

Poplar Springs & Jennings Chapel Churches

# Charge Clarion

February – March 2024

## Pastor Dave's Corner:

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.*

*I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditation on God's Holy Word.—“A Service of Worship for Ash Wednesday,” United Methodist Book of Worship*

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is Valentine's Day, February 14. It's interesting to me that on the day when we traditionally celebrate romantic love with cards, chocolate, sweets, and flowers, we remember Jesus' unfathomable love for us through his mercy and forgiveness. God sent Jesus to be our valentine. One of the ways we reciprocate our love for Christ is by renewing our faith and partaking in spiritual disciplines appropriate for the Lenten season.

The above quotation is from the Ash Wednesday service from our Book of Worship. Traditionally, at that service before the imposition of the ashes we're invited to observe Lent by practicing some spiritual disciplines we might not regularly practice.

One of those is fasting. A common way to practice fasting during Lent is to give something up. Maybe chocolate or sweets (on Valentine's Day, Oh My!), social media, Starbucks, or something else. We fast to reorient ourselves away from what distracts us from God.

Fasting doesn't have to be the only way to practice self-denial. Lent is a great time to adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community or making financial gifts to organizations in our community that help others through ministries of compassion or justice.

Reading and meditating on God's Holy Word might take the form of reading the Bible, reading the *Upper Room* daily to guide your study, or perhaps participating in our Lenten Study, *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News*. Meditating on the Word might include *Lectio Divina*, a meditation on a word or short passage from the Bible or *Visio Divina*, a meditation on a visual that reflects something about Jesus' life, ministry, death.

Sometimes life keeps us so busy that it's easy to forget to set aside time to spend with our heavenly Father. Lent is a wonderful time to work intentionally towards reclaiming time so that we can spend more time in prayer. There are many different kinds of prayer—centering, breath, intercessory, contemplative, listening, walking, to name a few. I encourage you to try one.

The busyness of life can also interfere with our ability to practice Sabbath or rest. You might try to create a discipline of resting on the Sabbath or finding moments every day to stop and rest in God's presence.

I hope you will take time to pray and ask God to inspire you to try a new spiritual practice this Lent to help you experience more deeply God's love for you. God wants to be your Valentine this Lenten season and always.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Dave



*The Christmas Cantata was a great time of worship, fun, and fellowship for the choir and community. Thank you Patti Bush our conductor and Peggy Brengle, our pianist!*

## *Happy Birthday!*

<u>Feb. Birthdays</u>	<u>March Birthdays</u>
2-Kendall Dowdy	2-Raymond R. Glenn Jr.
4-Maria Browning	4-Shirley Musgrove
Amanda Roeder	5-Shirley Smith
5-Callie Anderson	Jeff Duvall
6-Carolyn Clay	7-Bryant Wick
Calvin Pickett	8-Calvin Musgrove
Julie Staton	10-Clint Reifsnider
7-Jennifer Fischer	14-Barbara Floyd
8-Madison Ueltschy	17-Jake Hood
10-Tiffany Harrison	Ann Phebus
13-Barbara Mayo-Wells	21-Chris Hood
14-Richard Sansing	22-Patrick Reed
15-Wendye Delph	24-David Duvall
Kris Reed	25-Kayla Jane Reifsnider
16-Amy Hood	Bree Stuart
18-Wayne Nichols	26-Billy Joe Delph
Hunter Reed	27-Heather Styers
19-Autumn Anderson	28-Sandra Hood
Roxanne Brunson	30-Patrick Williams
20-Kara Kimos	31-Bryce Heath
Thomas Plitt	
Ruby Plitt	
21-Jeanine Johnson	
22-Stephanie Fleming	
Cameron Hensel	
Pauline Hood	
Howard Streaker	
24-Virginia Frank	

Poplar Springs' Putz program was scheduled for January 6 but due to the bad weather we had to cancel it. We did see a partial program on Sunday, January 7. Thank you to our youth who recorded the audio version of the program. We were able to play the audio version and have a few songs performed in person. Thank you to: Elizabeth Lorah. Mikey Lorah, Kayla Reifsnider, Bella Reifsnider, Matt Watkins, Dawn Watkins and Becky Lorah for their input into the audio recording. A big thank you goes to Ann Sansing, Debbie Wilk, John Frank, Mikey Lorah, Pastor Dave Norton, Pat Browning. Janette Knill, and Jerry Unglesbee for the music. Hopefully, next year we can do it for the whole community.



*We had a successful Youth Cookies for Shut-ins project on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023. A big THANK YOU to all the cookie bakers: Laura, Virginia, Linda, Miriam, Valerie, Debbie, Sandra, Becky, Merhlyn, Clayleen, & Judy. The youth and youth at heart who participated in decorating the cookies, making cards and organizing cookies were: Kayla, Emma, Damian, Becky, Elizabeth, Dawn, Matt, Valerie, Will, Merhlyn, & Judy. Another Big THANK YOU to our delivering elves: Judy, Rhonda, Karen, & Ollie. 13 tins of cookies were given out and lots of Christmas cheer shared!*

# FEBRUARY YEAR B

February 4, 2024

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39.

February 11, 2024

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

February 18, 2024

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

February 25, 2024

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38.



## **St. Michael's Food Cellar**

St. Michaels Food Cellar is taking food donations. Please bring your canned goods to church on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month or take them directly to St. Michaels Catholic

# MARCH YEAR B

March 5, 2024

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.

March 10, 2024

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;  
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.

March 17, 2024

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12;  
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

March 24, 2024

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;  
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or  
Mark 15:1-39 (40-47).

March 31, 2024

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16: 1-8.

