

KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS

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CALENDAR:



* **Wednesday, February 4th at 6:30PM, the Deaf UMW unit will be meeting** in the Library.



* **Saturday, February 14th is Valentines Day.**



* **Monday, February 16th is President's Day.**



* **Wednesday, February 25th is Ash Wednesday.**



* **Thursday, February 26th begins the season of Lent.**



OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our recent Christmas Eve service that was held on December 24, 2003 marked a special occasion as we celebrated the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



OUR COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE



The last Sunday of 2003 marked the celebration of our Covenant Renewal Service for the New Year.

December 28th, we committed ourselves as individuals and as a congregation to be servants for Christ in the year 2004. Special liturgy (worship service) was used, which included the Lord's Supper.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is a forty-day season of preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. The season begins with Ash Wednesday, when pastors mark the foreheads of Christians with ashes as a reminder that they are created from dust and to dust they shall return.

During Lent we follow Jesus from his adult ministry through his suffering during Holy Week and his crucifixion and death on Good Friday.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, also called Sunday of the Passion, and continues through Holy Thursday (when Holy Communion was instituted at the Last Supper) and Good Friday, when Jesus was tried, crucified, and buried.

Because the Last Supper was celebrated during the Feast of the Passover, which is calculated on the phases of the moon, Easter is called a movable feast. Lent is scheduled backwards from Easter.

Lent is a time of stripping down to essentials, as each Christian focuses on his or her individual relationship with God. It is a time when Christians remember our baptisms, when Jesus washed away our sins, giving us newness of life to celebrate in the triumph of Palm Sunday and the glory of Easter.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR



Celebration describes what happens of God gather for worship. The focus of experience is to actualize the divine presence in our lives. Everything that centers on what God has done in Jesus Christ – his life, ministry, death, and resurrection. However, we are a people who share a history, not only of what God Jesus the Nazarene, but of God's profound

interest in the redemption of God's creation. From the beginning of the Old Testament we can see this divine concern in the call of Abraham and the liberation from slavery in Egypt, the formation of a nation, the calling of the prophets. In each event, we see God's pursuit. All of this renders a fullness and enriches our sense of celebration in worship. The chief aim in worship is that it be whole in every aspect. Celebrating the Christian Year offers us a natural rhythm involving the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

You may ask, "What is the Christian Year and how did it come to be?" From what we read in Acts, that fledgling community, following the resurrection of Jesus, centered its worship around the temple. They found their strength and devotion as they gathered as a community for study, fellowship, prayer, and the breaking of bread (Acts 2:42). Everything centered around the resurrection of Jesus. The focus was on remembering what Jesus had taught them. Those, then, were the beginnings of what we now know as the Christian Year. Even though that early Christian community was maintained by a discipline tied to the temple, it very soon began to note the importance of the first day of the week (Sunday) or 'the Lord's Day' (Rev. 1:10). We must remember that the focus of all that took place when the people gathered to celebrate, was the resurrection of the Lord.

The Christian Year is divided into two cycles: Easter and Christmas. The first to surface was Resurrection or Easter. It is worthwhile to note that the crucifixion of Jesus coincided with the Jewish Passover, a time for remembering God's act of liberation of God's people, from Egypt. Although every Sunday the Christian community celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, every year as the Jewish Passover rolled around, it seemed proper and fitting to celebrate in a special way the resurrection of Jesus. As time went on, a time of preparation was added and extended to what we now know as Lent. Pentecost, the beginning of the Church, brought this season to an end.

Two blocks of time, one following Epiphany and the other following Pentecost are known as "ordinary time." In the weekly designations they are referred to as "Sunday after Epiphany...or Pentecost." During these "ordinary times," the lectionary readings strive to cover the entire Scripture.

Making use of the Christian Year offers us an opportunity to address the "whole" in the proclamation of the gospel. It affirms and offers ample evidence that we are indeed one Church. No matter where we go or where we worship, we will always be at home. Indeed this is real celebration! Information gathered from <http://www.gbod.org/worship/articles/rejoice/p6.html>



Birthdays & Anniversaries

FEBRUARY

4th Richard Fields
(Birthday)

18th Kathy Johnson
(Birthday)

19th Ed & Flo Johnson
(Anniversary)

21st Max Pyles
(Birthday)

22nd Carolyn Pyles
(Birthday)

22nd John Johnson, Sr.
(Birthday)

23rd Dick Robinson
(Birthday)

24th Jim & Ruth Varveri
(Anniversary)

27th Nina Gilbert
(Birthday)

28th Dick & Dolores Robinson
(Anniversary)

PASTOR YATES' SCHEDULE



Pastor Yates will be attending Wesley Theological Seminary during the spring semester. On

Tuesdays, he will attend are New Testament: Epistles & Church History II.

