



Tidings



Emory United Methodist Church *Pastor Peggy Click*
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January, 2018

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Hello Emory – I share this with you secondarily having first posted it on Face Book. The reaction was so positive there, including people using it in sermons, that I figured I should share with all of you too. So here it is:

A Few Thoughts on Life and How to Be Happy

1. Life is a mixture of positive and negative. It takes courage to know that and live life to its fullest in either circumstance.
2. The basic building block of life is love - love for yourself so that you have enough love to give to others - and then freely give because the more you give the more you receive. Love is always there if you are willing to receive it - just know it's not always in the usual places you look.
3. Life includes death - the moment you are born you take your first breath and begin the journey to your last one. As I person of faith, I see death as just another stage in life - different from what we experience on this side of the veil and perhaps more glorious on the other side. Never to be feared.
4. Life is full, not because of things, but because of relationships. . . relationship with God or your higher power, relationship with yourself and who you are becoming, and relationships with family and friends. Only you can make your life full!
5. In a nutshell - have courage, love beyond reason, embrace life and death as a part of that life, and make relationships the center of your being. Happiness and contentment are the result.

So long 2017 - Happy 2018 - Blessings, Rev. Peggy

MAKING RESOLUTIONS

Today, resolving to change and improve yourself and your life is an almost unavoidable part of the transition to a new year. Though it's a well-documented fact that most New Year's resolutions fail, we keep making them - and we're not alone. The custom of making New Year's resolutions is most common in the West, but it happens all over the world. Let's look back at when and why the New Year's resolution tradition got started, and how it's changed over the course of history.

The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions, some 4,000 years ago. If the Babylonians kept to their word, their (pagan) gods would bestow favor on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' favor - a place no one wanted to be.

A similar practice occurred in ancient Rome, after the reform-minded emperor Julius Caesar tinkered with the calendar and established January 1 as the beginning of the new year circa 46 B.C. Named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

For early Christians, the first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future. In 1740, the English clergyman John Wesley, founder of Methodism, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from Scriptures and hymn singing, and served as a spiritual alternative to the raucous celebrations normally held to celebrate the coming of the new year.

Despite the tradition's religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are a mostly secular practice. Instead of making promises to the gods, most people make resolutions only to themselves, and focus purely on self-improvement (which may explain why such resolutions seem so hard to follow through on).

According to recent research, while as many as 45 percent of Americans say they usually make New Year's resolutions, only 8 percent are successful in achieving their goals. But that dismal record probably won't stop people from making resolutions anytime soon - after all, we've had about 4,000 years of practice.

Pastor Peggy's resolution is to work hard to make 2018 a healthy year. What is yours?

A PRIMER ON THE CHURCH YEAR

Pastor Peggy primarily follows the lectionary [a planned list of scriptures] which follows the liturgical church year. Here is an outline for 2017/18 to help you follow worship trends.

- We had four weeks of Advent before Christmas to prepare for the birth of Christ.
- From Christmas to Epiphany, we celebrate the twelve days of Christmas.
- Then we have Epiphany [Jan. 6] and this year, four weeks until Ash Wednesday [Feb. 14] and the beginning of Lent.
- There are 40 days in Lent [not counting Sundays] which takes us to Holy Week [Palm Sunday, Mar. 25 & Good Friday, Mar. 30] and then Easter April 1].
- Fifty days of Easter [not counting Sundays] leads us to Pentecost, May 20].
- And then we are in Ordinary Time or Kingdomtide until we make our way back to Advent.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

As winter has finally arrived, now is a good time to review our Inclement Weather Policy: All evening events at the church will be canceled on weekdays if Carroll County schools close or dismiss early. If the worship service or other events to be held on the weekend are cancelled due to inclement weather, a message will be on the church answering machine and emails will be sent out. It should be posted on the major television channels as well. Be safe at all times!



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



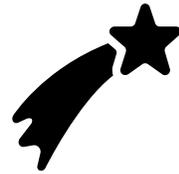
01/2 Shirley Gordon	1/27 Ken Fowble
01/6 Sarah Martin	1/28 Riley Zentz
01/7 Zoe Brumfield (<i>Pastor's grand baby</i>)	
01/23 Loren Blake	1/31 Doug Myers, Sandy Caple

WHAT IS EPIPHANY?

Epiphany is commonly known as Three Kings' Day or the Feast of the Epiphany. It means "manifestation" or "showing forth". It is also a Theophany ("manifestation of God"). Epiphany refers not only to the day itself but to the church season that follows it – a season that has a varied length because it ends when Lent begins, and this depends on the date of Easter.

It commemorates the occasion on which Jesus' divinity, according to Christian belief, was manifested: when the three kings (also known as wise men or Magi) visited the toddler Jesus in Bethlehem.

Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts. Various paintings, artworks and sketches show the three wise men and Jesus. Some paintings show the three wise men on the way to Bethlehem or adoring baby Jesus. The kings are important because their visit illustrates that Jesus was the king of all kings who came for the Jews and the Gentiles. The star that guides the wise men to Christ also symbolizes Epiphany, as well as the three gifts they gave to Jesus: Gold (fit for a king), Frankincense (used to worship at a temple), and Myrrh (used for embalming and suggesting the crucifixion). The liturgical color for the Epiphany season is white.