*Thank you to Jennings Chapel and Poplar Springs for all the goodies, flowers, gifts, and money that was given to me for Christmas. I appreciate every phone call and visit. It is my pleasure to serve such wonderful people.*

*Blessings, Sherrie*



Poplar Christmas Party, December 10, 2023

### **MORGAN'S COFFEE HOUSE**

6750 Woodbine Rd – Woodbine, Md. 21797  
**Doors open at 5:30 pm, Music Starts at 7:00 pm**

**Feb. 16:** Salem Bottom Boys (Bluegrass)  
**March 15:** Billy Harrison & Haywire Band



We want to offer everyone an opportunity to "forever be a part of the Worship center" by purchasing an engraved brick. Don't miss your opportunity to have a brick engraved with your name, dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one. All of the proceeds from the sale of the bricks will go directly back to support the worship center. Each brick costs \$45 and measures 4" x 8". Each brick can contain up to 3 lines of inscription each line with up to 14 letters, spaces, or punctuation per line. Please double check spelling & make sure how you submit the form is how you want your brick engraved. Any questions? You can contact Judy Gaardsmoe a 301-518-3978.

### **Thank You Poplar Springs and Jennings Chapel**

I hope your Christmas gatherings were filled with love, joy, and peace with friends and families.

Thank you all so much for your generosity this Christmas. Belinda and I didn't waste any time digging into the fruit, jelly, candied pecans, pickles, and soup mix. The poinsettias helped our home look festive for the family Christmas gathering. Thank you also for the energy chocolates for late-night sermon prep, band aids for the paper cuts from flipping pages of the Bible, socks to warm my feet, and for being honored with a memorial brick. Your generous monetary gifts are always appreciated, but what I appreciate and cherish the most are your notes inside your Christmas cards. I give thanks to God for you and am truly blessed to serve such loving congregations.

I pray that God showers you with blessings in body, mind, and spirit, in 2024.

Happy New Year,  
 Pastor Dave



*Congratulations to Blanca, Jennings Chapel's custodian, on the birth of her new baby boy, Jayden Alexander Minier Orellana. He was born on December 21, 2023, weighing in at 8 pounds, 4 oz.*



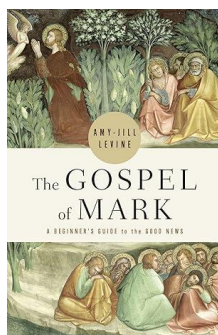
**Shrove Tuesday Co-operative Pancake Supper**

Feb. 13 – Howard Chapel, 1970 Long Corner Rd. Mt. Airy,

Md. 21771, 4:30-7:00 pm. Food, fun & fellowship. Youth activity table. No charge. A free-will offering is appreciated and proceeds will go to support The Morgan Chapel food pantry.



**Lenten Study**



Please join me for a Lenten Study, *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News*, by Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt University. This study will explore the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus, examine John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus's most notable stories and parables. We'll see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious as we study the Good News of the Gospel of Mark with Amy-Jill. The book features an in-depth study of select passages and illuminates the Gospel in its historical context and as a source for the other gospels. The study begins on Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30 pm for six consecutive weeks. Sessions will be done through ZOOM.



**Free Spaghetti Dinner**

Saturday, March 9, 2024 at Poplar Springs

UMC, 4:00-7:00 pm. Bring your family and friends! Donation Accepted to benefit the Youth Mission Team. Come support our youth and get a delicious meal!



# FEBRUARY

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir Practice, at Mary's, 6:30 pm	2 Groundhogs Day	3
4 St. Michaels Food Pantry Collection	5 J.C. Cancer Support Group, 7:00 pm	6 P.S. Ad Bd. Meeting, 7:00 pm.	7	8 Choir Practice, at Mary's, 6:30 pm	9	10
11	12	13 Shrove Tuesday Co- op Pancake Supper, Howard Chapel, 4:30- 7:00 pm.	14 Ash Wednesday Co-op Service. Morgan Chapel, 7:00 pm.  Valentines Day	15 Choir Practice, at Mary's, 6:30 pm	16 Morgan's Coffee House, 7:00 pm at M.C. Salem Bottom Boys (Bluegrass)	17
18	19 Presidents Day	20	21 Lenten Study, Via Zoom, 6:30 pm	22 Choir Practice, at Mary's, 6:30 pm	23	24
25	26	27	28 Lenten Study, Via Zoom, 6:30 pm	29 Choir Practice, at Mary's, 6:30 pm	29	

# MARCH

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 St. Michaels Food Pantry Collection	4 J.C. Cancer Support Group, 7:00 pm	5 P.S. Ad Bd. Meeting, 7:00 pm.	6 Lenten Study, Via Zoom, 6:30 pm	7 Choir Practice, at Mary's, 6:30 pm	8	9 Free Spaghetti Dinner, at P.S., 4:00-7:00 pm. Donations benefit Youth Mission.
10 Daylight Savings Time begins!	11	12 J.C. Bd. Meeting, 7:00 pm	13 Lenten Study, Via Zoom, 6:30 pm	14 Choir Practice, at Mary's, 6:30 pm	15 Morgan's Coffee House, 7:00 pm at Morgan Chapel UMC.	16
17 St. Patricks Day	18	19 Springs Begins!	20 Lenten Study, Via Zoom, 6:30 pm	21 Choir Practice, at Mary's, 6:30 pm	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26	27 Lenten Study, Via Zoom, 6:30 pm	28 Choir Practice, at Mary's, 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service, Mount Olive UMC, 7:00 pm	29 Good Friday Service, Jennings Chapel, 7:00 pm	30
31 Easter Sunrise Service, Air View Farm, 6:30 am						

**POPLAR SPRINGS U.M. CHARGE**

2601 Jennings Chapel Road

Woodbine Md. 21797