



GOOD NEWSLETTER

Clarendon United Methodist Church ————— April 2018

The Foolishness of God

"The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."

— 1 Corinthians 1:25

This year, Easter falls on April 1, or what most people recognize as April Fool's Day, a combination that has not happened since 1956. Easter always falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon of the spring equinox, so while the day of the week, Sunday, stays the same, the date can vary by almost six weeks.

The Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, a specialist in United Methodist worship, said the resurrection really was a joke on those in power at the time of the crucifixion. "They thought once Jesus was dead, he would be out of their way, things would go back to normal, and they would continue to reign forever. The joke was on them. They may have been used as the instrument of death for Jesus, but they couldn't make him stay dead!"

Many churches may be wringing their hands about how to approach these two intersections of the calendar. But as one pastor reflected "If you think about it, every Easter is April Fool's Day. For three days, the whole world, all of humanity, thought that hope and love were dead. But God came back to say, 'Surprise!'"



He is Risen...
He is Risen indeed!



Join us for Holy Week services as we follow the path of Jesus through the most unlikely, improbable, and mind-blowing week that would change the world forever.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

**Thursday, March 29, 7:00 pm,
Sanctuary**

Reenactment of Last Supper

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

**Friday, March 30, 7:00 pm,
Sanctuary**

With cantata "The Passion According to St. Mark" presented by the Chancel Choir

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

**Sunday, April 1, 6:30 am, 8:30 am,
& 11:00 am**

Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

EASTER BREAKFAST

**Sunday, April 1, 9:30 am,
Corry Hall**

EASTER EGG HUNT

**Sunday, April 1, 9:45 am,
Church Lawn**

Happenings & Upcoming Events



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The youth of our church have had a busy month and continue to be a source of pride in leading our church to new places.

The Youth group learned about the Arlington Police and their role in the community. Gage Chalmers, a member of CUMC and a firefighter and EMT, spoke on another Sunday teaching basic first aid skills. They played laser tag, went to the movies, and saw one of the Youth members in a play at Yorktown high school.

PRAY FOR PEACE

On March 14, the one month anniversary of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Florida, twenty-six members of the Youth Choir gathered to hold a prayer vigil of candlelight and song to remember the victims and families. Senior Hannah Wines was deeply affected by the lyrics of a song the Youth Choir recently performed, "Down to the River to Pray." She asked director Lisa Gibbs-



Smith to consider a vigil that would include this song to remember this tragic event and create a space for people to come together before God in their grief. In just two short weeks the choir put together the moving program that included five anthems, Scripture reading and hymns, and an invitation to those who attended to come and forward to light candles and pray for the victims and their families, whose names were written on a mirror above the candles. We are so grateful to our Youth for answering the call of Christ and leading us to new experiences in our faith walk.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, April 7, 5:00-8:00 pm

The Youth group will sponsor a time for parents to bring in their children to play, make crafts, and be entertained by the youth as a fundraiser for the Youth Mission trip this summer. For more information and to register, contact Diane Smith (childrensministry@ClarendonUMC.org).

NEXT LEVEL INNOVATIONS

Sunday, April 8, 12:30-2:00 pm, Corry Hall

All are invited to a Ministry Focus Event, designed to help us to discern how people connect with Clarendon UMC, how we grow in discipleship, and how we care for one another and our neighbors. Led by our Arlington District staff, this interactive event is open to everyone, and we especially hope that newcomers will attend and share their special insights into the ways the ministries of

our church are meaningful to people in our community. A light lunch and childcare will be provided.

Next Level Innovations, the 3-year journey designed to raise our church's strength, vitality, and impact to the next level, has already begun to bear fruit in our congregation. Through NLI's rich program of training, mentoring, and resourcing, we are being given the opportunity to learn new ways to follow our call to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." To learn more about the program, visit www.nextlevelinnovations.org.

DEDICATORY CONCERT IN HONOR OF J. REILLY LEWIS

**Sunday, April 15, 3:00 pm,
Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria**
Reilly's beloved wife, Beth, is donating his music collection to the Virginia Theological Seminary. Todd Fickley and members of the Bach Consort will be performing on the grounds. All are invited to the concert and reception that will mark this significant occasion.

EXPLORING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Saturday, April 21; 8:30-12:30 pm, Room 206
If you are curious about what it means to join the Methodist Church or CUMC specifically, we invite you to come to an informal gathering with Pastor Tracy to learn about membership in the church. She will explain the path to membership and how you might get involved in the life of the church. For more information, contact Dianne Swanson, Membership Secretary (membershipsecretary@clarendonumc.org).

GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES

To make our church grounds reflect our love of Christ, we will be doing gardening the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month beginning in April from 2:00-4:00 pm. Contact Jane Dixon (jdixon580jd@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved.

DON'T MISS THESE OTHER APRIL EVENTS:

Saturday, April 7, 8:30-11:30 am

CUMC work at AFAC

Saturday, April 7, 2:30 pm, Corry Hall

Handbell Festival Concert

Sunday, April 8, 6:00-7:30 pm

Youth Group woodworking lesson

Thursday, April 12, 12:00-2:00 pm

FFF: Music by group "The Rocking Chairs"

Sunday, April 29, 11:00 am, Sanctuary

Herndon UMC Youth Choir & CUMC Youth Choir will perform

April Birthdays

Liesl Arends	1
Kendell Pease.....	1
Rande Young.....	2
Gretchen Robertson.....	3
Laura Bishop.....	4
Nicole Sterner	4
Justin Moore.....	5
Rick Devore.....	6
Dee Culver.....	7
Vonnie Symathong.....	7
Gilbert Adams.....	9
Caleb Vincent.....	11
Samuel Zebra.....	12
Emily Thompson.....	13
Gage Chalmers.....	14
Catherine Christiaanse.....	19
Taylor Uscinski.....	19
Ian MacTavish.....	20
Aryn Blanton	21
Adam Kirkwood.....	21
Taylor Bell.....	23
Mary Dodson.....	25
Spencer Hill.....	25
Charlotte Dennis.....	27
Violet Owens.....	28



ARLINGTON BUNNY HOP

Saturday, April 14, 8:00 am

Volunteers and runners needed to help raise money for Bridges to Independence with our first annual 5K Run. We are hosting this event to help raise awareness of the problem of homelessness in our community. Check out the web site and sign up to participate as a runner or as a volunteer. www.ArlingtonBunnyHop.org

Milestones

BAPTISM OF BENJAMIN ZEBRA

The Zebra family (Mark, Anne, Sam and Nora) and our church celebrated the baptism of baby Benjamin Edward on March 11.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Meghan Vismara joined our church fellowship on Sunday, March 18. We joyously welcome her to be a part of CUMC.



Clarendon UMC

Pastor Tracy McNeil Wines
606 N. Irving Street
Arlington, VA 22201

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:30 am Informal Service
11:00 am Formal Service