



THE JOHN WESLEY COMMUNICATOR



John Wesley United Methodist Church

6922 N. Ritchie Highway

Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Volume 19 No. 3

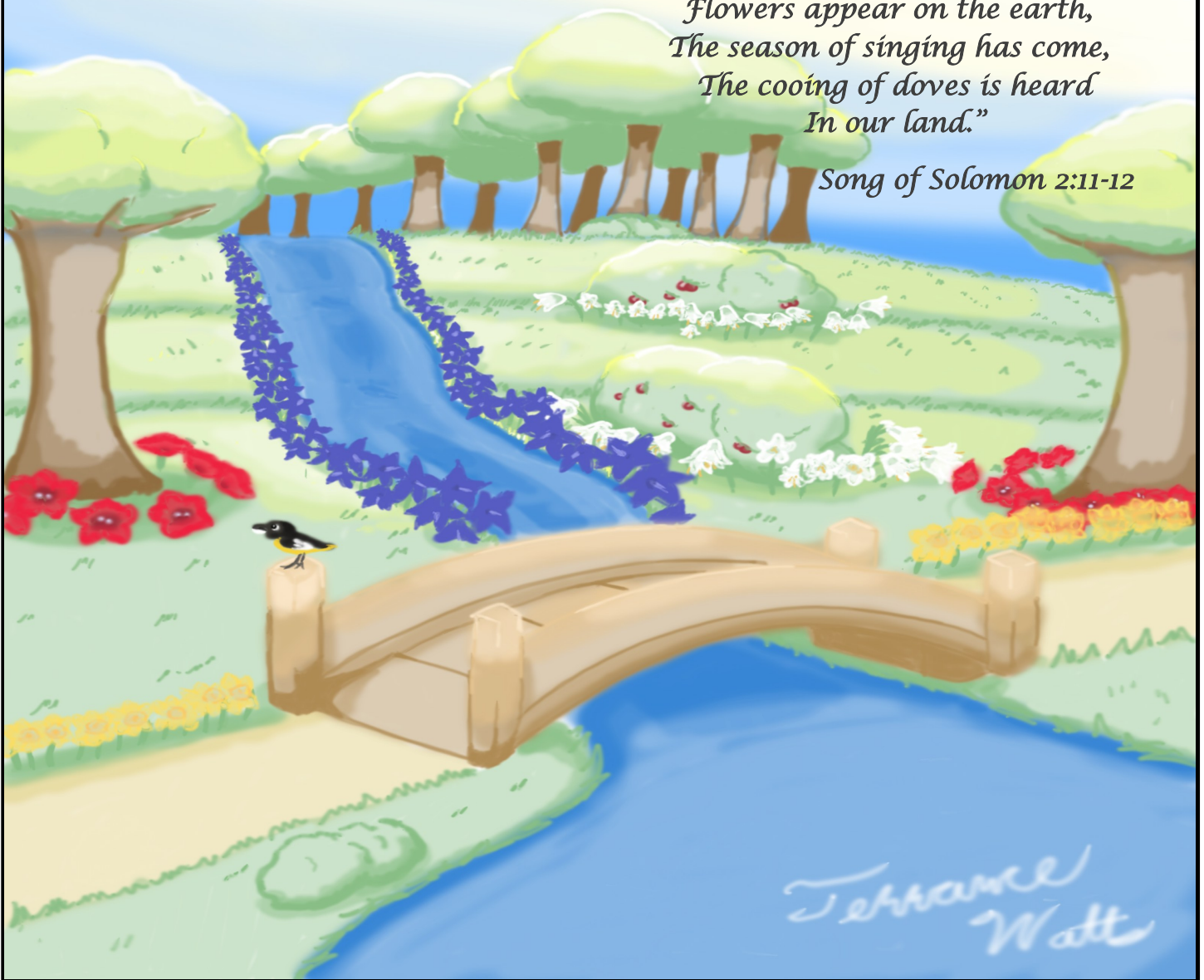
Telephone - (410) 766-6981

March 2026

Spring Is in the Air!

