

# The APPLESEED

SEBASTOPOL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

## BECOMING A BLESSED CHURCH

*Purpose, Presence, & Power*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted* – Matthew 5:4

Welcome to the third month of the year. As we journey through the Lenten season, we are grateful that God's presence is all around us. *Glory be to God in the highest* – and we surely enjoy his unconditional love more than we know. We also come to contemplate the purpose of this season, preparing to put aside some of our own desires in order to gain space in our hearts for helping others.

The church is a place where believers come together to share their spiritual experiences and to express their wishes to do better in life, as well as a place to feel closer to God and His spirit. Our own spirits can easily stray, as if we are wandering in the wilderness, as we travel on our life journeys. Desert areas can be seen, or felt, in different areas of our individual lives – this causes frustration and a sense of loss, even grief and depression. Jesus knew it right from the beginning, as shown in His words of encouragement: *Blessed are those who are mourn, for they will be comforted...* Jesus knew full well that grief, in itself, is not blessed; its effect can be seen on any face of sorrow, how it disfigures and destroys. Certainly it is not "happy." What kind of mourning brings blessing? Blessed are those who face their own sorrow with the resolve to learn, and to make sorrow an oblation.

Our instinct is to fight against pain of any kind, to try to evade it, or just distract ourselves from it in sinful ways. Sinful actions can be painful. But when our pain becomes excruciating and grief makes us remorseful, God knows, and He is full of love and compassion. He is merciful with comforting grace. When David acknowledged his adulterous actions, he was very remorseful – *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love, according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgression, and my sin is always before me* – Psalm 51

God's presence is always with us, though we may not always be aware of it; but whoever seeks life, God's presence will continue to comfort us. During this Lenten season, we are to look into our souls, and to recognize our neighbors who need comforting, whether with our expertise or by the Spirit of the Holy God. Whoever steps forward to comfort others will be comforted, too.

May the light of this season bring warmth, clarity, and understanding to all people; and may His words of compassion become the comforting words to many who are mourning. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.* Shalom.



Pastor Iunisi Tovo

Sebastopol United Methodist Church – 500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472

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## MISSION TEAM BENEFIT CHILI LUNCH

Sunday, March 11th, following church, will be the Mission Team's annual (and very popular!) Chili Lunch fundraiser – a delicious way to spend an afternoon! Choose from beef, chicken, turkey, or vegetarian chili, accompanied by salad, corn bread, French bread, & cookies. Delicious!

This year's proceeds will help youth teams from Maxwell Chandra's village in his home country of Zimbabwe. He has donations of soccer shoes, uniforms, and soccer balls, but he is in need of the funds to ship them. Come and enjoy a meal with the congregation and donate to a worthy cause!

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY LITTER CLEANUP EVENT

The next Highway 12 litter pick-up date is Saturday, April 7th. We will meet at 9:15 am at the Chevron station just east of downtown Sebastopol on Highway 12.

Info: Paul Schoch, (707) 823-3889.

## WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Saturday, March 10th at 10:00 am  
at Charlotte Fisher's home,  
2872 Canfield Rd, Sebastopol  
707-823-4817 fisherfarm@comcast.net

## Lent to Easter



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
RUTH AYRES  
ON TURNING  
90 YEARS YOUNG!  
ALL GOOD WISHES  
FOR YOUR  
100TH YEAR !!

## GOLDEN RULE

Golden Rule meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in Epworthian Hall. We share a pot-luck meal and discuss religious and philosophical issues of mutual interest. For info please contact the church office.

• Next Meetings are March 8th and 22nd •

order Easter lilies now!

## COFFEE HOUR

In January, the Hospitality Committee – Susan Kinder, Jennie Chesier, Suzanne Bailey, & Vicki Amtower – met to discuss coffee hour and how to bring on board more members of the church to participate in this lively social gathering.

