

Ashland Church News

April 2016

Ashland Presbyterian Church

116 Ashland Road,

Cockeysville, MD 21030

Phone: 410-527-1844

The Rev. Shannon Meacham

On the web at: www.ashlandpc.org



pulpitshenanigans

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Penny DeBoer

Cathy Griffiths

Barbara Porter

JoAnn Ruther

Cheri Wheeler

Director of Music

Yeri Jang

Pre-school Director

Anne Auvil

Office Manager

Cecil Weber

For years we have been hearing the disturbing news of global climate change, greenhouse gasses, and the need for renewable energy. As people of faith we can enter into the conversation from a perspective that is spiritually motivated even if we don't fully comprehend or appreciate the rhetoric of big business and oil companies, environmentalists and conservationists, celebrities and heads of state. Being overwhelmed by the politics or economics—or, for that matter, the science—of being green does not need to diminish our imagination for all the ways we might green up our spiritual practices.

Not that we should choose ignorance over a more serious effort to understand global warming, mountaintop removal, nonrenewable fossil fuels, and the like. But if none of these “inconvenient truths” have claimed your attention, then consider going green for purely spiritual reasons.

The best strategy for finding the point at which green practices and spiritual practices intersect is to begin at the beginning. Begin with Genesis—with the goodness of all God created. The politicians, scientists, and journalists, who promote support for this or that solution, often begin by looking at the problems. Then they startle us with the clear and present danger that will result should we refuse to curb our uses and abuses of the earth's resources. A spiritual approach, however, doesn't begin with the problem. It begins with the knowledge of, and love for, our Creator and all creation.

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CHURCH NEWS

**FROM SUNDAY, APRIL 3
THROUGH
SUNDAY, MAY 22,
WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE ONE
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11:00 A.M.**

On Sunday, April 10, Rev. Tanya Denley will preach at Worship while Pastor Shannon is away.

On Sunday, April 17 Kristi Cobb, Pianist and Kathryn Higgins, Violinist will provide Special Music at Worship.

**Saturday, April 23 Church Clean-Up
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

Sunday, April 24 will be Yeri's (our beloved music director) last Sunday with us. Plans are underway for a farewell reception. Details to come.

On Sunday, May 29 we will begin our summer worship schedule with ONE worship service at 10:00 a.m.



pulpitshenanigans (continued)

Genesis paints an exquisite portrait of all that God breathed into being on each of the six days of creation. But the seventh day initiates a most astonishing creation. God creates a day of rest, or Sabbath.

24 Hour days, plant dormancy, life cycles, hibernation, the need for sleep . . . these are some of the outcomes of God's seventh-day design. God creates "rest." Sabbath honors the necessary wisdom of dormancy. If certain plant species, for example, do not lie dormant for winter, they will not bear fruit in the spring. If this continues for more than a season, the plant begins to die. If dormancy continues to be prevented the entire species will die. A period of rest—in which nutrition and fertility most readily coalesce—is not simply a human psychological convenience; it is a spiritual and biological necessity.

It makes me wonder how much greener our lives would be if we intentionally recovered a spiritual practice of Sabbath-keeping. By simply following the sacred rhythm God set out for us at creation, we would find healing for our souls as well as healing for the earth. What if we were to imitate the Jewish tradition of Sabbath, in which we refrain from all use of technology for a 24-hour period each week? What if we only went places that were within walking distance on Sundays? What if we unplugged every appliance in our homes for the better part of a day? Without a doubt we'd reduce our carbon footprint, but think too of our reduced stress, our improved physical health, and our spiritual well-being!

Most of us are not ready for such a radical conversion, but we could take simpler steps toward a recovery of Sabbath practices. God knows it won't be easy. That's probably why God listed "remember to keep the Sabbath" among the Ten Commandments instead of leaving "resting" up to our discretion. Initially, we may wonder what to do with our day if we're not catching up on work. But in time, the Spirit will feed our imagination for how best to enjoy Sabbath. Oh, sure, we'll go back to work on Monday and more than likely resort to the habit of running ourselves ragged all week long, but we'll do so with a new awareness of the rest that awaits us. And while we rest, all of creation rests, too. That's what I call "renewable energy."

