

The Newsletter of Allentown United Methodist Church

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APRIL - MAY 2011

- April 17th PALM SUNDAY 10:30 Worship**
The Passion of Jesus Christ according to the Gospel of Luke.
A special worship service consisting of a dramatic reading of Luke's Gospel interspersed with special choir anthems and congregational hymns.
- April 21st HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE 7:00 p.m.**
- April 24th EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATION 10:30 a.m.**
SUNRISE SERVICE 6:00 a.m. at the gazebo at the lake.
- May 8th MOTHER'S DAY 10:30 a.m. Worship**
Emily Adams will share the Morning Message.
- May 15th FESTIVAL OF PRAISE -BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY 10:30 a.m.**
A special worship celebration of praise to God through music. Featuring choir anthems and special solos. A prepared luncheon will follow immediately after worship. Reservations are required. Watch for more info to follow and plan to invite a **friend, relative or neighbor** to this special worship time!
- May 30th MEMORIAL DAY FLAG CEREMONY 9:00 a.m.**
We plan once again to have a float in the parade.
- SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SEMINAR 9:10 a.m.**
Pastor George's Office
"Faith Lessons on the Death & Resurrection of the Messiah" (continues through May 15th) Through video, scripture and discussion we will trace Jesus' journey to the cross and his resurrection, and conclude with the Day of Pentecost.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

*“There are no cats in America”, sang the mice in An American Tail. The animated cartoon about immigration to America pictured a land with limitless abundance and opportunities. However, the idealistic mice found shortly after their arrival, much to their pain and dismay that there **are** cats in America.*

It doesn't matter where you go, this side of heaven there is always something wrong, something that doesn't fit right.

Where can we go to satisfy the longing we all feel? Some turn to nostalgia, thinking things must have been better in the past. Some of us look to the future, when human progress is supposed to take us to new levels of technological and human development. We are, as the writer of Hebrews states, longing for a better country, looking forward to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God. – Stephen D. Eyre

As we prepare to celebrate Easter the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ“ let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

THE ALPHA COURSE

ALPHA meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 for a light supper followed by a talk on DVD by Pastor Nicky Gumbel and then a discussion time. The course will run through May 25th. Guests are welcome to join us up through the 4th week – April 13th.

PALM SUNDAY DRAMA TEAM

Rehearsals: Saturday, April 9th at 12:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday – Dress Rehearsal 9:15 a.m.

Drama at the Palm Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m., April 17th.

If you would like to be a part of our Drama Team we need folks for the crowd scenes. Contact Pastor George.

OUTDOOR WORK DAY

We will have an outdoor work day on Saturday, April 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Bring your own tools.

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Our Sunday morning nursery attendant is taking maternity leave. If you know of anyone 18 or older who is looking for a paid position please contact Pastor George at (609) 259-7392. The time we need someone for is 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

If you would be willing to serve one Sunday a month in the nursery until we hire a new nursery attendant or at least through June, please touch base with Pastor George or Theresa Zigich. Thank you.

DISCIPLE MAKING IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states that “The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. . .”

On May 10th at 7:00 p.m. Pastor George will lead a workshop on Disciple Making in the Bible and in the Wesleyan Tradition. We will be looking at Jesus’ call to “come and follow me” and to “Go and make disciples”. And John Wesley’s teaching on discipleship and how we can apply these teachings today so that we may be better equipped to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

All are welcome to attend this time of teaching and discussion. This will be the first in a series of workshops led by Pastor George on Disciple Making, Outreach and Church Growth.

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to give an Easter lily in honor or memory of someone the lilies can be order from Nola Noller at (609) 758-2901. The flowers are \$9. Please let Nola know by April 10th if you would like a lily.

MISSIONS

Heifer Project – During the month of May we will be collecting to send animals to needy families of our own country and around the world. When a family receives their animal(s), they agree to pass on the first-born female to another family and that family passes to another family. Training and support is given as well as breeding aid to enable your gift to continue as a “living gift” changing whole villages and communities.

