



Transforming Lives As We Seek, Share, And Serve God.



## THIS MONTH'S THEME

NEW LIFE

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

### BE IN THE KNOW

Missions  
Helping Local Schools

### RELAUNCH OF THE 8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE

### HOLY WEEK

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Mission Witness  
Prayer Breakfast

## NEW LIFE

By Pastor Don Gibson

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he (or she) is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

Hello all and blessings! By the time you read this month's Beacon you will have noticed, as have I, that the shelves in the local grocery stores and big box retailers are already filled with delicious, chocolate Easter eggs, and of course with my favorite, jellybeans. Easter bunnies, and their baskets filled with all kinds of good things, remind us that it is once again that wonderful time of year-Easter. Someone who knows that I am a pastor, but he does not identify as a Christian himself, recently asked me how the Easter bunny, eggs and chocolate all relate to what Christians celebrate as Easter. What a great question!

The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity's most important holiday. To better understand how and why the rabbit became associated with Easter we must go back to ancient Mesopotamia and Syria. Three thousand years ago, the hare symbolized death and rebirth to these ancient people. Over time the associations made with hares shifted to rabbits because they have many of the same characteristics.

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This association with death and rebirth may be why rabbits were depicted on gravestones in the Greco-Roman world. Early Christians appropriated the rabbit as a symbol on their gravestones as well. The “Easter” bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called “Osterhase” or “Oschter Haws” who delivered chocolates to well behaved children. As well, rabbits are known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life, and are commonly connected with the season of Spring. (Adapted from History.com)

In the end, the Easter bunny has nothing to do with Jesus directly and there is nothing in the Bible, or Christian tradition, that links the two together. As Christians, we understand the great significance of Easter: Easter is both an invitation to remember and great cause to celebrate. We remember the work of Jesus Christ on the cross (our

salvation) and we celebrate the reality of His resurrection (our hope and new life). Celebrating Easter is about rejoicing in the risen Christ! The cross, and death of Christ, is a proclamation that Christ has conquered sin and death and His resurrection proclaims his promise to resurrect each of us who believe, receive forgiveness, trust Him for our salvation, and follow Him!

As we look around us, we notice new life- everywhere there is new life. In every daffodil bloom, in every budding leaf or chirping robin, there is new life. Spring is the time when new life grows after the death brought about by winter- just as Jesus brings new life to those who were formerly dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1–10). The new life that Jesus brings is to be lived both today and eternally. We are to celebrate the reality of Christ’s death and resurrection every day, and especially at Easter. We can trust Him and worship Him all year through because He was bruised and killed for our sake, buried for our sake, and He rose for our sake! Live your new life in Christ today- He is risen!

# BE IN THE KNOW

## APRIL COMMUNION OFFERINGS (Total offering is split between the two organizations.)



<https://endhunger.org/>

(Information taken from the Society of St. Andrew’s website)



The Society of St. Andrew brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors. They envision a world in which physical and spiritual hungers are met through God’s grace and abundance in Jesus Christ. Their mission is to bring people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors.

### IN 2022, THROUGH FEBRUARY:

SoSA has gleaned, gathered, and distributed 2,452,360 pounds of fresh produce in 393 events, with 1,509 volunteers. Food donated by 109 farmers has been distributed to hungry people through 299 feeding agencies. That’s a total of 7,357,080 servings of fresh food shared. Pounds of food already wasted in the U.S. this year: 32,451,204,577 This waste happens in the fields, transportation, supermarkets, restaurants, and homes.

## MISSIONS

The Beulah Mission Team has been working to identify and support worthy missions locally, nationally, and in foreign lands. Our long-time friend and missionary in Chile, John Elmore, is retiring this spring, so we are looking at other Conference missions as well as continuing our financial support of two missions with close ties to Beulah: Len and Susan Eastwood with Neighbors Outreach Worldwide in Kenya, and the Coleman family with Konbit in Haiti. Locally, we are again collecting school supplies for our neighborhood elementary schools - Beulah, Hopkins, and Bensley, and thank you in advance for your generous donations. The Chesterfield Food Bank will add children's meals again during the summer months, and volunteers will be needed- we'll announce the dates ahead of time, and we're considering adding books for the kids to read while they're not in school. We are thankful to have a congregation that supports these missions and welcome any ideas you may offer.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED!

Elementary school administrators in our community have shared how students are in great need of school supplies to help them through the rest of this year. Please consider donating the following items: notebooks (spiral, composition), pencils, colored pencils, crayons, notebook paper, glue sticks, and/or scissors. There will be a collection area in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!  
~Missions Team

## SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY REQUEST

During the month of April, the Sherbourne Food Pantry is asking for donations of canned fruit. The benefits of most canned fruits are that they contain the same amount of nutrients as fresh and frozen produce. Fruit canned in water or it's own juices is healthier than those canned in syrup, but any canned fruit will be accepted.



## SUMMER KICK OFF Saturday, May 21 from 1 – 4 pm

**Shalom Farms Powhatan Farm**  
2676 Venita Road  
Midlothian VA 23113

Each year as spring turns to summer, our annual Summer Kickoff event is an afternoon of fun on the farm. Shalom Farms hope you can join them to celebrate the start of another growing season at our Powhatan farm in Midlothian!

