

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2023 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Suzanne Umstott

Vice President:

Debbie Streicher

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

Casey Colledge

15 N. Smallwood Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-6604

www.stpaulcumberland.org

Email: debbie@stpaulcumberland.org

March 2023

Pastor's Ponderings

FOLLOWING THE WAY OF CHRIST OUR REDEEMER

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education

(Faith

Formation):

Debbie Streicher

Evangelism

Jane Roderick

Finance:

Casey Colledge

Ministry in Daily Life:

Nancy Ayers

Property:

Todd Umstott

Social Ministry (Fellowship):

Cindy Read

Worship and Music:

Liz Medcalf

Youth:

Gary Miller

In a month's time we will be waving and sing songs of triumph and praise that sound very joyous. We will bless the Lord and proclaim there to be peace and glory. And then we will take a deep breath. This is the day that comes before all days—the day that begins our journey, not to the empty tomb, but to the cross of Holy Week.

For in about a month's time we will be celebrating/observing, Passion/Palm Sunday. We get excited about Jesus riding into town and being exalted until we think about the next time he will travel and we will gather. It's hard not to look ahead; it's difficult to remain in the moment.

We throw our cloaks down and maybe even dance around, giddy with the knowledge of the miracles we have seen and heard. We, like the disciples who walked along with Jesus down the dusty roads, proclaim that this is the Messiah. Thanks be to God! And in the moment we recognize what is surely to come. We hail the one who comes in the name of the Lord to bring peace not only in heaven but to earth as well, and we sense the violence that is truly just around the corner awaiting our dear Savior and Lord.

Daily we live with this balance of overwhelming joy and impending sorrow and pain. Just as a baby enters the world squalling, another soul slips quietly away. Laughter bubbles over at one table, whole at another angry words dictate a meal in silence. The week of Passion/Palm Sunday and Holy Week highlights the tension between the celebration of life and the knowledge of imminent death.

continued on page 2

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Administrator

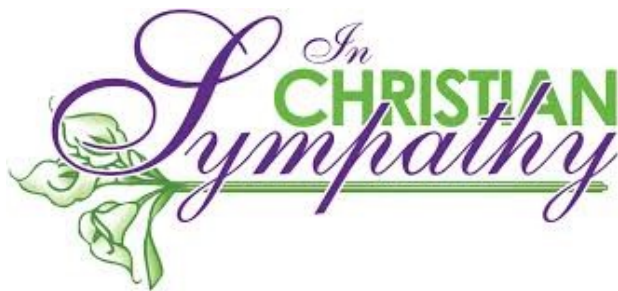
CASEY COLLEDGE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

continued from page 1

At this time of the year, every year, we truly recognize that Jesus is the Lord of ALL, the King of Heaven and Earth. It is a bittersweet recognition that it is our Lord, our Jesus who rides the colt and starts down that very narrow road, into the city. Come, let us in the coming month wave high our palm branches and let us follow where He leads the way. For you see my dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus, our mission in this old world is much the same as Christ's as he entered that holy city of Jerusalem on a colt so many centuries ago. We are not called to conquer the world, as much as we are called to face our tasks and proclaim God's good news humbly, with full awareness of the difficulties we will encounter. Our mission, like Christ's, is not to avoid the painful realities of the crosses in our everyday lives, but to face them head-on, knowing that God, our most gracious heavenly Father, will ultimately see us through each and every hurdle of this life, from the cross to the mighty resurrection. Thanks be to God!

In His Service and Devotion,
Fr. Ryan +



Our Christian sympathy is extended
to the
families of Dave Christopher,
Dellann Fultz and Larry Goldizen.

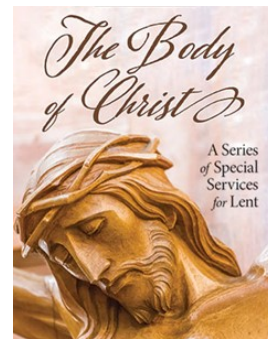
From the president.....

As Easter fast approaches I like to reflect on the significance of Easter and Jesus Christ's triumph over death. Easter brings hope, new beginnings, and Eternal Life, made possible by the One who loved us enough to die in our place, Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 Amen.

Blessings
Sue Umstott
Council President

The Body Of Christ Lenten Worship Series



Lenten Vespers in the
lower level chapel
Wednesdays at 6:00

This series of services takes the time to consider seriously our Lord's humanity, the human body in which he wrought our salvation. Week by week, responsive calls to worship, Scripture readings, hymn stanzas, and prayers invite congregation members to focus their attention on:

- the feet of Christ
- the eyes of Christ
- the hands of Christ
- the mouth of Christ
- the ears of Christ
- the heart of Christ.

