

Linden Letter

Linden Heights United Methodist Church

March 2019

A Note from the Pastor

Daniel 6:10 (NRSV) *“Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously.”*

In the above scripture passage Daniel was a Hebrew man serving King Darius of Babylon. At the urging of some men who hated Daniel and wanted to get rid of him, the king had just issued a decree that people were not allowed to worship anyone or anything other than himself for 30 days. Anyone caught worshipping another god, another human, or an object would be thrown into a den of lions. Daniel, while well aware of the king's edict, continued to worship God three times a day. Not only did Daniel worship God, he did so in a room that had windows where people could see him worshipping God. The men who despised Daniel for his position in the king's court watched him, and when they saw him worshipping God, they reported him to King Darius. Darius liked Daniel and tried to find a way around his own edict, but he could not find a way out. Darius had Daniel thrown into a den of lions and actually prayed that Daniel's god would rescue him. God did, in fact, rescue Daniel. King Darius had all of the men who had conspired to trap Daniel and have him killed thrown into the den of lions along with their wives and children.

There is quite a bit remarkable in this scripture, but I want to focus our attention on Daniel's prayer life. He prayed three times a day, every day. Even when his life was threatened, Daniel prayed three times a day to God.

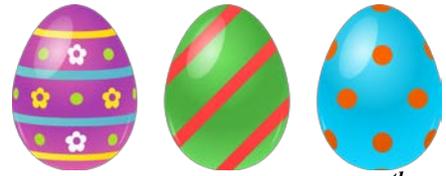
I would like to suggest that for the upcoming season of lent, which begins on March 6th, that we all adopt Daniel's practice of praying to God three times a day. Let us pray when we first get up in the morning, sometime around the middle of our day, and towards the end of the day. Let me suggest that each prayer begin with giving thanks and praise to God, and then the prayers can be whatever we need them to be. Perhaps a morning prayer might be for God's guidance. A midday prayer may be for those whom we have encountered throughout the day. An evening prayer may contain a confession or a prayer asking God to help us be even better disciples. This is just a suggestion, one option of many different possibilities. However you pray, whatever you pray, I hope that you will join me this Lenten season in a time of deliberate and frequent prayer. May it be a blessing to us all!

Pastor Alicia

Children & Youth



The Baltimore-Washington Conference offers many different summer camp options for children and youth at our Manidokan and West River sites. Information about all of the different camps and the two retreat centers can be found at bwccampsandretreats.com. There are also brochures on the table outside of the sanctuary if you, or someone that you know, might be interested in attending a camp. Camperships through the Conference and through Linden Heights are available.



Easter Egg Hunt April 13th

Save the date for our annual, community Easter Egg Hunt! This event is held rain or shine. Children are invited to look for eggs, do a craft, and have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Be on the lookout for ways that you can be involved in this fun community outreach event!

VBS is June 24-28!!!

Registration will open soon for children who are in pre-K through 5th grade this current school year.

Any youth or adult interested in helping that week should talk to Barb Yingling or call the church office.

Preschool Openings for 2019-2020 School Year

Linden Bridge Nursery School sponsored by Linden Heights has openings for the 2019-2020 school year. We offer a three/four-year-old program, 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon.

If you are interested, please contact the Director, Debbie Roberg, 410-668-0230. Please share this information with your family and friends of young children. Linden Bridge is a loving, caring environment for all children.

The 2019-2020 school year will be Linden Bridge's 50th year in session serving this community. Something to celebrate and be proud of!

Worship

Sunday, March 3rd, we will have our combined **Worship Service at 10 am**. There is no Sunday School that day. All children and youth are encouraged to attend and participate in the worship service. Age appropriate coloring pages and activities will be available for young children. Child care is provided for children age 2 and younger.



Good Day Church Family,

It is once again time for the Joyful Sounds bell choir to travel to Ocean City, MD for our Annual regional handbell conference. The Conference takes place 3/15 – 3/16 at the Roland E. Powell Convention center. Our choir and 400+ of our closest handbell friends from North Carolina, Washington, Virginia, Delaware, and Maryland will take classes to improve our techniques and practice for a 5 piece Concert. The Concert will be 5:00 pm Saturday and is Free and open the public. So feel free to take a road trip down to hear us ring we would love to see you!

To help offset the price of registration hotel and meals on March 3rd we will be having our Bake sale at church and be playing one of our festival pieces during the service. So bring your sweet tooth and your appetite for music and we will happily satisfy both! Thank you for all the years of support prayer and encouragement. We are a very blessed bell choir indeed!