This family friendly event will feature all-local food, live music, farm tours, and activities for folks all ages!

<https://shalomfarms.org/>

(Information taken from the SHALOM FARMS website)

Everyone deserves healthy food. Shalom Farms is a nonprofit working together to build healthy communities by growing and sharing healthy food. The food they grow is distributed through their network of programs and partnerships in communities where access to healthy food is limited. "Shalom" is a Hebrew word often translated as "peace." However, its meaning goes beyond just the absence of violence or oppression, to suggest the active presence of health and happiness, and an understanding that this wholeness and well-being belongs to everyone. For Shalom Farms, it represents their hope that all people in our community, and even the land and plants themselves, can be in a whole and thriving relationship together to support a healthy Richmond.

# HOLY WEEK

April 9 - April 17



PLEASE JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

## April 09

11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

## April 10

11:00 am Palm Sunday Service

2:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt (Rain Date)

## April 14

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

## April 15

7:00 pm Good Friday Service

## April 17

6:45 am Easter Sunrise Service

11:00 am Easter Worship Service

## SPECIAL WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning **Sunday April 24**, we will relaunch the 8:30 am (Early Service). We invite you to join us in: praying for the relaunch, by sharing this news with members who may not be currently attending a worship service, and inviting others to come and worship! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Pastor Don.



## OPEN THE DOOR AND DISCOVER THE ROOTS OF OUR FAITH.

The Root Cellar is a blog, exploring the Hebrew history of our Christian faith. Come check it out at <https://root-cellar.org/>



BEULAH  
United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

## MISSION GIVING MAKES MISSION HAPPEN

Quoting from the March/April issue of response: the magazine of women in mission:

"In 2020 and 2021 United Methodist Women members' mission giving provided more than \$9 million to 226 national and international projects and partners."

If you want to see where our Pledge to Mission goes, take a moment to stop by the UMW bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall entryway. Over the 4 weeks in April, there will be maps showing where our money goes even if we can't, changing the lives of women, children, and youth in the Name of Christ. Each Sunday, there will be new maps. Lists of the different missions will be available at the UMW Reading Program bookcase in the Fellowship Hall.

## UMW MISSION WITNESS

The Prayer Calendar is published annually by United Methodist Women. It invites us to pray as one people responsive to God's call to relationships of caring, connecting and healing in a world of uncertainty in all but the love of God. Each month we share a testimony from a person in mission for Christ through the United Methodist Church.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

*Be glad in the Lord always! Again, I say, be glad!*

Philippians 4:4

### WITNESS

*When Christopher aged out of foster care, finding himself homeless, jobless and without familial support, he found David & Margaret Youth and Family Services and he joined our Transitional Housing Program and Workforce Training Program. Christopher is now a full-time student, is fully employed and has sustainable housing. With the help of David & Margaret, he is officially an independent adult!*

Jadie Delgado, Digital Communications Coordinator,  
David & Margaret Youth and Family Services, LaVerne, California

### PRAYER

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Greece and Guatemala and our United States missionaries serving in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Kentucky.

## UMW DISTRICT PRAYER BREAKFAST

This year's annual prayer breakfast will be Saturday morning, April 2, at Discovery UMC, located at 13000 Gayton Road, Henrico, VA 23233. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Kendra Grimes, Randolph-Macon College Chaplain. Registration forms with details are available at the Information Center.

## ATTENTION: CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Those of you who are obligated to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) can AVOID TAXES ON INCOME if you have Your Brokerage Firm send your donation check(s) directly to the Charity involved (i.e., BUMC---checks to BUMC must be sent directly to the church (not to You) at PO Box 37098, N. Chesterfield, VA 23234---NOT to 6930 Hopkins Road. You may take RMDs from your retirement accounts (IRAs, etc.) numerous times during the year (does not have to be all at one time). AVOID TAXES ON INCOME!!! Contact Sarah Tatum at 804-271-1844 for details regarding transfers of stocks, mutual funds, etc. held in retirement accounts.

## CONFERENCE KITS

UMCOR is asking for Cleaning Buckets and Hygiene Kits this year. Instructions for assembling these will be at the Information Center. We will dedicate them on June 5.

## MAY 17 - SAVE THE DATE!

The covered-dish meal and auction are back, and this time, it's not just for the women! Those who attended the covered-dish meal and auction in 2019 can tell you about the good food and fun we had with Pastor Don showing his great sense of humor as our auctioneer. We want everyone--men and women--to come and enjoy the evening to raise money for missions. Look for details in the weekly bulletins. See you there!



## BACK DOOR BAKE SALE

Pick up an order blank at the information desk for THE BACK DOOR BAKE SALE. The Mary E. Farmer Circle of Love will be baking ROLLS, yeast and sour dough, PIES, chocolate, lemon chess, coconut, and pecan, and pound cakes, by the half and by the whole. The famous HAND CREAM will also be available for \$7 /per 4oz. jar. All of these baked items will freeze well, so stock up for the upcoming Mother's Day as well as the summer months ahead. Return your completed order to the church office along with payment by APRIL 25. Please make checks payable to Mary E. Farmer Circle of Love. Orders may be picked up APRIL 30 from 10 am until 12 noon @ the back door of the fellowship hall. Drive up and your order will be placed in your vehicle. Looking forward to baking for you!

