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Walmsley Boulevard United Methodist Church

Church Office: 804.275.8508; Church Website: www.walmsleyblvdumc.org

Church E-mail Address: walmsleyblvdumc@verizon.net

Reverend Denise Watkins, Pastor

April

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have been practicing love during this season of Lent at Walmsley. And the love that we are talking about in Christ Jesus looks like:

**Forgiveness,
Loving service,
Kindness,
Putting other's needs ahead of our own,
Faith and Hope,
Trust in God's provision for us now and in the future.**

Because the love that we have shed in our hearts by Jesus always works itself out in our actions and in our character. That is what we are about here in the church - Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. By the grace of God, we are shaping and molding people into people of character and love, who look more like Jesus with each passing year.

We are preparing for one of the most celebratory and joyous times in the church, Easter Sunday where we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the defining story for our lives and for the church. Death and Sin do not have the last word. God raised Jesus on the third day as He will raise every believer on that day to eternal life. God transforms the cross into the gift of eternal life.

We hope you come out to join us for this celebration that He lives! And with this good news comes a new way that we are to live together. We are to live lives of love, and mercy, and forgiveness and doing all the good that we can do. With that I'd like to offer you this paraphrase of the Sermon on the Mount by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia:

Blessed are those who are willing to enter into the process of being healed, for they will be come healers. Blessed are those who recognize their own inner violence, for they will come to know nonviolence.

Blessed are those who are willing to let go of selfishness and self-centeredness, for they will become a healing presence.

Blessed are those who listen with compassion, for they will become compassionate.

Blessed are those who are willing to enter into conflict, for they will find transformation.

Blessed are those who know their interdependence with all of creation, for they will become unifiers.

Blessed are those who live a contemplative life stance, for they will find God in all things.

Blessed are those who strive to live these beatitudes, for they will be reconcilers.

Happy Easter,

Pastor Denise Watkins



APRIL EVENTS



**EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 1, 2018, 11AM**

HE HAS RISEN!

Bluegrass/Gospel Jam

Saturday April 28th, 5p

COUNTRY CHRISTIAN BREAKFAST

SUNDAY APRIL 15TH, 9AM

5th Sunday Celebration

Sunday April 29th

With musical guests from the Country/Gospel/Bluegrass Jam Band

Brunch @ 10:00a, Worship @ 10:30a

In the Fellowship Hall- Please bring a dish to share if you are able!

**Bring your children to join the music and fun during
Children's Choir at 9:45am every Sunday!**

**children's
choirs**
Because we were made to praise!



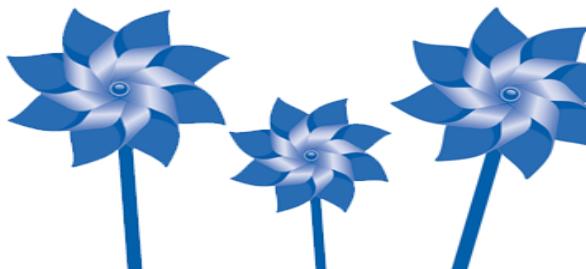
Grocery Ministry & Clothes Closet

Tuesday April 10th, 10a-12p





APRIL
National Child Abuse
Prevention Month



WBUMC will be joining the pinwheel campaign again this year!

The pinwheel is a happy, uplifting symbol of childhood and can be used in a number of ways to draw attention to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Pinwheels are the national symbol for child abuse prevention and the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign focuses on positive efforts to ensure that all children have the safe, stable, nurturing families they deserve.

If you'd like to donate to Greater Richmond SCAN you can visit their website at <http://grscan.com> to see how you can help OR designate a special amount on Sunday morning during the offering.

Cook's Corner



Broccoli Cheese Soup

4 heads broccoli, cut into 1-in pieces
 Olive oil, for drizzling
 Salt and freshly ground pepper
 1 stick (4 ounces) unsalted butter
 1 whole onion, diced
 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
 4 cups whole milk
 2 cups half-and-half
 Pinch nutmeg
 3 cups grated cheese (Cheddar, Jack, etc.), plus more for garnish, optional
 1 cup chick broth, optional

If you'd like to share a recipe, please submit it to the church office by April 19th.