Here are some of our thoughts:

1. Sign up for any Sunday by placing your name on the sign-up sheet in the front of Epworthian Hall.
2. If you wish to just donate food, we will be happy to do the set-up and cleanup.
3. Is there a special event coming up in your family such as a birthday, anniversary, birth, or other occasion? Make coffee hour part of the celebration.
4. Special holidays are wonderful to celebrate during coffee hour – this Valentine's Day, the committee will host a tea-type luncheon with sandwiches & sweets.
5. Ever make a delectable dessert but have too much left over? Bring it to coffee hour! If it needs to be eaten that morning and can't be frozen, please give us a heads-up by calling or emailing before church.
6. We can always use sliced cheese and sliced salami. If you pick up an extra package while shopping, just put it in the Epworthian Hall refrigerator – it will be very much appreciated!
7. To repeat: if you wish to donate food, we will be happy to do the set-up and cleanup. *THANK YOU.*

Susan Kinder 707-823-2139  
email susankinder@comcast.net

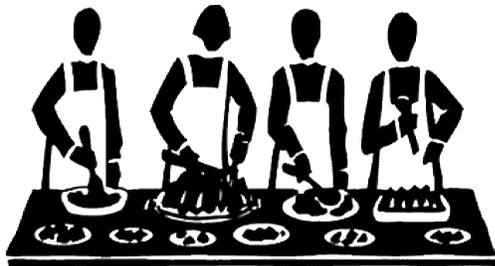
Suzanne Bailey 707-823-9080  
Jennie Chesier 707-823-7285  
Vicki Amtower 707-792-4327

## JOYFUL HOSPITALITY HOUR PLANNED FOR EASTER SUNDAY!

Please join us for a special Easter Hospitality Hour in Epworthian Hall following the service. We'll rejoice in the Resurrection as well as in the joy we find in being together to celebrate Easter Sunday! Please contact Susan Kinder to let us know what you're planning to bring. We always have a big crowd on Easter, and want to make sure we have refreshments in abundance!

If you would like to make a food contribution, the Hospitality Team suggests the following Spring/Easter specialties, but everything is welcome!

-- Deviled Eggs -- Colored hard-boiled eggs -- Breads/rolls like croissants, hot cross buns or coffee cake -- Fruit salad or fruit plate -- Cookies or cake (Spring or Easter theme would be lovely) -- Lemonade or Punch --

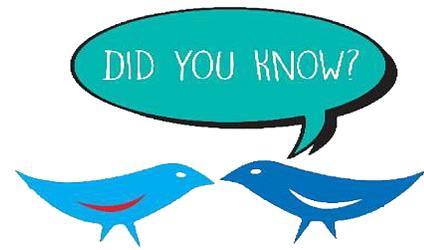


## SATURDAY TABLE

Thank you to everyone who donates money, food, and/or time to help with Saturday Table – your generous, important contributions directly help hungry people in our community.

- March Saturday Table is 3/24 •
- April Saturday Table is 4/28 •

Thank you to all who helped in February: Supplying food: Mark Reed, Jennie Cheshier, Barbara Hansen, Karen Bohn, Lisa VanderBoom, Sally Rose, Marlene Felsenfeld and Pat and Paul Schoch... Prep & Serve team: Mark Reed, Jennie Cheshier, Chris Beaty, Marlene Felsenfeld and Vi Moir. We served 15 meals to our guests and sent out 8 meals.



... That 45 people attended our first family game night at Epworthian Hall in February? I heard it was fun as well as competitive! When is the next one...

... That Gabe Yazollino volunteers at the Sebastopol Public Library to stack the bookshelves? He also plays on the Analy High School basketball team and volunteers for the Ceres Community Project...

... That Vicki Amtower also volunteers at the Sebastopol Public Library to stack the bookshelves. She is also helping to maintain our church library in the Chapel...

... That India Wade is traveling Japan this month as an exchange student with the Sebastopol World Friends program? Best wishes and safe travels, India...

... That Ruth Ayres celebrated her 99th birthday with a Golden Rule lunch (and cake!) on February 22, 2018! Ruth also attended the first family game night...

... That our guests at the February Saturday Table lunch raved about the spaghetti that Mark Reed cooked? Mark added some special ingredients – does he have a new calling?...

... That Carol Wegner is a docent at the Laguna de Santa Rosa, among all of her other commitments...

... That Thomas Bridler recently celebrated his 18th birthday? Congratulations, Thomas!

