



Marvyn United Methodist Church

Prayer & Praise

March 2015

Vol 2 No 3

COLORS OF THE SEASON

This is the time of year when the mission of Jesus Christ is made clear once again. We follow Jesus for 40 days, listening to His stories. We follow his movement and use the colors of the Christian year to remind us of his life, death, and triumph through resurrection.

LENT

Lent, the 40 days before Easter Sunday excluding Sundays, is a time of reflection and examination of our lives. We seek forgiveness for our sins and renew our commitment to the work of Christ in the transformation of the world.

This year, Lent begins on February 18. Our **Ash Wednesday** service, 7 p.m., is a quiet time of reflection. We receive ashes on our foreheads in the shape of the cross followed by Holy Communion. *The color is gray!*

Lent is also a time when candidates prepare for their Easter Sunday baptism. Their baptism is an outward sign of their inward change. *The color is purple!*

Holy Week begins the Sunday before Easter with the retelling of the stories of Jesus. We follow Jesus into Jerusalem with shouts of praise—*Hosanna*—on **Palm Sunday**, 11 a.m. By Thursday evening we have a fellowship meal together remembering the last supper.

On **Good Friday** we mourn the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus with a Passion Play on the lawn, 4-7 p.m. Volunteers dress in costume and actively remember the passion of Christ. *The color is black!*

EASTER

On Easter we celebrate the risen Christ. Sunrise service in the Prayer Garden begins our day at 7 a.m. We remember the three women who found that Jesus was not in his tomb where they had laid him. Then the celebration begins with *Alleluias* and pronouncements that *He is risen!* *The colors are white and gold!*

Eastertide, the 50 days after Easter, we follow our risen Lord and his teachings to his disciples. We move from the extremes of doubt to awe. On **Ascension Sunday**, 40 days after Easter, we remember that Christ returned to heaven to sit at the right hand of God.

PENTECOST

On the 50th day our joy and celebration catches fire as we celebrate **Pentecost**. This day when the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised his disciples came upon them and gave them power. *The color for that day is red!*



Pastor's Musings

The Sea & Me

As I left for the Holy Land, everyone wished me well and prayed for my safe return. They also prayed that I would have a spiritual retreat that would ground me in my ministry for the rest of my life.

Tall order for a ten-day trip including travel. But it was one of the greatest blessings I could have received.

The Teacher is Taught

I have always been a teacher. I began as a teenager with elementary-aged children in Sunday school. As an adult I taught high schoolers in Sunday school for 15 years. I began reading the stories of Jesus as a child who struggled to read. I always enjoyed the water stories and Jesus on the Sea of Galilee.

One of the most memorable experiences for this Sunday school teacher was the boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. In our rush to so many sites, climbing up and down hills and steps, this was truly a place for calm reflection.

Watching the shoreline I began to imagine Jesus and his disciples in a much smaller boat that gently swayed as Jesus preached to those gathered on the shore. The lake gave us a spectacular show with sudden gusts of wind that had us holding tight to our hats and lightweight coats.

The gospels must have captured only a few of the stories that filled the every day life of God's people in the villages along the shoreline. Some were ready to receive Christ while others were not.

The Galilean Sea Speaks

The mystery of the lake that is called a "sea" became even more powerful a witness to the awesome God in Christ we serve. Of all the places we saw in the Holy Land which were the "traditionally" recognized locations in Jesus' life, the Sea of Galilee was *real*. Jesus called his disciples . . . calmed the storm . . . saved Peter when he doubted . . . told the disciples to cast their nets on the other side of the boat . . . and cooked breakfast on the beach.

This lake's stories are the stories of us all . . . from doubt and fear to our call to serve Christ as fishers of men and women.

I just wanted to sit for a moment of quiet reflection, but the sea in its nature refused to remain still. Its spectacular show began. From quiet to chaos and back to calm again.

The Sea of Galilee is our lives lived in the presence of our God in Jesus Christ. But Jesus was there all along . . . he's always in the boat with us through it all.

