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# CAMDEN UMC NEWSLETTER

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Pastor: Rev. Stephen Maddox

Secretary: Leslie Coe

Organist: Barbara Schwartz

April 2017

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## Pastor's News for the People of God

From time to time people ask what Lent is all about. There are three elements to Lent which we as Christians should try to practice through this Holy season.

Fasting and Prayer: Fasting is a practice that has really gone by the wayside in many Christian circles. Yet, if done correctly, it can be a powerful time of renewing your relationship with God. Fasting can be found in both the Old Testament and the New, with Moses (Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 9:9,18), Elijah (1 Kings 19:8), and our Lord (Matthew 4:2) all participating in 40-day fasts. Fasting is a way of denying ourselves the excesses of life so that we might be more attuned to the Lord's voice. It is also a way of disciplining yourself, strengthening your "spiritual muscles" so to speak, so that when temptations arise in life, you are already used to saying "no" to your desires. And finally, fasting is also a way of participating, in a small way, in the

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## Church Office News

The church office hours are Monday through Friday 1-3pm. The secretary is not in the office on Thursday. The Pastor will be in the office most Wednesdays. You may call during these hours to speak with the secretary, 315-245-2600 or e-mail the office at: [camdenumc@centralny.twcbc.com](mailto:camdenumc@centralny.twcbc.com). If you would like to come in during these hours please use the side door across from the office, and ring the bell to the right. The doors to our building will remain locked.

If you would like to dedicate our worship bulletins to loved ones please check with the office to book the date. The minimum suggested donation is \$6.60 a Sunday. If you would like to dedicate a hymn to loved ones for one of our worship services, for a donation, please check with the office for the date and to pick the hymn.

If you are planning an event please be sure to check the church calendar for availability, a copy of the calendar is on the board outside of the office. If your event requires the office to participate or prepare any information for that event, please let the office know.

The deadline for the **May** newsletter is Wednesday, **April 5, 2017**. If your group has news for the newsletter, please let the office know.

The secretary will be out of town April 29-May 7. The pastor will be in the office Wednesday May 3.

## Choir News

The choir is rehearsing on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. The informal choir rehearses and sings the second Sunday of the month at 10:45. Easter Cantata rehearsals are on Thursday evening at 6:00pm. Join us to share the gift of music.

## **Pastor's News** Cont.

sufferings of Christ and can be particularly powerful when accompanied by prayer and confession.

A word of caution: although fasting can be a wonderful spiritual exercise, it is also an easy one to abuse. Make sure that when you fast, you do not deprive yourself so much that you do harm to your body. Fasting should only be practiced by adults and mature teens. Also, take into account any medical conditions or nutritional needs when deciding what and how much to abstain from (I recommend consulting with a doctor and/or spiritual advisor before undertaking a serious fast). On the spiritual front, Jesus warns us to guard against pride while fasting (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18). Meditating on Christ's Sacrifice for Mankind: In addition to periodic fasting and prayer, our scriptural meditations typically turn to the salvation offered to us through Christ's suffering. Read Old Testament Scriptures prophesying the suffering of Christ and the New Testament Gospel accounts.

Charity/Almsgiving: A very important element of the Lenten season is becoming aware of not only the suffering and sacrifice of Christ but also to the suffering of others. Between now and Good Friday, choose one way you can increase your giving to those in need. It could be through extra financial offerings, donating goods you no longer need or use to charity, or increasing your personal time commitment to a ministry or cause close to your heart.

Lent is a time when Christians separate from the world; when we find out our faith is not just a feel-good, self-help religion but one that answers the deepest questions of life and eternity. Those who journey through the Lenten season will enter the Easter season with an increased appreciation for who God is and what He has done for us. And the joy of Resurrection, as well as the promises of eternity, will not be soon forgotten.

### Bible Verses for Lent

Philippians 3:10-11 - "I want to know Christ, yes, to know the power of his resurrection and

## **Pastor's News** Cont.

participate in his sufferings, becoming like him in death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." Joel 2:12-14 – "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate."

Matthew 6:16-18 – "when you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites...but when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Have a blessed Lent,  
Pastor Steve

## **Adult Study News**

### **Sunday Morning:**

SEEKERS adult study group meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:40 in the Library Lounge. All are invited to join us on our journey through life via the Bible.

### **Wednesday evening**

We have started the Disciple I course. This is a 34 week study with daily reading and thought provoking questions. We have been having very interesting discussions. Come join us!

### **Game day and potluck**

The Wednesday evening study will be hosting a game day and potluck meal on Saturday, April 1 from 2-6 pm.

