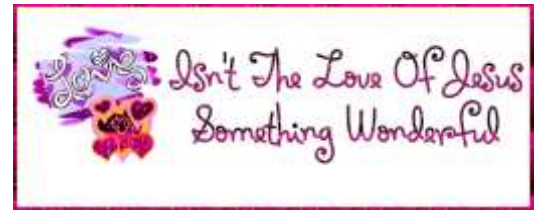




CRESSET

February 2018



Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season. On Ash Wednesday, February 14, the church will be open at **6:00 a.m. & 12 Noon** for the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The evening service will be at **7:00 p.m.** During this service we will have the imposition of ashes and will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Lenten services will continue on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

(See Lenten Schedule on Pg. 5 for more details.)



Sunday, February 18th – Scout Sunday

On Sunday, February 19, we will celebrate Scout Sunday and both the Cub Pack and Scout Troop and their families will be our guests during worship. Members of our Scout Troop will be helping in the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The Cub Scouts' Pinewood Derby will be held following the service.

The United Methodist Women will have hot dogs and drinks for sale after the worship service and during the derby in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from the sales will be given to our Cub Scout Pack to help financially support their ministry.

Please plan to attend and give support to our Scouts!



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Communion will be served on Sunday, February 4, 2018

Vol. 60, No. 2 – Cresaptown United Methodist Church, P O Box 5206, Cresaptown, MD 21505-5206

(The *Cresset* newsletter is printed eleven times a year.)

Phone 301-729-0052

Web address: www.cresapumc.org

E-mail: pastor@cresapumc.org

From the Heart of the Pastor:

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As I work on this article in this edition of the Cresset, I find myself investing much time in preparing for the upcoming Lenten Season. Yes, with February now upon us, we will begin our Lenten Journey together soon. I say that because this year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of the Lenten Season falls on February 14th.

Traditionally, during this Holy Season known as Lent, Christians prepare themselves for Easter. We do this by walking with Jesus through the Scriptures as He makes His way to Jerusalem and Golgotha, where He died on the cross of Calvary to restore fallen humankind and creation back to God! Thus, as we prepare ourselves for the beginning of our Lenten Journey to make our way to Easter 2018, I remind you once more of the importance of the Lenten Season for us as followers of Christ.

Lent is a time of the Church Year when we specifically meditate on the passion and person of Christ and take time to reflect on the life and death of our Lord. It is a time of preparation in which we participate in self-examination of our lives and we repent of our sins. It is a time where we practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, self-denial, reading and meditating on God's Holy Word, as well as a time to reach out to others with acts of justice, mercy, and kindness!

Thus, Lent is a time when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and enable us to die spiritually with Jesus, and then live for Him! But if you have been reading what I have written, and paying attention to what you are reading, you may find yourself in a dilemma, especially if you want to faithfully begin the Lenten Season on the right foot and celebrate Ash Wednesday in the right spirit! Why do I say that? I say that because of the particular date that Ash Wednesday falls on this year, February 14th! But you say, that is Valentine's Day! How in the world am I going to celebrate Valentine's Day and be faithful to the Lord on Ash Wednesday? That is exactly my point!

As your pastor, let me share with you how I am going to do it. First, let me say that I seek to celebrate the Lenten Season in the right spirit. I not only want to begin the Lenten Season well, I also want to finish well! I also want to celebrate the spirit of Valentine's Day. So as I see it I have at least two options. I can celebrate Valentine's Day earlier in the week or move the celebration back to Sunday (Last year you may remember Valentine's Day fell on a Sunday and we did not have this issue). Moving it forward allows you to enjoy a nice dinner with your spouse or your loved one and still begin the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday in a way that is pleasing to the Lord. Moving it back to Sunday is an option because Sunday is a little Easter and is considered a feast day and not a fast day.

But hear this, if the two options that I have given you are not feasible for you for whatever reason, prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you do! If you want to celebrate Valentine's Day on the 14th and that keeps you from attending any of the opportunities on Ash Wednesday, I will not hold that against you! Just don't allow that from keeping you from celebrating the rest of the Lenten Season the way it should be celebrated! Each of us is given plenty of opportunities for worship and reflection during the Lenten Season. You may read about them during this month's edition of the Cresset under the Worship Schedule for February and in the March Edition under the Worship Schedule for March.