– Marlene Felsenfeld

## MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS

3/04 Beth Wakelee

3/11 Susan Kinder

3/18 Matthew Wittman

3/25 Julie Barbic

## FAMILY PIZZA & GAME NIGHT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS !!

*SebUMC's first-ever Pizza & Game Night was a resounding success – let's do it again!*

We held our first Family Fun Night on Friday Evening, February 16th in Epworthian Hall. Forty-five fun-seekers (ranging in age from just 2 months to a week shy of 99 years!) attended. Pizza was enjoyed by all. Some attendees played board games and card games, while others joined in song. The excitement grew when the *Minute to Win It* games commenced – highlights included Gabe diving to the floor to keep a balloon afloat and Paul and Loren competing to build a plastic-cup pyramid the fastest. Families competed to see who could move their M&M's fastest.

*Thank You to all who made it a success – those who supplied the pizza and salad, those who planned the music and games, and, not least... those who attended!*



TEXT & PHOTOS: CAROL WEGNER

PLEASE SEE OUR CHURCH BULLETINS  
OR CALL THE OFFICE FOR UP-TO-DATE  
INFO ABOUT SPECIAL  
EASTER WEEK EVENTS

## TRUSTEE'S WORK DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 24  
FROM 9:00 A.M. TO NOON  
*Let's get 'er done!*

*Lent is a time to take stock...*

# DAILY READINGS FOR MARCH 2018



- Thursday, March 1, 2018: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; 1 Peter 2:4-10
- Friday, March 2, 2018: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40
- Saturday, March 3, 2018: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8
- Sunday, March 4, 2018: Third Sunday in Lent
- Monday, March 5, 2018: Psalm 84; 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
- Tuesday, March 6, 2018: Psalm 84; 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19; Hebrews 9:23-28
- Wednesday, March 7, 2018: Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16; Mark 11:15-19
- Thursday, March 8, 2018: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 1:3-6
- Friday, March 9, 2018: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Daniel 12:5-13; Ephesians 1:7-14
- Saturday, March 10, 2018: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Numbers 20:22-29; John 3:1-13
- Sunday, March 11, 2018: Fourth Sunday in Lent
- Monday, March 12, 2018: Psalm 107:1-16; Exodus 15:22-27; Hebrews 3:1-6
- Tuesday, March 13, 2018: Psalm 107:1-16; Numbers 20:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13
- Wednesday, March 14, 2018: Psalm 107:1-16; Isaiah 60:15-22; John 8:12-20
- Thursday, March 15, 2018: Psalm 51:1-12; Isaiah 30:15-18; Hebrews 4:1-13
- Friday, March 16, 2018: Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 30:1-10; Hebrews 4:14-5:4
- Saturday, March 17, 2018: Psalm 51:1-12; Habakkuk 3:2-13; John 12:1-11
- Sunday, March 18, 2018: Fifth Sunday in Lent
- Monday, March 19, 2018: Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 43:8-13; 2 Corinthians 3:4-11
- Tuesday, March 20, 2018: Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 44:1-8; Acts 2:14-24
- Wednesday, March 21, 2018: Psalm 119:9-16; Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23; John 12:34-50
- Thursday, March 22, 2018: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Philippians 2:1-11
- Friday, March 23, 2018: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:1-9; Philippians 2:12-18
- Saturday, March 24, 2018: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:10-16; Mark 10:32-34, 46-52
- Sunday, March 25, 2018: Liturgy of the Palms
- Sunday, March 25, 2018: Liturgy of the Passion
- Monday, March 26, 2018: Monday of Holy Week
- Tuesday, March 27, 2018: Tuesday of Holy Week
- Wednesday, March 28, 2018: Wednesday of Holy Week
- Thursday, March 29, 2018: Maundy Thursday
- Friday, March 30, 2018: Good Friday
- Saturday, March 31, 2018: Holy Saturday
- Sunday, April 1, 2018: Easter Vigil
- Sunday, April 1, 2018: Resurrection of the Lord
- Sunday, April 1, 2018: Easter Evening

# MARCH 2018

• PLEASE REFER TO NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS, OR CALL OFFICE •

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 3rd Sunday in Lent	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Golden Rule  Mission Team	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Women's Study Group
<b>11</b> 4th Sunday in Lent	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 5th Sunday in Lent  CHILI LUNCH	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Golden Rule	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Trustees' Work Day  Saturday Table
<b>25</b> PALM SUNDAY	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Maundy Thursday Supper/Communion	<b>30</b> GOOD FRIDAY	<b>31</b>

**SUBMISSIONS  
FOR APRIL  
APPLESEED  
DUE TODAY!**

**EASTER SUNDAY  
IS APRIL 1ST**



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