*"See! The winter is past,
The rains are over and gone,
Flowers appear on the earth,
The season of singing has come,
The cooing of doves is heard
In our land."*

Song of Solomon 2:11-12



Rev. Dr. Kenneth Percell Moore, Pastor

Rev. Sarah Schliekert, Harbor District Superintendent

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, Baltimore-Washington Conference

Editor's Message

March 1, 2026

Greetings,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Time flies! That's the temporal nature of life and earthly matters. Not long after we conclude our activities of Advent, Christmas, and New Year's Eve, we embark on spring and the Lenten season, when we prepare to commemorate Christ's death (on Good Friday) and resurrection (on Easter Sunday). Although we mortal beings must die, we must not despair. Jesus was born to die for our salvation and eternal, heavenly life, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" - John 3:16.

After the chill of winter, the season of dormancy, we thank God for the warmth of spring, the season of rebirth. Spring is in the air! We see the earth come back to life with colorful flowers blooming, green grass growing, and vibrant leaves budding. We also experience a sort of rebirth, with sluggishness dissipating and liveliness returning.

At JWUMC, much has been done, and there is still much to be done during this season. There is always something! "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). We take stride in what we need to do, and pride in what we do. However, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37), so please work with us.

In this issue of the newsletter, we are reiterating information regarding the Class Leadership Program that we introduced in "The Communicator" in September 2024. There are some revisions to this instrument, designed to provide support for our members. We look forward to strengthening the bonds of communication between the members and Class Leaders and among all of us.

Happy Easter!
Deborah Williams
Editor



Editor

Deborah Williams

Staff

Rochelle Jones
Linda Mouzon

Maria Rawlings
Terrance Watts

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
May 5, 2026 or ASAP

Quarterly Calendar

March 2026

Sunday, March 01, 10:00 AM
Worship Service and Holy Communion
Wednesday, March 04, 12:00 & 7:00 PM
Lenten Service
Sunday, March 08, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Wednesday, March 11, 12:00 & 7:00 PM
Lenten Service
Sunday, March 15, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Wednesday, March 18, 12:00 & 7:00 PM
Lenten Service
Sunday, March 22, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Palm Sunday
Wednesday, March 25, 12:00 & 7:00 PM
Lenten Service
Friday, March 27, 12:00 PM - "Seven Last Words"
Sunday, March 29, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Children's Easter Program

April 2026

Wednesday, March 04, 12:00 & 7:00 PM
Lenten Service
Sunday, April 05, 10:00 AM
Worship Service and Holy Communion
Confirmations
Sunday, April 12, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Sunday, April 19, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Sunday, April 26, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

May 2026

Sunday, May 03, 10:00 AM
Worship Service and Holy Communion
Sunday, May 10, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Sunday, May 17, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Sunday, May 24, 10:00 AM - Worship Service
Sunday, May 31, 10:00 AM - Worship Service

Ongoing Classes, Meetings and Practices

Bible Study - Tuesdays - 7:00 PM (via ZOOM)

Children's Church School - 2nd and 4th Sundays
10:00 AM

Dance Rehearsal - Tuesdays - 6:00 PM

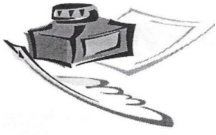
Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays - 6:00 PM

United Women in Faith's Meeting

1st Monday of the month (Zoom) - 7:00 PM

United Methodist Men's Meeting

1st Monday of the month - 7:00 PM



A Message From Rev. Dr. Kenneth Percell Moore, Pastor



Beloved John Wesley Family and Friends,

In just a few days, the cold months of winter will be behind us, and it will officially be springtime. Spring is that joyous season that falls between winter and summer, spanning from March to May. It's a season of life, growth, and renewal. This beautiful season of the year is marked by warmer temperatures, longer daylight hours, blooming flowers, and an overall awakening in nature. The grass begins to grow, trees produce new leaves, and the animals become more active. While each season is needed and beautiful, there's just something special about springtime. Spring is one of the greatest times of the year!

As we leave winter behind and move into spring, I want to challenge you to see God in the changing of the seasons. Springtime is full of spiritual lessons we can learn about God and the journey of faith He calls each of us to travel. Spring isn't just another season of the year; it can be a season of joy and spiritual reflection. Let the beauty of springtime remind you of God's love and greatness. Here are a few spiritual lessons that come to mind as I look for God in springtime:

Spring shows us the beauty of a new beginning.

