



The Messenger

Dear Friends and Members of NEUMC:

One Sunday a few years ago I was gratified that someone picked up on a reference to "Fly Like an Eagle" by the Steve Miller Band when I said "time keeps on slipping ...into the future." Already, we are into the third month of 2017, and Lent is here, with Easter and an early spring is fast upon us. As the universe continues in its age-old cycles, we may feel our insignificance in comparison to the cosmos and its seemingly infinite life-span and space expansion. Astrophysicists, however, have figured out that, yes, one day "time will surrender" (in the words of the gospel song writer), and this universe will be no more. In the face of being insignificant in cosmic terms, and not even a flash in the pan in chronological (time) terms, this would reasonably be grounds to have issues with self-esteem, and even an inferiority complex! In terms of the universe and pure briefness of existence, we are less than a speck of sand on the seashore, and as name-less as the uncountable stars that inhabit our galaxies. Yet, the ancient prophet recognizes the infinitude of the cosmos and still proclaims that "our God is an everlasting God," and the everlasting God knows the name of every star in the Milky Way, and knows the name of every man, woman, and child on Earth. This is truly awesome in the greatest sense of the word, that is, awe-inspiring. The kind of awe that is a little scary as well. When we have this scared but in awe feeling it is known as having the "fear of the Lord," such as, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." This is both comforting and a little nerve-wracking because we can't hide in our anonymity. Sometimes it's nice to be anonymous, to have no one notice you, and you can just go on your tidy little way with no responsibility and no accountability. It's kind of like sitting in the back of the church because then the pastor can't see you, ohhh, but he can see you. Not that I'm comparing the pastor to God, but you know what I mean. So, what do we do with this realization that though we are less than a speck in time and space yet we are precious in God's sight? First of all, it makes us realize how wondrous it is that Jesus came in the form of a man, that he wanted to take away our sin; it is a wonderment because he knows us. He knows us intimately, inside and out, and he still loves us. When we truly realize this, realize it and internalize it, then we feel, or should feel, deeply grateful; grateful and accountable. This Lenten season makes us realize how we fall short in following Jesus. We might consider in wonder how such simple commands are so difficult to carry out. Jesus used the most concise language with little explanation: "come, follow me, obey, pick up your cross, love one another, baptize, make disciples." Really, how hard can that be? It takes us a lifetime of faithfulness, the fellowship of the church, and the power of the Holy Spirit, to enable us to start to understand what it means to follow Jesus and to reach out with the good news that our God, the everlasting God, has a wondrous love, an amazing love, for his creation, for all of humanity, that found perfect expression in Jesus Christ. This Lenten season, and into Holy week, and culminating on Easter, let us consider how we may "love Jesus more dearly, follow him more nearly, day by day." Amen and Amen. Pastor Bert

Emergency Rotating Shelter

Wow! I can hardly believe this ministry has been providing food and shelter to those in need in our community for 10 years! I can only imagine how God is smiling. First, I'd like to thank all the volunteers, those that helped in the church every morning and every night. Second, I'd like to thank the volunteers that helped when the guests arrived by putting tables away and making room for the cots and again when they were preparing and loading to leave. Thirdly, I'd like to thank each and everyone that put change in the can. That is the backbone of this ministry. Without the funds, I wouldn't be able to give the guests food and drinks during their stay. Love Thy Neighbor sums it up indeed. We collected \$647 this year minus the goodies I purchased for the guests totaling \$517.09. That left us with \$129.91 which I have donated to our church kitchen. I hope this pleases everyone. A special thank you to the praise band for putting on a mini concert for the guests. It meant the world to them. This year, like so many in the past, the experience really hit home with me. Two small boys in the program really tugged on my heart strings. It makes me want to help them all! I feel so blessed to be apart of such an awesome ministry. Like I say every year, if you ever feel a calling to help, please just let me know and I will gladly show you the ropes. Keep looking up! Love and peace, Kelly Wilson



NEUM Preschool enrollment is now open to church members and preschool families.

