

AUMC WITNESS

Our Mission: Love God, Love Neighbor, Serve the World

Annandale United Methodist Church
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We are a Stephen Ministry Church

March 12, 2013

Holy Week at Annandale United Methodist Church

Holy Week is the last week of Lent and the week before Easter. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 24, and ends on Easter Sunday, March 31. Holy Week includes Maundy Thursday, March 28, and Good Friday, March 29. See the schedule below of Holy Week activities for all ages, members, friends and visitors of Annandale United Methodist Church.

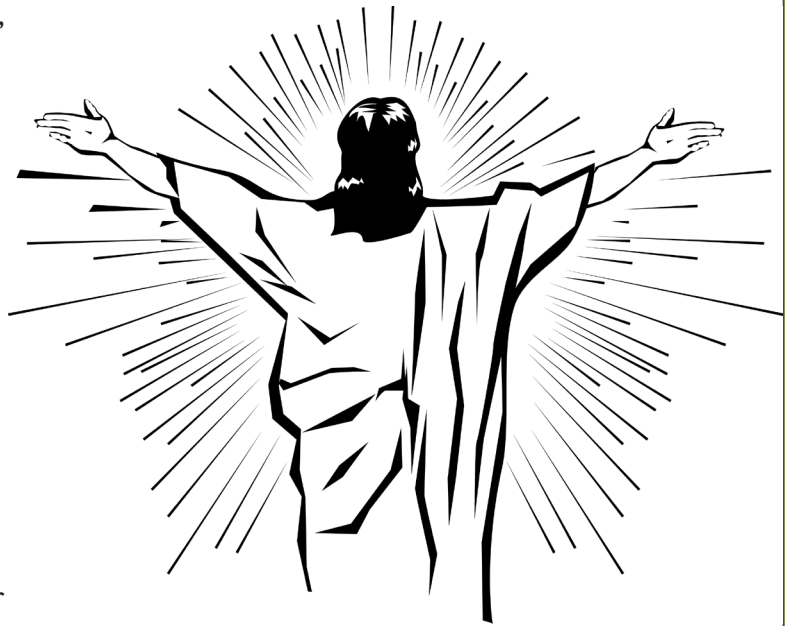
Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which began on **Ash Wednesday**. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring". The 40 days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan. The reverence of lent is tempered with the joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Holy Week is when Jesus' final moments are commemorated. **Maundy Thursday**, also referred to as "Holy Thursday", remembers the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning "commandment," Maundy refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper: to love with humility by serving one another and to remember his sacrifice. In contrast to joyful

Easter celebrations when we worship our resurrected Savior, Maundy Thursday is a more solemn occasion, marked by the shadow of Jesus' betrayal. At AUMC, the Maundy Thursday worship service will include the service of communion and a foot washing ceremony. Before the Passover meal, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. By performing this lowly act of service, the Bible says in John 13:1 that Jesus "showed them the full extent of his love." By his example, Jesus demonstrated how Christians are to love one another through humble service.

On **Good Friday**, Christians commemorate the passion, or suffering, and death on the cross of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Many Christians spend this day in fasting, prayer, repentance, and meditation on the agony and suffering of Christ on the cross. The AUMC Sanctuary and the Little White Church will be open on Good Friday from noon until 3 p.m. for prayer. The 7:30 p.m. worship service on Good Friday, known as the Seven Last Words Service, highlights the seven final phrases of Jesus on the cross and what the words mean.

The Holy Week Schedule and Easter Sunday Frequently Asked Questions **continue on page two.**



This Issue of the Witness:

Page 2: Clarence's Clergy Corner
Holy Week Schedule
Easter Sunday FAQs

Page 3: News in Brief
Easter Flowers Opportunity

Page 4: Ministry Meetings
Lectionary Texts
Weekly Volunteers
Lenten Missions Projects



Another Word About Discernment

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior.

It may be hard to believe, but in August of 2009 I wrote to you the following words: "I know, I know, 'Not this discernment thing again! Give it a rest!' Okay, I get that, but I hope you are receiving how important I think this is for Annandale UMC at this stage of its corporate life..."

