

Zion United Methodist Church
 612 Locust Street
 Cambridge, MD 21613

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Love Reigns

As we move from winter to spring, so the church’s liturgical calendar moves from Lent to Easter. During this time of Lent, we have been studying the six atonement theories. The word atonement comes from the Latin word, *adunamentum*, which means unity. The reason that we need God’s atonement is that all of us have sinned, and this sin has separated us from a Holy and Righteous God. The penalty for sin is death. We cannot erase that sin to restore the relationship that we have with God. The Good News is that what we could not do, God did for us. God made atonement, that is joined us back together with God, through the life, death, and resurrection of God’s Son, Jesus Christ. The basis for these theories can be found in the Bible. They are called theories, because even the biblical writers could not fully comprehend or explain the mystery and depth of God’s love. These atonement theories are: Substitution, Ransom, Moral Example, Reconciliation, Cleansing, and Christ as Victor.

A few days ago, someone asked me how I go about deciding what to preach. I have to admit that sometimes, I don’t know what to preach. I start off with prayer, praying often and listening to God. God does not answer me right away, and sometimes the answer comes in a most unusual way. An example would be the Easter messages. I was thinking about what to preach on for the Easter season. The way that the message series came about was through an email. I receive lots of email about sermon series. I opened up my email after praying for some time and found a sermon series titled “Love Reigns.” There was a brief outline of four sermons, but I wanted to do seven sermons. I thought about this and continued to pray. A few days later, I was in my pick-up and the British rock band, “The Who,” was playing

their hit from 1973, “Love, Reign o’er Me.” The second verse says:

Only love can bring the rain
 That makes you yearn to the sky
 Only love can bring the rain
 That falls like tears from on high

Love, reign o'er me, reign o'er me, reign o'er me
 Love, reign o'er me, reign o'er me, reign o'er me

It was as if God was speaking directly to me through this song, confirming what God wanted me to say to all of you. It gets better, because I later opened my *Revised Common Lectionary* to take a look at what was suggested and the lectionary Scripture was from 1 John 4:9-11:

⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

The more that I thought about this, the more God was speaking to me to follow this reading with the theme for the season of Easter being “Love Reigns.” The message of the empty tomb is that God’s love reigns, so we are going to recognize the ways in which God’s love reigns. I hope that you will join us either in the sanctuary, online, or through our mailings.

Remember that you are loved by God and God’s love reigns.

God bless you,
 Pastor Dave

Heifer Project Reminder

Just a reminder that the Hattie Brooks Skinner Circle is still collecting for the Heifer Project Hope Basket to honor Kay Bramble.

This gift includes rabbits and a starter flock of chickens, along with training and education on their care. These fast-multiplying animals will jumpstart families toward a sustainable future. A Hope Basket:

- provides eggs and protein for nourishment
- boosts income through sales of extra eggs and offspring
- passes on the gift to others, since livestock can multiply quickly

Simply put your donation in an envelope marked “Heifer” and put it in the offering basket. Since many of us are still worshipping virtually, the easiest way to make a donation may be to write a check and send it to the office. If you choose to do so, please make it out to Hattie Brooks Skinner Circle and mark “Heifer” in the memo line.

More information about Heifer International can be found at their website: <http://www.heifer.org>.



Moving On

By Spicer Leaming—Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

I have become aquatinted with a new term “itinerancy,” which is the commitment by United Methodist pastors to go and serve wherever their bishop sends them. John Wesley preached up to 40,000 sermons all over England, many out in open fields. He was an itinerant preacher! Pastor Dave and JoAnn will be moving to a new appointment on July 1. We wish them well and much success in this grand tradition of The United Methodist Church.

Altar Flowers

by Elaine Horseman

Zion has altar flowers that adorn our Sanctuary’s altar every week. They are usually in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. There is a schedule that we follow, but occasionally an opening becomes available, and there are a couple of dates that we are aware of. If you would be interested in providing flowers sometime in the future, please contact Elaine Horseman, 410-228-9134, for more details. Thank you.



Habitat for Humanity

by Tom Wilson

Habitat for Humanity Is an International program designed to provide opportunities to give people “a hand up” but not “a hand out”. A common misconception is that Habitat for Humanity builds and gives away free houses. This is not true. People who apply to be a part of HFH have to meet many criteria. It is a program for first time homeowners.

Upon application, they must have a job with income between \$27,000 and \$42,000. As a part of the process of being eligible to own a home, they must complete 24 hours of classes (budgeting, insurance, property tax info), complete 300 hours of “sweat equity” (actual on site involvement in the construction), be basically debt free by the closing date, save money for the closing costs (approximately \$4,500), and, upon taking possession, assume a 30-year mortgage and become responsible for insurance, taxes, and maintenance.

Habitat For Humanity Choptank is the local affiliate of HFH International (which is headquartered in Atlanta, GA.). The office is in Trappe and administratively covers Talbot and Dorchester counties. Over the last 28 years, HFH has built 90 homes (all with volunteer labor, overseen by a paid supervisor) in Talbot and Dorchester counties. The communities of Cambridge, Hurlock, Easton and St. Michaels have seen numerous houses constructed through HFH Choptank. (about 20 and counting in Cambridge). When the process is completed, and the new homeowners take possession, HFH doesn’t leave them at this point. A mentor, who has been assisting them throughout from the time they were accepted in the program, continues to be available for any assistance and support. It is truly heartwarming to see the excitement that a new homeowner has when they accept the keys and move in.

Habitat is a very worthwhile program that is making a real impact in Cambridge .



