



THE SPIRE



Centenary United Methodist Church, 1501 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503
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March 2018

Anticipating an Awesome JIFF Speaker

Leidra McQueen, JIFF's March 8 guest, will be awesome. That's the opinion of Mayor Joan Foster, who is also Director of Development for Beacon of Hope. She should know because McQueen is Director of the Beacon of Hope Future Center at Heritage High School.



Future Centers at both Heritage and E.C. Glass High Schools provide resources on financial aid and college admissions for all Lynchburg City Schools pupils. Their guidance, beginning early, aims to instill an aspiration to attain post-secondary education in every graduate. It may be a four year or associate college degree, vocational certification, or military service, but Future Center directors intend that each student has a plan for continuing education, along with necessary support and resources to make that possible.

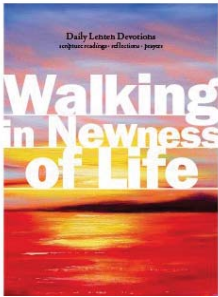
Lynchburg native Leidra McQueen is a graduate of Heritage and UVA, where she earned a degree in sociology. She is a former member of UVA's Advising Corps, assisting hundreds of students and families through the college admissions and financial aid process. She then did similar work at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC before choosing to return to Lynchburg where she applies her passion for student access and success in higher education.

McQueen will echo Mayor Foster's advice to JIFF's public school students, "Go for your dreams, never give up, work hard, stay focused, and ask Beacon of Hope for assistance to make your dreams of post-secondary education a reality."



Congratulations to the winners of the 2018 South of the Sanctuary Chili Cookoff: 1st - Smallshaw family, 2nd - Layne family, 3rd - Chris Howell. Proceeds will support youth activities and service projects. (by the way, the championship apron is MIA...if found please drop off in the church office.

A Mission Beyond Potatoes



Prior to Lent Pastor Doug asked that copies of the Society of St. Andrew's daily Lenten devotions, "Walking in Newness of Life," be distributed to those attending morning worship. Persons reading daily will learn much about SoSA's work in addition to gaining inspiration.

Beginning 25 miles away from Centenary in the hills of Big Island in 1979, SoSA has grown into the largest field gleaning organization in the country. Thousands of volunteers make possible the rescue of 25-30 million pounds of fresh, nutritious, excess produce each year that would otherwise go to waste for various marketing reasons. That food goes directly to food banks, soup kitchens and feeding agencies who share it, sometimes that same day, with those in greatest need around the country.

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March 2018 Spire

Contemplative Prayer Group Meeting

You have a wonderful opportunity to enter into a practice of the



Christian faith that will center you spiritually during your week and help you grow in this Lenten season and beyond. On Wednesday mornings at 7am, before people head off to work, you are invited to meet for a time of contemplative prayer.

The format will begin with a brief introductory reading moment from scripture or from one of the great Christians of the past. Then we spend twenty minutes in silence, as we offer ourselves to God in quiet thought and to listening with our spiritual ears. Then to end the time together, there is a final minute during which the leader will offer some brief word and conclude the time. Total: less than a half hour.

Interested? Come to the Centenary chapel at 7am Wednesday mornings. (use Marshall Street entrance)

This may be the very thing someone is looking for as an enhancement of their experience of the spiritual life. Please spread the word! All ages are welcome.

Christianity and Islam



Pastor Doug Gunsalus will be leading a winter-spring study. It will be a most extraordinary adventure in learning and understanding, and

ultimately in the richer understanding of both Islam and of our Christian faith.

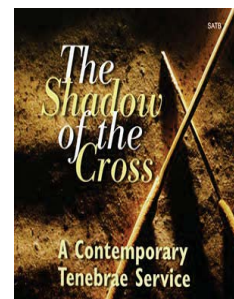
Group meetings are Sunday afternoons at 2:30 or Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in the parlor. Even if you missed the first sessions, you are invited to be present for as many sessions as possible. You will still benefit from the short readings each week.

If you did not pre-enroll, please call the church office (846-4601) to indicate your interest and reserve a study guide.

Choir Preparing Special Maundy Thursday Service

Mark your calendars for a special musical Tenebrae Service on Thursday, March 29 at 7pm. The Sanctuary Choir under the direction of Rev. David Williams has been hard at work preparing the *The Shadow of the Cross: A Contemporary Tenebrae Service* (arr. Lloyd Larson).

This cantata for Holy Week features both contemporary and traditional selections. Seven readings accompanied by the extinguishing of candles bring the program to a meditative conclusion shrouded in darkness.



Selections include contemporary favorites such as *Lamb of God; How Beautiful* and *You Are My All in All* as well as traditional hymns such as *Near the Cross; Beneath the Cross of Jesus* and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*.

Please take this opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker to experience this special worship program.