We had a wonderful time of fun and fellowship at our first game day in January. We had about 23 people. Come to fellowship with each other through games and food in April. Bring your family and your favorite game.

We look forward to spending time with you, come join us!

### **Ladies Fellowship**

We will be meeting on April 22, 2017 at 10:00am. All ladies are welcome!

## **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES**

**Please note:** All schedules are available. Please stop by the office for your copy. Thank you!

### COUNTER SCHEDULE-

April 2- Debbie Leach  
April 9- Dan Coe & Janice Alvord  
April 16- Mike Waterman  
April 23- Bob & Barb Conniff  
April 30- Karl Keil

### ACOLYTES

April 2- Annaka Stauring  
April 9- Carter Keller  
April 16- Bella Keller  
April 23- Annaka Stauring  
April 30- Carter Keller  
(If you would like to be an acolyte, young and mature welcome, please let the office know)

### BIBLE READERS

April 2-  
April 9-  
April 16-  
April 23-  
April 30-  
(If you would like to read we have openings. A signup sheet is on the table by the front of the sanctuary. I will let you know what the reading is the week scheduled. The slip has the possible readings for each service.)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 2- Racheal Keller  
April 9- Kathy Flinchum  
April 16- Katrina Relyea  
April 23- Katrina Relyea  
April 30- Katrina Relyea

### USHER SCHEDULE

April 2- Chuck & Linda Bewley;  
Margaret Smith; Michelle Relyea  
April 9- Bob & Barb Conniff;  
Darrell & Kathy Flinchum  
April 16- Norm & Debbie Leach;  
Mike & Deb Waterman  
April 23- Pat Duffany; Bonnie LaRock;  
Lorraine Storey; Shelley DeLosh or  
Carrie Pulizzi  
April 30- Janice & Todd Alvord;  
Charles & Jeri Norton

## **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES** Cont.

### COMMUNION STEWARDS

April 2- Dan & Leslie Coe & Karleen Yager  
(If you would like to help with communion, please see Leslie Coe. Our teams take care of communion about 2-3 times for the year)

### **American Red Cross Bloodmobile News**

The next Bloodmobile will be **May 1, 2017 1:00-6:00pm**. Come out and help to meet or exceed the goal! Please note that the Bloodmobile is on **Mondays**.

Our Blood drive on March 6 collected 32 pints of blood. Our May goal is for 40 pints, going over is great. Due to the winter weather they have had to cancel recent blood drives. The need is great at this time. Please make an appointment to give today.

Rapid Pass allows you to complete the reading material and the questions the day of your donation, but before you arrive. This will allow more donors by speeding up your registration process. Visit [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) to learn more.

Please help by sharing the gift of life, the need is always present. The cost to you is about one hour of your time.

### **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services**

There will be one service each day for both churches.

The Maundy Thursday service, April 13, will be at the Cleveland Church at 7pm.

The Good Friday Service, April 14, will be at the Camden Church at 7pm. We will be doing the Stations of the Cross and are in need of 12 readers. Please let the office know if you will be able to read.

## Food Pantry News for February 2017

Dear church family. Here is the report from the Food Pantry for the month of February.

Perhaps due to the weather or school recess, we had a few less families come for food. However, we did get three new families consisting of senior citizens. They were very happy to know we were here for them and give them so much food. It's wonderful to always see the smiles, I guess that's why I enjoy volunteering.

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*We had 81 families, 70 children, 138 adults, 29 seniors....and gave out 3,555 meals.*

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We served 81 families consisting of 70 children, 138 adults, and 29 seniors. The total individuals were 237 and we gave out 3,555 meals.

Our church gave a total amount of \$764 including \$425 given in memory of Terry Fox and \$30 in memory of Ray Dunn. Our church also gave 117 items. This provided approximately 880 meals.

Thank you from my heart and all of us at the Food Pantry. Thank you for all the blessings you provide us with to feed our needy.

The Camden Area Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM to 12:30 PM, and now Tuesday evenings from 6-7 pm. Phone (315) 245-5788.

## Sunday School News

Salutations from the Sunday School class! We've been as busy as beavers these past weeks playing games, learning Bible stories, making crafts, and memorizing Bible verses. We're also getting to know each other better. Our average monthly class size has risen from three to four students, and we had a new friend join us one week!

This month we're excited to be participating in the Palm Sunday worship service with our church family. It's customary for our class to pass out the symbolic palm fronds, and this year that tradition will continue. Make sure to be here on April 9<sup>th</sup> so you don't miss out!