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F
2. Remove 2 cups of the broccoli florets cut in half, drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place on baking sheet cut-side down and bake until florets begin to crisp and turn slightly brown
3. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a pot over medium heat. Add the onions and cook until softened, 3-4 min. Sprinkle the flour on top. Stir to combine and cook until the flour is absorbed and smells lightly toasted, 1 min or so. Add the milk and half-and-half. Add the nutmeg, then broccoli, a small dash of salt and plenty of black pepper. Cover the pot and reduce the heat to low. Simmer until the broccoli is tender, 20-30 min. Stir in the cheese and allow to melt.
4. Taste and season with salt and pepper as needed. Garnish with the toasted broccoli or grated cheese, serve, and enjoy!

April Birthdays

2– Rick Madison
6– Robin Dodson
7– Hannah Gilfillen
10– Bob Moseley
13– Laura Guess
14– Mike Watkins
15– Chris Campbell
16– Mallie Branch

21– Michael Lee Campbell
22– Vanessa Anderson
27– Alaini Rogers
27– Alvin Seay
30 Diane Burton



1st Week in May Birthdays

3– Caleb Watkins

5– Avery Farmer

7– Linda Flournoy

April Anniversaries

5– Diane & Sterling Burton
9– DeeDee & Jerry Smith
15– Lidia & David Tyree



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

The Church Office will begin working on updating the directory for 2018/2019. If you would like to be included in the new church directory, please fully and legibly fill out the form on the back of the bulletin inserts in Sunday's bulletin and place in the offering plate or return to the Church Office NO LATER THAN APRIL 8TH.

Sunday Morning Greeters for April

1– Jackie Matze	15– Gloria & Jerry Holmes
8– Ruby Garrett	22– Anne Moseley
	29– Pat Weaver

April Communion Servers

Christine Price Bonnie Heretick

Sunday Morning Readers for April

1– Bonnie Heretick
8– Rose Henshaw
15– Gloria Lambert
22– Shaun Cox

Save the Dates!

5/8 – Grocery Ministry/Clothes Closet, 10a
5/10 – Josephine Day Circle Mtg, 10:30a
5/17 – Admin Council Mtg, 6:30p
5/19 – Youth Dance Rehearsal
5/20 – Country Christian Breakfast, 9a
5/20 – Youth Dance Presentation, 11a
5/26 – Music Jam, 5p
5/28 Office Closed

Would you like to contribute to the Walmsley Witness? We welcome your news, articles, quotes, and jokes! To be included in the May Newsletter, please have your submissions to the church office no later than Monday, April 19th.



Applying Bible Principles

Someone once said, “Experience is a good teacher, but she gives the test first and then the lesson.” That’s certainly true, and based on many of life’s experiences, we frequently fail the test before we can benefit from the lesson.

The formula “*e* equals *mc*²” is familiar to many college students but understood by very few people. Most of us know it has something to do with Einstein and was the formula that led to the release of enormous power and to the nuclear age. Similarly, in funding the local church, “*e*” might stand for *every*, “*m*” for *member*, “*c*” for *commitment*, and the “2” for the *effort multiplied by itself*. The fruit of that kind of effort is much more powerful than what Einstein discovered, even as Jesus described it in Matthew 21:22- “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

Right now, as we consider the opportunity to support the ministries here at Walmsley Blvd UMC, God is putting us to the test. As Gordon Moyers stated, “Responsible giving or stewardship is not man’s way of raising money, but God’s way of raising people... The church’s budget is not a list of its expenses, but a record of its vision. It is not a list of bills to be met, but a program of ministry to be achieved.”

As each of us prayerfully considers what God would have us give, and as we obey what God asks of us, we can trust him to provide the resources. That’s a test—a test of where we are spiritually much more than where we are financially. It’s a test of us as individuals and of us as a church. The question is whether or not we really believe that God has the power and the ability to bless our obedience “more than all we ask or imagine” (Eph. 3:20).

