

Delaware District Newsletter



March 19, 2023

Volume 3, Issue 6



The District Office will be closed from March 15th—25th for the Administrative Assistant's vacation.

Calendar of Events

March 23—Easter Egg Hunts

March 24—Palm Sunday

March 29—Good Friday

March 31—Easter

April—CLM Classes start

April 4—Bishop Easterling's podcast

April 24—HOPP Pack & Pray Service



If your Church has an upcoming event that you would like to advertise in the District newsletter, please email the flyer and information to the District Office at DelawareDistrictUMC@gmail.com.

The newsletter is published bi-weekly on a Tuesday and the article will run until the event ends! Event flyers must be sent as a word doc, or jpeg format.

Bishop's Days on the District Report



In late February, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling met with clergy and laity at three district gatherings in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. The bishop focused on listening as she joined church leaders in worship, celebrated the vitality of local churches and looked to a future of renewed ministry.

The bishop acknowledged some of the concerns raised about the 92 conference churches that disaffiliated from the denomination. However, she stressed, those who remain are committed to the vision of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The conference will move forward with hope and strength.

At the meetings of the Delaware, Upper Shore and Lower Shore Districts, she acknowledged the challenges many church leaders are facing in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic and on-going changes in the church and culture.

The time for dwelling on the past and for blaming and complaining is over, said the bishop, who praised those present for their good work of healing together and cautioned against taking the work and the potential of the church casually. The work we share is holy work, she said.

The bishop recounted her strong opinion that people in ministry are not volunteers. They are disciples. "It is time we start being disciples together," she said.

In the season ahead, on April 23-May 3, the church will meet in its global gathering at General Conference. This meeting may bring about changes in church polity and practices. But the local church must continue to be intent on relationships, worship, and revival.

This is an opportunity, said the bishop, to reset – reset our identity as children of God; reset our focus that the church is people in relationship, not buildings; and reset our priorities, certain that money will follow mission as we move out, with a vibrant and vital spirit of revival, to serve our communities and the world.



Rev. Joseph Archie chosen as Pen-Del's Episcopal Candidate

In today's world, prophets of joy are rare. But in the Rev. Joseph Archie's life, the truths spoken by Old Testament and modern prophets combine with God's call to transcendent joy in ways that define his faith and have led him to offer himself as a candidate for the episcopacy.

His candidacy was endorsed by the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. Clergy and lay members will vote on whether the Conference will endorse him when they meet June 6-8 in Ocean City. If endorsed, Archie will be eligible to be on the ballot to be elected as a United Methodist Bishop, when the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference meets July 8-12 in Pittsburgh.

Archie, who serves as superintendent of the Delaware District and pastor of Whatcoat UMC in Dover, Delaware, realizes that embracing this unique combination of justice and joy can take him into some deep thoughts and situations. "But the church has the power to change the world, to turn the world upside down," he said. "I feel like I have such limited time on this earth. I just don't have time for trivial things. I want to spend the time I have doing things that matter so that, as the old song goes, 'my living will not be in vain.'"

Commissioned into the ordained ministry in 2007 and ordained an Elder in 2010, Archie has served large and small, black and white, suburban and urban, and conservative and progressive churches. He started serving as a lay pastor in 2003, at Haven UMC in Wilmington. He went on to serve Brandywine UMC, on a circuit with both of those churches, then Eastwick UMC in Philadelphia; Newark UMC in Newark, Marshallton UMC in Marshallton, and Cedars and Christ UMCs two additional smaller churches near Marshallton UMC.

In 2016, Bishop Peggy Johnson appointed him to serve as Superintendent of the then Wilmington District. After redistricting, he became the missional strategist, serving as Superintendent of the Delaware District. In July, he'll complete his eighth and final year as a District Superintendent.

Recognizing the historic and missional significance of Whatcoat UMC in Dover, he also serves as that church's pastor.

During his ministry, Archie also spent some time leading the Methodist Action Program, which he helped transform into a vibrant social justice agency that works in the areas of advocacy, organizing and educating around the United Methodist Social Principles.



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While he greatly enjoys justice work, Archie says he is, at heart, a teacher. Before he became a pastor, he taught Wednesday evening Bible study classes at Dale Memorial UMC in Middletown. He loves teaching in almost any context – relishing opportunities to talk with preschool children about God and standing outside the state legislature teaching voters about issues like income inequality.

If he has one piece of wisdom to share it would be, “listen to everybody, learn from everybody and love everybody.”

He resonates with teachers like Cornell West, who said, “Justice is what love looks like in public.”

“If it is God’s will for me to be bishop, connecting love and justice would be a top priority,” Archie said. “The church doesn’t do that enough.” He can image, as The United Methodist Church undergoes some dramatic transitions, taking faith outside of the church walls, and engaging society more readily. He can see pastors being not just church leaders, but pastors to entire communities. He also sees the laity being more empowered, and the church’s structure and polity beginning to earnestly reflect Bishop LaTrelle Easterling’s call to “be flexible, nimble and adaptable.”

Over the years, Archie said, people have shared that his gifts might be suited for the episcopacy. He is ready to serve if called. He sees himself as an empowering and encouraging leader, who can also be demanding, wanting to bring out the best in people and not allowing them to settle for less than their best.

But most of all, as a leader, Archie embraces joy. “I love the word joy,” he said. “I used to ask people, ‘Is there joy in your church?’” He thinks of Romans 14:17, and the righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit “That is a deep and abiding hope that is within us,” said Archie.

He’s fascinated by the *hasidim*, the covenanted faithful ones in Judaism, who dance in worship and concentrate on joy.

“We’re called to spread joy in the land. I’m not sure I have the whole definition of that,” Archie said. “What does it mean to bring joy to the world? I think it’s about bringing peace – true *shalom*.”

In this moment, he and his wife, April, to whom he’s been married for 25 years, are celebrating joy. And, in this unique season, as he is being considered as a candidate to the episcopacy, joy feels close at hand. Archie is focusing on being light to the world and the salt of the earth – and helping the church to be the same.

“I’m just making myself available,” he said. In that, “there’s a certain spirit of joy.”

DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING

Please mark your calendars for the next Delaware District Summer Clergy meeting with Rev. Archie on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 @ 10:00 am.** **The meeting will be held at 39 N. Main St., Magnolia, DE 19962**

All appointed Delaware District Pastors are encouraged to attend.

This picture is from the clergy meeting last week at Immanuel UMC. Thanks to Immanuel UMC for hosting us.



Apportionments

The 2024 Apportionment totals were mailed to all appointed pastors in the fall. If you do not have your totals for 2024, please contact the District Office.



Rev. Archie suggests churches split their Apportionments into 11 payments, so they are not worried about final payments at the end of the year.



Bishop LaTrelle Easterling continues her podcast. **Thursdays at the Table**

Asking good questions, engaging in deep conversation and telling the whole truth can change the world.

In her podcast Bishop LaTrelle Easterling invites you to join her for Thursdays at the Table as she is joined by leaders from across the connection, serving up new insights and interesting ways of experiencing our lives together.

