, “I feel committed to the BCCW because it allows me to help those in need while teaching them about the wonders of Christ. I also enjoy being able to build structures that are meaningful while gathering with people I know.”

This is the first of other testimonials to come. What will yours be? What new volunteer adventure will you take on? There are so many possibilities for you to spread your wings and to be a disciple for Christ. And we will help you take the next step.

Blessings,
Pat Ryan

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAYS



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 1 and/or 8, 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
- Canned vegetables (carrots, potatoes, mixed)
- Canned black beans or kidney beans
- Saltine Crackers
- Diced tomatoes
- Peanut butter

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

Mike and Pat Ryan

CREATION CARE UPDATE

Creation Care - New Ideas - <https://umcreationjustice.org/january-2026-tips-beginning-anew/>

John Wesley began a New Year tradition of leading people in renewing their covenant with God. At the very beginning, God gave us a garden to tend and till.

- **Choose new things** you can do throughout the year to care for creation.
- **Choose aluminum cans** not plastic bottles. Technically, both are recyclable; however, due to multiple factors, aluminum is MORE likely to be recycled into new products.
- **Stop wearing plastic.** Are you surprised? Synthetic fibers from clothing are a significant contribution to microplastic pollution. Go back to nature – wool, cotton, silk, and even bamboo and hemp. Plastic doesn't go away.

Now is the time to renew your commitment to be good stewards of Earth.

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

DEPARTED



David Franklin Whitson

January 31, 1944 – January 14, 2026

On January 14, 2026, David F. Whitson peacefully passed away. He was the beloved husband for over 42 years to Kathryn “Kathy” Whitson (nee Keeney).

Dave was born and raised in Brooklyn Park and went to the University of Maryland, graduating as a business major with a minor in history. He was an avid Civil War buff and reenactor. Dave served as captain in the Baltimore City Fire Department for 22 years.

Dave is the devoted father of Michael D. Whitson, Jeffrey C. Cook, his wife Valerie; loving grandfather of Grant Cook, Aaron Cook, Samantha Marquez, Lindsay Safir, Sarah Dudley; cherished great grandfather of Adam and Lilly.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in David’s name to the music fund at the Camp Chapel United Methodist Church.



Mary Lynn Lentz

March 10, 1936 – January 16, 2026

Mary Lynn “Myrt” Lentz (nee Wootten) is the beloved wife of seventy years of Robert W. Lentz. She and Bob met in Ocean City as teenagers. They attended the 8:30 worship service until they were unable. Friends knew her to be a gracious hostess. She was the neighborhood mom and grandmom and she will be missed. She loved art.

She is the devoted mother of Patti Lynn Williams and husband Robbie and Gary J. Lentz and wife Jennifer; loving grandmother of Jessi Riggin, Mitchell Williams, Shawn Williams, Abigail LoGiudici, and the late Austin Lentz; cherished great-grandmother of Cameron Riggin, Landon Riggin, Skyler Riggin, Blake Williams, Sage Williams, Brady Williams, Jaxon Williams, Raelynn Williams, Maya Williams, Maverick LoGiudici, and Lainey Lynn LoGiudici; and dear sister of the late Richard Wootten.





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 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.



Devotion for Home and at Camp Chapel Gatherings

Read, reflect, listen deeply.

Lots of ideas were shared in the January devotion. If you would like to reread or reference, you can pick a copy up at church, access prior Acorns from our website or call the office for a copy. Before we travel on to new messages, let's take time to reflect on the intertwining themes of Peace, Extra Jesus and Being a Fool for Jesus.

- How do the words of [Pastor Caleb Pitkin](#) help you envision Peace in our community; World Peace?
 - How can I offer myself to make peace possible? What's in my way to envisioning peace?
 - Camp Chapel offers much. How can we work for peace locally and globally?
- What does our Bishop Trimble mean when he says this is a time for *Extra Jesus*?
 - What are ways I can be extra loving?
 - Camp Chapel offers much. How can we increase our work as the loving hand of Jesus?
- What does Jill Duffield mean to be a Fool for Christ?
 - How can I step into being a more loving fool?
 - Camp Chapel offers much. As fools for Jesus, how are we called to offer our loving hearts, souls and hands?

With Peace and Blessings,
Kathy Martin

Coming Events J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

Wednesday, February 4, 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. **All Are Welcome!**



**The Deadline for Submitting Articles for the March
Acorn Is Wednesday, February 18**



**Camp Chapel Film Seminar Presents:
Saturday, February 21, 6 pm Via Zoom**

Jacob Jankowski is old – in his late eighties at least, but that doesn't stop him from running away to join a circus!

