

# *Linden Letter*

*Linden Heights United Methodist Church*

*April/ May 2018*

## *A Note from the Pastor*

About one week or so after Easter Sunday several people from the church very kindly asked if I had recovered from Easter. These folks knew that I had spent a lot of hours preparing worship services for Holy Week and Easter that hopefully touched your hearts in new ways and moved you closer to God. My honest response to that question is yes, but no. Yes because I got some sleep and rested physically. No, because I don't think that any of us really "recover" from Easter. You see, Easter changes us forever.

Easter is the culmination of God's saving work. God's work on Easter removes all barriers between us and God. God's work on Easter breaks the chains that bind us to sin. On Easter, God fights the battle of death, and God wins. God's work on Easter brings us new life. God's work on Easter allows us to enter into an eternal and everlasting life with God. God's work on Easter allows us, as imperfect as we are, as sinful as we are, as human as we are, to enter into God's presence with confidence. God's work through Christ in His birth, throughout His life, in His death, and in His resurrection on Easter brings us into the circle of the trinity. At Easter, God reminds us that we are created by God, loved by God, and children of God. God's work on Easter changes our lives forever. Because of what God does on Easter, we are never the same, we never recover.

I hope that throughout this season of Easter you will take some time to remember all that God did on Easter and all that God continues to do in your life each day. I pray that you find yourself changed forever by the power and the presence of our resurrected Christ, and that you never recover from what God does in your life.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Alicia



## **Lent, Holy Week & Easter**

On March 24<sup>th</sup> we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. The weather did not cooperate with us, so we had to move our activities inside. Even with the change in location, we had a wonderful experience. Many folk from Linden Heights came to help set up, run craft tables, greet people, hide eggs, clean up, and welcome guests. We had 73 children participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. They were accompanied by parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. It was truly a blessing to see families gather together for fellowship and fun!

On Good Friday for the past several years we have had an interactive Scriptural Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross experience allows people to walk with Jesus from the garden to the tomb guided by scripture. The interactive pieces reinforce or enhance each scriptural passage. This year we added art work to each station and opened the stations from Tuesday through Friday. Each work of art was created by someone in the congregation and portrayed their understanding of the scripture or a theme that was important to them in the scriptural passage. Each piece added a powerful witness to the scripture and the station. Attendance for the Stations of the Cross more than doubled this year. Throughout the week people stopped by my office to share with me their experience walking the stations. They talked about the connection between the art and the scripture and how different pieces of art touched their hearts. Many thanks to the artists to spent time contemplating the scripture and creating works of art that spoke to us in powerful ways.

There is a popular quote that says “it takes a village to raise a child.” In many ways, this is very true. It is also true that it takes a church to make worship services on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday happen. People from our congregation worked hard reading scripture, serving communion, greeting our guests, preparing music, folding bulletins, cleaning the building, decorating the sanctuary, working with the children, leading times of devotion, and praying. Our worship would not have been possible without you!

My deep and heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who worked to create fellowship opportunities, devotional opportunities, and worship services that were creative, inspiring, heartfelt, and filled with awe. Pastor Alicia

## **Combined Worship**

Last fall the Worship Ministry Team decided to try something new. On the first Sunday of every month we have a combined worship service at 10 am. We do not have Sunday school on these Sunday's and encourage children and youth to worship with their parents. Earlier this

year the Worship Ministry Team met once again to evaluate this new worship schedule. We realized that it does have some challenges. There are some for whom the 10 am time is challenging. Sometimes people forget the time change and arrive at 9:15 or 11 and are disappointed to have missed worship. We also discussed the many benefits of this worship schedule. We have heard that families enjoy the opportunity to worship together. People enjoy seeing children in worship. People who usually attend the different services get to see one another and share communion with one another. We have also heard stories about the ways that being in worship is helping to shape and form the faith of our children. After considerable contemplation and prayer, we have decided to continue having combined worship at 10 on the first Sunday of the month during the school year. We hope that this continues to be a positive experience as our whole church family worships God together.

### **Communion**

During the season of Lent, Pastor Alicia served communion every week at the 11 am service. A few weeks ago she asked the people who attend the 11 am service for their feedback. The overwhelming response was that people liked having communion every week and wished to see it continue. Therefore, we will continue having communion every Sunday at 11 am.



### *Children & Youth*

**Bible School - June 25-29, 2018 8:45 a.m.-12:00 noon. Registration is open!**

We hope your children and your neighbors' children will attend our VBS: "Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!" Along the "river" children will discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything. Our "rafters" will experience God's love as they explore different Bible stories, learn verses, make crafts, play games, sing songs, and gain friends! Registration forms are available at the Linden Heights UMC website (<http://www.lindenheights.org/vbs.html>) or in the church office. The cost is \$20 per child or \$35 per family.

If you wish to volunteer, or have any questions, please talk to our director Barbara Yingling or Pastor Alicia (410-668-6181).