As the earth awakens from the cold and barren months of winter, springtime allows God's creation to experience renewal. Similarly, God promises each of us a fresh start through His Son, Jesus Christ. As the apostle Paul once noted, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV). Coming to Jesus allows us to put away the person we used to be and become something brand new in God. The good news of the Gospel is that no matter how bad our past may have been, God's grace allows us to begin again.

Spring shows us hope for resurrection.

Springtime is special because it seems like life is bursting forth from what was dead. Barren trees begin to open their buds, revealing new leaves and shoots. Flowering plants start to bloom and blossom, giving off vibrant colors to replace the gloom of winter. Hibernating animals emerge from their dens and burrows. All this new life reflects the resurrection of Jesus. All hope seemed to be lost when the Savior was crucified at Calvary, but Jesus triumphantly came forth from the grave, giving us victory over death and the hope of eternal life. As the Lord himself proclaimed, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he dies, yet shall he live" (John 11:25 ESV).

Spring shows us the faithfulness of God.

The changing of the seasons is an ongoing witness to the faithfulness of God. God once promised, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22 ESV). Winter always gives way to spring. Spring always gives way to summer. Summer always gives way to fall. Fall always gives way to winter. The consistent changing of the seasons reminds us of the consistent nature of God. He's always faithful, and His words are never failing. We can trust God to be with us and sustain us through all circumstances we may encounter in this life.

Spring shows us the need for transformation.

As the flowers, grass, and trees all experience needed growth during springtime, we are reminded that we are called to grow spiritually too. God calls each of us to participate in a spiritual metamorphosis where we are daily shaped and molded into the image of His Son (cf. Romans 12:1-2; 8:29). Spiritual growth isn't just a good suggestion, it's a Biblical command for every Christian (cf. 1 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 3:18, etc.). Spring is beautiful because of the many transformations we can witness in nature. Similarly, there's nothing more beautiful to witness than seeing yourself and others being transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

If you are anything like me, then I am sure you have been eyeing the official start of springtime on your calendar. I am personally ready to welcome the warmer weather and the fresh renewal brought our way through spring. Let's celebrate the changing of the seasons, but let's not forget to see God in it all. There are lessons to be learned everywhere we look. Seeing God in springtime can build our faith in Him and help us better appreciate the transformative nature of New Testament Christianity. So take some time today to soak up the beauty of spring and let each moment direct your attention upward to the awesome God who makes it all possible.

In humble grace,

Pastor Kenneth P Moore, Lady Tonica and Noelle

Class Leadership Program

	Veterans				Youth (Ages 10-17)		Sunday School	
	Class Leader Maria Rawlings				Class Leader Michele Jacobs		Class Leader Sharon Pitt	
1.	Deanna Adams	17.	Lewis McClam	1.	Abigail Abanukam	1.	Clarese Alexander	
2.	Donald Bessicks	18.	Anthony Payne	2.	Makiyah Banks	2.	Katrina Barnett	
3.	Peggie Bessicks	19.	George Queen	3.	Maki Banks	3.	Caryl Brown	
4.	Karen Bryant	20.	Edmond Savage	4.	Warriona Barnett	4.	Rosalind Ekemam	
5.	Anthony Bynum	21.	Patricia Tarpley	5.	Nicholas Bedell	5.	Tina Ekemam	
6.	Clyde R. Derrill, Jr.	22.	Donny Williams	6.	Noah Bedell	6.	Mabel-May Emedoh	
7.	George Gaither	23.	Valerie Williams	7.	Kiley Cooper	7.	Rika Evans	
8.	Shirley Hardee	24.	Robert Woods	8.	Christine Emedoh	8.	Carmen Hines	
9.	Wayne Hines	25.	Benjamin Woodson	9.	Kennedy Gross	9.	Rochelle Jones	
10.	Fred Howard			10.	Hailey Holt	10.	Audrea Matthews	
11.	Yvonne Jackson			11.	Grace Matthews	11.	Valerie Williams	
12.	Sandra Jones			12.	Timothy Plattenburg			
13.	Willie Jones			13.	Malik Plattenburg			
14.	Wayman Kidd			14.	Nevaeh Plattenburg			
15.	Emma Krouser			15.	Talaysia Simmons			
16.	Willie Liles			16.	Cameron Stevens			