Open House
Thursday, March 23rd
7:00 PM



Birthday Blessings

March

Jill Jicha	2	Joseph Boyd	20
Jackson Keeton	2	Josh Mericle	21
Charles Anderson	2	Amanda Laird	21
Kelly Keeton	4	Bob Laird	22
Anna Mary Kreiser	5	Doris Boyd	22
Kyle Sheppard	6	Sharon Smith	22
Dakota Deecki	7	Sheryl Taylor	27
Betty Ingram	10	Terri Wyatt	27
Carrie Ryan	13	Joy Mitchell	28
Bryson Christy	15	Ryan Zimmerman	28
Maxine McKinney	17	Marlene Lynch	28
Rachel Ryan	17	Chester Hallett	31
Sandy Krasman	18	Betsy Miller	31

April

Lois Rhodes	2	Jeff Gillespie	20
Nathan Joseph	6	Don Shaffer	20
Debbie Fields	9	Mary Preston	21
London McGill	9	Donna Boyd	23
John Styer	11	Devon Johnson	23
Mary Alyce Carlyle	11	Paul Smith	23
Mary Lou Shaffer	12	Serafina Anklin	27
Jen Mericle	13	Bailey Racine	27
Susan Wilson	16	Joshua Williams	27
Wendi Evans	18	Sophia Hamilton	30



Join us on an Amazing Journey!

At Road to Resurrection you'll step back in time and follow Jesus' footsteps through the week leading up to his death and resurrection. Along the path you'll encounter people who've met Jesus and become part of an incredible experience. Draw closer to Jesus at this memorable event.

Open to everyone - Saturday, April 1st

We are looking for volunteers for this community event, if you would like to help or need more information, please see Josh Mericle.

Ways to volunteer:

- Pray for the community and those who attend
- Travel Guides- to lead groups
- Story tellers - Citizen, Barabbas in Jail, Roman soldier at the cross, etc.
- Crafts
- Snacks



If you would like to order an Easter lily in memory or honor of a loved one, please fill out an envelope and turn it in to the office no later than **Sunday, March 26th**. The cost is \$7 each and envelopes can be found in the narthex or sanctuary. Please make checks payable to NEUMC.



Wednesday, March 8 @ 6pm

Wednesday, March 15 @ 6pm

Wednesday, March 22 @ 6pm

Wednesday, March 29 @ 6pm

Wednesday, April 5 @ 6pm

Thursday, April 13 @ 6pm, Maundy Thursday Service @ 7pm

The NEUM Preschool is selling Gertrude Hawk milk chocolate bars to raise money to purchase new mulch for the playground. The cost is \$1 each. If you'd like to purchase any, please stop by the church office during a weekday or see Josh on Sunday.



April 13th

Maundy Thursday

Soup Supper @ 6pm

Service @ 7pm

April 14th @ 12pm

Good Friday Crosswalk

*Begin at NE Middle School, proceed
through town, conclude at NEUMC*

Easter Sunday

April 16th

Services @ 8:20 and 10:30 am

Christian Education @ 9:30 am



Bay Bells

The Bell Choir of the North East United Methodist Church



Since ringing at the Christmas Cantata, we have been preparing for a complete return to active status as part of NEUMC's Music Ministry. In recent days, however, we have been hit by a series of health concerns that have required/will require some ringers to miss significant time.

If we were vocalists, we would shift some singers to cover the missing parts. A band would, typically, do the opposite – moving those parts to other instruments. A bell choir is unique in that we are, in essence, 10 or more people playing one “instrument”. Take a moment and picture our beautiful pipe organ in your mind. Now, squeeze at least 10 people onto the bench with each playing only two notes. That is what we do and the only time that it ever truly becomes difficult is when ringers are missing.

What can you do? We are scheduled to ring on only three Sundays before Summer Break, one of which is Easter Sunday (4/16). If you ever wanted to join us, now's the time. Have you rung in the past (with us or elsewhere), can we count on you to step up for the next 3 months? Maybe you've never, ever pictured yourself ringing, but you'll step out in faith to help us?