My rationale at that time was to impress upon the community that discernment required putting aside easy fix things. The most important thing was to engage in holy conversation about where we believed God was leading us. I am thankful to God that we had that conversation, and articulated our inspired direction. Soooo.... why do it again??? Glad you asked!

We do it again because holy conversation is never a once and for all thing. Moreover, and perhaps more importantly, this phase of holy conferencing puts us face to face with some hard but important questions: How faithful have we been to our vision? What have been the results of our efforts? Have new disciples been made? Have lives been transformed? Is our larger community aware of us? Are we aware of the needs of the larger community? Is the direction we discerned still the way God calls us? Are there things we could do better? Are there things we should stop doing? Are there things we should change?

My experience in congregational supervision informs me that if we do not continue to ask, seek and discern, we run the risk of settling into established, comfortable ways of doing things; we run the risk of turning our outwardly missional focus to an inward focus on maintenance; we run the risk of falling away from God's intention. For all that we have invested in remaining relevant, that would be tragic.

I am thankful those who have stepped forward in leading this charge: Rick Hampton, Jessica Vance, Jerry Beyer, Ryan Witkowski, Lin Hobson, Carol Burns, DeEtte and Don Johnson, Dale Ruhter and many, many others. I close with the last words I wrote in 2009:

"Soooooo... help us hear God through you, will you? I know that you will receive a blessing through it!"

Yours for a Vital Witness to Christ,

Clarence

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 24, 8:30 and 11 a.m., worship service in the AUMC Sanctuary. Children will lead the congregational procession. Palming of the Cross. (Worship at Immanuel will be at 10:30 a.m.) During Sunday School hour, 9:45 a.m., Holy Week Walk with combined children's classes (4 year old-5th grade). Parents and Promises class will join the children.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m., worship service in the Sanctuary; Holy Communion celebrates the Last Supper.

Good Friday, March 29, 12 noon – 3 p.m., Prayer in the Sanctuary and Little White Church; 7:30 p.m. Seven Last Words Service in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service, AUMC Atrium; 8:30 and 11 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship, AUMC Sanctuary. (Note: combined AUMC and Immanuel worship services at Annandale campus only). Place flowers on the cross following the service. 9:45 a.m., combined Adult Sunday School Class led by Burnett Thompson, Sanctuary. Special activities for families with children: Walk the labyrinth in the courtyard in a joyous celebration of the resurrection! Bubbles provided. Table activities in Wright Hall.

Easter Sunday FAQs:

Will there be Fellowship Hour on Easter?

Yes, after both 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship in Wright Hall. Don't miss this time for fellowship.

If the front and back lots are full, where can I park?

Overflow parking is available at the former Bloom grocery store across Columbia Pike from AUMC. The shopping center is providing the parking for AUMC every Sunday at no charge.

Will there be special music?

Yes, and anyone who has sung the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah before is invited to join the AUMC adult choir in the choir loft for the final hymn on Easter Sunday. We will "raise our voices" in singing this timeless classic together as one great, massed choir.

++ Lenten Communion service will be held Wednesdays March 20 and 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ++

NEWS IN BRIEF

A Men's Spiritual Retreat is scheduled for Friday, April 19, 6 p.m. til Saturday, April 20, noon, at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational and Conference Center near Front Royal. Thought-provoking general and small group sessions are planned and Dr. Clarence Brown will be the special guest speaker. Optional golf outings and Civil War tours are available Friday and Saturday afternoons. A \$100 fee covers Friday night lodging and dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch. Reservations are due by April 1. Contact gary@garyfitzjibbon.com or call 703-963-8707.

Christmas in April (Rebuilding Together) is scheduled for April 27, and volunteers are needed for a half or full day. AUMC will be participating for the 14th straight year and will team with ACCA/St Barnabas Episcopal on a local "house repair project" to a deserving family or Fairfax County group home. Participation by all ages is welcome. This is a great opportunity for anyone who needs Community Service hours and is sponsored by the Missions Committee and ACCA. If you are interested in working or "fixing a treat for the workers", contact John Clarke, 703-642-3836 or 703-606-6464 (cell) or email clarkejhl@gmail.com.

ACCA Food Drive Sunday, April 7: Bring donations of canned/boxed, non-perishable foods and place in the collection boxes near the coat racks and by the front door.