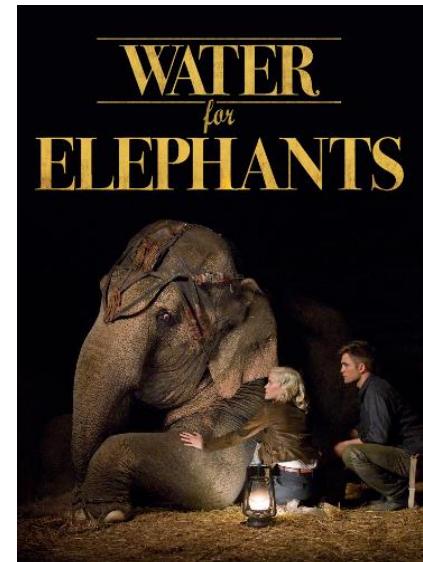
Water for Elephants (2011), directed by Francis Lawrence and starring Reese Witherspoon, Robert Pattinson, Christoph Waltz, and Hal Holbrook, has a running time of 120 minutes.



Check the flyer on our web site:
<https://campchapel.org/event/film-seminar-water-for-elephants>

◀ Or scan the QR code.

You must be 18 years or older. Zoom invitation will be sent via email



SAVE THESE DATES!



February 3	Trustees (Zoom)	March 3	Trustees (Zoom)
February 3	Circle of Sisters	March 3	Circle of Sisters
February 4	Band of Brothers	March 4	Band of Brothers
February 10	Finance Committee (Zoom)	March 9	SPRC (Zoom)
February 17	Circle of Sisters	March 10	Finance Committee (Zoom)
February 18	Band of Brothers	March 17	Circle of Sisters
February 24	Church Council (Zoom)	March 18	Band of Brothers
		March 24	Church Council (Zoom)

36TH ANNUAL TALENT AUCTION



Saturday, March 7
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

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 22. Register donations online at campchapel.org/event/36th-annual-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!

Contact Elizabeth McDonold at 301-704-0893 or elizabeth.mcdonold@gmail.com for additional information



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday March 28, 10 am - 12 pm

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



Register online at
<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 can help, please contact **Kellie Smith, 443-691-2677** or kellie.smith99@gmail.com

What Would You Change?

I had brunch with an old friend the other day. We do this maybe six or seven times a year, and it's always fun to share a meal with her, to catch up with each other's lives and families, to pick each other's brains. It's especially comfortable to be together this way because we are almost exactly the same age – she was born just two days after I was. We can commiserate with one another over the joys and difficulties of growing older at about the same pace.

It helps that we have, in our separate ways, evolved to have mostly similar outlooks on living, spiritually, politically, and in other ways. Yet, being different genders, raised in different parts of the country, having had different faith journeys, having crafted different careers, and having come from very different families, we each bring our own perspective to our conversations, so that even in our agreeing, we manage to surprise one another with the different ways in which we have arrived at mostly the same place. I never fail to find her insights refreshing and thought provoking, and I invariably come away from our encounters feeling enriched.

Part of our most recent conversation centered on the question: "If you were able to live your life over again from the start, what would you change?" Have you ever thought about that?

Here are some of my own reflections that I bet might apply to most of you reading this. We are all products of every event in our past, the best and the worst. I have accomplished things that I can look back upon with some measure of justified satisfaction. All of those have contributed to who I am today. I have also done things – made choices – in my life that I am not proud of. But I can honestly say that most of those less-than-stellar moments have resulted in lessons I learned and changes I made. There are some others, though, that, I confess, I didn't learn from. I have always believed it's not necessarily a sin to make a mistake, but it's definitely a sin to make the same mistake more than once, and I can think of a few of those as well, and some of them haunt me. But those are a part of the person that I became too, and I would be dishonest if I wasn't able to own both the good and the bad.

So if I were given the opportunity to go back over my entire life and edit it...

The thing is, I have come to realize that any change would result in other changes. There are always consequences that follow – some great, some smaller – and they cause a ripple effect. For example, what if I decided to go to a different high school? That would mean a large set of people who were important influences on my life, teachers, staff, classmates, and even the girls I dated would be swapped out for strangers. My learning experience would have been impacted in a significant way, which could have influenced my choice of a college, and a different college changes out another even bigger number of people and experiences. In turn, that would most likely impact my career choices, which, for me, would change the person I would marry, the children I have, the city I live in, the church I am a member of... I wouldn't be writing and you wouldn't be reading this essay! In fact, there's a possibility that I would not even survive to this age in that alternate reality! That's a sobering thought.

Of course, this is just a mental exercise, but when you think about it, the choices we all make as we move from day to day – even the ones we don't think are consequential – determine the

possible courses of our lives, selecting one path from many possible ones and eliminating all the others forever. The singular path that we select can be thought of as a set of opportunities that we have gained, like the amazing set of experiences that enriched my life because I chose to go to Loyola. However, at the same time we lose a myriad of other experiences that would affect us in different ways, maybe for the better, maybe for the worse, as I missed out on all the things I would have learned, all the friends I might have made – and possibly enemies – had I gone to Calvert Hall instead. Nothing is gained without something else being lost.