Vacation Bible School 2023



Plans have begun for the Cumberland Area Joint Vacation Bible School 2023. It will take place at St. Paul's from **Monday, June 12 through Thursday, June 15 from 5:30 to 7:30pm.** The next planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 21st at 5:00 p.m. in St. Paul's fellowship hall.



Thank you for your response to our request for empty plastic bottles.

At this time, we have plenty to use for this ministry to our community.

The Bountiful Blessings Team



The Taking Faith Home Message heard just before the benediction each week is now available on a YouTube channel. Families are encouraged to use the video with children to encourage caring conversations, prayers, and blessings in the home.

<https://www.youtube.com/@TFH-Rosita-Debbie>

Happy March celebrations!!!!



- 3 – Sabra Isom
- 13 – Andrew Highland
- 14 – Stephanie Wade
- 16 – Marsha Tarte
- 19 – Barbara Highland
- 23 – Kay & Mack Beal (1991)

Kaden Sharpless (grandson of Donna Goldizen)
Cancerersary Diagnosis 2008

Almsgiving During Lent



Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. The suggestion during Lent from our weekly bulletin insert, Taking Faith Home, is to decorate and use an Almsgiving Box to place in your home. The boxes are available outside the sanctuary door on the side closest to the parking lot. The boxes will be collected on Good Friday and donations will be used for a local ministry.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. Decorate an Almsgiving Box to collect money for those in need during Lent. Place the box in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent. This week rather than eating out, place money that you might have spent in the box to give to others.

Pray: Loving God, thank you for giving us daily bread. Help us to give to others so that they may also be given daily bread. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.



Spiritual Gifts Assessment



PLACE helps you to learn about the gifts God has given you through learning about your personality, abilities, and passions and how they connect in your life. **The next opportunity for PLACE the spiritual gifts assessment will be held on March 10-11.**

Please sign- up ASAP. The sign- up sheet is on the bulletin board near Fellowship Hall.

Day 1 (Friday, March 10) time together begins at 5:00, includes dinner, and finishes at 9:00pm. Day 2 (Saturday, March 11) begins at 9:30am, includes lunch, and finishes at 1:30pm. Questions?

Email or call Debbie Streicher (703-303-7255 or dstreicher52@gmail.com) .



Hyacinth, lily, mum
and tulip plants
for Easter Sunday can be
ordered through the church

office in honor or memory of a loved one,
family member or friend. The plants will be
displayed in the sanctuary Easter morning and
can be taken home
following worship.

The cost is \$7 per plant;
orders are due by
Thursday, March 30th.

Please include a
designation for the bulletin.

*thank
you*

The Christopher family would like to thank the congregation for their many prayers and cards over the past 18 months. Dave drew strength from worshipping with his St. Paul's family.

Thank you to Debbie, Casey and Timmy for their participation in the service and to David for the beautiful music. Thank you Debbie for preparing the bulletins. A special thank you to Pastor Ryan for his hospital visits and his beautiful words of encouragement for Dave and the family. We also want to thank Pastor and the staff for accommodating the non-traditional aspects of the funeral. It was a beautiful and memorable service and we are grateful to all that made it possible. As a family we will cherish the incredible tribute to a unique and special man.