	Seniors and Others				New Members and Non-Categorized				
	Class Leaders – Lay Servants				Deborah Williams, Membership Secretary				
	Class Leader Addie Liles			Class Leader Michael Matthews		1.	Sharon Brooks (S, NC))		
1.	Betty Brooks (S)	1.	Michael Giles (O)	2.	Deneen Carter (NC)				
2.	Sandra Carter (S)	2.	Kimberly Hairston (O)	3.	Alex Cooper (NC)				
3.	Barbara Jean Jenkins (SSS)	3.	Richard Johnson (O)	4.	Evie Cooper (NC)				
4.	Emma Jordan (SSS)	4.	Brooke Lowman (O)	5.	Jordan Cooper (NC)				
5.	Charles Spencer, Sr. (O)	5.	Audrea Matthews (O)	6.	Carroll Derrell (NC)				
6.	Sylvia Queen (S)	6.	Shelia Swett (S)	7.	Pamela Dobbins (NC)				
7.	Diana Wanamaker-Davis (S)	7.	Ronda Walker (O)	8.	George Emory Gaither (NC)				
	Class Leader Michele Jacobs			Class Leader Lynn Smothers		9.	Mercy Garrett (NC)		
1.	Carl Brightful (SSS)	1.	Gina Armstead (S)	10.	Derrick Hicks (NC)				
2.	Mabel Burley (S)	2.	Josephine Gaither (S)	11.	Lanita Hillen (NC)				
3.	Mary Burley (S)	3.	Darlene Johnson (S)	12.	Antonio Jackson (NC)				
4.	Sylvia Derrill (S)	4.	Rise' Jones (S)	13.	Kevin Kess (NC)				
5.	George Gaither (SSS)	5.	Janice Jones (S)	14.	Melaine Lee (NC)				
6.	David Grimes (SSS)	6.	Fern Madden (S)	15.	Donna Moore (NC)				
7.	Sandra Woodlon (O)	7.	Marsha Pruitt (S)	16.	Shani Moore (NC)				
		8.	Kimberly Hairston (O)	17.	Priscilla Nwankpa (NM)				
			Class Leader Patricia Whiten (S)	18.	Channelle Robinson (NC)				
		1.	Gloria Day (O)	19.	Veta Robinson (NM)				
		2.	Frances Graham (SSS)	20.	Chidemna Uzodinma NM				
		3.	Bertha Johnson (S)	21.	Jackson Uzodinma (NM)				
		4.	Joyce Sias (S)	22.	Noreen Walker (NC)				
		5.	Shanique Turnbull (O)	23.	Alfred Williams (NM) & Family				
				24.	Larry Williams (NC)				
					(NC) Non-Categorized (NM) New Member (S) Senior				



The Veterans' Ministry held a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 22, 2025. Mary Kay and Avon products, candles, art prints, hand-decorated jackets and caps, baked goods, Christmas wreaths and door hangers, jewelry, and thrift store items were among the many items sold.

The bazaar was a wonderful kickoff to the Christmas holiday shopping season.



Bible Study

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” 2 Timothy 2:15.

You are invited to attend the weekly Bible Study via Zoom on Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Each week in March, April, and May, we will focus on a given scripture and related scriptures. Prior to the session, you will receive an e-mail with a reminder of the Zoom identification code, us02web.zoom.us, and password, [142985](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/142985). Please see the following schedule:

March 2026

03/03/26 - Christ Calls Matthew - Matt. 9:9-17
03/10/26 - The Twelve Sent Forth - Matt. 10:7-14
03/17/26 - Christ Reproves the Pharisees - Matt. 12:1-9
03/24/26 - The Passover - Matt. 26:1-13
03/31/26 - The Crucifixion of Christ - Matt. 27:27-37

April 2026

04/07/26 - Jeremiah Called as God's Prophet - Jer. 1::5-14
04/14/26 - Glory in Knowing the Lord - Jer. 9:23-26
04/21/26 - The Potter and the Clay - Jer. 18:1-7
04/28/26 - The Lord Refuses Zedekiah's Plea. - Jer. 21:1-7

May 2026

05/05/26 - Christ is the Foundation - 1 Cor. 3:1-10
05/12/26 - Advice about Worship - 1 Cor. 11:1-17
05/19/26 - Celebrating The Lord's Supper - Cor. 11:20-26
05/26/26 - Spiritual Gifts - 1 Cor. 12:4-11

The Dance Ministry Makes a Joyful Noise

The Dance Ministry of JWUMC-GB, including “The Spirit in Motion Dancers” (adults) and the “Angelic Praise Dancers” (youth), displayed their talents on Saturday, December 13, 2025.



“Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.”

Jeremiah 31:13

The free presentation of “A Joyful Celebration”, a collaborative effort by the ministry and local talent, was a delightful occasion of praise, worship, and fellowship.

“Let them praise His name with dancing, and make music to Him with timbrel and harp.”

Psalm 149:3



“Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with the strings and pipes... Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

Psalm 150:4,6



The Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Organization allows local congregations to provide Christmas gifts to children on behalf of their incarcerated parents. Every year, the United Women in Faith of JWUMC-GB distributes tags, each one indicating the name and the gift desired by a child in the program, collects the gifts, and donates them to the participants. This year, there were 10 families with 19 children participating.





Congratulations! 2nd Quarter Honor Roll Students

Abigail Abanukam
Monarch Academy
(Tina Ekemam's daughter)

Elijah Ciejlik
Marley Middle School
Robert Woods' grandson

Laila Alexander
Chesapeake M.S.
(Sponsor- Audrea Matthews)

Jimmy Dodson
Corkran M.S.
(Donny Williams' nephew)

Briella Emedoh
Overlook E.S.

Christine Emedoh
Lindale M.S.

Keon Emedoh
Overlook E.S..
(Mabel May Emedoh's children)

Haydyn Harper
Cromwell E.S.

Jacobi Jones
Lindale M.S.

Jeremiah Jones
North County H.S.

Zaina Jones
Hilltop E.S.

Damir Toppins
Corkran M.S.

Nayah Wooten
Glen Burnie H.S.
(Sandra Jones' grandchildren)

Grace Matthews
Annapolis Area Christian School
(Michael Matthews' daughter and
Audrea Matthews' granddaughter)

Cameron Stevens
Lindale M.S.
(Sponsor - Audrea Matthews)

Hendrix Thiaw
Oakwood E.S.
(Yvonne Thomas' grandson)

Chierika Uzodinma
Park E.S.
(Chidinma and Jackson Uzodinma's
daughter and Priscilla Nwankpa's
granddaughter)

Noah Wilson
Polytechnic H.S.
(Rene Newman-Price's
grandson and Evelyn Price's
great-grandson)



The Time Machine Talk Show: A Journey to the First Christmas



*The First Noel,
The angels did say,
Was to certain poor,
Shepherds in fields,
As they lay;

In fields where they lay,
Keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night,
That was so deep;

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.*

On December 14, 2025, in a framework of broadcast journalism, the Sunday School presented the Christmas play, "The Time Machine Talk Show: A Journey to the First Christmas". The children, accompanied by several adults, performed wonderfully.



Holiday Fun Sunday

On Sunday, December 21, 2025, we celebrated the spirit of the season, created memories, and enjoyed fellowship with one another. Church members, families, and friends dressed in Christmas-themed PJs, sweaters, costumes, and other attire. We filled the sanctuary and dining hall with joy, warmth, and unity.



On the previous Sunday, the Smothers wore their matching outfits, that had flashing lights. They were on a cruise this Sunday.



Governor Wes Moore Visits John Wesley UMC-GB

On a cold, wintry Sunday, we extended a warm welcome to Governor Wes Moore, who blessed us with his and his First Lady's presence at our worship service. An entourage of dignitaries accompanied him.

Of course, he spoke briefly about the current state of political affairs and acknowledged God as being the One in control.

He also congratulated Shani Moore, his sister and a member of our church, who would be admitted to the Maryland Bar Association the next day. She was already a member of the California Bar Association.



Lighting the Four Candles of Advent



Mother and daughter, Maria and Camille Rawlings, lit the first candle of Advent on Sunday, November 30, 2025. This candle, known as the Prophecy Candle, is purple, the liturgical color of royalty, and it represents *hope*. The lighting of this candle invites us to remember God's promises of the Old Testament that were fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.



Tina Ekemam and daughter, Abigail Abanukam, lit the second candle of Advent on Sunday, December 07, 2025. This candle, known as the Bethlehem Candle, is also purple. It represents Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. After so much turmoil in the Old Testament, a kingdom of *peace* was anticipated with the birth of Jesus.