The Joyful Sounds.



Lent

Ash Wednesday is March 6th. We will be having a worship service at 7:30 pm in our sanctuary. Arnolia UMC will be joining us for the service. We will be having a light dinner of soup, bread, and pastries before worship begins. We will start serving the soup at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. We could use a few more pots of soup. If you would be willing to make soup for the dinner, please mark the Opportunities Sheet or speak to the pastor. **Please join us for this special service as we begin the season of Lent!**

New Study class offered by Pastor Alicia for the season of Lent. Starting on Monday, March 11th, at 7 pm, Pastor Alicia will lead us in an exploration of the transitions that Jesus experienced in his life, death and resurrection. We will explore this topic by studying poetry related to His death, ascension into hell, resurrection, and ascension. **NO POETRY WRITING ABILITY OR EXPERIENCE IN READING POETRY IS REQUIRED!!!!**

Holy Week



Palm Sunday is April 14th. We will celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem at our 9:15 am and 11 am worship services.

Holy Thursday is April 18th. We will have a traditional Holy Thursday Communion service at 12:00 pm at Linden Heights. At 7:30 pm, we will join Arnolia UMC for a Taizé Communion service. For those of you who have never experienced a Taizé service, it is a reflective and meditative service structured with simple songs that are repeated several times. You won't want to miss this service as we remember Jesus and the gift of Holy Communion.



† Good Friday is April 19th. We will have a traditional service at 12 pm at Linden Heights. At 7:30 pm, the folks from Arnolia UMC will join us at Linden Heights for Good Friday worship. This service will tell the story of Jesus death through drama and music.

Stations of the Cross will be held Sunday, April 14th through Friday April 19th. Hours for the stations will be coming to you soon.

The Stations of the Cross is a journey through the last hours of Jesus' life, beginning with his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and ending with his burial in the tomb. Each of the 14 stations contains a scripture passage that tells a portion of the story, a short meditation, and a prayer. Each station also includes an interactive element, something that you can do to become a part of the story. We will once again be featuring original art work at each station as well. If you would like to create a piece of art for a station, please contact the pastor. Children, youth, and adults are all invited to create art for our Stations of the Cross experience.

Easter is April 21st.

We will have three different services celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Our Sunrise service will take place at 6 am. Weather permitting, this quiet and contemplative service will be held outside in our prayer garden. You are invited to bring a chair if you would like. Coffee and donuts are served at this service.

At 9:15 am we offer an informal, child friendly service. Children and youth will have leadership roles in this service. Activities related to Easter are provided for young children.

At 11 am we have a traditional worship service that will include our vocal and handbell choirs.

Mission

Mission Ministry Team

Going forward, the Missions Ministry Team will be co-lead by Alicia McBride, Connie Simmons and Debbie Gorsche. We are currently researching needs in our community. Once those needs are determined we will develop a Resource Guide and our giving through Missions can be more intentional and allow us the ability to be responsive to the immediate needs in our community.

Urgent Need

We have been asked to help resupply the stock of food at Pine Grove Middle School for children who are hungry, homeless, or at risk. As of right now their needs include the following items: breakfast bars, granola bars, peanut butter, mac n cheese, fruit cups, other easy to prepare or grab and go items that preteens and teens like.

Manna House

Dear friends,

As I look back to the past year, your generosity towards the poorest among us stands out indeed. Linden Heights is a member of the Manna House Breakfast Club. Members commit to providing at least one meal a year for the poor and homeless men, women and children of Baltimore. You have provided breakfast **four** times. This amounts to about **800** meals! I want you to know that the homeless are always happy to hear Linden Heights is coming because they know they will get an excellent breakfast served with love and compassion. You have sent us clothes and individuals from your congregation remain active members of the Manna House Breakfast Club. We remain ever grateful for all you do.

Best regards,

Saleem Gauhar

Executive Director

Donated items: Please do not bring in and leave items that we have not specifically asked for. Recently people have been generously leaving all sorts of donated items that we were not expecting, such as coats, shoes, arts and crafts supplies, and toiletries. When we have not planned to receive these items, it means that we then need to find a place to take them. We just do not have the resources necessary to be a clearing place for all donations. If you have questions about whether or not we are collecting certain items, please ask the pastor, call the office, or contact Alicia McBride, Debbie Gorsche, or Connie Simmons.

Thank You for your generous donation of food for the students at Pine Grove Middle School!!! They were very appreciative. We are thankful that we are able to continue to help the students in need!