TIME TO THINK SCHOLARSHIPS

Once again, the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be awarding scholarships for qualified students currently attending college, as well as high school seniors who plan to attend college in the fall of 2018. The application process opened on Jan. 3 and closes March 7, 2018.

A variety of scholarships are offered to fit the diverse needs of students. To be considered for a scholarship, students must complete the online application. The entire process will be done online. There are flyers posted on the bulletin board in the education building.

For details about the individual scholarships or to apply for a scholarship, visit www.bwcumc.org/administration/finance/local-church-resources/scholarships/

“THANK YOU” ARE NOT BIG ENOUGH WORDS

I want to thank all those who gave me soup, presents, cards, other food, phone calls and joy through Christmas Carols. Thank you especially for the monetary gift from the church. Everything was so appreciated, especially while I was sick. You make me feel like family.



Thanks to Pat and Donna Rucker for running errands for me and all those in leadership positions who helped with the delightful chaos of the Christmas season. Gratitude spilling over to Nancy Chilcoat for all she does for the needy families who become ours and to everyone who brought in food and gifts & offered help with the organization of the mission.

What a beautiful Christmas season. Thank you to the Choir and Bev Gandolfo for the hard work going into the Christmas music, cantata and Christmas Eve. Thanks to all the special music too!

Thank you to George Smith for all his behind the scenes work on our worship services. He catches mistakes, makes beautiful the things that show up on the screen, and helps worship move along smoothly.

A special thanks to Dianne Baughan and Sue Thomas for the gorgeous decorations and their creativity that transformed the sanctuary into a thing of magic and beauty. Weren't the giant poinsettias breathtaking? It all added so much to worship.

COMING SOON - ELECTRONIC GIVING

Emory UMC is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can soon be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes.

And, when travel, illness or other circumstance prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

An authorization form and further information are available in the church and church office or see Elaine Dodds.

IT'S ALL ABOUT PRAYER



Prayer Concerns: Our devotion to prayer is one of the greatest ministries we have at Emory. Please remember these requests for prayer in your daily devotions. If you know of anyone who needs prayer, or have names to update on our prayer list, please contact the Church Office.

Please pray for and also send updates on the following: Tim Armacost, Amy (relative of Bonnie Johnson), Joyce Applefeld, Mike Bitzel, Charlotte Bond, Jeff Cole, Ruth Crisler, Jeff Davis (son of Chuck Davis), John/Linda Fair, Ruby Fair, Regina Glassman, Shirley Gordon, Diane & Janice Hidey (sisters of Rev. Barry Hidey), Anne Hakes (sister of Chuck Davis), Tracey Marcum (friend of Linda Fair), Helen Moore, Corina Myers, Dee Patton & family for Grayson, Janice Raver, Liz Tardif (Patty Kelly's sister), Bob Wheeler, Bill Williams (brother of Linda Fair).

Prayer Chain: We need volunteers that can text message and others that do not but are willing to phone call. If you would like to inform one other person of a request for prayer, please notify Karon Moore or the church of your willingness to participate.



This is the way it will work. Any person requesting prayers of the church will be asked personally to contact the Prayer Chain Leader. The Leader will contact several people by text or phone and each of these people will be assigned another person to call. It's that easy! Karon's contact number is 443-992-2314. Her email is karonmoore819@yahoo.com. The Church phone number is 410-429-6008.

UPDATING YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please call the office at 410-429-6008 or send an email to churchoffice@emoryunitedmethodist.org if your name, address, phone number or e-mail address has changed or if there is other info to be updated. This information will then be put into Emory's data base and the congregation will be updated in next newsletter.

Feel free to contact the office with any other changes you require. Thank you.

Linda Fair, secretary

AMAZON SMILE SMILES ON EMORY!

If you shop on Amazon you can now select Emory United Methodist Church as your charitable organization and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the dollar amount of your purchases to Emory. To do this go to smile.amazon.com and log in to your Amazon account as usual. There will be an Amazon smile at the top of the page and a place to select the charitable organization of your choice.



Note that there are several Emory churches so make sure you check the address. Select Emory United Methodist Church, 1600 Emory Rd., Upperco, MD 21155. Then just shop and Emory will receive a quarterly donation as long as you go to smile.amazon.com to log on to your account each time.

OUR GRATITUDE FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE

The Church would like to thank Sue, Dianne, Carlton and Maxie for decorating the sanctuary for Advent and especially Christmas! We are so lucky to have them and the church was beautiful. Also, thanks to the person who donated the greens. God bless all of you.



LOOKING FOR REPLACEMENTS

This will be our last year to decorate the church sanctuary for Christmas. We are all aware of Maxie & Dianne's pending move to N.Y. sometime in the future (*of course we all know Maxie does it all!!!*) Carlton and Sue have been decorating the church for 30 years, taking over after Frances and Harold Driver retired. Joe and Jill Jenkins worked with us for ten years before Maxie and Dianne volunteered to help. Cutting the greens is getting challenging. It has been our pleasure to decorate the church, and we pray the next team will have as much satisfaction in beautifying the sanctuary as we did. We wish everyone a Happy New Year. If interested contact either Maxie, Dianne, Carlton or Sue.