On **Thursdays** he will attend a Pastoral Care and Counseling class.

ANSWERS

Across

4. neighbor
6. offerings
- 8 synagogues
9. denarius
10. killed
11. vineyard

Down

1. capstone
2. David
3. marry
5. Herodians
- 7.resurrection

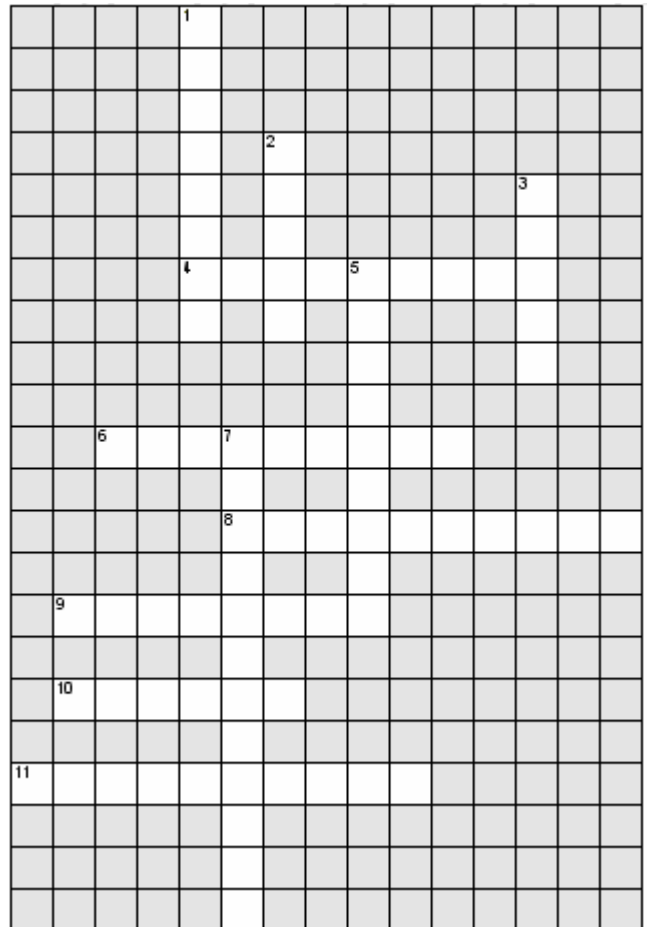
Across

4. What did Jesus say the second most commandment was to love who?
6. Who according to Jesus put the most in the offering box?
8. Where do the teachers of the law have important seats?
9. What coin did Jesus ask them to bring?
10. What happened to the third servant of the vineyard owner sent to the tenants.
11. What did the man who planted a vineyard build?

Down

1. What did the rejected builders stone become?
2. Who did the teachers of the law say Christ was the son of?
3. What do the risen dead not do?
5. Who went with the Pharisees to Jesus to catch him out?
7. What do the Sadducees not believe in?

CROSSWORD ON MARK 12



The United Methodist Church

OUR SOCIAL CREED

¶166 We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

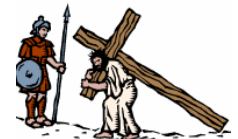
We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of racial, ethnic, and religious minorities.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress. We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

WHAT IS LENT...CONTINUED

Because Lent is a time of letting go of the bondage of sin, it is also a time of celebrating the freedom from the bondage of slavery. At the Feast of the Passover, all Jews give thanks for their freedom from the captivity of the Egyptians.



Jesus' ministry → Passion/Holy Week → Crucifixion

MORE PICS FROM OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE....



To the left is Laura Anthony signing "Perfect Love."

To the right are Steve and Tara Koontz with their son Dominic as Joseph, Mary and Jesus.



The children's choir sung and signed a Christmas carol for the congregation. Laura Anthony and Ethelyn Wightman teach the children to sign and sing the hymns. Thank you for doing a beautiful job.

Much thanks to everyone for helping make this a memorable Christmas Eve service.

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY

Every fourth Sunday has been designated (chosen) to be "**Bring a Friend To Church Sunday.**" As a way of reaching those who are unchurched, it is our hope we will be able to reach those who are unchurched. Be sure to bring a friend that we can share with them our life with



Magothy United Methodist Church
of the Deaf
3703 Mountain Rd.
Pasadena, MD 21122