

Contact

March 2018 Edition



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Where ever you are on your journey, you are welcome here.



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Have a photo or news item you want to share in the next issue of the CONTACT?

Send your info to **wuccupdates@gmail.com**

Due by March 26!

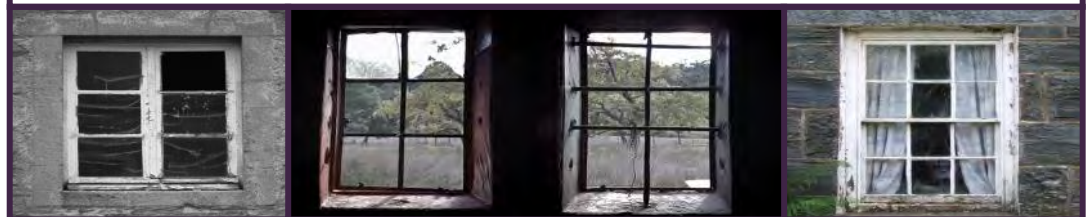


Lenten Opportunities

- † Thursdays through March 22nd: Lenten Bible Study: “Animate Faith” with Rev. James
- † Sundays through April 1st: Our Wounds Are Windows project - see page 4
- † Now through March 25th: Less is More project - see page 4

Holy Week Schedule

- Sunday, March 25th, **PALM SUNDAY**
 10:00 am “Our Wounds Are Windows” project available
 Youth Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 am Worship and Celebration
 Blessing of the “Less is More” bags
 Youth Choir Performs
 1:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch
- Thursday, March 29th, **MAUNDY THURSDAY** - The Vigil begins...
 6:00 pm “Our Wounds Are Windows” project available
 Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service
- Friday, March 30th, **GOOD FRIDAY** - The Vigil continues...
 Church open for prayer
 “Our Wounds Are Windows” project available
- Saturday, March 31st, **HOLY SATURDAY** - The Vigil continues...
 Church open for prayer
 “Our Wounds Are Windows” project available
- Sunday, April 1st, **EASTER SUNDAY**
 7:00 am Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary
 8:00 am Pancake Breakfast
 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 am Youth Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 am Easter Cantata



Upcoming Events

- March 4** Emergency Council Meeting - 9 AM
Older Kids in WONDER-land - 10 AM
Communion Sunday * - 11 AM
 Sermon: Christ's Body, Our Temple - Rev. James
Younger Kids in WONDER-land - 11 AM
Recycle POP formation conversation - 12:30-ish
Kids POP meeting - 12:30 PM
- March 8** Animate Faith - 6:30 PM (see page 4)
Choir Rehearsal - 7:45 PM
- March 11** Day Light Savings
Kids POP meeting - 10 AM
Youth Choir Rehearsal - 10 AM
Worship - 11 AM
 Sermon: Truth or Dare - Rev. Sallye
One Great Hour of Sharing (see page 6)
Younger Kids in WONDER-land - 11 AM
Discernment & Desert Group - Noon-ish
 (see page 5 - Strategic Planning POP)
Hospitality planning for Gossers - Noon-ish
LGBT POP Meeting - 12:30 PM
- March 15** Animate Faith - 6:30 PM (see page 4)
Choir Rehearsal - 7:45 PM
- March 17** Reception Set-up and Preparation - 1 PM
Sue Gosser Celebration of Life - 4 PM
AA / Support Groups - 7 PM
- March 18** Older Kids in WONDER-land - 10 AM
Worship - 11 AM
 Sermon: Servanthood & Sacrifice - Rev. James
Younger Kids in WONDER-land - 11 AM
Discernment & Desert Group - Noon-ish
 (see page 5 - Strategic Planning POP)
Kids POP meeting - 12:30 PM
- March 19** Discernment & Desert Group - 4 PM & 7 PM
 (see page 5 - Strategic Planning POP)
- March 20** Adult Supper Club - 6 PM
- March 22** Animate Faith - 6:30 PM (see page 4)
Choir Rehearsal - 7:45 PM
- March 24** Family Game / Fun Event - 3:30 PM -5:30 PM