With sincere appreciation,
Rena and the Christopher Family

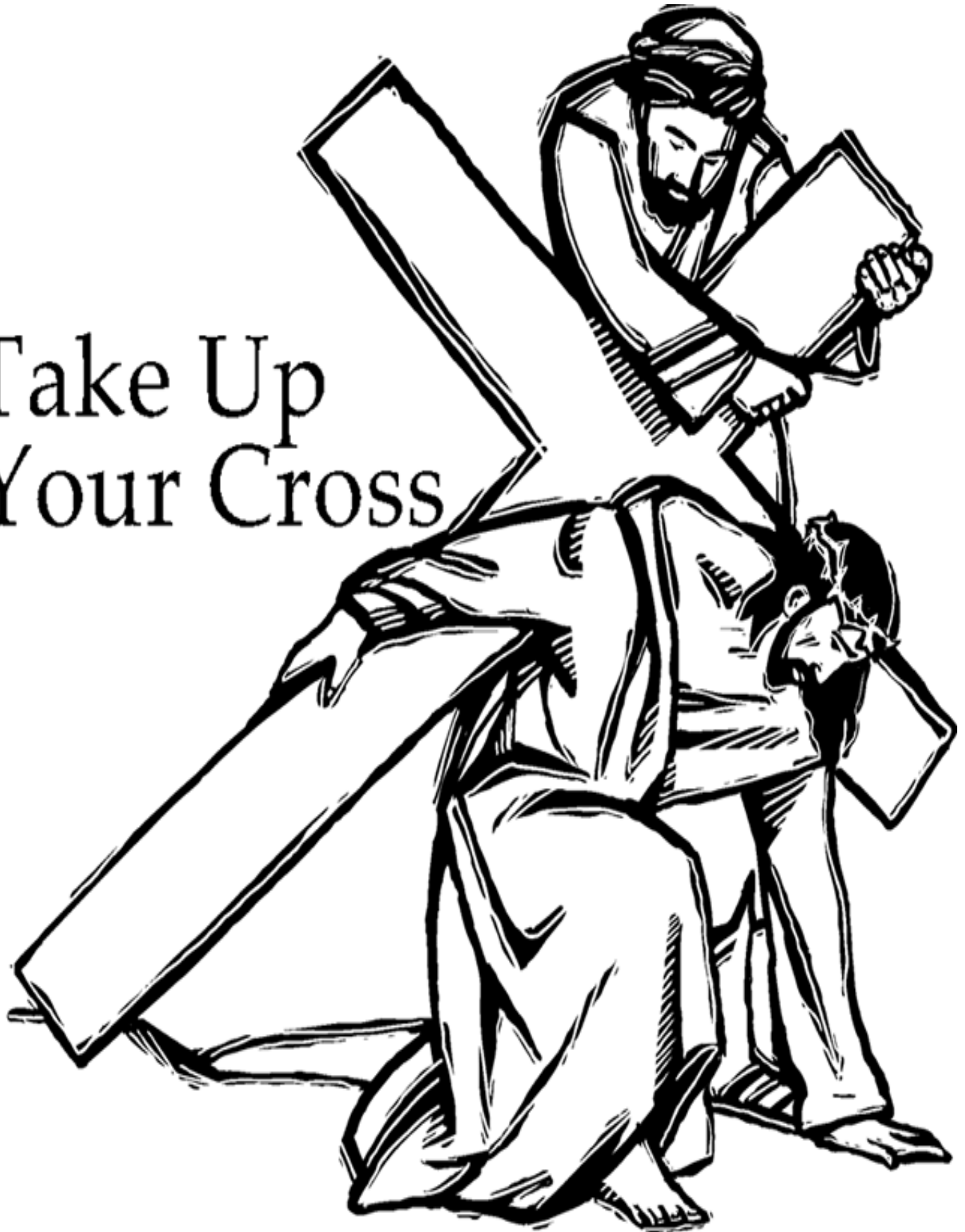


Easter Sunday floral baskets

We will order 10 floral baskets which will adorn the sanctuary in praise and adoration for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you would like to sponsor one of these baskets in honor or memory of a loved one, family member or friend please contact Debbie Szymanski.

The cost of each basket is \$75.00.

Take Up Your Cross





Wednesday **March 1**
 5:20 PM Bell rehearsal
 6:00 PM Vespers
 6:30 PM Choir rehearsal
Saturday **March 4**
 Food Bank fundraiser-fellowship hall
Sunday **March 5**
 8:30 AM Book Study
 10:00 AM Worship
 11:30 AM Adult and Youth LOFT
Monday **March 6**
 5:30-7:00 New Members class
Wednesday **March 8**
 5:20 PM Bell rehearsal
 6:00 PM Vespers
 6:30 PM Choir rehearsal
Thursday **March 9**
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings
Friday **March 10**
 5:00-9:00 PLACE-Spiritual
 Gifts Assessment
Saturday **March 11**
 9:30-1:30 PLACE-Spiritual
 Gifts Assessment
Sunday **March 12**
 8:30 AM Book Study
 10:00 AM Worship
 11:30 AM Adult and Youth LOFT
 1:00-4:00 Girls Scouts Thinking Day-fellowship hall
Monday **March 13**
 5:30-7:00 New Members class
Tuesday **March 14**
 5:30 PM Council Meeting

Wednesday
 5:20 PM
 6:00 PM
 6:30 PM
Sunday
 8:30 AM
 10:00 AM
 11:30 AM
Monday
 5:30-7:00 Bountiful Blessings delivery
Tuesday
 5:00 PM
Wednesday
 5:20 PM
 6:00 PM
 6:30 PM
Thursday
 4:00-6:00
 6:15 PM
Sunday
 8:30 AM
 10:00 AM
 11:30 AM
Monday
 5:30-7:00
Wednesday
 5:20 PM
 6:00 PM
 6:30 PM
March 15
 Bell rehearsal
 Vespers
 Choir rehearsal
March 19
 Book Study
 Worship
 Adult and Youth LOFT
March 20
 Bountiful Blessings delivery
 New Members class
March 21
 VBS Meeting
March 22
 Bell rehearsal
 Vespers
 Choir rehearsal
March 23
 Bountiful Blessings
 Worship and Music
 Committee Meeting via Zoom
March 26
 Book Study
 Worship
 Adult and Youth LOFT
March 27
 New Members Class
March 29
 Bell rehearsal
 Vespers
 Choir rehearsal