

DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC



March 2016

DeBows UMC

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Rev. Ernie Williams, Pastor
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Prayer List



Please keep the
following people in Prayer

Madhavi Badey	Debra Quinn
Chris Bitondo	Cindy Raymond
Tina Clark	Dean Sparling
Karen Hornak	Jim West
Rudy & Jean Iannacone	Helen Kramer
Jamie Gray	Bert Pitcher
Skylar Ridge	Bob Allerton
Diane Hinze	Allie Juliano
Ruth Kyle	The Homeless
Trabalke family	Ministries of DeBows

Those who are "un" & "under" employed
Those who struggle with various addictions
Those who serve and support the
DeBows Food Pantry

NOTE: Please inform the Pastor when a name should be added or removed from the Prayer List. Also, contact the church office in the event of a pastoral care situation that might need Ernie's attention or response. Thank You.

Sunday Worship Schedule

Bible Study	9:45 – 10:45 AM
Worship Service	11:00 AM
Sunday School	11:00 AM
Fellowship Time	After Worship Service
Choir Practice	12:30 PM

Bible Study Opportunities

Women's Bible Study - This group meets in Fellowship Hall. – Sunday's at 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study - This group meets in the class room downstairs. – Sunday's at 9:45 AM

Mid-Week Bible Study – This group meets on Wednesday's at 11:30 AM.

***** Lenten Bible Study ***** – 6 Sunday's from February 14 through March 20, 9:30 – 10:45 AM. The study is based on the new book by Adam Hamilton, "John: The Gospel of Light and Life." Each class will have a 15 minute DVD presentation followed by discussion questions. The two Sunday morning bible study groups will combine for this 6 week study and everyone is welcome to attend. Each week is a standalone study and seats are always available.

A Word From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

We are halfway through our Lenten journey this year. Lent is, of course, the time for preparation for the joyous celebration of Easter. The season is marked by repentance, and our desire to be more disciplined than usual in prayer and fellowship. Lent is also viewed as season in which we deliberately take upon ourselves the grace of God as made manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It affords time for deep reflection on what the Easter event means in general, but also what it means for us as individuals. Lent invites us to ponder how we may truly participate in Easter.

On the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome there are two large figures of what appear to be men. One figure is unclothed, looking bewildered and beaten down – looking very much weakened by the struggle and burden of his life. Rather limply, he holds his hand heavenward. This picture represents humanity – hurting and deprived.

Across the ceiling, and reaching toward this man, is another person – one with a great white beard and long flowing white hair. He is pictured with a strong arm reaching down to the limp and deprived man. This second image represents God. The artist depicts God reaching across to humanity and freezes our limp reaching toward God. With vital strength God extends God's reach to humans who, in return, offer a frail and pathetic response. Unfortunately, in Michelangelo's picture there is a gap that exists between God's power and man's limp reach toward God – thus man is not yet transformed or enlivened by God's power.

The story of Easter tells us that **God has, forever, bridged that gap.** The Good News of Easter, and indeed the entire Christian message, is that the link has been made – and God's energy and power has become available to all people in Jesus the Christ! God has once and for all responded to our weak, less than enthusiastic reach, by closing the gap entirely in Emmanuel – God-with-us! We keep a holy Lent in order to remind ourselves of the pathos of our own condition without God's energizing power, and of our need of God's revitalizing and reconciling grace. Even as this grace connects us with God, it also connects us afresh with each other.

May the joy, the wonder, and the power of this season bring us encouragement and hope as we anticipate, and celebrate, God bridging the gap in Christ this Easter. Shalom!

Emie



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13th at 2:00 AM. Set your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday the 12th. Don't be late for Bible Study and/or Church ☺

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2016						
		1	2	3	4	5 Day of Learning Workshops
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 DST Begins 2:00 AM	14 Food Pantry	15	16	17	18	19
20 Palm Sunday	21	22	23	24 Maundy Thursday	25 Good Friday	26
27 Easter	28 Food Pantry	29	30	31		

Wednesday, March 2

Prayer Time 11:15 AM
Bible Study 11:30 AM

Saturday, March 5

Day of Learning at 8:30 AM –
Aldersgate UMC 3:00 PM

Sunday, March 6

One Great Hour of Sharing

Lenten Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship Service & 11:00 AM
Sunday School
Choir Practice 12:30 PM

Wednesday, March 9

Prayer Time 11:15 AM
Bible Study 11:30 AM
Trustee Meeting 7:00 PM

Thursday, March 10

Wesley Club 6:00 PM

Saturday, March 12

Contemporary Worship 6:30 PM
Service

**DST Begins – Set clocks ahead
1 hour before going to bed**

Sunday, March 13

Lenten Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship Service & 11:00 AM
Sunday School
SPRC Meeting 12:15 PM
Choir Practice 12:30 PM

