

# WUMC Community Pathway

MARCH 2018



## Williamsburg United Methodist Church

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### Pastor Jack's Corner

*He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. Luke 19:1-4 (ESV)*

I like this story. Zacchaeus was a man who dug himself into a huge hole. He was “chief tax collector,” which means he made his money on the backs of those around him. Tax collectors in Jesus’ day got rich by collecting taxes for the hated Roman empire, taxes that were already deeply painful to the people of Israel. The collectors made their own income by squeezing even more out of the people than what the Romans demanded. The chief tax collector required the other tax collectors to get enough from their work to pay a hefty percentage to him. We can assume, because we told that he was rich, that Zacchaeus was very good at his work. He was therefore, a thoroughly despicable man and we can be certain that the people of Jericho knew him and despised him. Zacchaeus was a sinner by his own choice; he had earned the hatred people had for him. Now I suspect that becoming a chief tax collector was not what Zacchaeus set out to do as a young man: he fell into his role choice by choice as he grew into adulthood. That is the reason I appreciate this story. Zacchaeus didn’t set out to become the sinner that he was, but he ended up that way. Isn’t that our own story, too? None of us sets out to be a sinner, but each of us ends up that way, decision by decision, choice by choice! We may not be hated by everyone around us, but we are—in God’s eyes, just as terrible a sinner as Zacchaeus. But God determined that we would not end us dying as sinners, people forever separated from God. Instead, God sent His Son, whom we know as Jesus Christ, to pay the price to redeem us from our sins. For this reason, we spent time during Lent, each year, focusing on how far we have fallen from what God wants, and how much His sacrifice cost Him. We may not be Zacchaeus, but we are Jack and Mary and Joe and Donna (no one but “Jack” referring to any particular person), everyday people, people in great need of being saved from our choices, our sins. The Good News is that Jesus called out to Zacchaeus and did the unthinkable, He sat down at a meal with him! In Jesus’ day, sharing a meal with someone meant that one was family with the other. Jesus does the same with us, friends. He comes to us, meets us where we are, in a tree, at a ballgame, at a tavern or even at a backyard barbeque, and He invites Himself to eat and meet with us, as cleansed and holy members of His own family!

I pray that this season of Lent will open you to His sacrifice of love, grace, and mercy in new and profound ways so that when we meet together on Easter morning we can truly meet as fresh, newly washed, and newly holy brothers and sisters of Christ and passionate members of God’s Kingdom

#### THANK YOU!

I want to offer a **special thank you for supporting me in my journey to the Holy Land in November**. This is a dream come true for me and I could not do it without the generosity of Williamsburg and the other three churches. “The Holy Land Classic Tour” is being led by our bishop, David Bard and his wife Julie. We will leave on November 12 and return to the U.S. on November 21. We fly to Tel Aviv on 11/12-13, visiting Galilee on the 14<sup>th</sup> (*Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Church of the Fish and the Loaves at Tabgha, an ancient synagogue site at Magdala (Mary Magdalene’s home) and the location on the Jordan River where John the Baptist is believed to have baptized our Lord Jesus*). On the 15<sup>th</sup>, *Cana (the site of Jesus’ first miracle at a wedding), Nazareth (His childhood home), Tel Megiddo, better known to us as “Armageddon,” and Caesarea*. On Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>: *Jericho, Qumran (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered) and the Mount of Olives, overlooking Jerusalem*. Nov. 17-18 will include journeys to Bethlehem and several key sites in Jerusalem. On the 19<sup>th</sup> we will have a “Leisure Day,” an opportunity to do some personal sightseeing, etc., a full day on the 20<sup>th</sup> in Jerusalem and then a return to Tel Aviv for our flights home. If you want to donate to this but have not yet done so, please you’re your donation to the church with “Holy Land Trip” on the memo line and please accept my thanks! Please also support me in your prayers. You have, to coin a phrase, “Blessed my socks off!”

#### HOLY WEEK

I am still working on the **schedule for Holy Week**, but this is what I am aware of so far: I am not certain what we will do for **Maundy Thursday**. I understand that the pastor has traditionally prepared a Seder Meal for that time. I am not sure that is realistic for me, this year, but we can do an abbreviated Seder on that night if you like. Please stay tuned! **Good Friday** services will be held at Fife Lake UMC at 1 PM and at Williamsburg at 7 PM. There will be an **Easter Sunrise Service** at East Boardman UMC at 7 AM followed by breakfast at 7:30. All other **Easter** services will be at the regular worship times.

#### AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!

As you may know by now, Beth Bronkema has submitted her resignation as our Church Secretary (and tech guru on Sunday mornings!) to devote her energy to caring for her mom. I want to offer a deep thank you to Beth for her devoted service, and for doing so much to make my transition to this “new thing” in which we are adventuring work. If you are not aware Beth took on, with this new appointment, producing weekly bulletins for all four churches and she has done an outstanding job at it. Please keep Beth and Doug and their family in your daily prayers. God speed, good and faithful servant. We (I) will miss you and we (I) love you!

May Our Lord Bless You All During Lent and This Coming Easter!

Pastor Jack

**March's Noisy Offering will support NAMI**, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. What started as a small group of families gathered around a kitchen table in 1979 has blossomed into the nation's leading voice on mental health. Today, we are an association of hundreds of local affiliates, state organizations and volunteers who work in your community to raise awareness and provide support and education that was not previously available to those in need. **THANK YOU!**

**MITTEN TREE TIME!**

March will be our last month to gather mittens, gloves, scarves, hats (infant through adult sizes); hand-made, OR purchased, OR gently used for organizations such as the Baby Pantry, TC Alternative High School, ACTS, Women's Resource Center, and more. This is an ongoing mission through March.  
Thank you so much!

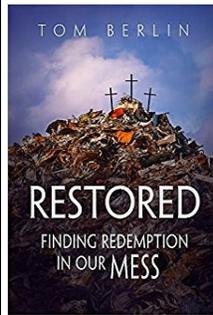


**Saturday, March 10, 2018  
10am-2pm  
Abuse Prevention Workshop  
at  
Williamsburg UMC**  
  
Light Lunch included  
  
Sign Up in the Hallway!

**Lenten Luncheons  
(Soup/Sandwich)  
on Th, February 1, 8, 15, 22!  
Presbyterian Church, TC  
(Airport Access Rd.)  
\$3 to go toward local  
Missions.**



*Bible Study on  
Mondays 10am WUMC, or  
Wednesdays 6:30pm SBUMC*



*"Restored:  
Finding  
Redemption in  
Our Mess"*

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP  
MEETING  
Sunday, March 4, 2018  
After Church  
All Women are welcome!  
We'll be planning for the whole  
year and we'd love to have your  
ideas!**



**COLLECTING YOUR USED  
GREETING CARDS!**

**COLLECTING YOUR  
POSTMARKED STAMPS!**

Church Women United are collecting these items!

On the postage stamps, please cut the envelope at a diagonal to make sure there's plenty of paper around the stamp.

**THANK YOU!**

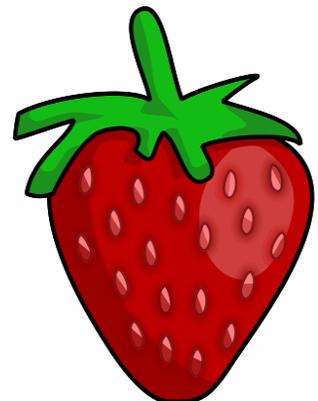


**Sunday, March 11th**

- **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!**
- **POTLUCK AFTER CHURCH!**
- **PRAYERS AND SQUARES GATHERING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING POTLUCK TO TIE A QUILT! ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**SAVE THE DATE!  
SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018 FOR  
THE STRAWBERRY  
SOCIAL!**



# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <b>AA SCHEDULE</b>  <b>Monday, 7:30pm NEW TIME!!!</b>  <b>Wed. Women Only, 7pm</b>  <b>Saturday, Men Only 10am;</b>  <b>Saturday, everyone, 7pm</b> </div>				<b>1</b> 11:30am Lenten Lunch- eon @ TC Pres. Church	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:15 Worship Svc/ Communion  Women's Fel- lowship Meet- ing	<b>5</b> 10am Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 3pm All Faith Svc. @ Samaritas <i>6:30pm Bible                      Study @                      SBUMC</i>	<b>8</b> 11:30am Lenten Lunch- eon @ TC Pres. Church	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10:15 Worship Svc./ Potluck  Prayers/ Squares tie a quilt!	<b>12</b> 10am Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 3pm All Faith Svc. @ Samaritas <i>6:30pm Bible                      Study @                      SBUMC</i>	<b>15</b> 11:30am Lenten Lunch- eon @ TC Pres. Church	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:15 Worship Svc./ <b>AD BOARD                      MEETING</b>	<b>19</b> 10am Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 3pm All Faith Svc. @ Samaritas <i>6:30pm Bible                      Study @                      SBUMC</i>	<b>22</b> 11:30am Lenten Lunch- eon @ TC Pres. Church	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:15 Worship Svc./ Brunch	<b>26</b> 10am Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 3pm All Faith Svc. @ Samaritas <i>6:30pm Bible                      Study @                      SBUMC</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7pm(?) Good Friday Svc.	<b>31</b>