## Sunday School News Cont.

Lastly, we are hoping to revive our Vacation Bible School in the next three years! If you have any interest in being involved in this local mission outreach project please let me know. An informational luncheon will be held after church on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Those attending will help decide what course of action we take with our program. Being a part of this does not mean you have to help with VBS this summer. This is just a visioning meeting for people desiring to be involved when the program starts. Those feeling called to this mission, and those simply curious, can contact me at [katrina.relyea16@houghton.edu](mailto:katrina.relyea16@houghton.edu) or (315)245-3817. Talking face to face is also appreciated.

May the chirps of robins delight your ears, the spring crocuses please your eyes, and the events of Easter morn uplift your soul.

Pax et bonum,  
Katrina Relyea  
Sunday School Superintendent

## Special Offering April 30- Native American Ministries Sunday

Your gift educates Native American seminarians and empowers Native American outreach.

Your gift encourages aspiring leaders within the Native American community, educates seminarians and empowers outreach within the Native American Culture.

Gifts to Native American Ministries Sunday fund scholarships for Native American seminarians and strengthen, develop and equip Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities and annual conference Native American ministries.

Your contribution supports aspiring Native American pastors and enriches outreach in their communities. Thank you for your generous gift!

# April

# 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>
Transfiguration Sunday Seekers Study 9:45-10:40 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am	Weight Watchers 5:30-7:30					AA- 9:30 am Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall 9-10 Game Day & pot luck 2-6pm
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Seekers Study 9:45-10:40 Choir 10:00am	Weight Watchers 5:30-7:30 Cub Scouts 6-7:30pm	Cub Scout Leaders 4:30-6:00 Library	May Newsletter deadline Adult Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Pastor library 12-2	Choir Cantata rehearsals 6 pm		AA- 9:30 am Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall 9-10
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Palm Sunday Seekers Study 9:45-10:40 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 & 10:45am	Weight Watchers 5:30-7:30		Adult Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Library Villagers 4-?	Choir Cantata rehearsals 6 pm Maundy Thursday Service 7pm at Cleveland UMC	Good Friday service 7pm at Camden UMC	AA- 9:30 am Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall 9-10
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Easter Sunday Seekers Study 9:45-10:40 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am	Weight Watchers 5:30-7:30		Adult Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Library			AA- 9:30 am Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall 9-10 Ladies Fellowship 10
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
Seekers Study 9:45-10:40 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship hall in use 12-?	Weight Watchers 5:30-7:30		Adult Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Library		Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall 5:30-7:30pm	AA- 9:30 am Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall 9-10
<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Special Offering Seekers Study 9:45-10:40 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Sunday School FH	Weight Watchers 5:30-7:30 Bloodmobile Fellowship Hall 1-6pm	Cub Scout Leaders 4:30-6:00 Library	June Newsletter deadline Adult Bible Study 6:30-8pm Pastor library 12-2	National Day of Prayer		AA- 9:30 am Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall 9-10 Camden Color Run

## Prayer List: Names remain on list for one month, unless requested to keep on the list.

Joseph Wiggins; those with dementia and Alzheimer's, their families & caretakers; Nancy & Rachel Curtis; Darrin Halstead & family; Aaron Keville; those fighting cancer; Police, Fire, Rescue, & Military personnel; Scott Manzer; Destinee Sobles; All religious minorities under persecution; Tom Young; Paul Horn; Those troubled and carrying out violence; Skyla 8 yr old; Liborio Barbagallo; Service members & families; Jack Estrella; The world, our country; Students, Teachers, & Parents; Lillian, 6yr. old; Carole Abbott; Terry Polini & family; Marcia Bogle; Walt DeLosh; Prayers to calm hearts; Brayden Hughes; Cindy Polniaszek; Jeff Johnson's friend Carole; Susane Lewchanin; those dealing with loss from violence, hurt, and anger around the world; Tom Fanning; Those dealing with domestic abuse; Rev. Janet Gibbs; Diane Hayes; Families dealing with health issues and concern for finances; Rosemary Winters; those dealing with colds, flu and seasonal depression; Brandi Hurd; Jamie Coriale & Lisa Oatman; Dave Hertweck; Roderick Pelliter; Tom Hertweck's family; Elaine Cripe; Midge Willis' family; Donald Roselle's family; Ruth LaVander's family; Pat Missell; Steve & Heather Maddox; Jack Plumley's family; Theodore "Ted" Thompson's family; Milford & Fonda-Fultonville UMC; John "Jack" Miller's family; Friend with stage 4 cancer; Cluster 13

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