Mayo Connection

February 2021 Edition

Mayo United Methodist Church

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Message from the Pastor

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you and may the peace, love, and understanding of God and God's grace be with you all. At the beginning of the month of February we have one of our more unique American days of Groundhog Day. I always liked this day as a child because we did fun things in school and many years we would watch tv to see how the Groundhog responded to its shadow. Though I must admit I never, even as child, understood the connection between a groundhog, its shadow and the weather or seasons.

What I can relate to is the impact of fear on our lives. Ultimately, Groundhog Day gives us a chance to talk about fear, since the idea is that if the Groundhog sees its shadow it goes back into its hole or den because of fear. When we see the shadows of life, do we also run in fear back to our dens? Responding to fear is challenging because we tend to not have the emotional ability or the time to process our fear and then respond. Instead we react and usually by fleeing or attacking. Neither is helpful for building the Kingdom of God.

We are not the first, and we will not be the last, children of God to deal with times of fear and challenge. Much of scripture speaks to leaning on the wisdom of God, which surpasses our own understanding. However, I find that several passages from the prophet Isaiah have been guiding and comforting for me.

Isaiah 41:10 reads, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (NIV) This wonderful reminder that it is God's strength that carries us and not our own is freeing, as is, the reminder that God is with us in all moments. When shadows appear we do not need to run or to attack, instead we can seek comfort and calm with our God and remind ourselves to lean on God's abundant strength.

Isaiah 43:1-3 reads, "But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel; 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep you over. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze…'" (NIV)

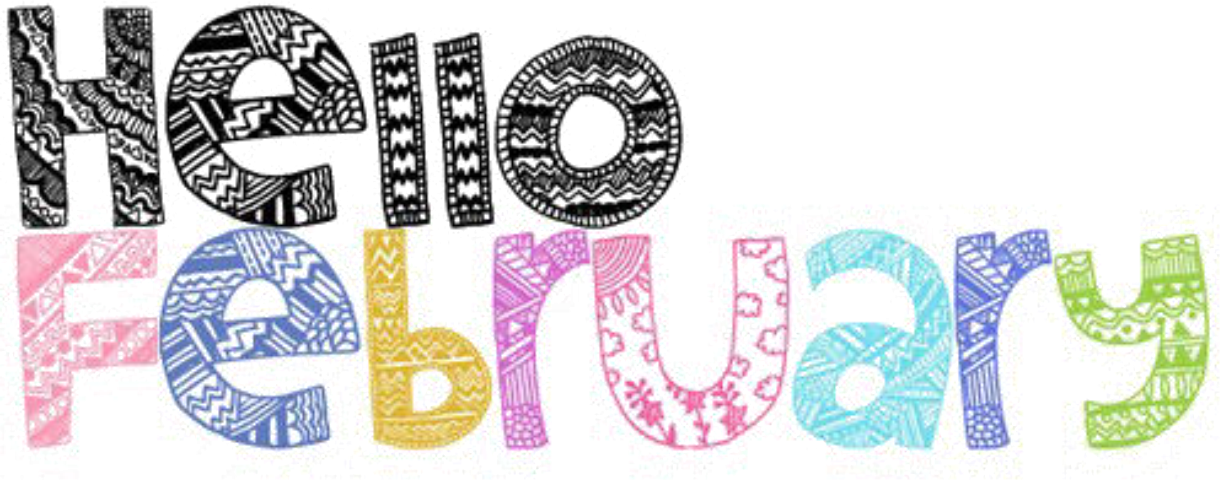
Like shadows, deep waters and blazing flames are frightening and can even feel life threatening, but the prophet reminds us that again God will show up. He will not let us drown or leave us to burn; instead, he is with us and will lift us up and keep us from the flames. We are also reminded that God created us and formed us and that we matter to God. We must also remember that is true for all of God's children.

As we seek to tread water, let us ensure we are not dragging or pushing others under the waves so we might survive. As we walk through the fire, let us ensure we are not abandoning others to burn. Instead, like God, let us seek to be together as we overcome rather than overcome each other. Let us fight our inner groundhog and not flee from our own shadow or from the shadows of others. Instead, let us face winter or spring as redeemed creations of God. The seasons will change, the tides will rise, the flames will burn, but our God remains true, steadfast and never abandons us. Fear not for God is with you!!

Peace, love and blessings,

Pastor Amanda

Ash Wednesday
February 17th



First Wednesday's @ Noon

Women's Virtual Lunch

Join Pastor Amanda and other sisters in Christ to enjoy some fellowship, reflection and prayer together. We will meet virtually until it is safe to go back to a restaurant.

Beginning February 3rd || Wednesday Nights @ 6:00 PM

Pastor's Virtual Bible Study

"The Wesleyan Journey: A Workbook on Salvation" by Maxie Dunnam
Join Pastor Amanda for an 8-week study during Lent.
The workbook is available at both cokesbury.com and amazon.com.
"To be a Christian is to change. It is to become new. It is not simply a matter of choosing a new lifestyle, although that will change. It has to do with being a new person. A new person does not emerge fully formed. Conversion—passing from death to life—may be a miracle of moment, but the making of a saint is a process of a lifetime. The process of saint-making is to work out in fact what is already true in principle. In position, in our relationship to God in Jesus Christ, we are new persons. Now our condition, the actual life we live, must be brought into harmony with our new position."
Please read the first weeks material for our first conversation on Wednesday, February 3rd!