Thank you, Carlton & Sue Thomas or Maxie & Dianne Baughan

[submitted by Sue on behalf of the team]

Note from Pastor Peggy: No one can replace these four, but please consider being a part of the next team. You will have great teachers and then use your own creativity to serve God and the church!

ODDS AND ENDS – IMPORTANT STUFF

- **LITURGISTS** - The liturgists for January are as follows:

1/7 Sue Thomas

1/21 Donna Rucker

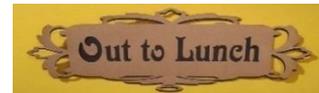
1/14 Roni Weikers

1/28 Evan Buckingham

If you discover that you can't keep the date, please let Ruth Bradford know.

- **Our Circle Friend** for the month of January is Joyce Applefeld.

- **No OTLB in January.** It will resume on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at Greenmount Station.



- **The Emory UMW** still has nuts for sale. Please support this fundraiser. Please let Donna know what you are interested in buying. Pay Donna Rucker.

- **From the Women** - The Emory Women purchased new padded folding chairs for the church hall; the other chairs are now available to anyone who would like to purchase them for a "A free will offering." Please see Donna Rucker if you are interested. Thank you.

- **Committee Chairpersons** - Please contact the office with the dates of all regular and special meetings. If a meeting will be cancelled for whatever reason, please contact the office as well. Thanks to those who have already responded.

SIGN UP TO HELP

There are two lists which need each of us to participate for it to be successful. Prayerfully consider how you might help.

The **first sign up is to be the liturgist in worship.** If you have any questions, just ask Pastor Peggy. It's a little different depending on what is in the bulletin each week. Remember the first week of the month is generally Communion Sunday. A full print out of the service is provided.

The **second sign up is to dedicate flowers in worship.** You can request colors. Cost varies by size with \$30 being the usual price. This is an excellent way to add to the beauty of the sanctuary on a Sunday and take a gift to a loved one or a shut in. Please fill in the many empty slots on the signup sheet.

TIME'S RUNNING OUT FOR THE PAULA DAVIS GIVING TREE

The tree in the back corner is dedicated to the vision a member of Emory had when she collected hats, gloves, scarves, and socks for the homeless shelter in Westminster. The tree will stay up until January 14 to receive your donations. Imagine what it would be like to live on the streets in the freezing weather we have been experiencing.



Bring in your donations and place them on or under the tree.

Underwear [men's and women's] and gloves are especially needed, but all donations are appreciated.

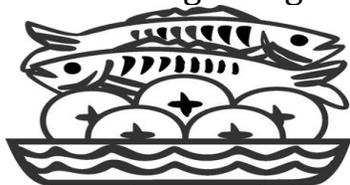
BOWLS BRING FOOD AND CHARITY TO LIFE

Put this on your calendar now: a bunch of Emory folks attended this event last year and had a terrific time while doing good. **The Second Annual Bowls of Carroll County** is set for March 18, 2018 at St. John's Church Portico in Westminster. Come enjoy a simple meal of soup [donated by local restaurants] and bread, and take home a hand-crafted bowl as a symbol of the hungry in our area. Proceeds benefit the Shepherd's Staff. More details next month.



LOAVES AND FISHES

We are scheduled to prepare and serve lunch at the Church of the Brethren beginning at 10:00 am on Saturday, **January 20, 2018**. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meal. Lunch is served at 12:00 pm and we are usually finished around 1:00 pm. Any monetary donations to purchase food items is appreciated as well. Please see Dale or Evan Buckingham if you are interested in helping.



Loaves & Fishes
Homeless Survival Services
Since 1983

February Newsletter items due by January 25.

2017 JANUARY - Outreach for the month of JANUARY is The Mission of Mercy

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 7pm Boy Scouts	5	6 Epiphany 7pm AA /Al-Anon,
7 10am - Worship Epiphany - Communion	8	9 10am Worship Meeting 7pm Trustees	10 5:45pm Wonderful Wednesday	11 7pm Boy Scouts	12 7pm SPRC	13 7pm AA &Al- Anon
14 10am - Worship Human Relations Sunday	15 MLK, JR.'s birthday 9:30am Project Linus	16 7pm Finance	17 5:45pm Wonderful Wednesday	18 7pm Boy Scouts	19	20 7pm AA &Al- Anon
21 10am - Worship Follow Me	22 9:30am Project Linus	23 7pm Church Council	24 5:45pm Wonderful Wednesday	25 7pm Boy Scouts	26	27 7pm AA &Al- Anon
28 10am - Worship	29 9:30am Project Linus	30 <i>No Out to Lunch Bunch until Feb. 27</i>	31 5:45pm Wonderful Wednesday			Looking Ahead: 2/4/18 Scout Sunday

February Newsletter items due by January 25.