### **Youth Director Position Open**

We are currently seeking someone to fill our Youth Director position. Interested candidates should enjoy working with youth in the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades, have a strong Christian faith, understand the teachings of the United Methodist Church, be self-motivated, and available to

work on Sunday evenings. The Youth Director will work closely with the pastor to provide engaging activities and service opportunities that help our youth grow in their faith. This position is for 5 hours a week. If you know of someone who may be interested, please have them contact Pastor Alicia at [alicialhumc@verizon.net](mailto:alicialhumc@verizon.net)

**Weber Scholarship:** Scholarship applications for the Weber Scholarship are now available. High school seniors who plan to attend a college or university in the fall are eligible to apply. Applications are on the table behind the sanctuary or from the church office. **The deadline for applications is June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

## *Church Activities*

**We are planning a trip to Sight & Sound Theatres to see “Jesus”** live on stage.

The trip will be Friday, August 17, 2018 and we will travel with Gunther Bus Tour. The bus leaves Linden Heights at 9:30 am. Cost is \$126 per person and includes: round trip bus fare, a tip for the driver, a ticket to Sight and Sound, and a buffet lunch at Shady Maples. For more information please see Frank Barilla or call him at 410-661-6447 (h) or 410-608-7582 (cell)

We have limited seats left, so if you want to go, please make your reservation as soon as possible. Reservation sheets are in the lobby/ narthex on the round table.

**Flea Market – May 12, 2018, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Rain Date May 19, 2018)**

*Things the church needs:*

- \*Prayers for sunshine and success
- \*Volunteers to help sell items at the Linden Heights tables and the food tables.
- \*Volunteers to help set up and help clean.
- \*Donations of food items and drinks (see sign-up sheet in narthex)
- \*Baked Goods
- \*Items to be sold at the Linden Heights Tables – see list below. **Items may be brought in between May 2 and May 10.**
- \*Spaces to be purchased, 10'x10' – one for \$20.00 or two for \$35.00
- \*Tell your friends and neighbors
- \* Help at the Family Fun Center

***Donations the church will be selling:***

Clean, usable items like books, toys, household items, tools, jewelry. **No clothing or TVs.**

***Food the church will be selling:***

Pit beef sandwiches, pit turkey sandwiches, hotdogs, chips, water and soda, baked goods.

***We will have a Family Fun Center with crafts and games for families.***

***There will be a space where people can go to receive prayers.***

This is the church's largest fundraiser, and a wonderful outreach opportunity. Please help support it!

**Lawn Mower Teams** are currently being scheduled. In order to be good stewards of our financial resources, we take care of the mowing and trimming of our lawn ourselves. If you would like to be a part of a team that provides this service for the church, please sign up on the sheet outside of the sanctuary doors or contact Bob Guthridge through the church office. Team members commit to about three hours of work a month during lawn cutting season.

### **Susan Jones' 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

Rev. Susan Jones was the very first woman pastor at Linden Heights back in 1991. Were you here? Do you remember?

I was her Administrative Assistant and Preschool teacher to two of her children, Nathan and Benjamin.

I received a beautiful letter from Susan's daughter, Sarah to invite me to their home in Durham, NC to celebrate Susan's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. What made it special was a Habitat for Humanity house was being built in her honor. She and her family raised almost \$60,000 towards this endeavor. My first thought is I'm going!!! And go I did. Along with two other ladies, Nancy Marshner and Carol Hartlove we traveled together for this joyous event.

We were welcomed into their beautiful home with their children, Nate, Ben and Sarah, Nate's wife, Amy and daughter Clara and a few friends had gathered for this weekend of celebration. On Saturday, we all went to the Habitat House and worked on the house. We basically nailed walls and lifted them up! It was a great day; however, the weather did not cooperate – it rained all day. It did not dampen our spirits though.

Greg Jones, Susan's husband still has a good sense of humor. He is a Professor at Duke University and does Consultant work on his own. Susan just started a new job consulting with the Bishop deciding what to do with churches that are struggling, whether to combine churches together or dissolve. Nate, the oldest is happily married and living in Texas. He is a stay at home Dad and his wife Amy is an Oncology Doctor. Benjamin lives in New York with his wife Allison. Unfortunately, we didn't get to meet Allison – she had a commitment at home. Ben was always good with numbers so now he gets paid working with them. And Sarah, their beautiful daughter lives at home and works with her Dad.

Greg and Susan are very giving – they have families stay at their home free of charge who have a loved one going through treatment at Duke Hospital. They also open their home to students who attend Duke University at no charge.

I know I can speak for Nancy and Carol that it was a wonderful weekend. We laughed, caught up and rekindled friendships with Susan and her family. It is an experience we will not forget.

I will post some pictures on the bulletin board in the walkway if you would like to see them.

Mary Ann Erdman