Monday, March 14

Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM

Wednesday, March 16

Prayer Time 11:15 AM
Bible Study 11:30 AM
Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 20

Lenten Bible Study 9:30 AM
Palm Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
Service & Sunday School
Choir Practice 12:30 PM

Wednesday, March 23

Prayer Time 11:15 AM
Bible Study 11:30 AM

Thursday, March 24

Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM
Service

Friday, March 25

Good Friday Service 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 27

Easter Worship Service 11:00 AM
& Sunday School
Choir Practice 12:30 PM

Monday, March 28

Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM

Wednesday, March 30

Prayer Time 11:15 AM
Bible Study 11:30 AM

NOTE: Please visit www.debowsumc.org
for the latest schedule & event information.

Holy Week Worship Services



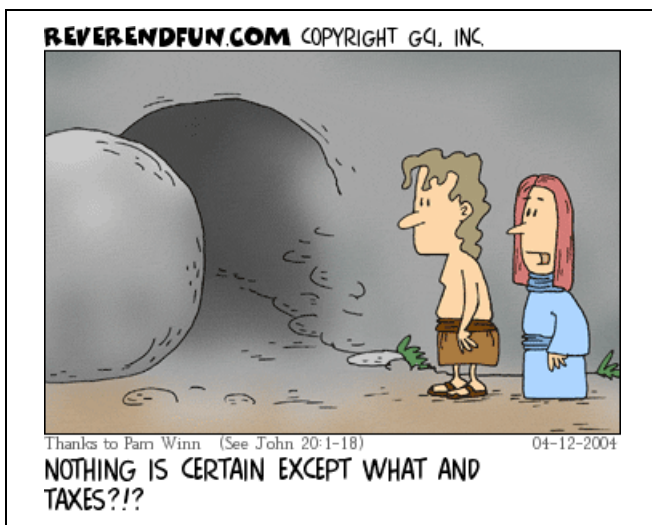
Palm Sunday	March 20	11:00 AM
Maundy Thursday	March 24	7:00 PM
Good Friday	March 25	7:00 PM
Easter Sunday	March 27	11:00 AM

Worship Workshop

The 2016 Greater New Jersey Central Region Day of Learning is scheduled for March 5, 2016 from 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM at Aldersgate UMC in East Brunswick. The title of this session is Doxology, a Worship Conference Workshop.

Please let Pastor Ernie know if you are interested in attending this event and look for the sign-up sheet outside of Fellowship Hall with further details.

Church Humor



Connect with DeBows Online

Visit DeBows UMC online at:

www.debowsumc.org

or

www.facebook.com/debowsumc

You can visit now on your smart phone by scanning the below QR Codes.

DeBows Website



DeBows Facebook



On the website you can access the latest information concerning schedules, events and activities, as well as current blog posts and general information about the church.

Emails can be sent to church staff via the "Contact Us" page. Also, alert notices and weather related cancellations will also be displayed on the website as needed. Visit often for the latest information.



Inside the church you can connect to the WiFi service using the instructions found on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

Happy Easter

CHRIST HAS DIED.

CHRIST IS RISEN.

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

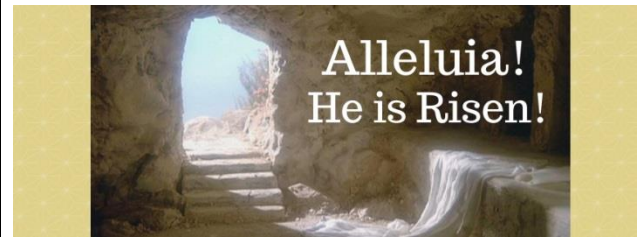
~ Matthew 28:5-6

An Easter Poem by Helen Steiner Rice

THE MIRACLES OF EASTER

*The sleeping earth awakens,
The robins start to sing,
The flowers open wide their eyes
To tell us it is spring.
The bleakness of the winter
Is melted by the sun,
The tree that looked so stark and dead
Becomes a living one...
These MIRACLES of EASTER,
Wrought with divine perfection,
Are the blessed reassurance
Of our Savior's Resurrection*

Easter Word Search



Find 12 words associated with Easter.
Up, down, diagonally, forward or backwards.
All words are in a straight line.