UMC 101: Easter

From the umc.org website, answers to frequently asked questions about Easter:

- Why is Easter on a different day each year? In 325 AD, the Council of Nicea set the date for the celebration of Easter as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. For this reason, the date will change each year and can fall anywhere from March 22 to April 25.
- Why is the Easter season 50 days long? The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. It is more than an extended celebration of the resurrection. In the early church, Lent was a season for new converts to learn about the faith and prepare for baptism on Easter Sunday. The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of new Christians.

2018 Operating Budget Through February 15

Receipts:

Offering	26,446
Loose Plate Offering	98
Church School Offering	189
Miscellaneous Income	129
Total Receipts.....	26,862

Expenses:

Support Staff Expense	11,779
Pastor Expense	11,948
Trustees	10,016
Apportionments	0
Office - Admin	1,196
Programs/Worship	1,317
Total Expenses.....	36,256

Benevolence Receipts 2018

Sager Brown	20
Fellowship Fund	105
JIFF	145
Pennies with a Purpose	162
Operation Teddy Bear	5
TOTAL \$	437

Stewardship - Jan/Feb 2018

	Operating	Capital	Other
Jan 7	1,614	80	210
Jan 14	2,010	120	170
Jan 21	2,139	20	188
Jan 28	1,876	100	300
Feb 4	no service due to weather		
Feb 11	3,690	80	350

What is Tenebrae?

The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial.

The service concludes in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus.

MEMORIALS



In Memory of "Ginny" Pearson

Ernestine Dodl
Joe Reed

In Memory of Shirley Moorman

Dawn and Barry Arrington
Ernestine Dodl
Bob Platt
Ida and Bill Powell
Joe Reed
Sue and Mike Reeves
Lisa and Bill Roseveare
Vickie and Dave Shackelford
Mrs. Fred Cawthorne
Vera and Tracie England
Molly Massie
Wayne Massie
Shalom Chapel Class
Sue Willis
RM and CS Ross
Claudia Mann

Ongoing Need at Parkview Mission

Food for Families is currently providing about 800 families each month with supplemental groceries and essentials. Your financial support helps with facility expenses, food refrigeration and operations. Please consider how you can financially support this vital district mission. Learn more by visiting www.parkviewcommunitymission.org

Potato (continued)

The feeding ministry that we knew originally as the "Potato Project" now includes many other kinds of produce as well. Several Centenary members gathered apples last fall in Bedford County, part of SoSA's Gleaning Network. And as a teen, Susan Howell Hall went to Virginia's Eastern Shore to participate in SoSA's Harvest of Hope. That week-long hunger-focused work/study mission program often results in an on-going commitment to ending hunger.

Last year Centenary used SoSA-produced materials for Vacation Bible School. During that week Belva Shelor was moved to volunteer preparation of bags to be filled with gleaned foods. Her inspiration resulted in delivery of a huge spool of red mesh, to be measured, cut, and tied on one end. The seemingly impossible task of preparing thousands of bags was accomplished that week when VBS pupils, leaders, and other church members rallied to a different mission project.

Should you not have a copy of SoSA's Lenten devotional booklet, ask at church for one. Then consider how you might support this exemplary hunger ministry offering food for both body and spirit at the end of this Lenten season.

Lectionary Readings for March 2018

March 4: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
March 11: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
March 18: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
March 25: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-16
March 29: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13

**Centenary United Methodist Church
1501 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503**

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Return Service Requested



March 2018

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1 5:30 pm JIFF 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	2 World Day of Prayer	3
4	5 7:00 pm Church Council (FH)	6 6:30-8 pm Girl Scouts (FH)	7 11:45 am Lenten Service @ Court Street UMC	8 5:30 pm JIFF 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	9	10
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins 5 pm Youth Group 6:30-8 pm Girl Scouts (FH)	12	13 8:30 am Centenary Breakfast @ Famous Anthony's	14 10:30 am Frances Allen Circle (P) 11:45 am Lenten Service @ Court Street UMC	15 5:30 pm JIFF 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	16	17
18 Pennies with a Purpose	19	20 6:30-8 pm Girl Scouts (FH)	21 11:45 am Lenten Service @ Court Street UMC Deadline for SPIRE	22 5:30 pm JIFF 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	23	24
25 Palm Sunday 12:15 pm Stephen Minister's 5 pm Youth Group 6:30-8 pm Girl Scouts (FH)	26	27	28 11:45 am Lenten Service @ Court Street UMC	29 Holy Thursday 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	30 Good Friday	31 Holy Saturday
Holy Week	Holy Week	Holy Week	Holy Week	Holy Week	Holy Week	Holy Week

Each Sunday:

9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Time 3rd Floor 11:00 am Worship in Sanctuary