

# EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

MARCH, 2021

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

## Mission Statement

*“Sharing the love and blessing of God with all.”*



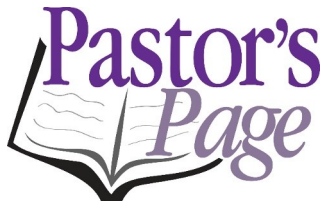
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Think of a common object—a lemon, say, or a rose. If someone gave one to you, and you had never encountered one before, how would you learn about it? You would likely investigate with the tools you have at your disposal. What does it look like? Lumpy and yellow, in this case, or red and graceful with a slender but pointy stem. What does it feel like? Smooth but textured, for the first, and either silky or painful for the latter, depending on where you touch it. Does it make a sound? What does it smell and taste like? Is that sour taste appealing or a turnoff? I can't say that I've ever tasted a rose, but based on the smell I'd imagine it might be pungently sweet.

Some years ago on a study trip to the Middle East, I had an experience like that. I picked up an interesting piece of fruit at the market that I'd heard about: called “sabra,” I later learned it is actually the fruit of the prickly pear cactus. Spiny and a little scary-looking out the outside, with a yellowish-green hue, it's bright pink on the inside when you cut it open. It had a decent fruity smell to it, and it had a sweet, berry-ish flavor to match, although it left my tongue a little numb. It didn't rise to the top of my favorite fruits list, but it was an experience worth having.

Our senses help us to make “sense” of the world. When we run across something new, or when we want to learn more about something, we look it over, we listen to it, we feel it, we smell it, we taste it (if it seems safe to do so). We might do other things, too: read about it in a book or online, or ask someone who has some knowledge of it, or spend more time with it.

Faith unfolds in some similar ways, and during worship this Lenten season we're looking at the ways we use our senses, both literally and figuratively, to gain a deeper experience of God. What do our eyes, our ears, our noses, our hands and feet, our mouths tell us about the divine? And we use other tools: scripture, prayer, quiet meditation, trusted conversations in community, and additional practices that help our focus. As we learn more about God, we often find we learn more about ourselves, too.

The season of Lent is a season of preparation and discovery, seeking out our broken and empty places and inviting Jesus Christ to work in and through them as we journey toward Easter. It calls for an attitude of attentiveness, noticing where the Spirit is moving among us. It requires us to make space in our often-busy lives, creating enough room for God to flow. It takes a commitment to change as we better understand where Jesus is calling us to go. We become more “sense-itive” to holy nudges.

In the weeks ahead, I encourage you to open yourselves to fresh and new ways of experiencing God. Sometimes it might delight you. Sometimes it might surprise you. Sometimes it might challenge you. Sometimes it could even leave you a little numb. But it's always an experience worth having.

—Pastor Walt 😊

# Sermon and Scriptures through Easter

## March 7

"Hearing God"

1 Kings 19:11-13, Is. 42:18-25, Luke 8:4-10,  
James 1:19-25

## March 14

"The Fragrance of God"

Gen. 8:18-21, Lev. 6:15-23, 2 Cor. 2:14-17

## March 21

"Touching God"

Matt. 9:18-22, Luke 8:40-48, Isa. 6:1-8

## March 28 (Palm Sunday)

"A Taste of God"

Ps. 34:8-14, Luke 14:15-24, Proverbs 24:13-14,  
Ezekiel 3:1-4

## April 1 (Maundy Thursday love feast)

"Making Sense"

John 13:1-17, 1 Cor. 13:8-12, Isa. 55:6-9

## April 4 (Easter Sunday)

"A Feast for the Senses"

John 6:10-14; Psalm 131; Isa. 25:6-8, Mark 16:1-8

# Music for March

March 7: Cheryl Dayton

March 14: Lawrence Tyler

March 21: Jennifer Summy

March 28: Peach Blossom Bells



## Worship Planning Announcements

Worship planning has been week-to-week during the pandemic, but for Easter Sunday we are tentatively planning to do two services in the sanctuary again to help spread out the crowd, plus an earlier outdoor sunrise service (weather permitting). Further details and times will be announced soon. We are also planning a reflective Maundy Thursday service (April 1) that will look a bit different than our usual love feast but will hopefully still focus on the meaning of Holy Week and that sacred night.

