



Covenant United Methodist Church

20301 Pleasant Ridge Dr.

Montgomery Village, MD

Contact Us:

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 office@covenant-umc.org
 Send articles and comments to
 newsletter@covenant-umc.org



March 20, 2024

Greetings Lenten journey mates,

I pray that you have been as blessed by our journey with Simon Peter as I have. It is good to be reminded that even “the Rock” struggled with faith... just like we do. The daily questions and prayers sent out by email offer all of us a chance to reflect more deeply on our own faith journey and to connect with God in meaningful ways.

I wanted to follow up my sermon on Sunday with a few more reflections on faith and doubt. I truly believe that faith and doubt are not opposites and that opening to doubt and questions about our faith can often be a portal to spiritual growth. I know this has been true for me in my own faith journey. It has also been the case that when I have allowed others room for questions and doubt, they have often drawn closer to God, rather than running away. I invite all of you to reflect on your own journey with doubt and your comfort with the doubt of others. Perhaps as we do, we’ll open doors for those who no longer find church meaningful to find their way back into faith community.

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For all who missed our Cluster Ash Wednesday service, it is still available online [HERE](#). There is some amazing music and preaching that is still life-giving, and I encourage you to check it out! We at Covenant will be hosting the Cluster Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM on March 28th. We’ll be doing a Stations of Peter service as part of our Wandering Hearts journey with Peter. I am confident it will be a transformative way of engaging with the events of Holy Thursday. I hope you will make it a priority to come out and welcome our friends in Christ from other churches to this community worship service.

All are invited to participate in the Good Friday Seven Last Words Service hosted by Emory Grove UMC at noon (March 29th). Come and stay for one word or for all seven and be blessed. In addition, you can enjoy a delicious Good Friday Fish Fry prepared by the men of Emory Grove. Eat there or take home dinner for your family.

Finally, join us for a joyous celebration of Easter Sunday, on March 31st, at 10 AM. With music and word, we’ll remind ourselves again that Christ is Risen!

I am slowly beginning the work of transition. The gift of time allows us to do this well. This means working to wrap up loose ends of my ministry at

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@covenantumcmontvill @covpreschool



facebook.com/covumc

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Covenant UMC and helping you all to plan and prepare your welcome for you new pastor. If you'd like a one-on-one for any reason at all, to say goodbye, to say "I wish you would have . . .," or "I'd rather you hadn't . . .," or "Thank you for . . .," or whatever, email me or Monica, and we'll set up a time for us to meet!

May your Lenten journey draw you ever closer to the Christ who calls each one of us!

Blessings,
Pastor Dawn



COMMITTEE REPORT

Lent is a time for introspection and reflection in preparation for the celebration of new life through the resurrection on Easter Sunday (March 31, this year). Join me as I reflect on last year.

It is no secret that 2023 was a challenging year financially for Covenant, with a burst water main pipe, sanctuary leaks, and HVAC problems. But with your generous support and the foresight of leaders before us who provided a financial cushion for emergencies, we were able to continue the ministry of our church: Offering vibrant worship with inspiring music that is also available online through our tech program; providing food through our Little Free Pantry; hosting scout troops and AA meetings; providing space for a well respected preschool; reviving our children's Sunday school and strengthening our adult education programs;

participating in the homeless resource day; offering groceries monthly, serving between 200 and 300 people; hosting the Men's Fellowship and reviving the children's Secret Shop; hosting a holiday brunch for 80 neighbors in December; and supporting Stepping Stones and the Lord's Table and so much more.

It happened because you supported Covenant financially. Thank you.

And now we need to do it again, in 2024: to be the hands of Christ reaching out and the heart of Christ welcoming people in. Keep the faith!

Ken Fell
Finance Committee

Becca's Buddies Class

Becca's Buddies is a Sunday School class serving other-abled adults (over age 18). We welcome anyone seeking Bible study and fellowship with a great group of people who love the Lord and are eager to learn more about our faith. We are currently meeting at **8:45 AM** by conference call on select Sundays (see below). If you would like more information about this class, please contact Anita Stonebraker (anitastonebraker@msn.com) or Mary Church (mmchurch70@gmail.com). **Upcoming Becca's Buddies Class Dates:**