May we all attempt a better, more sustainable spiritual practice in the next few months, a great day to start would be Earth Day, April 22!

In Peace,
Pastor Shannon

Wayne Muller, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in Our Busy Lives* (New York: Bantam Books, 2000), p. 7.

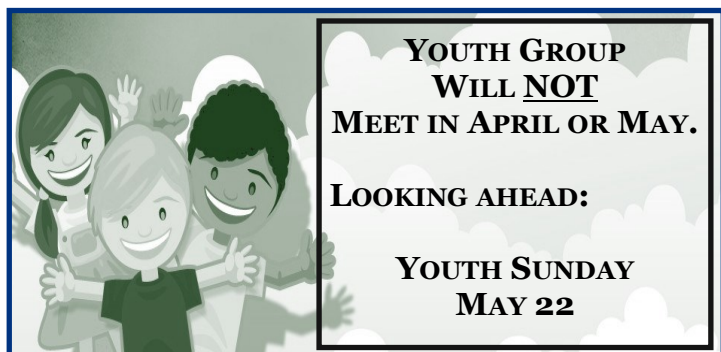


We are beginning to see signs of springtime with the weather changing and flowers sprouting. The warmer temperatures are allowing the classes to finally get outside on the playground.

The students began March by celebrating Dr. Suess' birthday. They enjoyed eating green eggs and ham and making Dr. Suess' famous red and white hat. St. Patrick's Day was the next celebration. The leprechaun came to our school and left a pot of gold for the children to find. The theme for the month was construction, so the kids learned

about and practice building, painting and measuring. Since Easter came early this year, the month ended with a special celebration of Easter.

We are in the process of accepting registration for nature camp and the summer program as well as fall 2016/17 registration. If you know of anyone who is looking for a program for their child, please send them our way. We still have plenty of space available.



Below is a link to an article about Ann Weems passing:

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/3/22/ann-weems-presbyterian-poet-laureate-dies-age-81/>

SARAH'S HOPE

Please remember Sarah's Hope during one of your next shopping trips!

Bread
Fresh fruit
Breakfast bars
Pop tarts
Cereal
Instant oatmeal
Canned fruit (big cans)
Shelf-stable milk
Peanut butter and jelly
Soup and stews (big cans)
Frozen hot dogs
Frozen hamburgers
Hot dog & hamburger rolls

Paper cups
Paper Plates
Toothbrushes & paste
Shampoo
Deodorant
Dove Soap
Liquid Soap
Lotion
Feminine products
Razors
Baby wipes
Diapers
Formula

Granola Bars
Graham Crackers
Fruit Cups
Cookies
Plastic ware
Napkins
Laundry detergent
Aspirin
Band aids
First Aid kits
Towels & wash clothes
Twin Sheets





In April, **Special Music** will be held on the 17th. Two senior music majors from Towson University will provide the music. Kristi Cobb, Pianist and Kathryn Higgins, Violinist are roommates and have performed together many times. Kristi is the pianist for the church service held each Sunday afternoon at Edenwald and they have both played an evening recital at Edenwald. Following is a brief biographical for both Kristi and Kathryn:

Kristianna Cobb

Kristianna is a senior Music Education major studying at Towson University. Her primary instrument is piano, and she enjoys sharing her love for the instrument through performance, as a soloist and an accompanist, and education, as a private teacher as well as an elementary vocal/general music teacher. During her time at Towson, Kristianna has competed and received 1st prize for the Reynaldo Reyes Piano Award and the Henry Sanborn Piano Award. She is a member of both NAFME (National Association for Music Educators) and ACDA (American Choral Directors Association).

Kathryn Higgins

Kathryn Higgins is a senior at Towson University. Her major is music education and she also has a great interest in speaking/learning Spanish. She is a violin and viola teacher at the charter school Wolfe street academy. She is also an active member in both the American Strings Teacher Association (ASTA) and National Association for Music education (NAFME). Her goal is to teach exploratory music and strings in elementary and/or middle schools. Her hobbies include watching I Love Lucy and Twilight Zone and exploring new cooking recipes.