Joyce Howard, her daughter, Tameka Johnson, and great-granddaughter, Zorri Mae Wallace-Leaver, lit the third candle of Advent on Gaudete (Joyous) Sunday, December 14, 2025. This pink (liturgical color for joy) candle, known as the Shepherd's Candle, symbolizes the *joy* that the shepherds felt as they journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem. We also rejoice as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



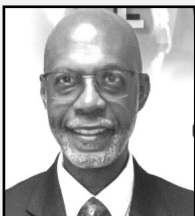
Sisters, Patricia Whiten and Joyce Sias, lit the fourth candle of Advent on Sunday, December 21, 2025. This candle, known as the Angel's Candle, is purple. It symbolizes the angels' message of the *love* of God for humanity by providing His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. We reflect on the good news of God's love that the Angel Gabriel brought us.

Watchnight Service



For anyone who may not know, a Watch Night Service is a late-night New Year's Eve Christian tradition, especially significant in African American churches. It commemorates the historical night of December 31, 1862, when slaves eagerly awaited President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, freeing them from slavery.

This year, John Wesley UMC-GB again joined Mt. Zion UMC-Magothy and Metropolitan UMC for this celebration with the *Word*, song, dance, and testimonies. Because of the lateness of the hour after the service, attendees were given a carry-out dinner of chicken, black-eyed peas, and collard greens.



Sermon
Is. 43:18-29
"Don't Stay Stuck in Yesterday"

Rev. Johnnie J. Randolph, Jr.
Pastor
Mt. Zion UMC-Magothy
Host Church

JWUMC's Angelic Praise Dancers



Grace Matthews Laila Alexander Hailey Holt Makiyah Banks Chierika Uzodinma Keon Emedoh Christine Emedoh Briella Emedoh Abigail Abanukam



Book Reviews

Have you read any good books lately? Can you suggest one for us to read? Are you willing to write a review of one for the March newsletter? If so, let us know. To arouse your interest, here are some books that we recommend for your reading pleasure:

Unbroken: A Survivor's Guide to Beating Cancer

by Dr. Richard L. Dotson, M.D.

“In my book, I chronicle my journey from the early symptoms of abdominal pain and discomfort to the eventual diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. I leave nothing out, speaking with honesty about the ups and downs I experienced throughout the treatment course with chemotherapy and abdominal surgery.

I emphasize the experience of listening to my body and my inner voices. It was my inner voice that pushed me to persist, to find the correct diagnosis when many incorrect diagnoses were made. As a guidebook, readers will find an outline of the daily mental, spiritual and physical things I did to motivate and encourage myself. With time, I came to see that I could conquer and win my battle with cancer, enwrapped by the prayers and love extended to me by my family and friends.

Unbroken... shares the importance of eating healthy; using meditation, affirmations, visualization, and praying to bring about peace, balance and harmony throughout each day. This book is a testimony that excellent care, plus faith and perseverance, can help bring about the healing of cancer or any other life-threatening illness.”

*Richard L. Dotson, M.D.
Friend of JWUMC-GB
Brother of Barbara White*

To Die For

by David Baldacci

To Die For is the third book in author David Baldacci's "6:20 Man" series, featuring protagonist (hero) Travis Devine, a former Army Ranger and Homeland Security fixer. The plot follows Devine as he becomes the bodyguard for the 12-year old girl, Betsy Odom, who witnessed her parents' deaths, which the police ruled as an overdose, but she insists was murder. His investigation into their deaths puts him in danger of a conspiracy involving the girl's powerful uncle, the FBI, and other corrupt officials; and further blurs the lines between allies and enemies. Devine is also trying to evade an assassin amid all the drama.

This novel is a thriller that's action-packed and a page-turner.

Addie Liles

Hell of a Book

by Jason Mott

This book has an unusual plot and point of view. Through self-insertion, Mott, the author, injects himself into the plot as a character who is writing this very book, *Hell of a Book*. While the book is fictional, it incorporates some autobiographical elements. Also, the author sometimes stops telling the story and speaks directly to the reader, and this can be a bit disconcerting, jolting the reader's perspective from the imaginary to the real.