May each of you truly have a blessed Lenten Season and may the Lord use you to reach out in His name by showing random acts of kindness, mercy and grace with those you come in contact with!

Grace and Peace to each of you,
Pastor Hal



BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY
Growing with God's Word in Faith
(2018 Bible Reading Guide from the American Bible Society)

1	Genesis 37:1-36	11	Genesis 47:1-31	21	Joshua 2:1-24
2	Genesis 39:1-23	12	Genesis 48:1-22	22	Joshua 3:1-17
3	Genesis 40:1-23	13	Genesis 49:29—50:26	23	Joshua 4:1—5:1
4	Genesis 41:1-36	14	Psalms 51	24	Joshua 6:1-27
5	Genesis 41:37-57	15	Psalms 52	25	Ruth 1:1-22
6	Genesis 42:1-38	16	Psalms 73	26	Ruth 2:1-23
7	Genesis 43:1-34	17	Psalms 108	27	Ruth 3:1-18
8	Genesis 44:1-34	18	Hebrews 11:1-22	28	Ruth 4:1-22
9	Genesis 45:1-28	19	Hebrews 11:23-40		
10	Genesis 46:1-34	20	Joshua 1:1-18		

NURSING HOME & ASSISTED LIVING

You might like to remember these people with cards, visits and prayers:

Nancy Phillips: Lions Manor, Seton Drive, Cumberland, MD 21502

Wilma Bizaro, Jim Lease: Devlin Manor, 10301 Christie Road NE, Cumberland, MD 21502

Agnes Morral, Betty Kimmell, Alice Lewis Greenwood; Frostburg Village, One Kaylor Circle, Frostburg, MD 21532

Ruth Galford: The Kensington Algonquin, One Baltimore Street, Room 520, Cumberland, MD 21502
 Phone 301-777-1623

Sarah Davis: Allegany Rehab & Nursing Center, Furnace Street, Cumberland, MD 21502

CARDS AND PRAYERS

For our *out-of-town* cards and prayers:

Betty Oliver: 4305 Loft Woods Dr, Cohutta, GA 30710 *(Note Betty's New Address!)*

Charlotte Coheley: 6074 Southern Oaks Drive, Winterhaven, FL 33884

Elaine Brauer: 1090 Grand View Avenue, Everett, PA 15537

Mildred Pyles: c/o Randall Pyles, 12801 Mann Road, Little Orleans, MD 21766

Doris Oglebay: Williamsport Retirement Village, Room 1107 – Rehab Unit,
 154 N. Artizan St., Williamsport MD 21795

Ruby Nee: 124 Sunbrook Lane, Hagerstown MD 21742-4195



Pastoral Care... Don't forget to contact the pastor when you are in need of receiving a visit for any reason, such as when it is necessary for you or a family member to spend some time in the hospital due to an illness, accident or surgery; or when there has been a death in the family.

Pastor Hal can be reached at the following numbers:
 301-729-0052 (church);
 301-268-6785 (cell)

Newsletter Information

If you have any information for the monthly newsletter, please contact Kathy Cecil by leaving a message on the church phone at 301-729-0052 or 301-729-8792 (home). Articles can also be emailed to kathy.cecil@cresapumc.org.

If you would like to receive your Cresset by email, please forward an email request to the address above.

News from Missions...

Communion Mission Continues Monthly:

“As we are fed at the Lord’s table, we should feed others...”

January Boxed Meals/Hamburger Helper
February Meals in a Can
March Peanut Butter and Jelly
April Hygiene & Paper Products
May Canned Fruits and Veggies
June Sliced Canned Potatoes/Canned Beets, etc.
July Cereals, Boxed Meals & Ramen Noodles
August Canned Tuna, Chicken, Canned Meat
September Pancake Mix & Syrup
October Sugar & Flour
(2 lb. bags of flour preferred)
November Soup & Crackers
December Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta

Please remember to bring in your donations monthly!

Donations to be placed in the plastic tub on the landing at the turnaround entrance (as marked).