Mark Your Calendar



- March 25 PALM SUNDAY**
Youth Choir Rehearsal - 10 AM
Kids line up for Processional - 10:30 AM
Worship & Celebration - 11 AM
 Sermon: Windows Work - Rev. Sallye
Younger Kids in WONDER-land - 11 AM
Youth Choir Performs - 11 AM
Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch - 1 PM
- March 29 MAUNDY THURSDAY**
The Vigil begins...
Communion* and Tenebrae Service - 6 PM
Choir Rehearsal - 7:45 PM
- March 30 GOOD FRIDAY**
The Vigil continues...
Church open for prayer
- March 31 HOLY SATURDAY**
The Vigil continues...
Church open for prayer
- April 1 EASTER SUNDAY**
Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary - 7 AM
 Sermon: Resurrection Faith - Rev. James
Pancake Breakfast - 8 AM
Choir Rehearsal - 9:30 AM
Cantata - 11 AM

* Gluten-Free Communion Bread is now being used to respect the health needs of many of our congregants.

Easter Cantata

“You Are the Christ”

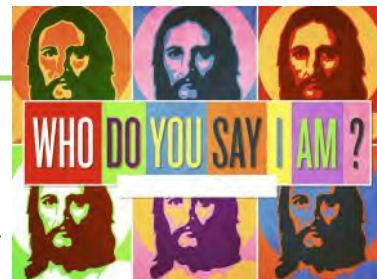
On April 1, 2018, our Chancel Choir will present a cantata entitled “You Are the Christ” written by Lloyd Larson. The cantata will be performed during the regular 11 am morning service at Warwick United Church of Christ at 10 Matoaka Lane, Newport News, Va.

This year the Easter story will be told through the eyes of the disciple named Peter.

Brash, bold, transparent, volatile are all characteristics used to describe Peter. Yet the special bond between Peter and Jesus is unquestioned. Jesus once asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” It was Peter who immediately replied: “You are the Christ”. This cantata provides an insightful look into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Mark your calendars! You surely do not want to miss this Easter cantata presented by the Warwick Chancel Choir entitled “You Are the Christ”. It is a moving and personal reflection of Jesus through the eyes of perhaps his most devoted follower, Peter.

J. Rudolph Wilson, Jr.
Director of Music



Children’s Programs

Here is WONDER-land!

Our children's program is centered in children's natural ability to "WONDER" It comes from a sense of awe and curiosity and the power of the stories we find in Scripture. So we're trying the name for our spaces - WONDER-land! Each week our infants and toddlers will have a stimulating safe space to explore and be loved with Ms. Lysie during worship and every Sunday, our PreK - 5th graders will spend time in WONDER-land with Rev. Sallye and the Sunday morning team - Tina Bailey, Amanda Lee and Terry Samm-Garris. Please hold this team of folks and the children of the church in your prayers!



March 11 & 25, 2018 Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will have practice on Sunday mornings, March 11th & 25th, and April 1st. Their next performance will be March 25th - Palm Sunday

The Next Family Game / Fun Event will be March 24th, 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Adult Supper Club



March 20th, 6 PM
Steve's Steakhouse
11847 Jefferson Ave.
(757) 595-9483

John’s River Valley Camp

JRVC -- etched into the foothills of North Carolina's Blue Ridge by a defining mountain stream -- hosts an outdoor ministry site of the Southern Conference (UCC). This outdoor ministry setting offers life enriching opportunities and summer camp activities for groups Grades 3-12.

Visit http://jrvc.org/Summer_All_2018.htm for a list of events and dates.

2018 Youth Work Mission Camps are also presently being scheduled. Contact Rev. Phil Hardy at 336-266-1617 or camp 828-754-7067 for further information.

Lenten Discussion



LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP: An adult Christian education class, Animate: Faith, will be offered for the six weeks of Lent. In each session, the group will watch a video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spend time on personal reflection and journaling, and share ideas with the group.