The unnamed character-author has an imaginary friend, The Kid, who is possibly a personification of the author as a child. Both have trouble distinguishing real from imaginary. The character-author has even forgotten that he is black; he believes that he can hide his incredible blackness to avoid offenses. The Kid, also known as "Soot" (possibly a third character), had parents who had convinced him that he could make himself invisible to avoid offenses because of his extremely black complexion.

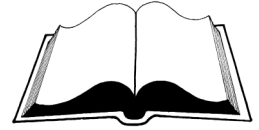
What in the character-author's life has caused his insanity? What has made him non-committal to love and other relationships? What is his escape mechanism when facing challenges? How does he view himself in the world's scheme of things? Are other characters in the novel also figments of the author-character's vivid imagination?

Talk about CRAZY! As a reader, I felt that I was in the midst of Mott's nervous breakdown. Racism, colorism, police brutality, and mental illness are common themes explored here. So would I recommend this book? Sure! I would recommend it to anyone who has a yen for analyzing madness.

Deborah Williams



Bible Quiz: The Parables of Jesus



Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answer. You may read the scripture in parentheses to find and/or verify your answers. The answer key is at the bottom of the page, but please try not to peek at it before you finish the quiz.

1. What is a parable? (Matthew 7:24)
 - a. a simple story used to illustrate and promote a moral or spiritual lesson for the truth-seeker. (Matthew 7:24)
 - b. A mysterious story
 - c. a fantasy
2. What is represented by the thorns in the *Parable of the Sower*? (Matthew 13:22)
 - a. persecution
 - b. the deceitfulness of riches
 - c. desires of the flesh
3. Which parable tells us to keep on praying and not lose heart? (Luke 18:1-8)
 - a. the persistent widow
 - b. the Pharisee and the tax collector
 - c. the rich man and Lazarus
4. What did the slave do after being forgiven? (Matthew 18:21-34)
 - a. forgave the debt of anyone who owed him
 - b. never got into debt again
 - c. refused to forgive others
5. In the *Parable of the Prodigal Son*, what happened to him after his time of revelry? (Luke 15:11-32)
 - a. His father disinherited him.
 - b. His father, with great rejoicing, welcomed him home.
 - c. He went home, but returned to his immoral lifestyle.
6. Which is not a message of the *Parable of the Slighted Invitation*? (Luke 14:15-24)
 - a. The invitation to come to God is inclusive of everyone.
 - b. Those who accept God's invitation shall be rewarded, and those who reject it shall be punished.
 - c. Only invite the elite to a banquet, for they are the honorable and respectable ones.
7. What does the *Parable of the Talents* illustrate? (Matthew 25:15-30)
 - a. good stewardship
 - b. common sense
 - c. hard work
8. What is the message of the *Parable of the Vine and Branches*? (John 15:1-6)
 - a. The fruit of the vine is sacred, for it represents the blood of Jesus.
 - b. Abide in Jesus, the Vine, and allow Jesus to abide in you, the branches.
 - c. Be kind to one another, for we are all connected.
9. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for ... (Matthew 19:24)
 - a. a believer to endure persecution.
 - b. a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.
 - c. a sinner to be born again.
10. Why were people astonished at the teachings of Jesus? (Luke 4:32; Matthew 7:28)
 - a. He spoke with such compassion.
 - b. He was a great debater.
 - c. He spoke with such authority.
11. What is the message of the *Parable of the Foolish Virgins*? (Matthew 25:1-13)
 - a. the value of virginity
 - b. the value of oil lamps
 - c. the need to be ready for God's judgement
12. The *Parable of the Mustard Seed* is about... (Matthew 13:31)
 - a. the growth of the kingdom of God from a very small beginning
 - b. the suitability of the mustard seed for nourishment
 - c. the curiosity that the tiny seed produces the largest of the herbs.

1. a - a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson; 2. b - the deceitfulness of riches; 3. a - the persistent widow; 4. c - refused to forgive others; 5. b - His father, with great rejoicing, welcomed him home; 6. c - Only invite the elite to a banquet, for they are the honorable and respectable ones; 7. a - good stewardship; 8. b. - Abide in Jesus, the Vine, and allow Jesus to abide in you, the branches; 9. b - a rich person to enter the kingdom of God; 10. c - He spoke with such authority; 11. c. the need to prepare for God's judgement; 12. a. the growth of the kingdom of God from a very small beginning