

GREENWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2022

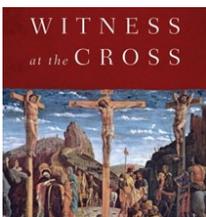
Claiming God in Our Lives

I enjoy reading *The Upper Room* each day. It's bimonthly devotional is translated into 35+ languages and distributed to 100 countries. The name comes from the 'room upstairs' where Jesus and his friends celebrated Passover meal—by taking the bread and the cup.

The authors of *The Upper Room* are ordinary people like us —some young, some old, and at times we see with an asterisk, 'the author passed away before the publication of this issue.' Some reside in the United States, but many are from all over the world. They share special moments when they witnessed God's grace working in their lives, as well as unexpected events where they became God's messengers. For example, in a story from February 9, Linda from Indonesia shares a story where she visited "a young [ill] woman who lived in a poor, rundown part of town." This woman dies, but this experience reminded Linda that our call in our lives is to be a blessing to others by loving and serving God and God's children.

So, as we move onto the season of Lent, let us ask ourselves: what ways can we claim God in our life today? In what ways can we be God's messengers to others in the world? Hope to see you in worship! Keiko

Also, let us continue to pray for the people in Ukraine... (see Bishop's letter on p.4)



Starting March 6! ZOOM Bible Study ***Witnesses at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday***

By Amy-Jill Levine

Class Offered: Sundays at 7:00 pm
Contact Pastor Keiko for ZOOM Link!



Lent and Holy Week 2022

Joint Ash Wednesday —March 2, 7:00 pm at Market Street

Palm Sunday (April 10)

Downtown Outdoor Celebration—10:30 am
at Historic Courthouse—ALL ARE INVITED!

Maundy Thursday (April 14)

Joint Maundy Thursday Worship—April 14, 7:00 pm at Greenwood Church

Good Friday (April 15)

Community Good Friday Worship—Noon at Christ Episcopal Church
(114 W Boscawen St.)

“Stations of the Cross” (self-guided walking path with passion readings)
Trail open at 5:00-7:00 pm, Cunningham Family Field(1366 Greenwood Rd)

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Let us Prayer for One Another...
CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS & BEYOND

For the world in the face of COVID-19

Those who serve others, All schools (students, teachers and staff)

All ministries in Winchester—including WATTS, WATTS warming center, CCAP

The peace in the world—especially the situation in Ukraine

Our friends and family at Greenwood:

Paul Haltzl Coleman Lauderback Paul Helsley Harold Anderson Larry Crane Gary Sibert Tasha Moomaw Liam Starr Don & Monti Vanness Phyllis Tinsman Laura Jahnke Quick Family Carolyn York Carl & Beth Stickley Joe Ganci Megan Eileen Davis Charlotte Mae Brasnan Dora Bell Lowe Daniel Schneide Amber Calvert Connie Tilley Barbara Kern Farrah M Susie & Larry Bell Susie Sencindiver Gary & Brenda Linda Clem Patty Harper Kaiden Wright Shaw Family Richard Swisher & Family Robbie Swartz Barbara Ritter Mossy Stemberger Nancy Orndorff Dan Roach Mable Carter George Martin David Powers Harry Powers Anita & Jared Chambers Daniel Whitney Bonita White Carrie Eichelberger Marion Clowser Beverley Soule Donna Belle Donna Kay Stemberger Steve Jones Kara Stemberger Marshall Lorant Larry Braithwaite Ashlee Saxon Ed Lambert Brenna Taylor Phil & Carol Adams Roger Stover Bob Saville Beverley McGraw Jace Anderson Margie Galderisi Jay Hepner Family of Bobby Anderson Shirley Pierce Family Caitlyn Roy Charlie & Pat Dunn Family of Cindy Jones George Sonja Diane Joanne Kimberley Linda B Dana Laurie Residents at Green Valley Greenwood UMC

Easter Flower Orders

Would you like to help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter? We will let you know as soon as we get the price from Hortons. So stay tuned!



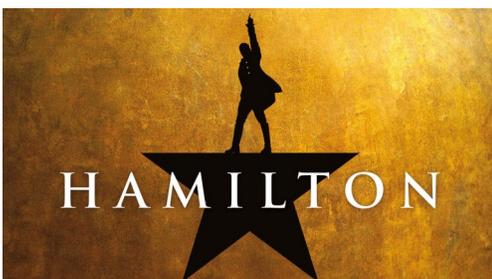
In deepest sympathy

Our sister in Christ, Cindy Jones, went to be with the Lord on February 23, 2022. There was a private funeral on March 1. Please remember Rusty, Chris, Sandy and all the family in your prayers.



The musical *Hamilton* is a big deal in our house. It's what Lucas requests to listen to most often in the car, and we've often found him singing and re-enacting his favorite scenes when he thought no one was around. I have many favorite numbers myself, but one of the most poignant and moving songs is "It's Quiet Uptown" and comes about half way through the second act. It comes at a point in the program where Alexander Hamilton has effectively destroyed both his personal and professional life. As a result, he's estranged from his wife and, most tragic of all, his nineteen year old son, Philip, has just been killed in a duel trying to protect his father's honor. "It's Quiet Uptown" finds him trying to overcome his unimaginable grief and make amends with his wife, Eliza. By the end of the song they've reconciled, and the company sings, "There are moments that the words don't reach/There's a grace too powerful to name" and "Forgiveness, can you imagine?" The emotion in the song and on Hamilton's face still gets me every time.