Put your donation in the envelope marked for Heifer Project that is in your weekly bulletin during the month of May (also put your envelope number from your normal giving envelope in order to receive credit for your gift) and place in the collection plate. Make your check payable to Allentown UMC and write Heifer in the lower left hand corner. If you cannot attend church during the month of May and wish to help, send your donation to the church office.

Remember – a flock of chicks is \$20. Starting at 6 months they can lay 200 eggs a year – protein for children and extras sold to pay for school, clothes, and medicine. A trio of rabbits is \$60. With as many as 40 offspring a year, a trio can provide a family with a steady source of protein and income. A goat is \$120. A goat can give up to 4 quarts of milk a day – just the right amount if you don't own a refrigerator. Manure fertilizes the vegetable crops, and they often give birth to 2 kids a year. They provide a steady source of income.

Thanks for your help in this project.

Things to Save – For Ranch Hope save Campbell labels (please pick up new instructions under the missions bulletin board), and General Mills Box Tops for Education coupons and place in the proper cans on the Missions Table. Pennies should be given to Barbara Fennimore. Also, continue to save aluminum tabs for Children's Hospital.

Shop-Rite Gift Cards – Barbara Fennimore is selling \$50 Shop-Rite gift cards as a year-round fundraiser for the combined auxiliaries of Ranch Hope. The Ranch will realize \$50 profit for each \$1000 sold. To date, \$1900 has been sent to the Ranch. Checks for the cards should be made out to Barbara Fennimore.

Easter Baskets – We are collecting food for the Community Easter Baskets. Our goal is 60 boxes of au gratin or scalloped potatoes. Leave food in the barrel in Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to donate money toward hams or food purchases can give the money to Barbara Fennimore. All food should be in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, April 10th.

Blanket+ Program – Thanks to all who so generously supported our Blanket Fund in February. We raised \$614. PTL!

Ranch Hope Soup Sale/Flea Market – Thanks to all who helped make this sale such a success on March 12th. \$1350 was raised by our Central Jersey Auxiliary of Ranch Hope to help the teens. What a wonderful day of fellowship!

THANKS

A special thank you to our Trustees and other volunteers who have done an outstanding job improving the restrooms and redoing fellowship hall.

SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPE

The Easter offering envelope in your offering envelope box will go toward covering the expenses we have encountered due to the harsh winter such as snow plowing (\$2,400 in January and February), and heating expenses. Faithfully meeting these current expenses keeps our facilities open for worship, Sunday school, music ministries, UMW, mission outreach, and special courses like ALPHA, to name only some of our ministry activities.

At this Easter season we are called to give generously to God out of thankfulness for the new life available to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you richly in your giving.

HOW DO I KNOW?

How do I know that Christ is risen? What proof have I to give?
He touched my life one blessed day and I began to live.

How do I know He left the tomb that Easter long ago?
I met Him just this morning, and my life is all aglow.

How do I know that endless life He gained that day for me?
His life within is proof enough of immortality.

How do I know that Christ still lives, rich blessings to impart?
I know it's true because He lives and reigns within my heart.

COMING EVENTS

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| April 5: | Administrative Council meeting 7:30 p.m. |
| April 17: | Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. and
Coffee Hour |
| April 21: | Holy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m. |
| April 24: | Sunrise Service 6:00 a.m. |
| April 24: | Easter Worship Celebration 10:30 a.m. |
| April 26: | Trustees 7:30 p.m. |
| April 27: | School Elections |
| April 30: | Outdoor Workday 9:00a.m. – 12:00 noon |
| May 1: | Festival of Praise 10:30 a.m. & Luncheon |
| May 3: | Administrative Council meeting 7:30 p.m. |
| May 8: | Mother's Day Worship 10:30 a.m. |
| May 14: | UMW Tea |
| May 21: | Cub Scout Car Wash |
| May 30: | Memorial Day Flag Ceremony 9:00 a.m.
Parade 10:00 a.m. |
| May 31: | Trustees 7:30 p.m. |