Other worship services through the spring, including Palm Sunday, will continue to be at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Watch your email, the website, and the weekly announcement sheets for further information. Thank you!

## Special Dates

- *World Day of Prayer, March 5, 2021*
- *Daylight-Saving Times, March 14, 2021*
- *First day of spring, March 20, 2021*
- *Holy Week, March 28 – April 4, 2021*
- *Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021*

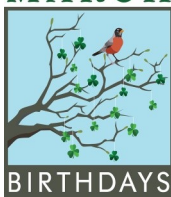
Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.



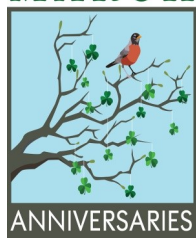
Psalm 85:11 ESV

- 1 Martina Towers  
 3 Jalen Jones, Kellee Kinsey  
 4 Leslie Schwaninger  
 5 Diane Laukenmann,  
 Brendan Faw, Nathan Kelley  
 8 Cheryl Heckard  
 10 Cindy Townsend, Darlena Roesti-Butler  
 14 Kristi Booze  
 15 Corey Edsall, Matthew Faulkner,  
 Katie Pederson  
 16 Joanna Williams  
 17 Patti Ball  
 18 Kevin Schwaninger, Rebecca Russ,  
 Paul Turkington  
 20 Sandy Faw  
 21 Gene Lednum, Robert Milburn, Joy Phelps,  
 Albert Pete  
 22 Steven Mullikin  
 23 Trevor Ball  
 24 Randy Walbridge  
 25 Paula Ulrich  
 27 David Allen, David Ireland, Jude Basel  
 28 Nancy Scheffler  
 29 Michael Correa, Kathy Ebling  
 30 Randy Bachand  
 31 Jennifer Fox

## MARCH



## MARCH



- 9 Ted & Patty Schwaninger  
 11 David & Jo Ann Fike  
 14 Ken & Sue Ann Russ  
 David & Cindy Allen  
 25 Allen & Cheryl Heckard



# Our Prayer List

**Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families:** for those who have contracted

COVID-19, for health care workers, and for government and civic leaders who are seeking the best way forward, for our District Executive, Gene Hagenberger, for all those who have been affected economically, for Camp Mardela and Jennifer Summy, new camp administrator, to the family of JK Rider, Ted Nicholson (and his family), Joyce Battle, Dick and Adele Pogue, Kim



Hammond, Misti Green, Peggy Hutchison, Bunky Miller, Theresa, (co-worker of Terri Tarr), Verna Calloway, Bonnie Langford, Mary Kelly, Amelia Gunn and Chad Whitel (BVS), Hermann &

Peggy Oberkofler, Doris Schwaninger, Brenna (a college senior at Bridgewater with cancer), Barrett Scharner, John Evans, Isabelle Halliday, Wyatt Ewing, Jim & Loretta Lohr, Kathy Spurry, Lillian Sefcik, Judy Haddaway, Jean & Don Saballus, Richard Scott, Billy Harding, Chuck Davis, Annabel Young, Larry Fike, Childlene Brooks, Alan Segar, Bruce Butler, Pat Lewis, Ellen Walbridge, Lee Roesti, Norman Harding, Gene & Betty Lednum, GraceWay CoB, Nancy Scheffler, Roger Plagge, John Nalley, Bobby Hopkins, Kurt Kline, Dee Candel, Jeff & Mary Ann Kiser, Lois Schall, Natalee Jones, Jeff Wright, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, Barbara Taylor, Leo Truban, Emerson Fike, Katelyn Howard. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace. Please phone the church to add or remove persons on our prayer list.



*Worship will remain at 10 a.m. through the spring, with no Christian Education classes, as we continue to follow the protocols of the current health situation. We're monitoring the situation from week to week. The Christian Education team is preparing study resources each week, available in your bulletin.*



# News from the District Office

## 43rd Annual Meat Canning Project

The annual meat canning is a joint effort of the Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania Districts. The goal of the canning project is to help feed people experiencing food insecurity, both locally and overseas.