Pastor James will facilitate the discussion.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1 - 6:30 PM

Topic: **Jesus: Revolution of Love**

Video Leader: Marc Scandrette, Founding Director, ReIMAGINE

THURSDAY, MARCH 8 - 6:30 PM

Topic: **Salvation: Abundant Life Now**

Video Leader: Shane Hipps,
Former Pastor, Mars Hill Bible Church, Grand Rapids, MI

THURSDAY, MARCH 15 - 6:30 PM

Topic: **Cross: Where God Is**

Video Leader: Nadia Bolz-Weber,
Pastor of House for All Saints and Sinners, Denver, CO

THURSDAY, MARCH 22 - 6:30 PM

Topic: **Bible: A Book Like No Other**

Video Leader: Lauren Winner, Professor, Duke Divinity School

Lenten Projects

Our Wounds Are Windows

Throughout the church there are windows poised in front of windows for us to reflect on our sufferings that continue to form us.

These wounds are centered around three areas of being human we share: Our Bodies, Our Relationships and Our Religious Histories.

As God brings to you these hurts, please simply paint a stroke on the window. Paint, brush and water are there.

Thank you for being honest with yourself. During Holy Week we will intentionally address our healing and hope-finding through them.

The Our Wounds Are Windows project will be available on Sundays throughout March and during the Vigil, Thursday the 29th at 6:00 pm through Sunday, April 1st at 7:00 am.



Less is More

Bags are available in the hallway and in the sanctuary for your use.

Removing items that you nor your family no longer need can be cleansing for you and empowering for those who receive them.

Bring filled bags on Palm Sunday (March 25) and we will have a service of blessing on them and all who receive them. Pick up for large items is available.

All items will go to the Village Thrift Store who are good stewards for these items and for those in our community.

Financial Update as of February 28, 2018

INCOME	
Total Expected Income - All Sources - 2 months	\$ 15,425
Received - Year to Date	\$ 6,146
Expected Offering Income - Pledged & Loose - 2 months	\$ 13,000
Received - Year to Date	\$ 24,110 (One annual pledge received)
EXPENSES	
Total Expected Expenses - 2 months	\$ 15,425
Spent - Year to Date	\$ 14,666
MISCELLANEOUS	
Amount sent to any outreach/mission work to date:	\$ 0 *
*Pass thru – what we get we send out – not part of dedicated funds. Includes UCC Special Offerings.	
Boiler Grant: Only \$264 left to repay! We are seeking Council approval for an additional \$750 as a thank you gift.!	

Strategic Planning POP

The Strategic Planning POP has reviewed the results of the church-wide survey and is now ready to proceed with scheduling discernment groups. The purpose of the discernment groups (Discernment & Deserts!) will be to relate the results of the survey, but more importantly to do the work of defining OUR church vision and mission.

We will be offering 4 groups on different days/times. We will have sign-up sheets on Sunday mornings and ask that you select one day/time to attend a group. You are able to change groups anytime you wish, but we need to have an approximate number of attendees to ensure we have enough handouts and refreshments.

You only need to attend 1 group but are invited to attend as many as you wish. All discernment and research will be evaluated and put together into a summary report for dissemination on Easter – our new beginning.

We have worked hard as a congregation to get this far and we have done well. We are on the cusp of a new beginning with a church vision and mission which will carry us forward as we evolve.

Dates for the discernment group:

Sunday, March 11th – after church in the Fellowship hall

Sunday, March 18th – after church in the Fellowship Hall (no third Sunday luncheon)

Monday, March 19th – 4:00 pm at the church

Monday, March 19th – 7:00 pm at the church

Join us in our journey forward.



One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide

response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.



This offering is typically received by the congregations on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 11th, 2018. If you prefer to donate by mail, make checks to OGHS and mail to: United Church of Christ OGHS c/o Financial Services office, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.

Other Ways to Give

Matching Gifts

Double the impact of your donation! Many employers offer matching gift programs to encourage employees to contribute to charitable organizations. If your company has a matching gift program please consider taking advantage of it as it can leverage your gift to a higher level. www.ucc.org/matching-gifts

iGive

Every time you shop at any of the 1,000+ online stores in the iGive network, a portion of the money you spend benefits United Church of Christ. Start iGiving at: www.iGive.com/UnitedChurchofChrist.

AmazonSmile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to United Church of Christ whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-1957221>.

Gifts of Stock

Make a gift of securities or mutual funds by contacting the UCC Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship at: 800-846-6822.