Brown Bag Lunch makers needed Thursdays March 14, 21 and 28 at noon at the Immanuel campus. The lunches are for the Bailey's Homeless Shelter. Help is also needed with food distribution every Thursday, 5 – 7 p.m. For more information, call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

To cut costs, Giving Statements will now be distributed quarterly. Statements will be issued in January, April, July and October. For more information contact Garry Bell at gbell@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330.

A playgroup for families with young children meets Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – noon in room 206. This informal, drop-in program is an unsupervised playgroup which provides families with children under age 5 an opportunity to meet other families of young children. Exchange ideas with other parents while your children play. Reservations are not required, but helpful. There is no charge. Contact Becki Stewart, Director of Children's Ministries, bstewart@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

Centering Prayer meets every Monday, 9:30 a.m., in room 308. If you are seeking a meaningful way to begin the week in a quiet place and to spend more time with God, the Monday Morning Centering Prayer may serve your needs. Anyone is welcome to participate. In Centering Prayer, participants practice 20 minutes of silent or centering prayer, opening the mind and heart to God.

Sunday Morning Office Hours: In order to provide easier access to the church office on Sunday mornings, volunteers are needed from 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. on Sundays once or twice a month. Please contact Joyce Kitzmiller at jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330 if you are interested.

Adults and/or children are needed to serve as ushers, acolytes, and crucifers for Sunday morning worship. If you are interested, please contact Joyce Kitzmiller, jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

Easter Flower Opportunity

Help beautify the Sanctuary on Easter by donating special flowers. If you would like to place tulips in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please complete the form below and return it to the church office with your check for \$11 per plant, payable to AUMC, no later than March 24. **Fill out a separate form for each plant.**

+No telephone orders can be accepted.+

Placed by _____

Telephone _____

(Circle One) In Memory / Honor of:

(Check One) I will take the plant

Give my plant to homebound member

(For office use only) Date received _____ Check number _____



MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., March 19	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., March 26	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210

LECTIONARY TEXTS

March 17, Fifth Sunday in Lent: Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126 (UMH 847), Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

March 24, Palm Sunday:

Liturgy of the Palms: Luke 19:28-40; 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, Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, March 17

Outreach greeters 8:30 a.m. J.Vance/B. Brown, 9:30 A. Witkowski,
10:30 a.m. W. Ward

Greeters: Mary and Martha Circle

Fellowship hosts: Phoebe/Lydia Circles

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. J. Clarke, D. Pemberton, E. Sackey, B. Brown (c)
11 a.m. S. Fleming, P. Straub, R. Witkowski, P. Snitzer (c)

Sunday, March 24

Outreach greeters 8:30 a.m. E. Wilson/C. Cox, 9:30 M. Pearson,
10:30 a.m. L. McConville/E. Moss

Greeters: Witness/Missions Committee

Fellowship hosts: Trustee Committee

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, S. Fleming, S. Groves, E. McKenney (c)
11 a.m. C. Jones, C. Jones, J. Thomas, P. Shockley (c)

Lenten Missions Projects: Responding to needs here and around the world!

During this Lenten season, why not renew your commitment to serving our neighbors and the world through our missions program? Join our Christian outreach by making a generous Lenten Mission Projects (LMP) offering and participating in our LMP programs. (Use special envelopes or give online www.annandale-umc.org.)

With the funds raised this year, we hope to make a substantial difference in the lives of those here in Northern Virginia and in regions of the world in desperate need of our love and help.

We ask not only for your support of our financial goal of \$60,000 but also for your active participation in mission projects throughout the year. We all have talents and abilities that will make the generous financial support for our Lenten Mission Projects go much further. Think of the parable of the loaves and fishes and how we can follow Jesus' example and make our resources serve many.

Our 2013 Lenten projects are:

- Stop Hunger Now
- Haiti
- Camp Highroad
- Brazil
- Mozambique
- Poe Middle School/Immanuel Food Program

Whether it's here in Annandale or halfway around the world, there are many ways for us to reach out and help. Our Lenten Mission Projects set us on a path of responding to the needs of others and fulfilling our mission of loving our neighbors and serving the world.

Your AUMC Missions Committee

NEXT DEADLINE Friday, March 15 is the deadline for the March 26 Witness which covers March 31 and April 7