New podcasts are the first Thursday of each month. Tune in **April 4, 2024** for the next podcast.

You can join at 8 a.m. or listen any time on: Spotify, Apple Podcasts or at pdcbwc.org/thursdays-at-the-table.html



The Bulletin

A newsletter published by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling is a reproducible resource for local churches. In the most recent issue, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling offers a word of gratitude for the United Methodists serving faithfully in a vast array of mission and ministry. "It is a privilege to serve in ministry with you as we share the love of God and bring hope to our communities," she writes. "Because you rise every morning and say, 'Yes!' to discipleship, seeds are being planted, challenges are being met and lives are being transformed."

You can view The Bulletin at: www.pdcbwc.org/the-bulletin



This year we will gather at the **Ashore Resort & Beach Club, 10100 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842** for the **240th Session of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference**, from Thursday, June 6th, through Saturday, June 8th. Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, our Episcopal Leader, will preside over our Conference.

Every delegate and attendee **MUST** register individually in order to attend this year's Annual Conference.

- **REGISTRATION CLOSING ON MONDAY, MAY 6th.**
- **REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 6TH.**
- **NO WALK-IN or ONSITE REGISTRATION PERMITTED.**
- **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

All appointed Pastors, Lay Members and Reserve Members were sent the registration link on March 7th.

For more complete details go visit the Conference website, (pen-del.org) and click on the 2024 Annual Conference tab at the top of the page or go to: <https://www.pen-del.org/2024-annual-conference>

Appeals Calendar Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference

Dear Leader: To help you plan out your Giving Calendar, this provides a list of dates for both the United Methodist Appeals and the Conference Appeals. We encourage you and your mission committee to plan your support for which of these you will support and how you will support them. Special offerings on these Sundays, and/or designating a budgeted amount for these, or other methods are encouraged. If you would like training or a speaker, please contact either Pastor Amy or Kevin (see below).

Date	Appeal	Information
1/14/24 1/14/25	Human Relations Day (Sunday before MLK Day)	This Appeal supports the UMC's Community Developers Program, Voluntary Services Program, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. https://www.umc.org/en/content/human-relations-day-sunday-ministry-article
3/10/24 3/30/25	UMCOR Sunday (formerly called One Great Hour of Sharing) Lent 4	When a catastrophe occurs, your offerings enable the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to reach out and ease the pain and suffering by providing humanitarian aid of food, shelter, health and peace. https://www.umc.org/en/content/umcor-sunday-ministry-article
3/17/24 3/9/25	PLRCA	Partners of Leadership Resources for Churches in Africa. Contact Rev. Labala at jsei@dimdigital.com
4/14/24 5/4/25	Native American Ministries Easter 3	Funds support urban missions with Native Americans and fund scholarships for Native American seminarians. 50% of the Appeal is used for these programs within our Annual Conference. https://www.umc.org/en/content/native-american-ministries-sunday-ministry-article
5/26/24 6/15/25	Peace With Justice First Sunday after Pentecost	Poverty and violence need not be a reality in the world today. This Appeal aims to witness to God's hope for a faithful, loving world. 50% of the Appeal is used for these programs within our Annual Conference. https://www.umc.org/en/content/peace-with-justice-sunday-ministry-article
6/1/24	AC Appeal Sunday	Receive offering for AC Appeal if not already provided for
6/624- 6/8/24	Annual Conference Appeal: You may bring funds to the Conference or remit directly to the Conference office.	Churches are encouraged to raise funds in advance and bring them to Conference. Each year we ask churches and members of the Conference to support, BOOM Scholarships and the Central Congo Partnership. A third offering is designated each year and will be announced in the Spring.
7/14/24 7/13/25	Deaf Awareness Sunday	Provides our churches a Sunday to uplift those with deafness or other hearing problems. Offerings will support the Deaf Ministries within the Annual Conference.
8/11/24 8/10/25	Camp Pecometh Sunday	This appeal provides fund for programs at and scholarships to Camp Pecometh. www.pecometh.org
9/8/24 9/14/25	PenDel Student Scholarship Sunday	This appeal directly benefits Pen-Del students attending college by providing scholarship funds. www.pen-del.org
10/6/24 10/5/25	World Communion First Sunday in October	Provides funds for racial & ethnic undergrad scholarships and advance-degree work related to the mission of the UMC. https://www.umc.org/en/content/world-communion-sunday-ministry-article
10/13/24 10/12/25	Disaster/VIM Sunday	Funds raised are used for disaster response within the AC and for VIM Team scholarships.
11/3/24 11/2/25	Africa University Sunday	Raising costs and a growing student body means every year more scholarships are needed at AU. Your gifts help grow the endowment fund that provides this assistance. A bulletin insert will be provided. www.africau.edu
11/24/24 11/30/25	Student Day Last Sunday of November	Provides loans and scholarships to students attending a UM Church affiliated college. Some of the funds are returned to the Annual Conference to award. https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-student-day-sunday-ministry-article

Questions? – contact Amy Yarnall at pastor.amy@wesleyumc-dover.com 302.354.2982

Or Kevin Goodwin @ MissionsCzar@aol.com or 302.453.1169

Easter EGGS TRAVAGANZA

Saturday, March 23

Join us for an afternoon of community family fun!

This free event will run from 1-4 pm
at Richardson Park UMC

Children will have a hoppin' good time
with the Easter bunny for egg hunting,
bounce house, food and more!

11 N Maryland Ave., Wilmington, DE 19804

All are Welcome!

Rain date March 24
Same time



@rpumchurch.org

The poster features a central banner with the date 'Sat March 23rd' in yellow text on a green background. Above the banner, the words 'Easter Egg Hunt' are written in large, stylized green and blue letters. Below the banner, the activities 'Petting Zoo, Train ride, Crafts & More!' are listed in purple text. At the bottom, the location 'HOCKESSIN UMC' is written in white on a blue banner, followed by the address '7250 LANCASTER PIKE HOCKESSIN, DE' in green. Contact information is provided at the very bottom in purple text. The background is decorated with various colorful Easter eggs (green, blue, orange, red, yellow) and a string of colorful bunting flags at the top. A white bunny head is also visible on the right side.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sat March 23rd