For me, I like where I am today. If you are happy and content with what is, why change something and possibly lose that? So, my answer to my friend's question was easy for me. Given the chance to live my life over, I would do it all again. I'd make all the same choices and accept all the same pleasures, the same pains, the same good and bad decisions, the same embarrassments, the same joys and sorrows, the same inspirations, the same stupid errors – all of it! That's the only way I could guarantee I'd be the same version of me that is typing this.

Although I might risk taking a touch-typing course to make writing these a little faster. And piano. I wish I had taken up a musical instrument. I might risk learning to play the piano.

Bill Smith



Thank You

I cannot express my appreciation and thanks enough for all the prayers and caring for the health issues I've encountered with cancer and my heart. At the same time, I wish to express my thanks and gratitude for the very generous Christmas bonus. Camp Chapel is always in my thoughts and prayers, and it has been a blessing to act as Director of Music for the last 40 years.

Gary Lushbaugh



I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Camp Chapel UMC for the generous and thoughtful Christmas staff bonus. Your kindness and support mean more to me than I can ever express. I am truly grateful and feel very blessed to be part of such a caring, faithful & generous church family.

Courtnee Cirri,
Office Administrator



I want to express my sincerest thanks to everyone for their acts of kindness when my husband, David, passed away. Your cards, texts, calls and kind words are very comforting.

Kathy Whitson

Birthdays

February Birthdays

Philip Graham
Darlene Greif
Paul Gyr
Alexander Heyne
Benjamin Craven
Andrew Brawn
David Borgerding
Ron Wolf
Lucas Howard
Carolyn Glorioso
Cathy Zink
Allison Anderson
Faye Labar

February 2
February 3
February 4
February 4
February 7
February 12
February 13
February 13
February 17
February 20
February 22
February 24
February 27

March Birthdays

Emma Gyr
Anna Delkoon
Weston Beveridge
Ron Wernsdorfer
Kelly Finney
Joshua Klemm
Faye Warehime
Ethan Morrow
Amy Borgerding
Sue Ellen Hickman
John Diggs
Dar Pendergrass
Marbara Price
Jason Taylor
Doris Tarleton
Linda Herbert
Mylene Amador
Bill Smith
Grant Wickenheiser
Mark Yanson
Nora Boonnoi
Kathryn Whitson
Nathan Dziuk

March 2
March 3
March 4
March 6
March 7
March 7
March 7
March 8
March 13
March 13
March 14
March 14
March 14
March 17
March 18
March 19
March 20
March 22
March 23
March 24
March 29
March 30
March 31



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

February

February 1: 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15 (UMH 747)
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

February 8: 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9 (10) (UMH 833)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

February 15: Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 (UMH 739) or Psalm 99 (UMH 819)
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

February 18: Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785)
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:-6, 16-21

February 22: 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32 (UMH 766)
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11



March

March 1: 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121 (UMH 844)
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 8: 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95 (UMH 814)
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 15: 4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 22: 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130 (UMH 848)
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

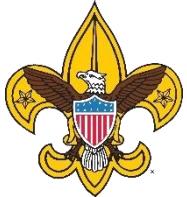
March 29: Passion/Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms
Matthew 21:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH 764)
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:27-66 or 27:11-54

The Holy Bible Is the Word of God

What's Happening in February?

Among other observances, February is Black History Month, American Heart Month, Cancer Prevention Month, Library Lovers Month, Marfan Syndrome Awareness Month, National Children's Dental Health Month, and Youth Leadership Month. In addition, the month of February celebrates vegan cuisine, sweet potatoes, women inventors, cherries, friendship, black women in the arts, dog training and cat health. Here's what else is happening:

	1-7 Boy Scout Anniversary Week 1 Change Your Password Day 1 World Hijab Day 1 Full Moon (Snow Moon) 2-6 National School Counseling Week 2 Candlemas 2 Groundhog Day 2 Groundhog Day 3 Four Chaplains Day 3 The Day the Music Died 4 Winter Olympics begin (Opening Ceremonies February 6) 4 Homemade Soup Day 8 Super Bowl Sunday 8 Global Movie Day 9 National Football Hangover Day 10 International Epilepsy Day 11 O's Spring Training: Pitchers and Catchers Report 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday 12 NAACP Day 14-20 Random Acts of Kindness Week 14 Frederick Douglass Day 14 Valentine's Day 15 Remember the Maine Day 15 Susan B. Anthony Day 16 Presidents' Day 17 Lunar New Year (Year of the Horse) 18 Pluto Day 18 Ash Wednesday 19 Iwo Jima Day 20 National Caregivers Day 20 World Day for Social Justice 22 George Washington's Birthday 23 National Tootsie Roll Day 28 National Tooth Fairy Day
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