Due to the uncertainties surrounding Covid-19, the Meat Canning Committee has discussed several alternate plans in case enough volunteers can't be found.

Our congregation can participate in one or all of the following ways:

- **Volunteer to can meat** (chicken this year) April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14, 2021.



This is a meaningful tradition for some congregations and a time of fellowship, with each other and other volunteers.

- **Donate money** towards the purchase of chicken to be canned and/or to supply lunch for volunteers.

Last year both districts received 350 cases of chicken to distribute to those in need. Also, 150 cases were shipped to Liberia and 200 cases went to the Bahamas.

- **Pick up and distribute canned chicken to feed the hungry** – to use in your food pantry, a food pantry you work with or a need in your community, FREE.

Pick up is at the Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, MD.

Please contact the church office (410-822-0475) if you are interested in volunteering or able to pick up the canned chicken.

## Disaster Response Auction Date Saturday, November 13, 2021

For this year, the auction has been postponed from its normal date in May. Details will be shared as available.



Because our beloved MAD Disaster Auction has been postponed until November,  
Because disasters don't stop,  
Because we are a people who care,  
Because we want to follow in the steps of Jesus...  
We are having another "Steps for Disaster" devotional walk in the month of May.

## DISASTER RELIEF WALK-A-THON MAY, 2021

The Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response committee is raising money through a walk-a-thon to benefit emergency disaster fund of the Church of the Brethren.

"Steps for Disaster Relief" is a:

- Reflective walk-a-thon done at your convenience.
- Walk for a total of one hour, all at once or multiple times to add up one hour.
- Recruit family and friends to walk with you and/or sponsor you.
- Intentionally walk in a disaster survivor's shoes, imagining their plight, praying for them and for all those who in some way have, are and will continue providing relief.
- Eight congregations raised \$12,942.25 for "Steps for Disaster Relief", in 2020.

Sponsor forms are located on the table in the narthex.



Feel free to enjoy a day at Camp walking the trails. Hiking is done by appointment only (in order to maintain social distancing). Please call for your appointment at 410-479-2861. Facilities and building will not be available.

Camp Mardela continues with their fundraiser of Scrip: What is Scrip? Buy gift cards online (all year long) at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com), pay online and a rebate will be earned between 2% and 16% that will immediately go towards Camp Mardela. When your gift card arrives, use them for your everyday shopping...that simple. If you would like a copy of the instructions, contact Lee Ann and she can mail you a copy.

# Ham & Turkey Dinner

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

CAMP MARDELA

SERVING CARRY-OUT STYLE ONLY



Pre-Order Pick-Up starts at 12:30

Drive-In Orders 1:00 until sold out

Pick-Up Location	301 Deep Shore Rd Denton, MD 21629
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Price	\$10 minimum donation per meal
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## MEAL INCLUDES

Ham	Cole Slaw
Roast Turkey	Candied Sweet
Dressing	Potatoes
Mashed Potatoes	Rolls
Green Beans	Desserts

Meals can be pre-ordered at [paypal.me/campmardela](https://paypal.me/campmardela). You can also send a check to PO Box 460, Denton, MD 21629, Include your name, contact info, and how many meals you want with the pre-order and we will send you your meal tickets.

Email [campmardela@gmail.com](mailto:campmardela@gmail.com), or call 410-479-2861 if you have any questions.

## A STORY OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

The names of 25 books of the Bible are hidden in the following story. Can you find them all? The names can run between words and over punctuation, and capitalization doesn't matter. Good luck!

It's probably just a fluke, but every time I see Gene he brews some coffee and opens a cabinet with formica handles before going over the numbers on the stock page of the newspaper. He makes a few marks and then judges whether anything is worth an investment. Occasionally he'll call Sharon to get her opinion; he acts like he's listening, but mostly he just likes to test her patience.

Sometimes after we've talked for a while he'll grab some bread and spread it with homemade jam, especially on the weekends. If we're out of the homemade variety, the store-bought kind will do, but Gene's is better. Tuna, hummus, or apple butter are also options, or I'll bring something from the gyro man's stand at the market.