February 16th || 5:00-7:00 PM

Carry-Out Pancake Dinner

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday Services

Ash & Dash || 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Come to the parking lot to receive prayer and ashes.

Noon || *Brief service of ashes and communion*

7:00 PM || *Traditional service of ashes and communion*

Thursday, February 18, 2021 @ 10:00 AM

Join Pastor Amanda's Book Club

"Fear of the Other: No fear in love" by Bishop William H. Willimon

"In presenting our church with sisters and brothers whom we fear as the Other, God is not only testing us but giving us a gracious opportunity to recover the adventure of discipleship. By the grace of God and the ministrations of the church, we are enabled to have better lives than if Christ had left us to our own devices.

In seminary Greek class, our first attempt to translate from Greek to English was 1 John. I still remember reading the verse that sets the agenda for this book, 1 John 4:18: perfect love casts out fear. I recall the professor saying, 'In 1 John, the Greek is easy to read, but its message is hard to live.' And how."

Join Pastor Amanda Virtually (only)
for exploration of this wonderful book.

Friday, February 26th @ 6:30 PM || MUMC Fellowship Hall.

Meatball Madness Prep

Saturday, February 27th || 1:00 PM-5:00 PM

Meatball Madness (Carry Out Only)

Pastor's Book Club || Tuesday, March 23rd @ 10:00 AM

"Can You Drink The Cup?" by Henri J.M. Nouwen

The last book published by Henri Nouwen before his untimely death in 1996, Can You Drink The Cup? Explores the deep spiritual impact of the question Jesus asked his friends James and John. Reflecting upon the metaphor of the cup, Nouwen uses the images of holding, lifting, and drinking to articulate the basics of the spiritual life. The cup, a symbol used to celebrate a wide range of human endeavors, becomes for him an image to illustrate spiritual potential.

Written with the profound insight and clarity characteristics of his numerous best-selling books, Nouwen's deeply perceptive exploration of Jesus' challenging question has the power to pierce your heart, expand your spiritual horizons, and radically change you

Subscribe to our

YouTube Channel

Don't miss out on taking home some Great Italian Meatballs!
Please place your order prior to the event.

Saturday, February 27th
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Carry Out (Only)
for just $10.00 per Meal
Spaghetti w/Meatballs and Salad
or
Meatball Sub and Salad

Advance Purchase Preferred however Walk-in's are Welcome
Give Order Forms to Ray Leone by 2/21/2021
(please see separately attached order form to place your orders)

"like" us on facebook

We Need Your Help! Donate Diapers for Families in Need at 7 Libraries!

It's a Diaper Drive for Families in Need

Now - February 14th

Help local families by donating diapers of all sizes; wipes and baby lotions, creams, soaps or shampoo. Donations collected with be given to local food pantries and non profit organizations.

Drop off locations:

Broadneck Library

Crofton Library

Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library

Discoveries: The Library at the Mall

Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library

Edgewater Library

Odenton Library

Sponsors: Annapolis Moms, Partnership for Children, Youth and Families

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We are offering in-person Worship at 8:15 AM & 10:15 AM on Sundays. The two services will NOT be identical. It is not permitted to use paper bulletins, so please download the upcoming Sunday bulletins HERE for your use as they become available. Feel free to print it or you can follow along on your phones. Please be sure to sign-up for our mailing list to be notified of updates and safety procedures as they are released - please CLICK HERE to sign-up!

Not yet comfortable with worshiping in-person?
Online worship via YouTube may be the answer for you!
Online worship will continue to be provided through at least August and into the fall season as needed. Click HERE for our link for Sunday Worship Online or visit our YouTube page HERE. Our in-person worship will be different from our online worship. You are invited to choose one of the options listed above or enjoy both.

Office Visiting Hours are Temporarily Closed due to COVID-19
Phone messages will be checked periodically throughout the week.
Email: mayoumcmd@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUEST

Beloved, we seek to keep an active list of those who need ongoing or long-term prayer throughout the month. However, over time this list needs to be refreshed to ensure it serves as the helpful prayer tool it is designed to be for the congregation.

If you have someone you would like listed on the long-term prayer list please submit their name to **mayoumcmd@gmail.com** or call 410.798.6110 and leave a voice message by **February 15th** for inclusion in the **March Newsletter.**

Please continue to pray for our shut-ins,
Doris Haschert
Leila Youngren
and for all those who are confined to their homes during the pandemic.

Please pray for those who have lost loved ones recently, especially:
The family and friends of Catherine Dixon
The family and friends of Shirly Guy
The family and friends of Wilbur "Pete" Lanier

Let us also continue to pray for victims of COVID-19, our national and local leaders in our government, the residents of Birmingham, AL following the deadly tornado and other victims of natural disasters, our military personnel and their families, and all those in need of healing.