## 4 Reasons Visitors Do Not Return

By Doug Powe On January 31, 2018 Leading Ideas

**Lewis Center Director F. Douglas Powe says it's important not only to attract visitors, but to create a space where they will want to stay. Congregations wondering why their visitors don't return need to honestly assess how they respond to visitors and what their church has to offer.**

It is not unusual to hear a parishioner say, "We are a friendly church. Why don't visitors come back?" Many congregations struggle to understand why they get visitors who seem to enjoy their visit and say they are returning soon, but never visit again. This can be extremely frustrating, especially for a congregation seeking to grow. The question is, "Why don't they come back?" *Sometimes, when visiting a congregation, it feels like vultures are waiting to pounce as soon as you arrive. It's as if a target appears on the visitor's back.*

**1. Inwardly friendly** I have visited my share of congregations over the years and all of them claim to be the friendliest church. Yet, what I observe and what I am sure others experience is that people in these churches *are* friendly — but they are friendly to each other. Often, during the passing of the peace or congregational greeting time, parishioners greet one another warmly, but guests are left feeling like outsiders. It is not that people are not speaking to them, but that people are brushing past them quickly, so they can connect with those they know in the congregation. When this happens over and over again, it makes a visitor feel like an intruder and not a guest.

**2. Uninspiring worship** If the point of contact for a visitor is worship, then nothing is worse than uninspiring worship. The sermon feels like it was a Sunday morning special. The music feels like the congregation has been singing the same hymns every Sunday for a year. In general, there is a sense that folk are there out of obligation and not because they expect to experience God's transforming love and grace. Visitors are likely to sense quickly when things are done out of obligation rather than a true sense of investment. In a worship experience where it is obvious that even the regulars don't really want to be present, guests certainly will not feel inspired.

**3. Vulture syndrome** Sometimes, when visiting a congregation, it feels like vultures are waiting to pounce as soon as you arrive. You've barely made it through the door and someone is already signing you up to be the chair of the trustee committee. Obviously, this scenario is exaggerated, but there is still truth to it. When congregations are struggling to fill leadership positions and someone new walks through their doors, it's as if a target appears on the visitor's back. The visitor may well be open to serving in leadership, but the first visit isn't the time for a visitor to hear about all the ways their gifts can be used.

**4. No ministries** Even though a visitor isn't likely to commit on Day One, the fact of the matter is many visitors are looking for ways to get involved. And this can be a challenge in many churches, especially smaller churches, where the only things going on are Sunday worship and one Sunday School class. A visitor interested in making a difference in the community or some other form of outreach, will quickly discover there is no outlet for their interest. This challenge is magnified when visiting families expect activities for the children. Even if they enjoy the worship experience or the Sunday School class they often do not return because nothing exists for their children.

**5. Assess your strengths and weaknesses** The bottom line is that all congregations should honestly assess their strengths and weaknesses as they relate to visitors. One way of doing this is to ask someone who is unfamiliar to the congregation to visit and then report back on their experience. This can open the eyes of the congregation to areas that may need to be addressed. It may not be possible to resolve every issue, but tackling one or two is important — for example, making sure parishioners do not simply brush past visitors to get to friends and making changes to the worship experience that will inspire others to experience God's love and grace. It is important not only to bring in people, but to create a space where they will want to stay.