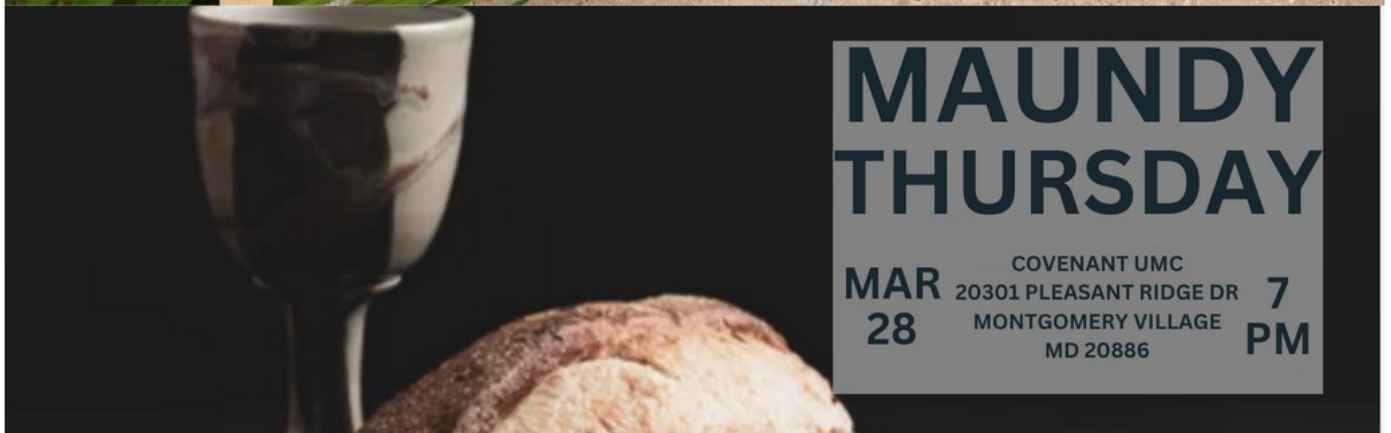
- Sunday, March 3
- Sunday, March 17





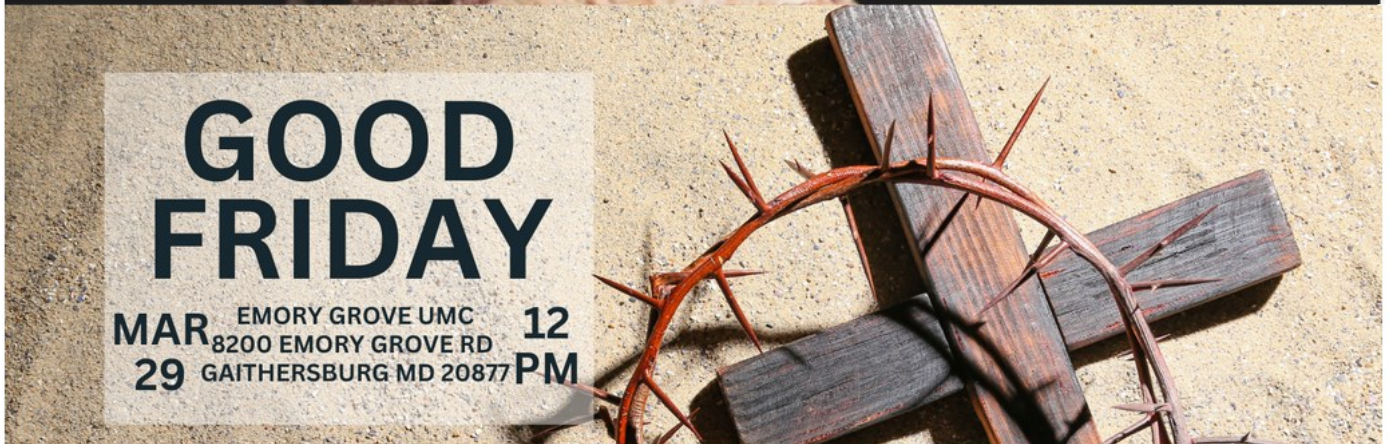
PALM SUNDAY

MAR 24 COVENANT UMC
20301 PLEASANT RIDGE DR
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE MD 20886 **10 AM**



MAUNDY THURSDAY

MAR 28 COVENANT UMC
20301 PLEASANT RIDGE DR
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE MD 20886 **7 PM**



GOOD FRIDAY

MAR 29 EMORY GROVE UMC
8200 EMORY GROVE RD
GAITHERSBURG MD 20877 **12 PM**



EASTER SUNDAY

MAR 31 COVENANT UMC
20301 PLEASANT RIDGE DR
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE MD 20886 **10 AM**

Sunday Evening STUDY

Join us **Sunday Evenings** for our Lenten study of *The Longest Psalm; Day-by-Day Responses to Divine Self-Revelation*, by Michael Casey.

Together, we will experience God's word through Father Casey's meditations on Psalm 119. Casey describes his reflections as "more devotional," saying that this psalm is "God's gift of self-revelation." During Lent we remember that, like us, Jesus must have prayed Psalm 119 to converse with God's presence for guidance and hope.

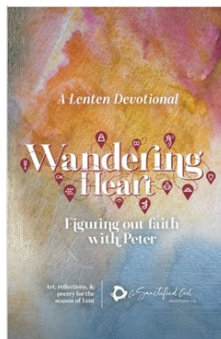


ALL ARE WELCOME! For Zoom access, find our link through the church website (www.covenant-UMC.org). If you have questions, need a book, or want to be on our contact list, contact Mary Church at mmchurch70@gmail.com or 240-429-9452.