**Petting Zoo,
Train ride,
Crafts & More!**

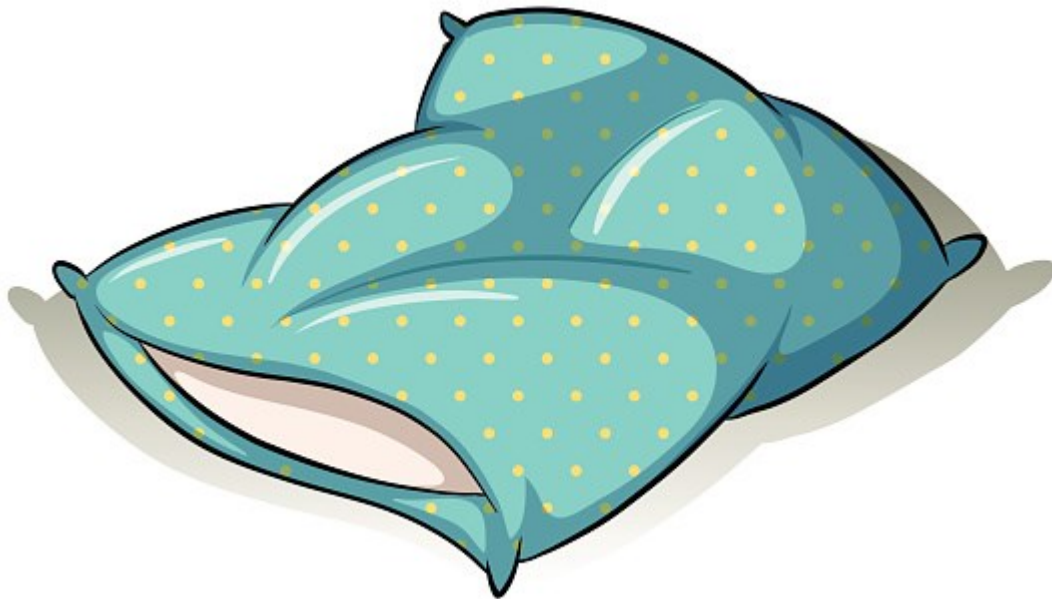
HOCKESSIN UMC

**7250 LANCASTER PIKE
HOCKESSIN, DE**

**For More Info Call 302-239-3030
humcyouthministry@hockessinumc.org**

**10AM-
1PM**

**FREE
EVENT**



St. Mark's United Women in Faith are sponsoring a Cases
For Smiles event on
Saturday, March 23, 2024
(9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall.
1700 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808

We are in need volunteers. Volunteers are needed to iron, pin, sew, or package the finished pillowcase. The pillowcases go to Nemours Hospital, CHOP, and/or Ronald McDonald House. Lunch will be provided.

Please contact Diane Troiano (ditroiano622@gmail.com; (302)650-0262) or Emilia Machulski (ladyemilia6@aol.com; (302)995-1779) to confirm or for more information. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



Vendors Wanted

**Indoor Yard Sale
and Craft Fair**

March 23, 2024

9 AM – 2 PM

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

525 Polly Drummond Hill Rd.

Newark, DE 19711

Tables only \$20.00

Contact us at

NewarkEbenezerUMC@verizon.net

or 302-731-9495

BRIDGEVILLE CHARGE (Mt Calvary & Bethel) INVITES YOU



*To Join Us in Worship as we journey to the Cross in remembrance
of what Jesus did for us?*

Come, Hear the Seven Cries of Jesus from the Cross

WHERE: MT CALVARY U M CHURCH - 28 CHURCH ST BRIDGEVILLE DE

WHEN: FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024 **TIME:** 12:00 NOON

Various messengers will share in this Good Friday Service.

Good Friday is John 3:16-17 (NKJV) - ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

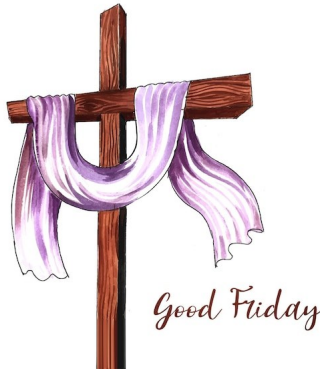
Host Pastor – Rev. Frances Fitchett



DOVER
MIRACLE
Revival
CENTER

The Dover Miracle Revival Center and Asbury UMC, Harrington, DE will be joining together once again to carry the Cross through the

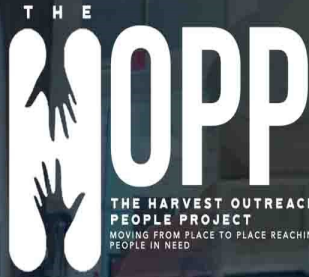
streets of Harrington in a unified show of respect for the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior. We will begin at the Revival Center at 105 W. Liberty Street in Harrington on Friday, March 29th @ 11:00am and conclude at Asbury UMC at 200 Weiner Ave., Harrington for a time of prayerful sharing and fellowship. I pray you will be able to join us.



Join the Growing Circle of Servant Leaders at The HOPP This Spring!

This spring marks a significant milestone for The Harvest Outreach People Project (The HOPP): 17 months of our enriching "Pack & Pray" initiative. We are delighted to extend an invitation to like-minded servant leaders to join us in this journey of community enrichment and spiritual connection. Our journey began with 50 dedicated individuals, and we are thrilled to share that we now have over 200 servant leaders joining us monthly. This remarkable growth is a testament to the collective spirit and commitment within our community. Every month, on the Wednesday before the 4th Friday, Asbury UMC in New Castle transforms into a hub of hope and collaboration. Here, pastors, congregations, and community non-profits come together to prepare 1,000 bags filled with fresh, nutritious produce. These bags, infused with care and prayers, are then shared through UMC churches and community partners on the 4th Friday, spreading joy and sustenance to many. Our "Pack and Pray" gatherings are far more than just events; they are a vibrant testament to the power of collective effort and the Holy Spirit's unifying presence, creating a profound sense of fellowship and belonging among all who participate. This spirit of unity and service is echoed in Scripture, as Paul writes in Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." We warmly invite you to be part of this expanding circle of service this April. Join us on Wednesday, 4/24, from 9 AM to Noon. Your involvement will not only contribute to our shared mission but also immerse you in a rewarding experience of community and spiritual enrichment. For more details on how to participate in our next Pack and Pray or to explore the possibility of a HOPP Drop at your church, please reach out to Travis Smith Sr. at hope@thehopp.org or call 888-323-4677.

Let's continue to grow this movement of service and connection, making a meaningful difference in our communities together, guided by the wisdom and spirit of our shared faith.



PACK & PRAY

DAY OF SERVICE

JOIN US THIS MONTH AS WE PREPARE FRESH FRUITS
AND VEGETABLES FOR 1000 FAMILIES!

1ST SHIFT

APRIL 24TH

9 - 12 PM

ASBURY UMC • 300 E BASIN RD • NEW CASTLE, DE 19720

1-888-323-HOPP (4677)

DALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Women's Day



21
APRIL
SUNDAY

CHURCH

10 am

SUNDAY SERVICE

SENIOR PASTOR
KEN ANDERSON

ASSOC. PASTOR
GWENDOLYN T.
HENRY

GUEST
PASTOR

Rev. Dr. JACQUITA WRIGHT-HENDERSON

143 LAKE STREET MIDDLETOWN, DE. 19709

Judges 4: 4--10 / 1st Peter 2:9



Join St. Paul UMC

300 North St., Milford, DE 19963

Family & Friends Day

March 24, 2024

Theme: Love Never Fails

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NIV Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love Never Fails.