Looking ahead: May 8th: Charm City Bronze Bell Choir,
Beau Lochte, Director

- Peg Paterson



SUNDAY, APRIL 24 WILL BE YERI'S LAST SUNDAY AT ASHLAND.

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A FAREWELL RECEPTION.

PLEASE WATCH THE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MORE DETAILS.



GRANDPARENTS, PARENTS, ADULTS, AND OLDER YOUTH

Ashland Mission NEEDS YOUR INPUT on a mission opportunity with CEDEPCA,

The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America

**Visit www.cedepca.org for details on their activities that:
Educate citizens on Reformed Biblical and
Theological understanding**

**Prepare women for empowered lives as beloved,
valued Children of God**

**Alleviate disaster trauma with psychological
and spiritual attention**

**Open worlds of understanding with Intercultural
Encounters in Guatemala**



If Ashland wishes to join the Baltimore Presbytery's partnership with Cedepca we will:

Make a yearly contribution to Cedepca's ministry from Mission budget

Be in mutual prayer monthly

Participate in Cedepca Partnership trips

Learn about each other's encounters with God

Share faith stories with Guatemalan Christians

**ASK ME questions ABOUT CEDEPCA anytime.
bonnie.clarke@gmail.com or call 410-472-2758**

Look for an mission opinion survey in May's Newsletter

-Bonnie Clarke





Christian Education Classes 10:00 am
Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
ONE Worship 11:00 am

WEEKLY EVENTS ...

Sundays	Special Needs Troop #927 2:00 p.m.; Church of the Nazarene 5:00—7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays	Daisy Troop #625 7:00 p.m.
Wednesdays	Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings 8:30 p.m.
Thursdays	Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir: 8:00 p.m.
Fridays	Church of the Nazarene (3rd Friday) 9:30 p.m.—Midnight
Saturday	Church of the Nazarene 7:30-9:30 p.m.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Worship Services 11:00 am only Sunday School 10:00 am Adult Sunday Sch. 10:00 am	4 Project Linus 9:30 am	5	6	7	8 Broadmead Barn Sale 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.	9 Broadmead Barn Sale 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
10 Worship Service 11:00 am only Sunday School 10:00 am Adult Sunday Sch. 10:00 am NO Youth Group	11 Women's Group 12:30 pm	12 Session 6:30 pm	13	14	15	16
17 Worship Service 11:00 am only 10:00 am Sunday School Adult Sunday Sch. 10:00 am Special Music at Worship	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 	23 Sarah's Hope 2-5 pm Church Clean-Up 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
24 Worship Service 11:00 am only NO Adult Sunday School Yer's Last Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30

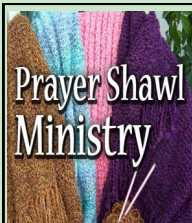
ASHLAND CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	Anniversaries	Deacon/Elder Ordination Anniversaries
4/6 Debbie Berlin Debbie Modisette 4/7 Fred Wagner 4/10 Debbie Nassau 4/12 Mary Pribble Peggy Cooper 4/13 Bill Clarke 4/26 Shannon Meacham 4/28 Lena Kern	4/1 Steve & Julee Ward 4/9 Julie & Fred Wagner 4/16 Sandy & Rick Losemann	4/22 Jacquie Sasser

ASSIGNMENTS


2016	April
USHERS/ GREETERS	4/3 Deb Miller 4/10 Nancy Starr, Barb Porter 4/17 Deb Miller 4/24
SERVERS	4/3 Rene Florendo
LITURGIST	4/3 4/10 Sue Ruhl 4/17 4/24
VAN DRIVERS	4/3 Jerry DeBoer 4/10 Butch Zink 4/17 Bill Kobokovich 4/24 Kim Bednarik

Why not become more involved in Worship? Sign up to be an usher/greeter, liturgist or server. Sign up sheets are on the table in the hallway.



Please contact Annette Merrill at 410-472-0010 if you know someone in need or would like more information.

If you would like to be a knitting volunteer, please call Annette.



***This is your garden, Creator God
A thing of beauty
Beyond understanding
A poem that is being written
Not in words
But in colours
Wind's whisper
Soaring bird
Snowdrop's petal
Gentle rain
Sunlight's warmth
This is your garden, Creator God
A thing of beauty***



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