**Prayer & Praise is a monthly publication of
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Jordan River

I
walked
where
Jesus
walked



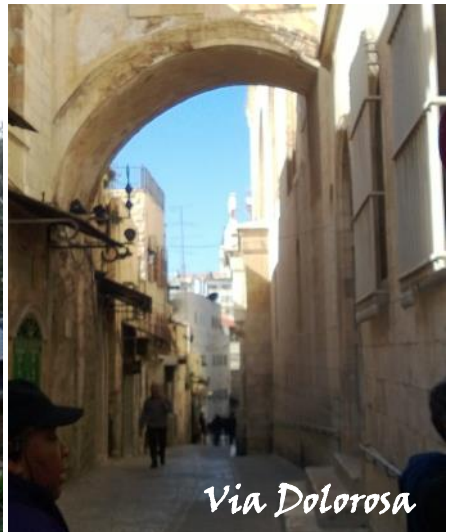
Garden Tomb



Jacob's Well



Garden of Gethsemane



Via Dolorosa



Jerusalem

Lent to Easter

WORSHIP

Through the Psalms the community will make clear its reflection of Christ into the world and our lives.

- March 1 I'm Looking to You, Lord
Psalm 22
- March 8 Up Close and Personal
Psalm 19
- March 15 O, How He Loves You
Psalm 107
- March 22 Singing a New Song
Psalm 40
- March 29 **PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**
ONE SERVICE 11 A.M.
Seven Last Words of Christ
- March 30 Read *The Upper Room*
- March 31 Read *The Upper Room*
- April 1 Read *The Upper Room*
No Wednesday Night supper
- April 2 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
Fellowship Meal & Foot washing, Gym, 6 p.m.
- April 3 **GOOD FRIDAY, 4 p.m.—Sunset**
Passion Play on church lawn
- April 5 **EASTER SUNDAY**
7 a.m., Sunrise Service
Prayer Garden
8 a.m., Pancake Breakfast
Marye Garrett Room
11 a.m., Worship
Sanctuary

STUDY

We have begun our Lenten community-wide study guided by *The Upper Room* daily devotional booklet. These are available for each household in regular or large-type editions.

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

- Walton studying the Psalms
- Seekers reading *Christianity and Other Religions* by Adam Hamilton
- Young Adults sharing a Lenten Study
- Youth class includes middle and high schoolers
- Children's class welcomes elementary-age children to learn together

Bible Studies

- Men studying the book of Romans, Mondays, 6 p.m.
- Women studying the book of Hebrews, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
- Baptism Preparation and Confirmation Class for older elementary, middle, and high schoolers, 4 p.m. *Baptism for those who complete preparation will be Easter Sunday at 11 a.m. worship.*

Wednesday Nights

- Prayer & Praise, 6:30 p.m., Library
- Coming in April . . . Youth Poetry Workshop on Wednesdays
- Children enjoy The Easter Tree, 6-7 p.m.

And Beyond

CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY

Kitchen Table Ministry welcomes our guests and members immediately following 11 a.m. worship. Share coffee and conversation each week in community.

Exercise provides older adults, or any age, low impact and stretching exercises three days a week, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2-3 p.m. on the second floor of the Family Life Center.

Boomers & Beyond encourages the heart of older adults and retirees in the community. Friends and family may join you at concerts, plays, lunch about town, field trips, or overnight stays.

Young Adults (parents and singles) gather for activities every other month. These may include sporting events or mission projects. It is a time to build community and grow with Christ.

Youth enjoy an Augusta district-wide event with youth from other Methodist churches. On March 6, food and worship at Aldersgate UMC will be followed by bowling. Youth will leave Marvin at 5 p.m. and return at 11:30 p.m. \$10 per person.

Children will enjoy Holy Saturday with the traditional Easter Egg Hunt. food and activities, April 4, 10 a.m.—Noon in the Gym. *All children are welcome and youth volunteers are encouraged to be there too.*

SERVE OTHERS

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Marvin joins the United Methodist Church in stopping malaria in Africa.

If each one of us donates \$10 for a mosquito net, we can reach a goal of \$1000 by Easter Sunday morning.

Noisy offerings will also help us reach our goal—unload your coins each Sunday during Lent.

LYDIA HOUSE

Marvin supports The Lydia Project as it assists women with cancer, including a place for them to live while receiving treatment at local hospitals.

Write letters, sew tote bags, and pray.

FAMILY PROMISE

Marvin hosts families transitioning to permanent houses. We will host the week of April 6–13—Master's Week and spring break.

Volunteers needed to . . . work with a group in preparing a meal; help families move in or out; sleepover as chaperones.

Donate money or toiletries. Sign at the Welcome Desk.

COLUMBIA COUNTY CARES

Ongoing support of the food pantry and families in need.

