

May 2019

The Voice of Faith

Dear Faith Family,

Christ is risen! Happy Easter!

In this Resurrection month, I'm hearing in "the ears of my ears" the wonderful Easter Chorale of Samuel Barber, composed to this poem by R. Pack Browning:

The morning light renews the sky.
Across the air the birds ignite
like sparks to take this blaze of day
through all the precincts of the night.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
The fires of dawn refresh our eyes.
We watch the world grow wide and bright
and praise our newly risen Light.

The winter land receives the year.
Her smallest creatures rouse and cling
to swelling roots and buds that stir
the restless air to reel and ring!

Alleluia! Alleluia!
The sounds of waking fill our ears.
We listen to the live earth sing
and praise our loving Source and Spring.

I pray for the renewal that grows in us all, and give thanks for the hope that sparks even into the night. I pray for all that is growing toward the Light in our community and our church. And yes, this Easter and every Easter, we thank God that we are a Resurrection people, and we pray for all the places in this world that still need the light of Christ.

As the world grows wide and bright, and as you listen to the live earth sing,

Alleluia! Alleluia,
Praise our loving Source and Spring!

Blessings, Mary

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Please send articles and photos for the Voice of Faith by the 15 of the month.

seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org

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WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:45

Third Sunday of Easter

May 5

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 12

Youth & Mother's Sunday

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23:1-6

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 19

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148:1-14

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 26

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67:1-7

Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Robin Nemser, *chair*

Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:15 in Woodmont Room

Recreation and Re-Creation

Please plan to attend the May Adult Forums and have the chance to learn about the hobbies of several of our members and why they find these activities helpful recreation and sources of re-creation. You will come to understand what satisfactions and growth these pursuits have afforded, as well as some of the challenges and frustrations. And, you may even decide to explore a new hobby! Our line-up is as follows:

5 Trains and Planes (the woodworking kind)

Featuring **Ron Sperling** and **Jack Nesbitt**

19 Horseback Riding, Baseball, and 5 K's
Featuring **Marilyn Valentine, Kristin Herber,** and **James Herber**

26 Gardening and Dragon Boat Racing
Featuring **Pat Nesbitt, Karen Meyer,** and **Chandra Jackson**

Note: May 12 Forum will be Laptop Sunday. See Mary's note on page 6.

Wednesdays Bible Study

11:00 a.m. in Woodbourne Room

Join Faith every Wednesday for a lively discussion of Sundays upcoming lesson. No preparation is required.

Concert

May 12, 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Leah Brown, *mezzo soprano*

Dr. Samuel Springer, *piano*

A special Mother's Day concert will be held at Faith. The concert is a culmination of two recitals which were performed in Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago in March. The theme of the concert is music of Black composers. The title is taken from a poem by the Harlem Renaissance poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist Langston Hughes.

A Negro Speaks of Rivers

I've known rivers:
I've known rivers ancient as the world
and older than the
flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns
were young.
I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled
me to sleep.
I looked upon the Nile and raised the
pyramids above it.
I heard the singing of the Mississippi
when Abe Lincoln
went down to New Orleans, and I've
seen its muddy
bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I've known rivers:
Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

The concert will also feature some folk songs and folk spirituals of the Caribbean with drum (djembe).

Please invite your friends to this exciting afternoon of music. Think of it as dessert after lunch. The concert will not be more than an hour in length.

WORSHIP & THE ARTS



Palm Sunday marked the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. On the morning of Palm Sunday folks gathered in the Fellowship Hall where a table was set with tempting breakfast goodies to visit with friends.



As the time for worship arrived palms were distributed, and a long line of worshipers braved the chilly wet weather to parade up the sidewalk waving palms and greeting travelers and neighbors on the way to enter the Sanctuary.



A small group of worshipers gathered on **Holy Thursday** to share communion followed by a Service of Tenebrae. Church

members read brief passages that followed the events of the night that Jesus was betrayed.



Following each reading the congregation sang a stanza of "Were You There" and a candle was extinguished. The Chancel Choir sang *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. By the end of the service the Sanctuary was in darkness and the congregation exited in silence.

There was no **Good Friday** service, but we were part of a neighborhood service that was held in Morgan State University's chapel.



Easter Sunday began on the portico where a brief ceremony was held to burn the many slips of paper that had been used to write personal prayers that were placed on a cross during worship in Lent.