Trustee Ministry Team: The Trustee Ministry Team had a very busy 2018 taking care of our grounds and buildings. They have had plumbing and electrical issues repaired, replaced windows, trimmed trees, repaired lawn equipment, cut the grass, had the gutters cleaned, replaced the fellowship hall freezer, had the refrigerator repaired, and had the floors in the fellowship hall stripped and waxed. They also manage all of the different inspections that we need in order to operate and maintain the HVAC system, boilers, humidifiers, etc. We give thanks for the work that they do!

Church Wide Activities

Church Fellowship

Our fellowship event for our family first Sunday on March 3rd will be a chili cook off. Bring your best chili recipe prepared in a crockpot to church on March 3rd. We'll keep the chili warm in the fellowship hall during the service. After the service, we hope all members will stay to vote for the best chili and enjoy some fellowship and lunch. Be on the lookout for a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please text or email Kelly Erdman with any questions.

Flea Market

Our spring flea market is coming! May 11, 2019! Please start saving items to donate to our church tables. We will be collecting household goods, books, children's toys, puzzles, Christmas items and more. All items must be in good condition and clean. We will not be collecting clothing, shoes, televisions. Due to storage issues, items may not be brought to the church until the week of April 29th -May8th. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Snyder at 410-592-8417 or davesnyder.1@comcast.net
THANK YOU!

General Conference February 23-February 26

General Conference is the legislative body of the United Methodist Church. It normally meets once every four years. However, a special session of General Conference has been called for the end of this month to discuss the inclusion of our LGTBQ sisters and brothers. A special task force, The Commission on the Way Forward, was called by the Council of Bishops after the 2016 General Conference. They have put forth three proposals to be considered at General Conference. Information about the Commission on the Way Forward, the various proposals and information about General Conference can be found on our Annual Conference website, www.bwcumc.org under the "Resource" tab.

I ask that each one of us pray daily for General Conference. Please pray for the delegates from across the world who will gather at the end of this month. Please pray that all may speak in love. Please pray that God's will for the United Methodist Church will be done.

On Saturday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to noon, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling is calling the people of the BWC together at the Mission Center and via live streaming to pray and share information following the Special Session. Information about specific viewing sites and information about how to participate from your home can be found on the Conference website at www.bwcumc.org.

Church Leadership

Do you ever wonder who makes the decisions at the church? Do you want to know who, other than the pastor, you can talk to in order to get information? Here is a list of our Ministry Teams, the chairpersons and the members! Contact information can be found in our Church Directory. (If you don't have one, please call the office at 410-668-6181). You can also get contact information by calling the church office. **New members are welcome!** Some ministry teams meet regularly, others as needed. If you would like more information, please contact the chairperson or the pastor!

Lay Leader: Kelly Erdman

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Saleem Gauhar

Church Council Ministry Team: Chairperson- Dave Conrad. Members- Gail Discher, MaryAnn Erdman, Kelly Erdman, Greg Erdman, Saleem Gauhar, Bob Guthridge, Sarah Hamlin, Andy Johnson, Alicia McBride, Rick Schwartz, Ruth Snyder, Wade Walters, Barb Yingling.

Education Ministry Team: Chairperson- Barb Yingling. Members- Cathy Guthridge, Alicia McBride, Ruth Snyder.

Family Ministry Team: Chairperson- Sarah Hamlin. Members- **volunteers are needed!**

Finance Ministry Team: Chairperson- Wade Walters. Members- church council members.

Mission Ministry Team: Chairpersons- Debbie Gorsche, Alicia McBride, Connie Simmons. Members- LouAnna Canby, Gail Discher, Sandra Ketner, Mary Yeager

Memorial Ministry Team: Chairperson- Bob Guthridge. Members- Pat Erdman, Margaret Helfrich, Nancy Marshner, Ruth Snyder

Preschool Board: Chairperson- Ruth Snyder. Members- Debbie Roberg, Janine Scanell, Debbie Singer, JoAnn Eisner, Mary Ann Erdman.

Staff Parish Relations Ministry Team: Chairperson- Greg Erdman. Members- Joe Discher, Naeem Gauhar, Nancy Marshner, Carol Taylor, Laura Walters. **(2-3 more members are needed)**

Treasurer: Rich Schwartz

Trustee Ministry Team: Chairperson- Bob Guthridge. Members: Frank Barilla, Joe Discher, Pat Erdman, Gale Heslop, Cherè Smell, John Smell. **(2 more members are needed!)**