Bring grits every 1st Sunday to the Welcome Desk for delivery to Columbia County Cares food pantry.

Marvinites: Faithful Servants



Judy LaPierre enjoys baking and providing cakes, cookies, brownies, pies, or any other sweet pastry to tempt the sweet lovers among us. Each week Judy bakes desserts for our Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal. On Sundays it is not unusual for her to show up with freshly baked bread for sale. She replenishes her shelves readying for the next event needing a little something to munch on. Whether supporting the Kitchen Table Ministry for Wednesday night dinners or the Women's Bazaar, she faithfully bakes and bakes. *Yum!*

Souper Bowl Sunday is a Marvin tradition for everyone prepared to bid for cakes, cookies, and candies. Auctioneer Ed Boothe: *Let's start the bidding at \$20 . . .*

Jeans for Teens is an organization dedicated to collecting jeans for homeless teens. **Katie Cox** led the Marvin youth in this project and the entire church came together to collect 30 jeans in less than a month. Our pastor led a prayer over the jeans before they were delivered.



PEOPLE OF HOPE

The Eashes: A Missional Family

The book of Acts tells the stories of the early church and its growth. Whole households came to know Christ. It is no stretch of the imagination to know that those families also served together and contributed to the unity of the community. The Eash family does that at Marvin.

If you don't already know them, meet the Eashes.



ALEX: Young Adult Extraordinaire

Her email address was associated with a character from Lord of the Rings. Now that Alex Eash has grown up, she has dropped that whimsical identification. But she is still Alex—missionary to Togo, Africa, young adult member of the church choir, pharmacy technician, and subtle jokester.

She prefers wearing no shoes around church and encourages others to do the same. She looks out for members as they have need of assistance. She is humble while letting you know what she can and cannot do, time wise.

MARY: Caring for the Least of These

Mother Mary is a connector. She knows who to call for what and promises to handle it. And she does. If there is someone in need, Mary goes into action for the homeless, hungry, naked, or lost. The stranger is welcomed and loved back to life.

Whether arranging to have paper goods picked up or driving members to doctor's appointments or sitting with them in the hospital, Mary keeps watch over Marvin's people.

No one has to ask her; she just shows up. The Emmaus community counts on her to cook, Family Promise expects her to welcome homeless families at Marvin during Master's week, and she's here for those needing a shower and food before getting back on the road.

BOB: Fellowshiping over a Meal

Father Bob quietly moves around Marvin speaking truth and serving others.

Bob finds a way to pay for his medical mission trips whether planned far in advance or when asked to unexpectedly fill a vacancy on a medical team. He speaks up for Kipuke Ministry in Togo, Africa, and faithfully works the Pumpkin Patch each October to assure there is money for their efforts.

Committed to designing the church's website, Bob finds time with his busy nursing schedule to maintain the page. He takes photographs and posts the pastor's sermons on the website.

He has led the Kitchen Ministry with Wednesday Night Fellowship Meals for more than five years. When someone asks for a favorite meal, he does his best to accommodate them.

CHRISTINA: Finding Her Niche

The youngest in the family takes a backseat, but shares the family's commitment to service. Each Sunday that she is not working, Christina records the worship services.

In the past year and a half that her mother's arm has been in a sling, Christina has hovered over her like a mother hen.

She's been a devoted worker at Lincoln's River of Life each summer ever since she was old enough to participate. When Chrysalis plans a flight, she is there to service with a smile.

"The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers.

A sense of awe came over everyone."

Acts 2:42-43a CEB

March @ Marvin

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	2 9:30 UMW Mtg 2 Sr Line Dancing 4 Girl Scouts 6 UMM Mtg	3 10 Hebrews Study (Women)	4 2 Sr Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	5	6 2 Sr Exercise	7
8 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	9 2 Sr Line Dancing 6 Romans Study (Men)	10 10 Hebrews Study (Women) 7 Finance Mtg	11 2 Sr Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	12 7 SPRC Mtg 7 Trustees Mtg	13 2 Sr Exercise	14 Emmaus Training
15 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	16 4 Girl Scouts 6 Romans Study (Men)	17 10 Hebrews Study (Women)	18 2 Sr Exercise 6 Dinner	19	20 2 Sr Exercise	21
22 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	23 6 Romans Study (Men)	24 10 Hebrews Study (Women)	25 2 Sr Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	26	28 2 Sr Exercise	28 Emmaus Training