The cross, once covered with prayers, now a burst of spring blooms. As the congregation entered the sanctuary they were greeted with the aroma and vision of beautiful spring flowers throughout the sanctuary.



Pews were full of multi-generational families brought together to celebrate the Resurrection.



The children gathered on the steps at the front of the church. They spoke of the

Sunday at the beginning of Lent when they hid the Alleluias in sealed box. Then, with the help of Rev. Speers, the box was opened. Inside they discovered a beautiful Alleluia banner which was dropped over the cross now covered in flowers. Majestic music by the organ, choir and six guest musicians playing brass created a vibrant space for an Easter Celebration.



Following the service, the children were eager to fill their baskets with plastic eggs filled with treats.



The observance of Lent and the Celebration of Easter has covered many weeks and required lot of "behind the scenes" preparations. Thank you to the each and every one who helped to make it happen.

Tree Planting in Memory of Randy



Just as the sun came out, the Memorial Tree Planting service began with Rev. Doris Cowan welcoming the 20 or so congregants. There were readings and poetry read by members. Mike Shirey led the hymn, *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* and sang the postlude. It was a lovely tribute to our friend.



New Pastor Call Process Update



Dear Family of Faith,

Beginning in only a couple of days, every member of Faith Church will have the opportunity to participate in something called a **Church Assessment Tool (CAT)**. The information gained from this "CAT-scan" will be a road map for the future and a very useful tool for the Pastor Nominating Committee you are soon to elect!

Many people like to complete the CAT on their own, online. But some of our church family may prefer to do this in conversation with a trusted friend who is more comfortable with computers. We've told you there will be a "Laptop Day," and I'm confirming now that the Adult Forum have graciously ceded their morning time before worship on Mothers' Day Sunday, when the youth lead worship and we should have a good turnout.

So...we'll need volunteers *who have already completed their own CAT questionnaire* to bring their laptops to church on that Sunday, to work with anyone who needs help completing it on line. We probably won't need masses of volunteers, but we do need some. The time commitment is **9:15-10:15am on Sunday, May 12.**

It is really important that before you help someone else, you have already completed your own, so what they say has no chance of influencing, however subtly, your own answers. And if they're puzzled by a question

and ask, "What did you say?" please don't tell them!

You absolutely may help them with the process of prioritizing, though, in the sections that ask for that. In general, we've figured out that when you are asked to prioritize between several statements, pick the most important and the least important first, and then work toward the middle.

Our future together can only benefit from your honest answers, your discretion, but above all, your participation!

If you have questions, please contact Mike Billings (clerk) or Mary Speers (moderator).

Many thanks,
Mary Speers for
Your FAITH-ful Session

Block Party Time!



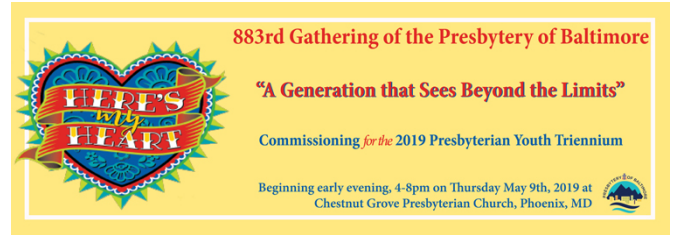
Faith's annual neighborhood Block Party will take place on the church's south lawn on **Wednesday, May 29, from 5:30 to 7:30pm**. Families in our neighborhood are invited (mainly through children who are students at our local schools) to come for a hot dog supper, games, activities such as nail

painting, and to take advantage of community resource tables for helpful information. Music from a DJ, balloon sculptures from the Balloon Lady, and free haircuts for boys are also lined up.

Judy & Ron Sperling are about to make their trek to Sam's for hot dogs, buns, and other fixings. And Jay Chalfant is sharpening her knives to cut brownies, while Yvonne Davis and Phyllis Compton are organizing a prayer table.

We've invited some local political notables. But, mostly, we want our Faith congregation notables to be there! Please plan to attend that evening to help welcome as many as 400-500 guests and to enjoy the party. Now, when was the last time you ever had that many people over for dinner?

So, dig out your favorite brownie recipes and consider whether nail painting or monitoring sack races is your special forte, because we need you. Please let **Judy Sperling, Robin Nemser, Bill Millen, or Paula Burger** know if you can help at the event. Signup sheets will also be circulated at worship over the next few Sundays. This is an important community outreach for Faith Church. Be a part of it!