Cresaptown UMC - Missions for 2018

Local/State

Sponsor Boy Scout Troop 9 and Cub Scout Pack 9
Union Rescue Mission – support financially
Family Crisis Resource Center – Mother’s Day Mission financial donations
Food Pantry – Specific items requested monthly, plus additional monetary giving, plus volunteers
School Lunchbox Program – Summer (serving students from Cresaptown & Bel Air Schools)
Backpack Program – Providing weekend lunches from Bel Air and Cresaptown Schools during school year
Campers Cubbie – Give throughout the school year for needy students from Allegany High School
Local Volunteer Fire Department - Annual collection and dinner for firefighters
Camp Hope – Dinner Served to approximately 125 volunteers
Poor and Needy – Additional collections requested on Communion Sundays
Funeral Dinners – Fellowship Meals for Grieving Families
Crop Walk – Participation in Walk
Hope Against Heroin March – Participation in Walk and Rally
Habitat for Humanity – Collect Welcome Gifts for New Homeowners/Pray for Build/Provide Office
Salvation Army – Collect hats, gloves, scarves, etc. (from Mitten Tree in December)
Frostburg State University Campus Ministry – Prayer Support and Donations made
Allegany High School Campers Football Teams – Pastor serves as Chaplain
Maryland State Police Cumberland Barrack – Pastor serves as Chaplain
Kairos Ministries – Host Church for Volunteers
Shut-in Ministries – Fix and Deliver Meals
Adopt a Homeless Vet – Provide Food Baskets and other items for Vet who were homeless

Worldwide

Church World Services Blanket Appeal - Father’s Day Mission financial donations
UMCOR – Donations
Special Sundays
World Community Sunday, Peace with Justice, Native American Ministries,
UMCOR, Human Relations Day, UM Student Day

Church News...



Our condolences to Keith and Cindy Beeler on the loss of Keith's father, Bob Beeler, and to Justin Beeler on the loss of his grandfather on January 23.

Congratulations to...



Pastors Hal & Ann on their 25th Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 29, 2017

Special Wednesday Evening Services During Lent

It has been our tradition at Cresaptown UMC to hold a series of special services during Lent on the first five Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday. We will continue that tradition again this year. They will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Rev. Atkins will bring a series of messages built around the theme ***The Cross Explained and Applied***. This series will lead us into Holy Week where Rev. Atkins will share a message entitled ***The Cross Anticipated*** on Holy Thursday and another entitled ***The Cross Experienced*** on Good Friday.

Wednesday - February 21, 2018

Message Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Message Title: *The Cross: The Foolishness of God*

Wednesday – February 28, 2018

Message Texts: Galatians 2:20; 5:24; 6:14;
Philippians 3:10-11

Message Title: *The Cross: Present History In the Lives of Believers*

Wednesday – March 7, 2018

Message Text: Colossians 2: 8-15

Message Title: *The Cross: Christ As Victor*

Wednesday – March 14, 2018

Message Text: 1 John 4:7-14

Message Title: *The Cross: God Is Love*

Wednesday – March 28, 2018

Message Text: Revelation 5:1-14

Message Title: *The Cross: Worthy is the Lamb!*

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

As Pastor Hal prepares for his retirement, he and Pastor Ann are presently sorting and downsizing and are using the parsonage to do so. They have however already moved into their new home. His new mailing address is as follows:

Pastor Hal Atkins
886 Sperry Terrance
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Take note: His phone number is still the same. 301-268-6785.

All Leaders Please Mark Your Calendars!

The Western Region Leadership Days

When: Saturday, March 17, 2018

Where: Otterbein UMC in
Hagerstown, MD

Ms. Kay Kotan will be the Plenary Speaker

Worship Schedule for February 2018



February 4, 2018 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

On this first Sunday of the month, as part of our worship time together we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Message Texts: Isaiah 40:21-31/Mark 1:29-39

Message Title: *There Is No One Like Our God*

February 11, 2018 – Transfiguration Sunday

Today is Transfiguration Sunday. It is a special day in the life of the Church, for on this day we celebrate the transfiguration of our Lord on the Mount.

Transfiguration Sunday appropriately occurs before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season. It is a time which is filled with Christ's glory in anticipation of the resurrected glory to come.