Recently he asked me to bring a hose along for a job he was working on, and he asked whether John Trax had gotten the carpet error at the church corrected. I told him the truth, despite his inevitable lamentations. While I don't like to admit it, usually he knows what he's talking about.

An hour or two after that revelation, Diane brought us some homemade pie. She treats us like kings! We finished up, and I made my exodus. I will probably come back next week unless I am ostracized for the unusual fez Randy gave me. Like the proverb says, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"



## Minutes from the January 26, 2021—Leadership Team Mtg.

- Treasurer and Financial Reports match.
- Pastor Walt is keeping up with current health guidelines.
- Annual Conference will be online this year.
- John Trax is working on information for a funds policy.
- Norma reminded everyone to have their information in for the CBM packet.
- The shelter is opening additional housing and will need items.
- Camp Mardela "Adopt a Cabin campaign" Cost is \$1,000. Leadership Team agrees with this and it will be taken to the CBM.
- Reports were given.
- Next meeting is March 2, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.



## Volunteers for March

	3/7/2021	3/14/2021	3/21/2021	3/28/2021
<b>Message</b>	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Tammy Haddaway	Mat Baynard	Jane Marshall	Jim Lohr
<b>Head Usher/Sound</b>	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch
<b>Deacons on call</b>	Rick & Jane Marshall	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller	John & Norma Trax
<b>Special Music</b>	Cheryl Dayton	Lawrence Tyler	Jennifer Summy	Peachblossom Bells
<b>Flowers</b>	Lee Ann Fox		Anne Harvey	



# Attendance & Offering for February

Attendance	35 2/7/21	33 2/14/21	46 2/21/21	2/28/21	114 Totals
<b>Distributions</b>					
General (06)					
Envelopes	2,980.00	1,605.00	2,518.00		7,103.00
Loose Change/ Cash	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
Total Before Pre- paid Tithes	2,980.00	1,605.00	2,523.00	0.00	7,108.00
Prepaid Tithes	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	1,200.00
Dale	3,280.00	1,905.00	2,823.00	300.00	8,308.00
Other In- come (06)					
Building Use					
Dutchmans Lane Rent			2,400.00		2,400.00
Harrison St. Rent					0.00
Totals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Offerings (07)					
Deacon Fund	1,000.00				1,000.00
In & Out					
Round Top	200.00				200.00
Totals	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
Totals	4,180.00	1,605.00	4,923.00	0.00	10,708.00

**WE'RE  
IN THIS  
TOGETHER!**

Let us all be vigilant. Wash your hands, socially distance, wear a mask that covers your mouth AND nose, and pray for God's guidance and healing.



# Volunteer Opportunities

## Ridgeway House Lunches

The 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month. For months that have five Fridays, lunches will be provided on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday. Monetary and food donations (drink boxes, individual fruit cups, small bags of chips and cookies) are always welcome.

## NSC Food Pantry

Let's not forget that food prices keep going up! When we pay attention to our local, national and international food needs, we are reminded that people suffer from food insecurity all around. If we do not share of our bounty, others go hungry. Let us give, so others may live. Any non-perishable food items with good "best if used by" dates are accepted. **Consider bringing in your non-perishable items when church re-opens.**

## Interested in Serving as Worship Leader or doing the Children's Time?

We're always looking for new people to share their gifts! It doesn't take a lot of time--just a bit of preparation and a willingness to serve. If you would like to join this team of volunteers or want more information, please contact the church office or Pastor Walt.

The volunteer opportunities listed below are currently closed due to COVID-19. Please keep these opportunities in mind when things re-open.  
Thank you!!!

## Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The 2020 volunteer list is available for sign-up. Please take the time and look to see where you can spare a few hours of your time every other month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. **Our next date is April 19, 2021. If you are interested in providing a meal, please contact Norma Trax. (We will keep you updated should COVID-19 restrictions change in allowing volunteers to come to the shelter. )**

## Neighborhood Service Center

Please contact Marilyn Neal, if you are interested in volunteering at the center. Their phone number is 410-822-5015.







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