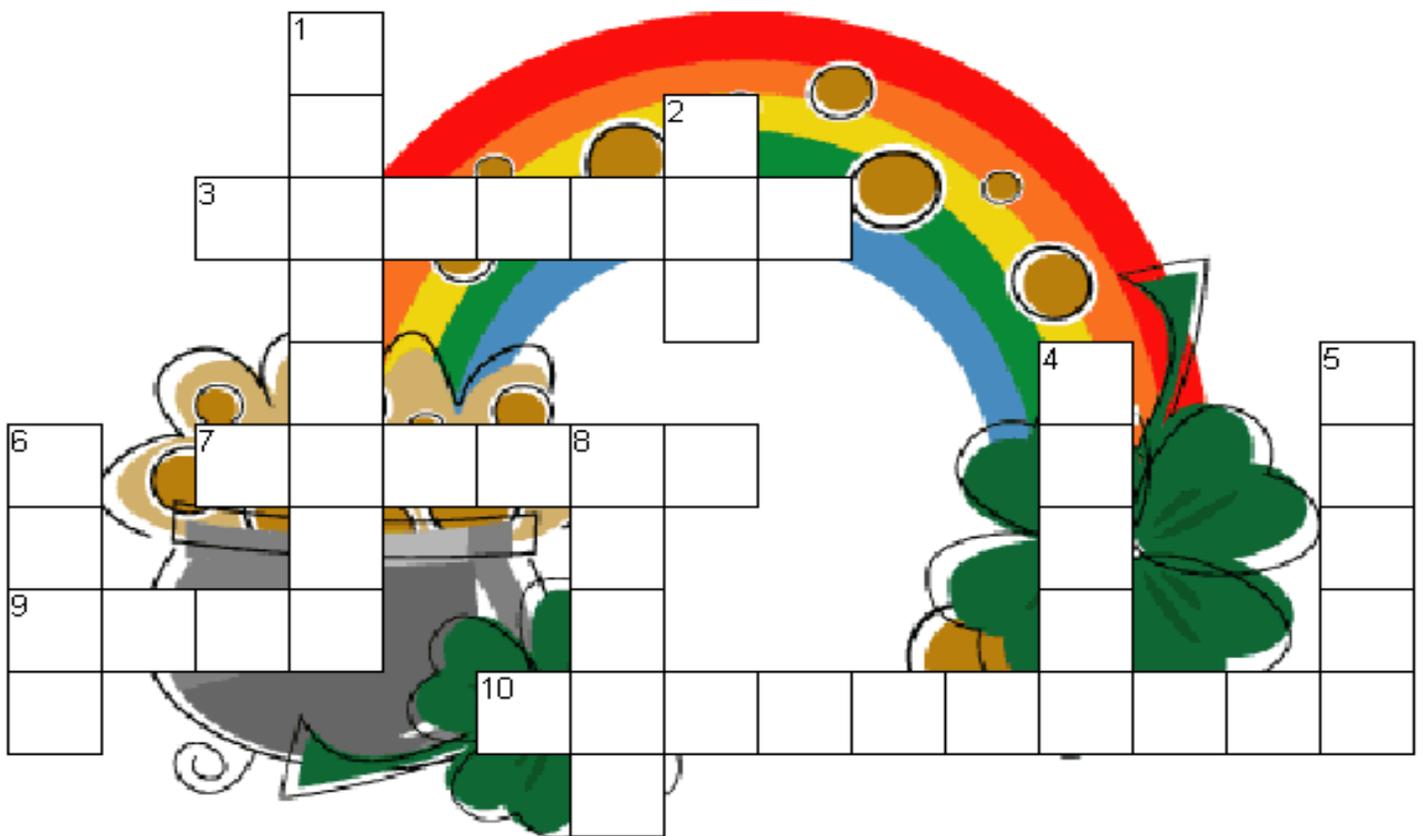
### March Celebrations!

8th Holly & Shane Barrett's Anniv!  
10th Lexi Hamstra  
12th Jan Donkers  
12th Callie Thomas  
13th Rod Kuncaitis  
15th Judy Jenkins  
15th Pattie Conklin  
17th Dana Kuncaitis-Rouse

19th Lisa Walter  
21st Laura Reinhold  
21st Dwain & Wanda Provins' Anniv!  
22nd Cathy Dye  
26th Wendy Walter  
26th Carol & Jim Hockin's Anniversary!  
27th Zack Buchan

## St. Patrick's Day Crossword

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### Across

3. Colorful Arc
7. Where can you find a leprechaun?
9. Good \_\_\_\_\_
10. Little Green Elf

### Down

1. Four-leaf Clover
2. In what do leprechaun's store their gold?
4. People from Ireland
5. St. Patrick's Day Color
6. Expensive Shiny Metal
8. How many colors are there in a rainbow?



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS

*love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness and  
self-control.*

-Galatians 5:22

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