Message Text: Mark 9:2-9

Message Title: *The Glory of Christ Has Been Revealed*

February 14, 2018 – Ash Wednesday

Today is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season. On this day we will have the imposition of ashes and be reminded of our mortality and our need of repentance before God. Along with the imposition of ashes we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Feb. 14 (cont.)

At **6:00 a.m.** – The Church Sanctuary will be open especially for those who are on their way to work and would like to begin the day celebrating Ash Wednesday. We will have both the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

At **Noon** - The Church Sanctuary will be open and we will have the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

At **7:00 p.m.** – At this time we will gather together in worship to celebrate Ash Wednesday. Along with singing, preaching and prayers, we will have both the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

February 18, 2018 – The First Sunday in Lent (Scout Sunday)

Message Text: Mark 1:9-15

Message Title: *The Spirit-Driven Christ*

February 25, 2018 – The Second Sunday in Lent

Message Text: Mark 8:31-38

Message Title: *What It Means to Follow Christ*

From the Mailbox...



Jan. 17, 2018

To the Congregation of Cresaptown UMC

Thank you so much for the "treat bags" you provided for our students during their final exam time. It was so thoughtful of you to think of the students during what is generally a pretty stressful time for them.

Students who came to our testing center were most pleasantly surprised when we handed them one of your bags. I think they are especially grateful that people from the community are thinking of them.

We appreciate not only the content of the bags but also the time that members of your congregation put into preparing them for our students to enjoy. It was an act of love, and we are grateful.



Exam Cram Bags Mission

Sincerely,
Harriet Douglas, PASS Office
Frostburg State University

United Methodist Women

The UMW met on Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 10 a.m.

Some of the items discussed at the meeting included:

- Payment will be made this month for the church's *One Call Now* telephone robo call system.
- Camper's Cubby donations for February will be individual cups of noodles (*not packets*)
- Vivian Moore reported that backpacks for the last week in December (prior to the Christmas break) included hams and extra items for the week
- Pastor Ann reported that thanks to all the donations a total of 29 homeless veterans received a \$25 gift card in December
- Pastor Hal reported that he delivered the hams and candy to the Campers Cubby office prior to the Christmas break.
- Motion was made to support Julie Campbell, Missionary to Kenya orphans with \$100 donation
- Plans are being made to have a hymn sing at Frostburg Nursing Village on a Thursday afternoon in the near future
- A coordinator will be needed for the Summer Lunchbox Program. Vivian Moore will provide a list of what this involves for the next meeting

2018 UMW Officers were installed at the Jan. 2 meeting.



(left to right: Kathy Cecil, Treasurer; LeAnn Rice, Vice President; Vivian Moore, Program Director; Carol Moore, Secretary; and Chris O'Brien, President)

A Word About Kairos...

Since Kairos began its prison ministry in the Cumberland area state prisons, we here at Cresaptown UMC have been blessed to be the host Church for the Kairos Prison Ministry volunteers.

Since November 2011, we have hosted the volunteers for nine Kairos Weekends at WCI and three at the North Branch. While the ministry of Kairos is still on hold at WCI in terms of having weekends, they are still having weekends at the North Branch. The next Kairos weekend at the North Branch will be held on April 26-29. This will be Kairos Weekend #4 there and once again we have the privilege of hosting the volunteers.

Please pray not only for the prisoners of the prison but for the entire staff including the Warden, the Chaplain, as well as the Kairos volunteers who will be going into the prison. And while you are praying, pray for the ministry of Kairos at WCI that they will be able to hold weekend sessions there again soon.

Thank you for your prayer support!



Practical Ways to Celebrate Valentine's Day

Hopefully you have read Pastor Hal's article "From the Heart of the Pastor." If you have not, you are asked to go back and read it. Because then the following practical ways to celebrate Valentine's Day will make more sense to you. Many of these suggestions can be done throughout the Season of Lent and not just during February. These suggestions do not include having a meal with your loved one(s) and exchanging Valentine's cards and gifts. These are more about sharing God's love with others.