Rev Y. Violet Dupree

St Paul UMC

Milford, DE

10:00AM



Rev. Janice D. Herman

Friendship UMC

Millsboro, DE

Choir & Congregation

3:00PM

**** Mask Required****



**ISRAEL U.M. CHURCH INVITES YOU
TO OUR GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
MARCH 29, 2024
12:00—3:00 P.M.**

**“THE LAST 7 STATEMENTS OF JESUS CHRIST
FROM THE CROSS.”**

Presented by our local Church CLM’s/Lay Servants:

- *Lay Servant Carson Farmer
Lay Servant John Waples – Zoar UMC, Selbyville
- *Lay Servant Paul M.N. Selby
- *Lay Leader/Servant Sandra Neal
- *Lay Servant Ralph Gooch
- *Certified Lay Minister Raquel Farmer
Certified Lay Minister Charles Shelton – Zoar UMC, Selbyville
- *Israel UMC Servant Leaders

Join Us - Zoom Link:

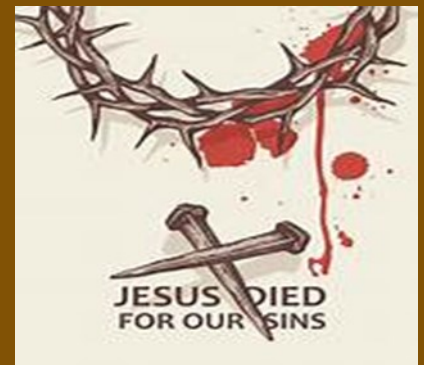
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9208756476?pwd=UXppd0diK2NFb0Rvzk3ZlhtWVEvZz09>.

Meeting ID:

920 875 6476

Password: Israel

Text Service - Hybrid



It was **LOVE** that held Jesus on the Cross.

Remembering His Sacrifice.

Good Friday Prayers.

Give Thanks and Glory to Jesus.

**Irael UM Church
20230 Plantation Rd.
Lewes, De 1958
443-298-0076**

bellbird59@gmail.com

**Pastor:
Rev. Marjorie Belmont**

PAPER

Shredding

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024
8AM-2PM**

**MT. SALEM IN ROCKFORD PARK
2629 WEST 19TH STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19806**





JESUS WEEK REVIVAL

PALM SUNDAY
8AM AND 11AM

MARCH 24

MAUNDY THURSDAY
7PM-8PM
SPEAKER: REV. DR. RONALD WHITAKER

MARCH 28

HOLY MONDAY
7PM-8PM
SPEAKER: REV. KEON GEROW

MARCH 25

GOOD FRIDAY
7PM-8PM
SPEAKER: SEVEN LAST WORDS

MARCH 29

HOLY TUESDAY
7PM-8PM
SPEAKER: REV. PEARL JOHNSON

MARCH 26

HOLY SATURDAY
8AM-2PM
DSWA PAPER SHREDDING

MARCH 30



SPY WEDNESDAY
7PM-8PM
SPEAKER: BISHOP CHARLES AMOS

MARCH 27

EASTER SUNDAY
8AM AND 11AM

MARCH 31



REV. KEON GEROW



REV. PEARL JOHNSON



BISHOP CHARLES AMOS



REV. DR. RONALD WHITAKER

MT. SALEM IN ROCKFORD PARK · 2629 WEST 19TH STREET · WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19806
ENTER THROUGH THE PARK ENTRANCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF TOWER ROAD AND WEST 19TH STREET

Ezion-Mount Carmel United Methodist Church

800 North Walnut Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Rev. Cornelius Berry, Lead Pastor

8th Gospel Extravaganza

Friday, April 5, 2024 at

6:00 p.m.

WORSHIP LEADER:

Rev. Aaron R. Moore,

Manna Christian Fellowship Church

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

**INSPIRATION
GOSPEL
SINGERS**

Solists

**JUST US
GOSPEL
SINGERS**

**EZION-MOUNT
CARMEL
SANCTUARY
CHOIR**

**FREE WILL
OFFERING**

**“MOT”
MALE CHOIR**

**“HildaMan
CHORALE”**

**CHIPPEY
CHAPEL MALE
CHOIR**

**CATHEDRAL FRESH FIRE
PRAISE & WORSHIP**

News from the CLM Corner

If

you are a member of the United Methodist Church..
you have taken the **Basic Lay Servant Course**
you serve in a leadership position in your church
you have taken advance course to become a

Certified Lay Servant

You feel the call to go further in ministry..
You read the book “Christian as Minister”
You discussed your call with your **SPRC & your Pastor**..
You have met with your District Superintendent (DS)
You are ready to take the 4 Module

Certified Lay Ministers Class (CLM)

Secure a registration form from your District Office, print it out from this newsletter, call or email:

Brenda Tildon at 302-530-6422

tildonbrenda@aol.com

Next class starts in April –

Watch Newsletter for dates, time and location.

***God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to His power that is at work within us.***

Ephesians 3:30

Pen-Del Certified Lay Minister Registration Form

***Refer to Current Discipline on CLM**

Please print clearly

I am a Certified Lay Servant: Yes _____ No _____ Todays Date _____

Name _____

Address _____ **email(required) _____ - _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

Telephone# _____ Cell Phone _____

Pastor _____ Church _____

I am Lay Supply/Currently serving a church: Yes _____ No _____ If yes, C hurch Name _____

Completed the book **“Christian as Minister”** & discussed with Pastor: Yes _____ No _____

Circle your District _____ Delaware _____ Upper Shore _____ Lower Shore _____

SPRC Chair Signature (required) _____ Date _____

Pastor’s Signature(required) _____ Date _____

DS Signature(required) _____ Meeting Date _____

****email address you prefer to be reached on to receive email, documents and zoom conferencing if necessary.**

Required Attachments:

- Registration form with all required signatures
- Copy of Pastors letter to District Superintendent (Optional)
- Certified Lay Servant Certificate
- (Please keep copies of everything you send)

Registration Fee \$35.00

Class Fee per Module \$100.00 (Payable after each module)

Four Modules must be taken in order for completion certificate

Send this form with all required signatures, and \$35.00 registration fee to
 Brenda Tildon, 133 Portside Court, Bear, DE 19701
 302-836-8553 or 302-530-6422 tildonbrenda@aol.com
 Checks should be made payable to Pen-Del Conference

You will not be scheduled for class until registration form is received with all required information, signatures and attachments.

Student’s Signature: _____

See CLM Director for Class dates – tildonbrenda@aol.com

CounterPoints in Stewardship

A Second Opinion

Conventional thought: The central theme of the 23rd Psalm (The Shepherd's Psalm) is to comfort those dealing with death. It is mainly heard at funerals. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..."

CDB Second opinion: By focusing solely on verse 4 in time of grief, we often fail to hear the prominent theme of abundance.