## GERANIUM SALE CONTINUES

Order forms for the geranium sale to benefit Shalom Farms are available at the Information Center. The deadline is Tuesday, April 12, and the flowers will be delivered April 30.

## SENIOR LUNCH

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, April 7**, at 12 noon for the Senior Council lunch they will be serving chicken pot pie, salad, and desert. Please don't forget to reserve a place in THE BOOK so we will know how many people to expect.

## BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's Best will meet April 11, at 10:00 am. Please note date change. Our program will be music by "4 The Lord". Come join us for a great program, fun and fellowship.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 Hilda Taylor	15 John Kuti
5 David Dudley	16 Nancy Morris
James Worsham	17 Connie Beck
7 Jerry Lane	18 Nancy Goff
8 Will Brooks	19 Carol Zimmerman
9 Karen Tatum	25 Cheryl Duffy
10 Jack Lunsford	27 Melanie Akoi
12 Elaine Johnston	28 Clay Compton
Olga Leon	29 Theresa Meadows

## THE BEST GIFT IS YOU!

You have a talent for coordination, inspiration, and aspiration? We have a need for you. Please prayerfully consider taking on a leadership role to help coordinate some very important mission work of the church.

- Welcoming Team Lead
- Wednesday Worship Meal Coordinator
- Cares Team Lead

## CONDOLENCES

We offer condolences and lift up prayers for Elizabeth Cole and the Cosby family in the passing of Dorothy Cosby (Elizabeth's sister) on Monday, March 21

## THANK YOU

**To: Beulah Church**

**From: Pat and Alex Compton**

Alex and I are so grateful for every card, phone call and the wonderful food that we have received. It means so much to know that your prayers and thoughts are with us at this time of need. We feel that your prayers are being heard and have kept us going. God is so good all of the time. We miss being able to attend all the wonderful happenings that go on at the church.

**To: Beulah Family**

**From: Dale Childrey**

It is with much gratitude that I offer my heartfelt thanks for your many cards, calls, prayers and expressions of concern during the long hospitalization and death of my sister, Cindy. Even though she couldn't speak or move any part of her body, she was able for those 91 days to minister to not only her family but the doctors and nurses caring for her. Thank you so much for supporting our family during this difficult time.

**To: Beulah Family**

**From: Sandra Sanderson**

Words cannot possibly express how much I appreciate all of the many cards, calls, and prayers for me during my recent recovery from meniscus surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Don and his staff for their special prayers and calls as well. You are all such a true blessing to me and my family. Many thanks once again for remembering me in such a special way.

**To: Beulah Family**

**From: Noël Boraski**

Thank you so much for all of your support over my eighteen-month sojourn. I couldn't foresee the future when I calmly went to the doctor with a slight fever and a mild knee discomfort only to learn that I was in Afib! I had no idea, but I know God was in control! Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, food, and especially the prayers! I have many prayer warriors from New Yor to Florida and beyond! I was talking to a long-time friend yesterday and she said, "I don't know how those without a church make it through trying times." Amen! I don't have to find out! Beulah is the Best!! Love and prayer for you all.

**TRANSFORMING LIVES AS WE  
SEEK, SHARE, AND SERVE GOD.**

## APRIL CALENDAR

<b>02</b>	9:00 am	Beulah Food Distribution
<b>05</b>	10:00 am	Green Acres Garden Club
	2:00 pm	Hugging Hearts
<b>07</b>	10:00 am	Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle
	12:00 pm	Senior Luncheon
	5:30 pm	Family Group
<b>08</b>	6:30 pm	Mariners Dinner
<b>09</b>	11:00 am	Easter Egg Hunt
<b>10</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
<b>11</b>	10:00 am	Beulah's Best
<b>12</b>	10:00 am	Mary Farmer Circle of Love
	7:00 pm	Finance
<b>14</b>	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Meal
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>6:45 am</b>	<b>SUNRISE SERVICE</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>EASTER SERVICE</b>
<b>18</b>		<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>19</b>	1:30 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		Springdale Bible Study
	2:00 pm	Hugging Hearts
<b>20</b>	1:00 pm	Wesleyan - Stratton
<b>21</b>	5:30 pm	Family Group
<b>22</b>	5:30 pm	Prayer Team Meeting
<b>24</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>RELAUNCH 8:30 SERVICE</b>
	11:00 am	UMW Sunday Service
<b>26</b>	5:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
<b>30</b>	10:00 am	Back Door Bake Sale

## OCCURRING WEEKLY

<b>Sunday</b>	Worship
	Sunday School
<b>Monday</b>	Bells Rehearsal
	Card Ministry
	Men's Bible Study
	Scouts
<b>Tuesday</b>	Cub Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	Wednesday Worship Meal
<b>Thursday</b>	Choir Rehearsal
	Girl Scouts
	Quartet Rehearsal
<b>Friday</b>	Dog Ministry