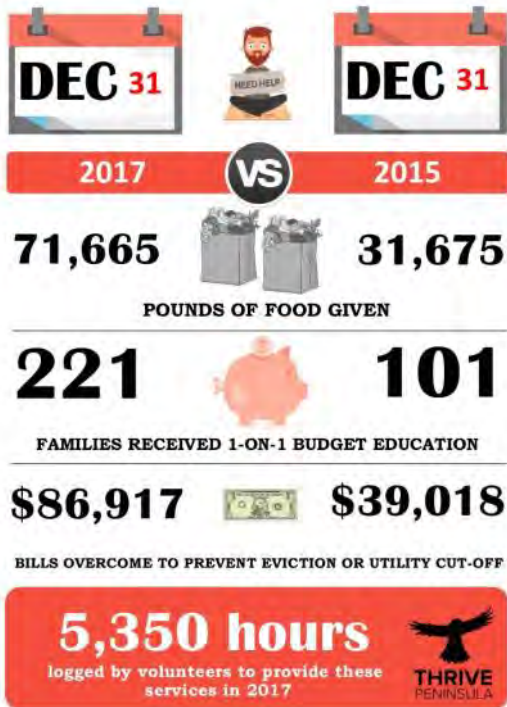
Planned Giving

Planned giving provides an opportunity to leave a meaningful legacy, maximize philanthropic objectives and receive important tax benefits. www.ucc.org/giving



THRIVE News

THRIVE More Than Doubles Its Services in Two-Year Period



As of November 1, THRIVE had already distributed more food, financial assistance, and budget education to the community in 2017 than it did in all of 2016.

Among other 2017 accomplishments, THRIVE has purchased, renovated, and moved into a permanent facility. The food pantry is giving healthier foods to each household that includes at least a package of frozen chicken, beef, and pork plus fresh produce, and more.

To further encourage household sustainability, THRIVE has initiated a Career Assistance program, with a professional in the field who can help build resumes, hone interviewing skills, and navigate job searches. This year, THRIVE will begin bi-annual meetings for church liaisons and leaders in order to create opportunities to network and partner with one another on programs and provide feedback to the THRIVE Ministry.

Dine Out at Uno's to support THRIVE! March 22, 2018 All Day!

Simply mention that you are dining to support THRIVE and Uno's will donate 20% of your check to THRIVE Peninsula. Dine-in, Carry-out or Catering. Valid at the Victory Square location only.



Lectionary Readings for February 2018

March 4, 2018

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 18, 2018

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 -or- Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 25, 2018

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47 -or-
Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

March 11, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 25, 2018

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 11:1-11 -or- John 12:12-16

March 30, 2018

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 -or-
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42



Prayer List

(Names given verbally are spelled to the best of our ability)

Mickey Allen	Michelle Flores & Family	Miguel O
Anderson Family	Stephanie Fraizer	Jan Orr
Mike Barnes	Hal & Marge Giesecking	Terry P
Kelly Bennett	+ Gosser Family	Larry Paccone
Geraldine Bolden	Barry Graham	Ted & Michelle Paccone
Tristian Brown	Pat Grant	Puerto Rico & USVI
Trudy Burdge	Hall Family	+ Ryan Family
Larry Burns	+ Pikul/Harvey Family	Rex Sample
Kathy Byers & Family	Dianne Howe	Lori Sanders
Carter Family	Hurricane Victims	Jesse Saunders
+ Christensen Family	Sandra Ingari	Nancy Simpson
Tony Colden	Mike Kelpaul	Will Smith & Family
Bonnie Cook	Cindy Kilgore	Bob Snaz
Costello Family	Ann Lange	Jeffrey Spielberger
Kevin Court	Donna Langston	+ Spielberger Family
Zack Culum	Heidi & Mike Lord	Cynthia Thomas
Eleanor Darnell	Linda Lucas	+ Thomas Family
Bonnie Dinges	John Maclean	Donal VonGryffn
Martha Dunn & Family	Mrs. Martinez	Don Wayman
Dvey Family	John McNery	Meredith White
Emerson Family	+ Mere Family	Rachel York
Yvette Ferguson	USS McCain	Students & Teachers
USS Fitzgerald & Family	Audrey Noble	

+ Pray for the families who have lost loved ones in the past year.