Join us for spectacular worship, fellowship, a bit of business and a good ole' fashioned outdoor barbeque as we gather for the 883rd meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore on **Thursday, May 9** from 4-8 pm at **Chestnut Grove Presbyterian Church**, 3701 Sweet Air Road in Phoenix, MD (21131). We'll also take time during this gathering to commission our youth as they plan to attend the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University, July 16-20.

The Gathering barbeque dinner is \$15 per person and includes:

Regular Meal
Pulled Pork BBQ
Smokehouse Dixie Chicken
Carolina Slaw
Redskin Potato Salad
Andy's Famous BBQ Beans
Fresh Kaiser Rolls

Vegan/Vegetarian Meal
Portobello Mushrooms
Stewed Tomatoes
Dixie Cut Corn
Carolina Slaw

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR A GATHERING MEAL](#)

The deadline for purchasing a gathering meal is May 3, 2019. For further questions, email Wanda Morgan.

FAITH FAMILY LIFE

Happy May Birthday!

2 nd	Maceo Williams Joseph Colaianne
3 rd	Charles Richardson
4 th	Ella Marinacci
6 th	Mary Speers
7 th	James Herber
10 th	Sharon Will
11 th	Judy Sperling Janet Thomson
14 th	Cal Burns
15 th	Karen Burd Ann Scheck
16 th	Bishop Brown Andy Fuller
18 th	Ellen Bernard Mary Hodgson
21 st	Ileana Martinez-Castillo Kelsey Shirey
23 rd	Charles Minor
24 th	NaaAtswei Koney Sarah Ward
29 th	James St. Pierre Natalie Wallace
31 st	Andre Slacum

If you would like your birthday added or if it is incorrect, please contact the church office.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Betty Bunce, Nan Pohl, Nancy Stutzer

Please send your prayer requests to Mary Speers, *Interim Pastor* 410-435-4330, and/or Sharon Will 410-254-6788. Prayers are answered!

Nominating Committee Update

STAR your calendars: Election Sunday for the slate of new officers and the nominating committee will be held on **May 19**. There will be a brief congregational meeting in the

sanctuary immediately following the church service. Ordination/Installation Sunday will be held on **June 2** during worship.

Plan to be present on both Sundays to show our support for the incoming officers and their willingness to serve during this very important time in the life of Faith Church!

Book Club

Monday, June 1-7:00 at the Nesbitts



Becoming is the memoir of former United States First Lady Michelle Obama published in 2018. Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.

It sold more copies than any other book published in the United States in 2018, breaking the record in just 15 days

The Negro Speaks of Rivers

May 12, 2019 | 4:00 pm

A RECITAL
OF
NEGRO SPIRITUALS AND ART SONGS
BY
BLACK COMPOSERS



Dr. Leake Brown, mezzo-soprano

Dr. Samuel Springer, piano



THIS EVENT IS FREE
WE WELCOME FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Faith Presbyterian Church
5400 Loch Raven Blvd, Baltimore 21239.



**Join the rally
to kick-off the
Baltimore
Ceasefire!!**

When: Friday May 10th from 5 to 6 pm

Where: at the corner of Loch Raven Blvd and Woodbourne Ave.

What: bring signs that celebrate life and call for an end of murder in the city... or just simply come to raise your voice and support a city safer for all.


After the rally, join us in the hall of St. Matthew Catholic Church for a listening session about healing for our city.



Light refreshment will be served.

Need more info? Check www.baltimoreceasefire.com, email to StMatthew5401@gmail.com, or call Sr. Ilaria at 410 323 14 69 ext 3

May

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	29:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM -CR Choir	3	4
 5 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	6	7 7:00PM -WB Deacons	8 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	9 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM -CR Choir	10	11
12 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship 4:00PM – ST Concert	13	14	15 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	16 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM -CR Choir	17	18
19 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	20 7:00PM – WB Session	21	22 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	23 9:00AM – Thursday Crew 7:30PM -CR Choir	24	25
26 9:15AM – WM Adult Forum 10:45AM – ST Worship	27	28	29 11:00AM – WB Bible Study 2:00PM – CH Gentle Yoga	30	31	
					Locations ST – Sanctuary WB – Woodbourne Room WM – Woodmont Room FH – Fellowship Hall OC – Off Campus	