Tuesday Night Live

Join us on **Tuesday nights at 7 PM** for hybrid meetings that are both **in-person in Classroom 6** at the church and **on Zoom** through March 26.

As part of our **church-wide Lenten series**, Pastor Dawn invites us to share our reflections on the week's devotional guide that includes scriptures, commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, and more. Our focus is on the life and faith of one of Jesus' disciples: Peter. Lenten devotional booklets are available in digital or paper copies.

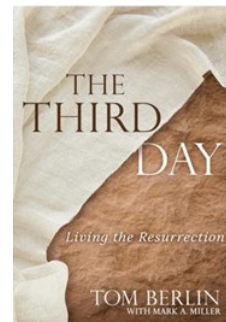


ALL ARE WELCOME! For Zoom access, the Tuesday Night Live link is on the church website (www.covenant-UMC.org). If you have questions, want a copy of the devotional, or want to be on the email list for discussion information, contact Mary Church at mmchurch70@gmail.com, or 240-429-9452.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

New Lenten Study: *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*, by Tom Berlin

Join us **Mondays from 1-2 PM on Zoom** as we talk about Peter, Mary Magdalene, Thomas, and others who experienced surprise and joy because of Jesus' resurrection. This is Berlin's focus: "Because Jesus was resurrected on the third day, we know that God offers new beginnings, no matter what the facts of our present reality seem to tell us."



You can join us on Zoom through the Monday Bible Study link in the Covenant Connection or on the church website (www.covenant-UMC.org). For more information about this study, contact Judy Watts by email at mwatts5552@aol.com or by phone at (410) 730-6877.

SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING

Every **Thursday at 11 AM**, a lively, supportive group of residents meet at Sunrise Senior Living for Bible Talk. We seek to deepen our connection with God and one another with a meditation prepared by one of our leaders. We celebrate special occasions, and we always pray and sing! Our source materials include *The Upper Room* and *The Upper Room Disciplines*. Weekly notes of encouragement are also sent to class members.



For questions, contact Kim Irish through the church office at office@covenant-umc.org or call (301) 926-8920.

Independent Weekly Bible Study

Everyone can be included in Bible study! The Sunrise Bible Talk study is also available each week by email or U.S. mail for anyone who seeks to deepen their connection with God. To ask for a copy, please email or phone Monica at the church office at office@covenant-umc.org or at (301) 926-8920.





Everyone is welcome! We get together the **third Thursday** of the month at **7 PM**. The **location is TBD**, so send Pastor Dawn your contact information for updates. We talk about current issues, social principles, and how God works in the world. We bring open hearts and minds. For more information or to be added to our contact list, please email Pastor Dawn at dawn.stewart@covenant-umc.org.



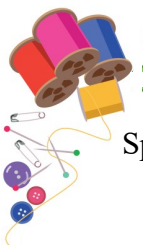
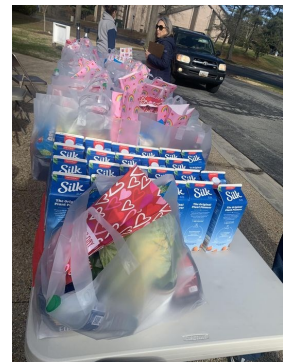
Little Free Pantry

I thought you might like this picture of the Little Free Pantry food distribution on Saturday, January 27th. Over 240 people were served. The special Valentine's Day bags were filled by our Sunday School children. Our next drive-through food distributions are on **Saturday, March 2nd**, from **10 AM – noon**, and April 30th.

Please help us keep the Little Free Pantry stocked!!
Urgently needed:

- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Canned and Dried Beans
- All Personal Hygiene items (soap, hand sanitizer, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorants, feminine products)
- Instant Oatmeal
- Canned Fruit

Thank you for your faithfulness in helping our neighbors!



2024 Secret Shop Workshops Begin

Our first Secret Shop Workshop will be on Tuesday, **March 19th** (first day of Spring), from **10AM – noon** in Classroom 4. Please join us for a morning of fun and crafting. All materials are provided.



				19	Amina Abdilah	26	Jonathan McConnell
		14	Saundra Rebholz	20	Victoria John	26	Steve Zullo
2	Liam Thomas	16	Mary Church	21	Steve Irish	28	Ann Church
5	Katherine Head	16	Elisabeth Warren	22	Weber Dossen	29	Margaret Dossen
12	Shirley Kushner	17	Judy Nader	26	Naomi Lowery	29	Julia Harris

**Covenant United Methodist Church
20301 Pleasant Ridge Drive
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20886-4014**

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Events

- March 2 Little Free Pantry Food Distribution,
10:00 AM – 12 noon
- March 28 Maundy Thursday Service, 7PM
- March 29 Good Friday Seven Last Words Ser-
vice, 12 noon, Emory Grove UMC
- March 31 Easter Sunday Service, 10 AM
- April 30 Little Free Pantry Food Distribution,
10:00 AM – 12 noon



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