It often happens that when we read passages in scripture, the perspective we bring to the Bible limits what we see. By focusing on one thing, we fail to see something else. The Bible calls on us to consider many perspectives. We are saints; we are sinners. We are disciples; we are "you of little faith." We are sheep; we are goats. We are shepherds; we are fishers. We are also branches that must bear fruit, light of the world, salt, and more. One of the most important but overlooked perspectives in the Bible is that we are called to be stewards. In his first letter, the Apostle Peter writes, "Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:9-10 NRSV)

There it is! We are called stewards of God's grace. This is not an isolated metaphor. The question is, "How does Psalm 23 read to a person who is not grieving, but simply seeking to be a good steward?" Our focus shifts toward what the shepherd gives us. We are warned not to have an attitude of want. I shall not want because the shepherd has given me all I need; still waters, green pastures, an overflowing cup, protection against enemies, and, of course, comfort in time of grief and stress. As a steward, I am reminded how blessed I am. There is little room for "I want this! I want that! I want that too!"

The Roman thinker Seneca states "No person who is satisfied is poor, and no person who wants more than he has is rich." The world wants you to believe you do not have enough.

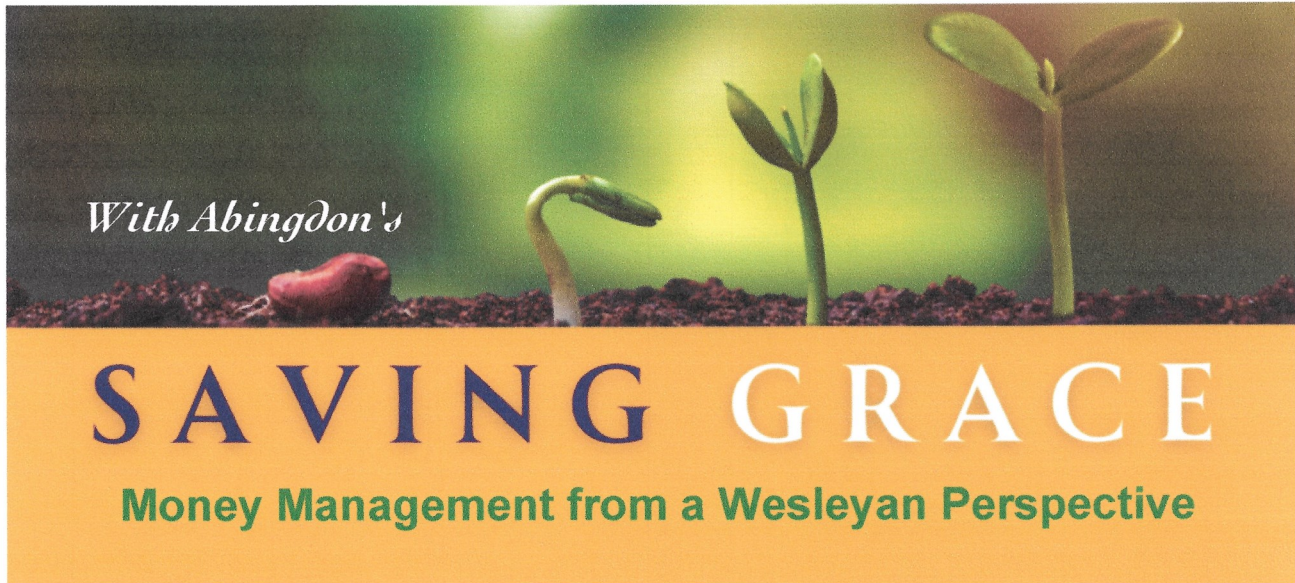
If life disappoints you, look to the Great Shepherd who tends to all our needs. As a steward you will remember much of what God gives and has given you; creation, grace, peace, love, family, church, and life itself. Even the tithe is viewed differently, as freedom from the tyranny of money. Come at life through the perspective of a steward of God's grace, and you will find the contentment that comes through faith, as well as the comfort in time of grief. People will become more important. Things will be put into place. Yes, the Lord is my shepherd, and as long as he is my shepherd, I will not want.

Still striving to be a Steward of God's grace...,

Dave
1:6

2/19/24

Help Your Members Become More Confident in the Management of Their Personal Finances



Now in April & May!

The Delaware District is pleased to announce a seven-week training that enables you to bring "Saving Grace" to your church people in 2024, while benefitting from it, yourself.

With room for only 8 to 10 churches in this first round of training, (includes 1 clergy and 2 laypeople from each church), this seven-week class will give you all the tools necessary to share and lead a "Saving Grace" class at your church by learning the skills and tools used in the class. Your church will benefit as it trains more people to be better money managers and good stewards and you will benefit by learning best practices for your own household finance management. Pastors who attend all sessions, and who bring two laypeople to each session, will receive \$500 at the completion of the course.

Led by Mid-Atlantic UM Foundation's trained facilitator, Rev. Dr. Bruce A. Jones, pastors and laypeople will be equipped to teach "Saving Grace" within your congregation, making a huge difference in the lives of your parishioners and families.

The course will be taught by Zoom, so you don't have to travel in the dark. Class will be held on Tuesday nights, starting April 9 at 7:00 PM. Materials will be provided for both lay and clergy participants. Now is the time to sign up. Please email the instructor at bajones15@gmail.com, or call or text him at 240-498-9415 to sign up for him to answer your questions.



CALLING ALL MEN!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

THE Pen-Del CONFERENCE BOARD OF UNITED MEN'S MINISTRY ARE SEEKING MEN WHO LOVE THE LORD, WHO WANT TO GROW AND HELP SUSTAIN EFFECTIVE MEN'S MINISTRY, WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR MISSION, CALL OR EMAIL....

JAMES TURNER – 443-298-9774 tfactor750@gmail.com

ALLEN STRETT – 302-731-8199 astreett@aol.com

BILL PAXTON – 410-708-7687 bpaxton60@verizon.net

ALLAN LOOMIS – 443-350-5296 aloomis@zoominternet.net



Dear Pastors and Church Offices,

I am writing this letter as an introduction and a request for guidance. I represent a brand new team within the Pen-Del Conference- Creation Justice. We were created as the Conference's response to Climate Change.

At the Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference of 2022, the committee Creation Care -Creation Justice was tasked with guiding and encouraging congregations and individuals within the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference in the areas of sustainability, environmental justice, clean water, renewable energy, and environmental advocacy. It will serve as the conference hub to the churches within the conference.

In this effort, we are asking if you know anyone in your congregation who is passionate about Earth Care. We are looking for someone in your church to be a Communication Liaison who could update your congregation monthly with our plans & events. The liaison could post these in the church bulletin, newsletter, e-blast, or, if comfortable, announce them in service. Rather than burden you with additional emails explaining our projects and updates, we would prefer to have a person who could be our single point of contact.

Please send your liaison recommendation to: creationjusticeteam@gmail.com.

In the Bible, we are called to be good stewards of the Earth. We have not always been faithful to this command, and thus caused much harm to all living things and the earth that sustains them. We must realign ourselves with God's instructions.

We truly appreciate your consideration of this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings,
Janet Taylor Smith
jtaylorsmith711@gmail.com



Bethesda UMC in Middletown has a unique opportunity to serve caregivers in the MOT area beginning this spring, and we want to share it with you!

Late in 2023, the Alzheimer's Association received an endowment to support respite services for those who are caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. The endowment specified that the money must be spent in the MOT community, and they reached out to Easter Seals in New Castle County to facilitate a partnership opportunity.