How are you doing concerning God’s tests regarding money in your life? If God’s provision in your life in the days ahead depends on *how* you obey his leading *now* concerning your giving, what will the future be like for you?



Friends of Barnabas

Since its inception, Friends of Barnabas has

- ♦ had over 328,000 patient encounters
- ♦ distributed nearly 35,000 eyeglasses
- ♦ seen over 6,100 dental patients
- ♦ performed over 1,200 life changing or life-saving surgeries
- ♦ sent over 2,800 volunteers to Honduras with Friends of Barnabas.

Maybe you can't go or don't feel called to go on a foreign mission trip but your donation to Bob and Anne's Mountain Medical Mission trip November 4-10, 2018 will be used to support their calling to serve others. A huge thank you to those who have donated. If you haven't, don't worry, there is still time! If you feel led to donate, you may make the check out to WBUMC and earmark it "Moseley Mission Trip", or you may give the donation directly to one of them.

HE'S RISEN!!

now what?

Reflection written by Kathy Hulin

I've been doing a lot of thinking about what it means to be in the Easter season. I was really excited about our worship experiences during Holy Week and then the triumph of Easter. It was a significant time of worship and I was on one of those spiritual "highs". How about you?

So now we find ourselves a few weeks out from that

celebration of our resurrected Christ and I find that it is harder to ward off the mundane activities of everyday life. How about you? In some ways it doesn't feel like Easter took hold, but I don't want to lose it. I want this season to reorient my priorities and how I see the world. I want it to make me see the world as God sees it and to be passionate about those who don't know Christ. I want to be purposeful in doing things that will transform my life and the life of others. How about you?!

I've been using the passages from the Gospels to remind me what it was like for Jesus' friends to be in the world, to have experienced Jesus' teachings first hand, to have watched him go to his death, and then to realize that he came to life again and walked among them. It is a radical faith that we have, isn't it? I love getting caught up in knowing our God who can overcome death to live again and to live for me.

Sadly, however, it seems that there are many distractions in the world that pull me away from staying in that moment, so I struggle and I imagine you struggle, too. And I also know we are entering a culturally hectic season with the end of the school year and the many ceremonies and parties and final games that it means. So, let us commit together that in all that we do, in the many ways that we engage fully with the lives of our families and the commitments that we make, that we find ways to stay rooted in the amazing story of this Easter season. May the choices we make bring honor and glory to Jesus, our Savior, with whom we continue to journey and proclaim to the world that "Jesus is Lord!".

Stepping Into the Unknown

Borrowed from the
Virginia UMC Foundation's *Think About It*
vaumcfoundation.org

Have you noticed that God often calls us into the unknown and the uncomfortable? Why do you think He does that?

I suspect it is because our *character* is more important to God than our *comfort*. God knows that we grow best when we are counting on Him and leaning on Him the most.



The critical question then may be: When faced with something hard or even scary, what will you do? What will you risk?

Most people are not risk takers by nature. Being comfortable has a high value for most of us. Many like routine, security, and functioning within their comfort zones. However, our faith and obedience are far more important to God than our comfort because, when we step out in faith that is when amazing things can happen.

There is an incredible account in Genesis 12 about Abram who was called by God into the unknown and unfamiliar. Catch this key verse where it says, "Abram went, as the Lord had told him."

Abram said *yes* to God and, as a result, he models for us a faith that we may emulate!

It would have been easy for him to live in a comfort zone. Instead, he risked it all and 'went'. He had never been there before. He was not in familiar terrain. It was life on the edge with God. Adventure and abundant life are not found in the safety of the shadows.

By the way, God did not give Abram a lot of information. He just said, "Go . . . and I will lead you!" Abram did what God asked him to do. That is faith! Being willing to risk by obeying God.

Here's how the Word defines faith:

- Faith is *believing* even when you don't see (Hebrews 11:1).
- Faith is *obeying* even when you don't understand (Hebrews 11:8).

Faith is believing and obeying no matter what the costs and no matter what the risks. It is not an easy way to live, but it is God's way. It is the *only* way to fully experience God's ultimate purpose and blessing in your life. Make no mistake about it, from Abraham to Paul—everyone who pursued God and lived for Him—lived a life of incredible adventure. And that is why we need to be so passionate about faith and obedience.