When I hear this song, I always think about Jesus and the message of the cross, and when I started to think about the beginning of the Lenten season, those words from "It's Quiet Uptown" are what I thought of. Knowing that despite our short comings and mistakes, both intentional and unintentional, that we are loved and forgiven. It's a powerful and emotional concept. As we move into Lent, and ultimately into the Easter season, I encourage you to remember and think about this gift that Christ has given us. An excellent way to do this is by joining us for our Sunday and special services, participating in the Lenten Bible Study, *The Witness at the Cross*, and simply spending time in prayer and reflection each day as we journey through the season of Lent. As we move towards Easter, my hope for you all is that you continue to feel God's love and presence in your lives as we prepare to celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death.



Hugs, Heather Littleton, Lay Leader



OPEN TO ALL PERONS! Harrisonburg District Lay Servant Training via Zoom – March 26, 2022

The following courses will be offered:

Basic Course, led by Linda Conrad Leading Worship, Rev. Adam Blagg
 Leading Prayer, Rev. Brian Posey

Advanced registration is required by March 11th.

To register for any of these classes, please contact Joe Amend, 301-741-7633, e-mail: joeamend@vaumc.org or Debbie Creech, District Administrative Assistant, at 540-433-2382, e-mail: debbiecreech@vaumc.org.



ANYONE is welcome to register and complete a class! The cost is \$25.

All God's Children Camp needs your help!



June 19-24, Richmond area
 July 24-29, Chesapeake/Eastern Shore area
 August 14-19, Richmond area

As a ministry of the Virginia Annual Conference, All God's Children Camp (AGCC) is a weeklong overnight camp for children ages 7 to 12, with an incarcerated parent. To learn more about this service opportunity, contact Lori Smith at lttlelori@gmail.com 571-245-9591

Not too early to plan! Summer Camp at Overlook



Camp Overlook is offering many great opportunities – please see the following link for details.

overlookretreatandcampministries.weebly.com/summer-camps.html

Children's Easter Event April 9, 11am–1pm (Rain date: April 16)

Come for a fun time for all children –there will be Easter egg hunt, crafts, lunch and much more!



Birthday pics from February PowerPoint



Thoughts on Stewardship

"...tithing is proving to be the up-to-date intelligent answer for thousands of modern Christians to the question, "how much shall I give". Tithing is an acknowledgement that God is alive and at the very center of our life. It helps us recognize that all our money, ability, our very fine lives belong to God. These things are trusts from God, to be used as He would have them used. Tithing is a glorious privilege by which we may declare our gratitude to God for life and family, for home and country, for Jesus and His church, and for the endless providential mercies which God extends to all His children."
 Found in the 1974 church archive records; typed on a real typewriter; the author unknown.

Health Minute

Jeff Swift

It's been said experience is the best teacher. I've been working with patients to prevent falls for many years. Sure I've personally had a fall here and there in the past due to tripping over something but have never been injured. I've been able to get up, look around to see if anyone witnessed my mishap, brush myself off, and carry on. However, I recently took a spill that resulted in an injury that's kept me off work. I would like to pass on what I learned from my accident so hopefully, it can prevent you all from experiencing the same thing.

In a nutshell, I was walking down a steep hill on the sidewalk not paying particular attention to where I was stepping. I didn't anticipate a driveway cutout which resulted in a miss-step and a hard fall. It was basic physics 101. A body (in this case mine!) in motion will remain in motion unless acted upon by an outside force, in this case, the sidewalk. I'm convinced I wouldn't have gotten hurt if this happened on a level surface. I may have lost some skin but nothing more. So another law of physics came into play. $Force = mass \times acceleration$! I don't have a lot of mass, I'm not that big. However since I was walking down a steep grade I had acceleration which resulted in more force when I hit the sidewalk, enough to result in a broken bone in my hand. So besides the physics lesson here's what I learned. When walking down a steep hill of any kind take smaller steps, watch where you are stepping, and anticipate any changes in the terrain. Remember when you are going downhill it's that extra "acceleration" that results in more force should you hit the ground so slow down and take smaller steps!



I'm healing up and will be fine in time.

Please pray for my wife's mother and stepfather and our friends in Odessa, Ukraine. They have bombing in their area as Russia proceeds with the invasion. As of 2/24/22 we have been able to speak with them on the phone but understand this capability will likely end soon. see you all in church! Jeff

Jeff Swift is a member of Market Street. He is a physical therapist at Hampshire Hospital.

A Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

Dear Virginia Annual Conference,

Alongside many nations, communities of faith, and people throughout the world, United Methodists join in praying for peace as tensions and violence mount with Russia's invasion of Ukraine yesterday, February 24.

Let us be especially mindful of the humanity caught in the middle, the tens of millions of men, women, and children whose lives are undergoing upheaval, with many in peril. We pray for the Ukrainian people. We pray for an end to the threats to their lives and well-being.

We pray for the families who have already lost loved ones to this war. We pray for the healing of the wounded. We pray also that this conflict does not escalate to further military conflicts in Europe and that Americans be united in praying for peace.

May that peace we pray for so fervently inspire world leaders to take the actions necessary to promptly ensure peace and healing. Peace and Blessings, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis



From the Bishop