In 2023, 1 in 9 people in the US age 65 and older has Alzheimer's disease- almost 11%. By the year 2050, that number is projected to double. With that in mind, the need for programs that support the social and spiritual elements for patients AND caregivers are in demand...and that's where churches come in!

Utilizing the endowment money from the Alzheimer's Association and under the direction of Easter Seals and the Respite for All Foundation, we have been invited to pilot a program that will provide respite services for caregivers with loved ones who have Alzheimer's or dementia. There are twenty programs around the nation, and ours would be one of the first in Delaware.

We are in the very beginning stages of planning our program right now- the money becomes available in March, and our intent is to plan and train during the spring and summer months, and implement a respite opportunity for caregivers at BUMC during the fall.

In the meantime, we're asking our sister churches the following questions:

~Are there people in your congregation who may be interested in learning more about the program, with the intent to possibly volunteer? For more information on what our program may look like, please watch the video next to the "Respite Changes the World" paragraph on the "Respite for All Foundation" Website. <https://respiteforall.org/>

~Do you have caregivers in your congregation, or do you know a caregiver, who would benefit from respite services like this? If so, please let me know.

This service opportunity will be open to everyone in our community, so we encourage you to share this info with your congregations, and ask them to help us spread the word by talking about the opportunity with their friends, neighbors and families.

If you would like more info, we'll be partnering with Easter Seal's and the Respite for All Foundation this spring and hosting a webinar (with an in-person option) at BUMC that will provide more details and give you a better idea of what the program will look like. We intend to offer that in March or early April, and are awaiting a confirmation for a date.

There are opportunities within the program to work together and create collective support for caregivers within our community. Galatians 6 calls us to be "Burden Bearers" for one another. Here's our opportunity to answer that call!

If you are interested in participating or learning more, please email Mika Blackburn at: Mikab@bethesdaumcde.org



The Delaware District of the Peninsula Delaware Conference

Committee on Urban Center Ministries

Request for Grant Proposals

MISSION of Committee: Supporting Urban Center churches in developing and executing intentional urban mission and church strategies that led to vital congregations and communities by funding programs, capital improvements, or recommending services.

VISION of Committee: Urban Center churches are vital, healthy, and fruitful congregations engaging with their thriving communities through urban ministry.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants are limited to United Methodist Congregations, Organizations, and Nonprofit Agencies located and operating within the geographic boundaries of the City of Wilmington, Delaware..

We also encourage involvement in urban ministry by suburban UM congregations in partnership with urban UM churches and organizations. In cases where the ministry involves such a partnership, the grant money would be given to the urban church/organization. The program leadership can come from either or both groups in partnership. The planned leadership model must be clearly described in the grant request.

Grants will be accepted on a rolling basis.

For more detailed information and to fill out the application, go to the Conference website: Pen-del.org; click on Districts; click on Delaware; click on Urban Ministries. **The application is at the bottom of the page.**

For questions or assistance contact the Delaware District Office at:

delawaredistrictumc@gmail.com

Call to Action Against the Most Expensive Proposed Federal Prison in US History!

Hello Pastors and Leaders!

Methodist Action Program has been watching the development of this project for many months. We're reaching out today with a call to action from the [Building Community Not Prisons Coalition](https://www.buildingcommunitynotprisons.com/) (<https://www.buildingcommunitynotprisons.com/>) who are working to stop the construction of FCI Letcher in eastern Kentucky! Since we last helped [stand against the fast-tracking of this prison](https://www.buildingcommunitynotprisons.com/_files/ugd/70fd21_0315c477faf14174a5a88948d0ad3d66.pdf), (https://www.buildingcommunitynotprisons.com/_files/ugd/70fd21_0315c477faf14174a5a88948d0ad3d66.pdf) we have successfully forced the Federal Bureau of Prisons to release a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed prison, which was published Friday March 1st.

This opens up a **45-day window** in which we can mobilize public comment against the prison and the Draft EIS, giving us a massive opportunity to delay the project. When organizers mobilized public comment against the original EIS in 2015 they delayed the prison by over 4 years before ultimately stopping it in 2019!

Here's how you can help us stop this prison again:

1. **Sign up to join the Public Teach-In Wednesday March 13th at 7:00pm EST** on the fight against FCI Letcher, the environmental harm it poses, and learn how you can write a public comment challenging the Draft EIS. Teach-In Sign Up Link - bit.ly/NoToxicPrisonTeachIn
2. **Sign up to join the EIS Public Comment Writing Work Party Saturday March 16th, 1pm EST!** Work Party Sign Up Link - <https://bit.ly/BCNP-EIS-LetterWritingParty>
3. **Share the [new BCNP Press Release](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DLHrn5cmJmmwepN8aHi3CkEH-HNJCegYpzOLE1wg-BE/edit)** (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DLHrn5cmJmmwepN8aHi3CkEH-HNJCegYpzOLE1wg-BE/edit>) with any media contacts you have!
4. **Share these [Social Media Graphics](https://www.buildingcommunitynotprisons.com/_files/ugd/70fd21_0315c477faf14174a5a88948d0ad3d66.pdf)** (https://www.buildingcommunitynotprisons.com/_files/ugd/70fd21_0315c477faf14174a5a88948d0ad3d66.pdf) on your account to let others know how to get involved! Tag @nonewletcherprison on Instagram and @NoNewBOPPrison on Twitter.
5. **Write a Public Comment directly to the Bureau of Prisons** by April 15th challenging this Draft EIS! (Postal Mail: Kimberly S. Hudson, Chief of Construction and Environmental Review Section, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First Street NW, Room 901-5 West, Washington, D.C. 20534 Email: kshudson@bop.gov On website: <https://www.proposed-fci-letchercountyky.com>)

In speaking about Criminal Justice, our Social Principles noted that John Wesley was particularly concerned for the plight of the incarcerated. As stated under E. Criminal Justice: "While insisting on accountability, we are also committed to fair and proportional sentencing and to the humane treatment of those who are imprisoned. We strongly support programs in prisons designed to promote rehabilitation and restoration of inmates. We do not believe that prisons should be for-profit enterprises."

This project is designed to simply warehouse and isolate the incarcerated. It does not include provisions for rehabilitation and restoration, and its construction would be an environmental disaster for the region.

We are proud to stand with the Building Community Not Prisons coalition against this project!