We have fun and we praise God while making the most joyful noise imaginable! I hope you'll lend us your hands. Please give me a call at 443-350-2877 or email me at imachristian13@verizon.net.

Bob Laird, Director

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS!!

This means YOU, yes YOU!

The following comes from a little book entitled “A Million Little Ways” and helps us understand what the word “artist” means.

“...those who make art in the ways we traditionally think of art give the rest of us a framework from which to live our lives. They offer a gift of knowing what life could look like if it were handled more like a mysterious piece of art rather than a task-oriented list. We may not all have the same skill or training as do the painters or the musicians, but we all bear the image of a creative God.”

“The first think we know about God is He made art. What is the first thing we know about you? We were made in the image of God.”

“Ephesians 2:10-for we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

“God calls you his workmanship, his poiema. What happens when God writes poetry? We do. We happen. We are walking poetry, the kind that moves, the kind who has hands and feet, the kind with minds and will and emotion. We are what happens when God expresses himself.”

“At the most basic level of our identity, your job and my job is to be a poem, the image bearers of God, made to reflect his glory. The art you and I were born to make is released out of the core of who we truly are, where our spirit is joined in union with the Spirit of God. Any movement coming from that place reflects the glory of God. This is our highest purpose and, ultimately, our greatest joy.”

“Knowing you are a poem doesn’t confine you to be artsy, it releases you to be you. We are art, every one of us. No matter personality, skill, talent, or inclinations. The essence of being human is that we were made by design with the hands of the Divine Artist.”

Having said all that, we are inviting all artists in the church to come together on Tuesday, March 28th at 11 am in the Narthex to discuss and share how we might encourage and inspire one another to pursue “our highest purpose and ultimately our greatest joy.” Please bring a bag lunch and any tools that you use to create your art — pencils, paper, paints, inks, scissors, glue, yarn, (yes knitting & crocheting is art!) or whatever you need, and we will create our “masterpieces” in fellowship with one another. Please come!

Looking forward to seeing you,
Kathy Styer

What is SNAP Outreach?

The SNAP Outreach Program is a Maryland Food Bank initiative that sends trained staff into local communities to help eligible Marylanders sign up for SNAP benefits. While the Maryland Food Bank is not affiliated with the government's SNAP program, our SNAP Outreach workers can help individuals determine their eligibility, gather the necessary documentation, and navigate the SNAP application process.

In short, the program acts as a bridge between applicants, the Department of Social Services, and the SNAP benefits that applicants are entitled to.

Questions?

Contact one of the SNAP Outreach Coordinators for assistance in completing your application.

410-737-8282

The Maryland Food Bank is a nonprofit hunger relief organization, leading the movement to end hunger throughout Maryland.

For more than 35 years, the Maryland Food Bank has partnered with communities across the state to distribute food to individuals and families in need.

2200 Halethorpe Farms Road • Baltimore, Maryland 21227
T 410.737.8282 F 410.536.0438 www.mdfoodbank.org

North East United Methodist Church

Women's

Retreat

BE REFRESHED AT THE SWEET LIFE CAFE!

April 28-29, 2017

Friday- 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday- 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Yes, this cafe-themed getaway is as relaxing and refreshing as it sounds! Get away from the busyness of life as you relax with friends, share laughter and stories, and spend time with God. Join us at our Sweet Life Cafe retreat at NEUMC to experience all this and more!

Register Today!