"God, You chose Abram, and You found his heart faithful to You." —Nehemiah 9:7-8

Yes, pursuing God with all our hearts may at times be difficult—but never boring!

Boring Christianity is an oxymoron. The difference between faith and fear is taking action to follow in obedience – even taking a risk into the unknown and being mindful in how we live! When you make God the center of your daily perspective on life, faith is open to risks and fear must take a back seat.

Think about it!



Annual Conference 2018 will be June 15th –17th.

We will be putting together "Kits for Conference" again this year and are asking for your help! Supplies lists can be found on the Narthex bulletin board or picked up from the Church Office. The deadline to bring in items for the specific kits is June 10th. You are also welcome to designate a special offering, "Kits for Conference," if you'd like to contribute in that way.

Sing For Joy

A Hymn History Brief...

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Charles Wesley, 1739; and others

The text was first published under the title “Hymn for Easterday” in eleven four-line stanzas of 7’s, page 149 in *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1739. In 1760 Martin Madan, *A Collection of Psalms and Hymns*, reduced the number of stanzas to eight. Because John Wesley did not include the hymn in his 1780 *Collection*, it did not come into use until 1831 in British Methodist hymnals, although it has been reprinted with “Hallelujah’s” added in other collection, including T. Cotterill’s *Selection of Psalms and Hymns*, 1823. The text entered our hymnals in 1849, hymn 152, with the first five of the original eleven stanzas. The hymn was sung to a variety of tunes until our 1905 book, number 156, matched it with the present tune and altered each line with the addition of the “Allelujah’s. Hallelujah was changed to “Alleluia” in the 1935 hymnal. Our present hymnal includes seven stanzas; the second is the first couplet of Wesley’s second and the second couplet of his third. The omitted couplets:

Lo! Our Sun’s Eclipse is o’er,
Lo! He Sets in Blood no more.

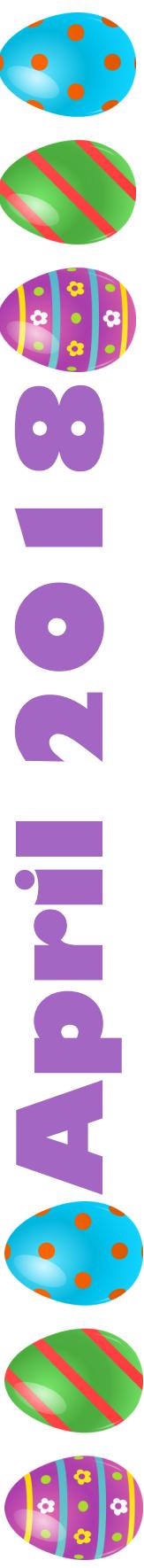
Vain and Stone, the Watch, the Seal;
Christ has burst the Gates of Hell!

S T Kimbrough, Jr., has commented that “most versions conclude this hymn with the line “Ours the cross, the grave the skies,”” the line of original stanzas 5. Our version restored the final two stanzas (original 10 and 11) and provides Wesley’s “actualized definition of eternal life as here and now.” (Correspondence with Carlton R. Young, September 1992)

In stanza 1:2, “sons of men and angels” has been changed to “earth and heaven in chorus.”

In the research files of Fred D. Gealy are photocopies of the hymn from its first printing through the mid-nineteenth century. (Gealy 556/80)





April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunday: Every Sunday: 9:45a. Sunday School/ Children's Choir 11a. Worship	2 Office Closed	3	4 Every Wednesday: 10:30a Bible Study 6p. Choir Rehearsal	5 Every Thursday: 8p. NA	6	7 8a, Kairos
			NO Choir Rehearsal			
8	9	10 10a, Grocery Ministry/ Clothes Closet	11	12 10:30a, Josephine Day Circle Mtg	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	9a. Country Christian Breakfast					
	12p. SPPRC Mtg					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30			5p, Music Jam		
	5th Sunday Celebration					
	10a. Brunch					
	10:30a Worship					