Blessings,

Donna Hitchner, Exec. Director

Methodist Action Program

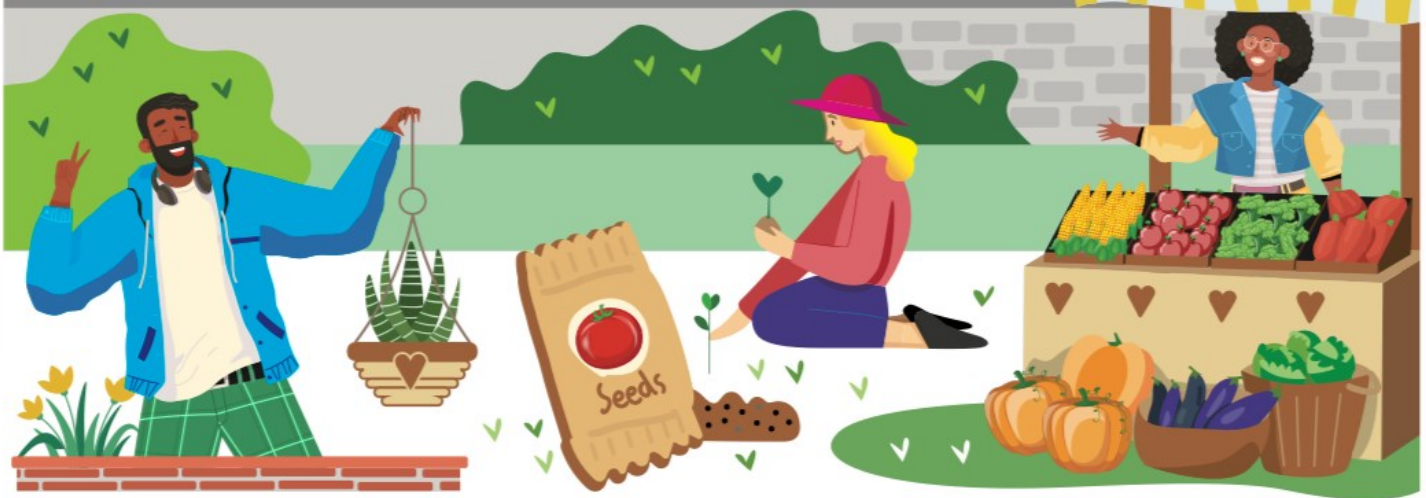
CITY OF LOVE CHURCH COMMUNITY GARDEN

226 North Walnut Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

fun
games

giveaways

door
prizes



Indoor Plant Workshop

Saturday, April 13th
2:30–4:30 P.M.

- Discover all the dos and don'ts of indoor plant care!
- **FREE** indoor plant!



Gardening Workshop

Saturday, May 18th
2:30–3:00 P.M.

- Interested in starting a vegetable garden right in your backyard?
- **FREE** vegetable seeds to get you started!

Harvest Fest

Saturday, August 3rd
2:30 P.M.

- Celebrate our first growing season at this community gathering!
- Food trucks, music, vendors and more!

VOLUNTEER DAYS

Want to get involved in the community?

Tuesdays ♥ 12:00–4:00 P.M.

March 5 & 12
April 2, 9 & 16
May 7



Sign-up to volunteer here.





Spring **CRAFT
SHOW**

Saturday, May 11, 2024 *9-2*

@ Wyoming Church, 216 Wyoming Mill Road, Dover

Applications: wyomingumc.com - HAPPENINGS

St Mark's UWF Outside Yard Sale

- May 18th 8AM- Noon
- Rain or Shine
- Vendor spaces by contract only \$30 ea
- BYO Table/Shelter
- Contact Church Office at 302-994-0400 for contract/payment

If interested you must fill out a reservation form and return it with your CASH payment to the Church office. Payment will be held until we confirm there is enough interest, and refunded if there is not.

It is a first come first serve process, so secure your space ASAP

For a reservation form, CONTACT the OFFICE AT;
office@stmarksumcde.org or
(302) 994-0400



St. Mark's UMC
1700 Limestone Rd.
Wilmington, DE 19804

JOIN
CENTENNIAL UMC
ON A

Summer Outing

Fun
&
Fellowship



SIGHT & SOUND DANIEL

Lancaster, PA

THURSDAY

AUGUST 1st, 2024

Time: 7:30AM



Ticket: \$160.00

Included: Motorcoach transportation, show ticket, and an all you eat buffet meal

**Bus will depart from
44 E. Mt. Vernon St.
Smyrna, DE 19977**

Tickets given when paid in full.

**Make checks payable to
Centennial UMC
or use the QR code (+fees)**



Look for
Sight
and
Sound

For tickets & information

Sis. Elaine Perkins

347-454-1072

Sis. Truee Dorsey

302-561-0519

Don't delay.

**Get your
ticket today**

Payment plan available

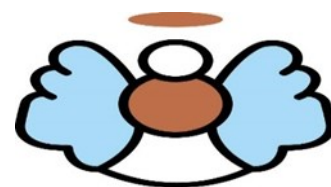
\$60 due now

\$50 due March 1st, 2024

\$50 due May 1st, 2024

Shari Morrow, Pastor

ISRAEL U. M. CHURCH - MIRACLE ANGELS
20230 PLANTATION RD, LEWES, DE 19958
PASTOR: REV. MARJORIE BELMONT



MIRACLE ANGELS RAINBOW OF HOPE LUMINARY FUNDRAISER

Dear Fellow Sponsors, Family and Friends:

The Miracle Angels will be sponsoring a Cancer Mission fundraiser selling Luminary bags in honor of and or memory of cancer survivors for our sole support to Beebe Oncology Center, Lewes, DE, "Patient Special Needs Fund".

We will be having a "Rainbow of Hope Survivorship Worship Celebration" service for cancer survivors, caretakers, family and friends on Sunday, September 22nd at our church at 10:00 a.m.; wherein the luminary bags will be placed in the church sanctuary and lighted. Come, wear your survivorship ribbon color attire as we create a beautiful Rainbow of HOPE together!

The luminary bags will be on sale for \$10.00 per prior to the church worship celebration service at our 1 st Christmas in July Yard Sale on Saturday, July 6 th at the Rabbit's Ferry Community Center, 19112 Robinsonville RD, Lewes, DE 19958 – 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. You can purchase your bag at our yard sale and take home to decorate and place a name(s) on it and bring to the church service for placement or use the order form on the back with payment and we can place the names on it only for you. You may also keep the luminary bag and light it from your home if you choose to do so.

If you wish to support this fundraiser, please contact **bjnscruisers@aol.com** for an order form.