Contact Laura Young at
443-553-1527 or
lauray@comcast.net



Retreat REGISTRATION

NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE #: _____

CELL #: _____

EMAIL: _____

Sweet Life Cafe

Youth Spring Retreat

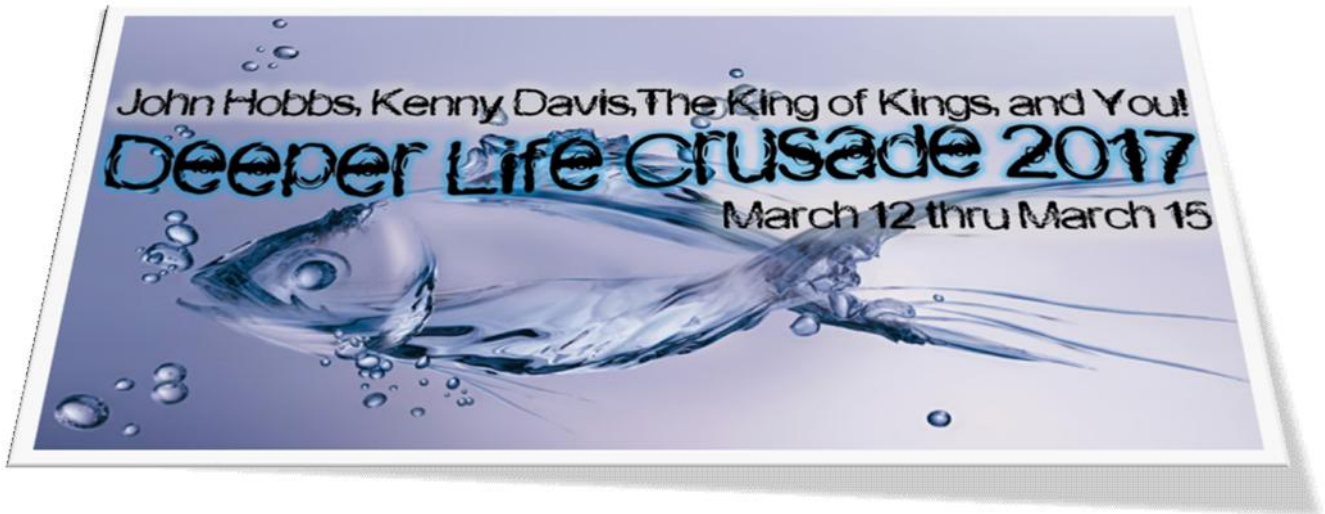
April 7-8

\$20 for food and t-shirt

UNASHAMED

“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Contact Josh for more information or to register



Deeper Life Crusade 2017 w/Revs. John Hobbs & Kenny Davis

Sunday, March 12 thru Wednesday, March 15

Praise, Worship, & Message: 7 p.m. Nightly

Feedback Sessions: 9:30 a.m. Monday - Wednesday

Potluck Supper: 6 p.m. Sunday & Soup Supper: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Each year, when our church prays and decides whether or not to continue to host the Deeper Life Crusade for another year, I believe that God gives us a great challenge. Something along the lines of what Kevin Costner's Ray Kinsella heard in the 1989 film *Field of Dreams* ... "If you build it...they will come." We *build* the event, church and community members *come* to it, and God uses the opportunity to do His work in a unique and blessed environment. Some folks connect with God through something John says. Maybe it's God leading us in worship through Kenny or one of our guest musicians. It wouldn't be unheard of, even, for a guest to find a path-way while sharing a cup of coffee or a jelly doughnut.



In addition to all of the folks that are already planning to join us or come as guests, I cannot shake the feeling that He **really** wants the folks who don't think that this is their "cup o' tea". Those that feel like it's all "preachin' to the choir" or that Sunday morning is enough. Maybe they're "comfortable" or don't like to be challenged to step out a little bit more? I feel that way sometimes, too. I still come, though, because I know that Satan doesn't want me to and I like to annoy him. God never fails to meet me wherever I am and it sustains me.

If you're already planning to attend, fantastic! Bring a friend or twenty! If you're not planning to attend, change your plans! If you are undecided – or have no clue what a "Deeper Life Crusade" even is – just come anyway. What's the worst thing that could happen? You spend a couple hours in fellowship...oh darn! Now think about the BEST thing that could happen! **See you there! Bob Laird**