- Make a donation to the Family Crisis Center – The families and women who receive help from the Family Crisis Center need to know that they are loved and people care.
- Volunteer at the Interfaith Community Food Pantry – While our congregation has a large number of people who already volunteer and help out at the Interfaith Community Food Pantry they could always use more people to do so. If the Lord is giving you a nudge on your heart to help out and you want to know more, contact Twyla Stewart.
- Make a meal and deliver it to a shut-in. It doesn't have to be someone from our congregation. If you know someone from the community who is in need this way, share the love of Christ to them. If you want to give financial support to help with our Shut-In Ministry, see Chris O'Brien or Dottie Porter.
- You can care for the Students of Frostburg State University by giving a financial donation to Frostburg State Campus Ministry led by Rev. Cindy Zirlott. If you want to know more about this ministry and how you can help, please talk with Keith Beeler.
- Make a financial donation to support the Camper's Cubbie. If you want to know more about this ministry, talk to Pastor Hal or see Chris O'Brien.
- You can volunteer or make a financial donation to the Union Rescue Mission. If you want to know more about this ministry you can talk with Pastor Hal or call the Union Rescue Mission and talk to Rev. David Zeiler.



From the Mailbox...

Jan. 20, 2018

(See complete letter posted on the Mission bulletin board)

Dear Members of Cresaptown UMC,

The Interfaith Community Pantry, Inc. would like to thank your church and its members for your support. During 2017 your church and/or church groups and individual members gave the following donations: Monies: \$5,412 and Food: 888 Items.

Through your donations of food and/or money, the pantry was able to serve the many individuals and families that were referred to us who were in need of emergency food. During 2017 the pantry received 1,922 referrals, representing 5,238 people. Those served this year received 33,580 items of food and 9,570 miscellaneous food items; 9,360 items of commodity food; and 1,410 non-food items such as laundry detergent, bath soap, paper products, toiletries, and knitted hats. People also received vouchers for perishable food that amounted to \$29,180...

Again, thank you and your members for their continued support.

Sincerely,

The Executive Board of the Interfaith Community Pantry

February



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 6:00 - Exercise 6:00 PM - Youth Bells 7:00 PM - Choir 8:00 PM - Adult Bells	2	3
4 Communion (Meals in a Can) Souper-Bowl Sunday	5 4:30 PM - Exercise	6 10:00 AM - United Methodist Women 6:00 PM - Worship Comm.	7 10 AM - Bible Study	8 9:00 AM - Ushers/Bkfast 6:00 - Exercise 6:00 PM - Youth Bells 7:00 PM - Choir 8:00 PM - Adult Bells	9	10
11	12 4:30 PM - Exercise	13	14 6 AM & 12 Noon - for Imposition of Ashes 10 AM - Bible Study 7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Service	15 6:00 PM - Exercise 6:00 PM - Youth Bells 7:00 PM - Choir 8:00 PM - Adult Bells	16	17
18 1 st Sunday in Lent Scout Sunday	19 <i>Cresset Deadline</i> 4:30 PM - Exercise	20	21 10 AM - Bible Study 7:00 PM - Lenten Service	22 6:00 - Exercise 6:00 PM - Youth Bells 7:00 PM - Choir 8:00 PM - Adult Bells	23	24
25 2 nd Sunday in Lent	26 4:30 PM - Exercise 6:00 PM - COM	27	28 10 AM - Bible Study 7:00 PM - Lenten Service	8:30 & 11:00 Worship Every Sunday 11:25 Kids' Church 9:45 Church School Every Sunday		

2018



Cresaptown United Methodist



Prayer for the Lenten Season:

Most gracious Heavenly Father, we thank You for Jesus and for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for Your call upon our lives! We are most grateful for the Lenten Season and for the many opportunities that Lent offers us to help us grow in our relationship with You. As we are about to begin our Lenten journey together and make our way toward Easter, we ask that You pour out Your blessings upon us. Work afresh in our lives during this Holy Season and may it lead us to most meaningful Easter experience as we reflect on the passion and person of Christ and enable us to bear much fruit for His glory. This we pray in our Savior's name. Amen.

(See Lenten Worship Service Schedule on Page 5.)

**The Cresset
Cresaptown United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 5206
Cresaptown, MD 21505-5206**

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