Easter Lily Cross

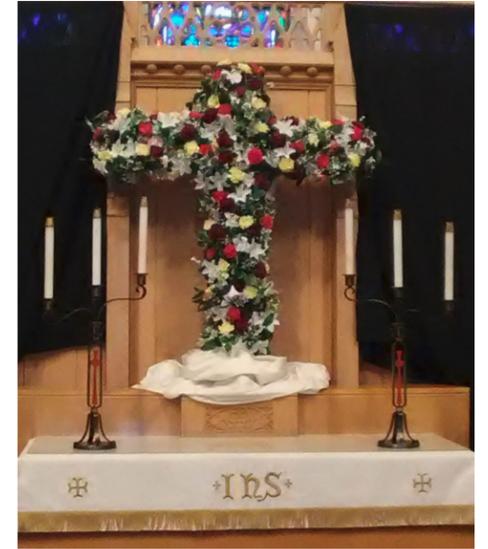
by Elaine Horseman

Our large lily cross will again be displayed on Easter morning. You may make a donation to the Good Sam Fund in memory OR in honor of a loved one. Either way, your loved one will be recognized in a special insert on Easter Sunday.

This is a wonderful way to recognize our loved ones as well as helping the efforts of Zion’s Good Samaritan Fund.

Donations, along with the form below, can be placed in the offering basket or mailed to the Church. The deadline is Palm Sunday, March 28.

Please make checks payable to Zion UMC and note “Good Sam” in the memo line. Questions can be directed to Elaine Horseman (410-228-9134) or email the Church office (office@zionumccambridge.org) Thank you for your support!



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\$10.00 each – Cash or make check payable to Zion UMC and note for “Good Sam.

(circle one) In memory of: or In honor of:

BY:

ANNIVERSARIES
in April

10 June & James Welsch	24 Lauren & Scott Zacharko
22 Renee & Richard Meritt	

BIRTHDAYS
in April

1 Karen Bowers	12 Lesley Williams	20 Jessica Dukes
1 Brandon Crawford	13 Polly Lowry	20 Charles Edmondson
2 Dot Geoghegan	13 Austin Webster	21 Sara Beckwith
5 Josh Turner	15 JoAnn Kelley	21 Cathy Crawford
7 Emily Jump	15 Richard Meritt	22 April Ellis
8 Barbara Landon	17 Steven Webster	22 James V. Welsch
8 Roger Van Dyke	17 Wendy Wilson	23 Irene Howard
9 Meghan Masden	18 Kathy Counts	24 J. Clayton Brooks, III
9 Allison Price, Jr.	18 Art Renkowitz	25 Cynthia Booze Richardson
9 JoAnn Rumbley	18 Tom Wilson	25 Toby Wilson
10 Susan Matthews	19 Nan Duerling	29 Hannah Harp
12 Meghan Cleary	20 Gloria Brake	

We especially wish Dot Geoghegan a happy 100th birthday on April 2!

Holy Week Services



Fri., April 2
7:00 p.m.
on Facebook

Zion UMC, along with Grace, St. Luke's, St. Paul's & Waugh Chapel UMCs, will hold a virtual service featuring Stations of the Cross.



*Sunday, April 4
11:00 A.M.
in the sanctuary*

Recognizing God at work in the world, in other's lives, and in my life

The Blessing of Mr. Dunn

By Howard Hoffman

Some years ago, a new restaurant open in Easton- it was the Golden Corral. I rather enjoyed the food and went there with some frequency. I was there one day having a meal and seated next to me at the adjoining table was a deaf/ mute couple who had ordered from the menu but in their inability to speak a miscommunication had occurred; they had been given the wrong food. The couple got the waitress' attention but she couldn't understand and I am not sure they completely understood her so she got the manager, Mr. Dunn, to come over to help. He tried his best to give them what they wanted and gave them their meal for free. You just had to see the situation unfold to fully grasp it. I saw that day something I have never forgotten. Mr. Dunn had no idea I was watching, observing, and taking that interaction all in. What was it I observed and saw? It was pure love, care and concern that I saw coming forth from this man towards people he did not even know. Through the years I have thought of that occasion often and without exception I have broken down and wept and begged, Oh God can I be such a man, to love others so much that a bystander is impacted for the rest of their life. I call this incident The Blessing of Mr. Dunn. I still ask God for this request as it's a very good one. Maybe someone else would like to join in that thought and prayer.

In The Eyes of a Child

By Sherry Daniel

Since the pandemic began our lives have changed. One year ago our schools were shut down and my grandchildren were forced to do distance learning. It has been challenging to say the least. Being retired I was able to be there with them and help them navigate this new way of learning virtually. I soon realized I definitely needed God to help me during this time , as there were many tears shed. Before virtual learning each morning, we would bow our heads and pray for strength to get through the day. After a while, it got a little easier. God showed me something positive that my grandchildren were my gift from God. I was able to spend quality time with them. God was working in my life to help me see that if we slow down and look around , we will see what's most important, that being our family. As Jesus said, " Let the little children come to me.". Children have so much faith in any situation. My grandson recently said, " Mommy, God should be the only one who should be leading us and should be our Ruler. He can get us through anything". WOW! Children are so truthful and honest. God Bless Them! God is definitely at work in this world . We see this in the eyes of a child!

We Welcome Howard Hoffman

Pastor Dave and Zion UMC welcomed Howard Hoffman as a member on Sunday, March 14. Howard has been an active participant at Zion for several years; including singing with the choir.