God Bless,





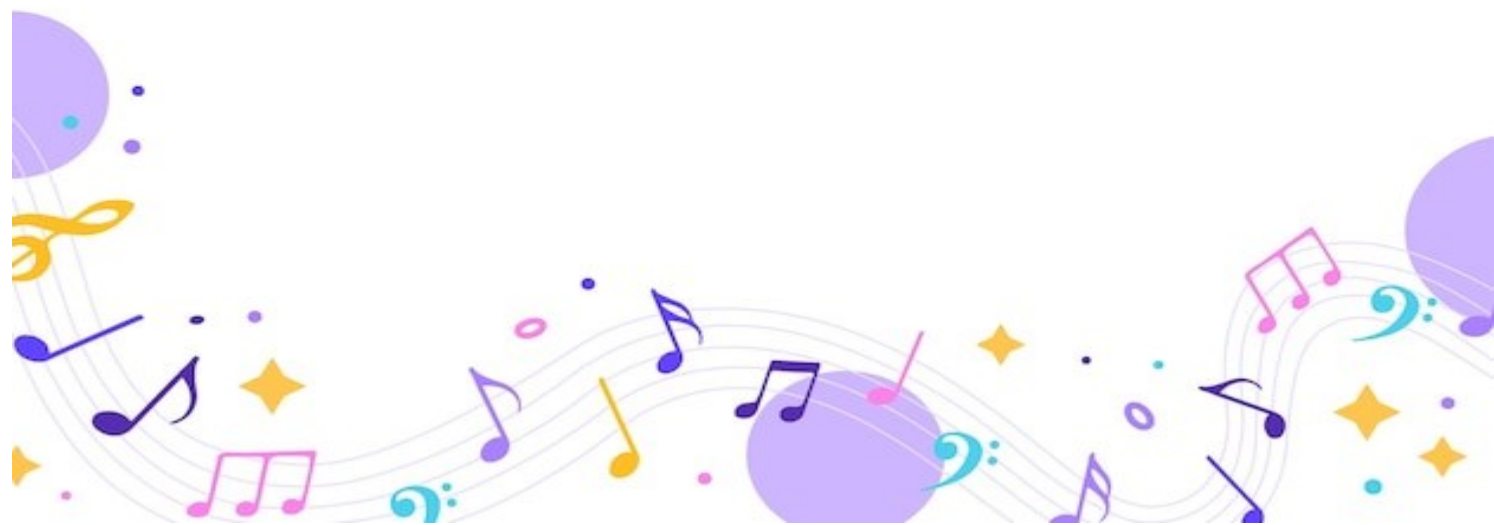
St. John's UMC in Seaford, DE
is looking for a Choir Director,
Organist, & Piano Accompanist.

We have an active choir and a beautiful pipe organ!

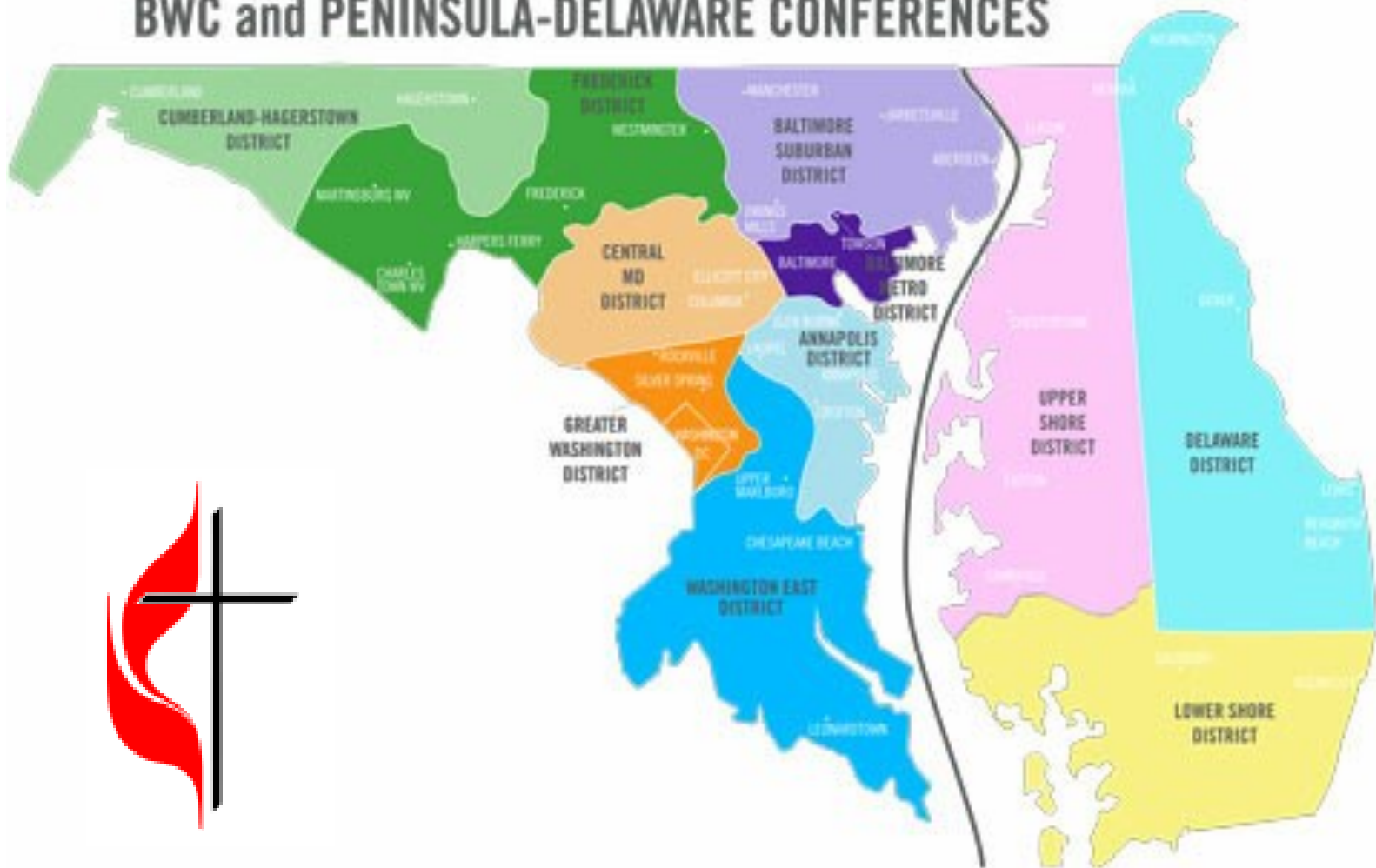
For more information please contact the church via

email: stjohns@stjohnsseaford.com

or SPRC Chair, Larry Grantham at 302-339-1460



BWC and PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCES



Peninsula-Delaware & Baltimore Washington Conferences

Check out our affiliation website: <https://www.pdcbwc.org> Under the leadership of Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, the affiliation is a unique partnership, which connects the leaders and members of more than 1,000 churches to share resources and create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Palm Sunday

Rejoice in the lord



Delaware District Office
900 N. Washington St.
Wilmington, DE 19801

District Superintendent
Rev. Joseph Archie, III
Phone: 302-494-1030

Andrea Lenker
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7:30 am—2:00 pm
DelawareDistrictUMC@gmail.com

Peninsula-Delaware
Conference
139 N. State St.
Dover, DE 19901
www.pen-del.org
Phone: 302-674-2626
877-737-3351

Presiding Bishop
Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
11711 E. Market Pl.
Fulton, MD 20759
410-309-3400

The United States
Postal Service has
increased the price
for a regular letter
from **66¢ to 68¢**
effective January 21st.



The IRS mileage rate for 2024
has been set at **67¢** per mile.



The Delaware District Newsletter is
published bi-weekly on a Tuesday.
Articles or flyers for the next issue
are due on **Saturday, March 30, 2024**.
To submit articles, please send them
to the District Office.

When submitting articles or flyers for
the newsletter, please send them as a
word document or jpg so I can easily
insert them into the newsletter.