Resurrection	Cross	Risen	Love
Passover	Jesus	Savior	Christ
Sacrifice	Lamb	Tomb	Calvary

J	E	C	A	L	V	A	R	Y
U	M	J	T	W	Z	O	E	R
L	K	E	D	O	N	N	S	O
R	I	S	E	N	M	G	U	I
T	Q	U	C	S	I	B	R	V
P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	A
C	H	R	I	S	T	L	E	S
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E
R	X	R	P	R	J	F	T	W
T	A	O	B	M	A	L	I	I
P	V	S	L	O	V	E	O	Y
N	G	S	K	E	A	N	N	L

Parents Once Again

New Ministry

Coming Tuesday, March 1, 2016



On March 1st Donna Ridge will launch a new blog addressing grandparents or great grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

The purpose of the blog is to share information concerning the issues of being Parents Once Again and to offer encouragement and support to anyone who finds themselves in this situation. Online conversations can take place via the comment feature of the blogs posts.

The blog is the first phase of this new ministry at DeBows and hopefully will generate enough interest to start a physical support group. Please let Donna know if you would be interested in attending a support group.

To view this blog, please visit the DeBows UMC website at www.debowsumc.org and select the Parents Once Again Blog under the Outreach & Missions main menu item.

If you have questions, have something to contribute or would like to see a specific topic addressed in the blog, you may contact Donna from the DeBows UMC website "Contact Us" page or directly at seeyamom8@gmail.com. Please share this information with anyone you know who may be interested.

Did You Know?

- ✓ DeBows UMC sponsors Jackson Boy Scout Troop #2. They have completed two Eagle Scout projects at the church. They have also collected food for our Food Pantry and participated in church clean up days. The troop meets every Tuesday night in Fellowship Hall.
- ✓ You can submit questions, feedback or suggestions by visiting the "Contact Us" page on the church website. Select the desired recipient from the pull down list and compose/send the email.
- ✓ Large print hymnals are available for those that need them. Just ask an usher.
- ✓ You can access multiple daily devotionals online by visiting www.debowsumc.org and selecting the "Daily Devotionals" page found under the Resources / Worship-Bible menu item.
- ✓ You may support the ministries of DeBows UMC online by using the "Make A Difference" button found on the left sidebar on the church webpage. All donations are tax deductible and will be reflected in your year-end giving statement.
- ✓ Did you ever wonder why the date of Easter varies so much from year to year, always occurring between March 22 and April 25? Well, unlike many holidays that have fixed calendar dates, Easter is a moveable feast day historically related to Jewish Passover and the lunar cycle. Complex theology & astrology discussions aside, the general rule of thumb to determine the date of Easter is: the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox (March 21). If the first full moon occurs on the equinox, Easter is the following Sunday.

Church Fundraiser Events



The following church fundraiser events are being discussed and more detailed information will be posted soon:

Flower Bulb Sale (March)

Spaghetti Dinner

Flea Market & Car Wash (May 7)

Why does DeBows conduct fundraising events?

Fundraising benefits the church in several ways. Events such as dinners and flea markets provide opportunities for Christian fellowship and a chance to engage our surrounding community.

Fundraisers that promote the sale of various products offer people the chance to obtain something they might buy anyway, but allow them to support the church at the same time.

There are obviously practical and financial aspects to church fundraising. Money realized from fundraising is needed to help fund the church budget and therefore supports the ministries of the church.

Your faithful support of our fundraising events is greatly appreciated. It not only improves the fiscal health of the church, but ultimately strengthens the spiritual health of the church.

SPRC News

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) held their first meeting of 2016 on February 3. Ed Stillwell was elected Chair of the SPRC and Guy Raymond will be Recording Secretary.

The Staff (Pastor)-Parish Relations Committee works closely with the pastor and staff concerning their relationship with the congregation and the entire work of the church. This committee is in essence the personnel committee of the pastoral charge. The committee is to be sensitive to the opinions and concerns of the congregation concerning the pastor and staff. It is to confer with the district superintendent or the bishop concerning the appointment of the pastor for the church. The committee recommends the salary for the pastor to the Charge Conference.

Hymn Story

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Charles Wesley - UMH # 302

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" is a classic Easter hymn by the great hymn writer Charles Wesley in 1739, one year after his conversion. It first appeared in a collection by John and Charles Wesley called Hymns and Sacred Poems (1739) without the "alleluia's," which were added in the early 19th century.

It was originally named "Hymn for Easter Day" and was written for the inaugural service at the Foundry Meeting House, London's first Wesleyan chapel. It was named "Foundry" because the building was an abandoned iron foundry. Charles Wesley purchased the building to house his growing number of converts.

Only a few other minor changes have been made since that time. The six stanzas that appear in The UM Hymnal have been adapted from the original 11; stanzas six, seven, eight and nine have been left out entirely. The current second stanza is actually the first couplet of the original second stanza and the last couplet of the original third stanza.

A striking feature of the hymn is that its text is written in the present tense. "Christ the Lord is risen today" -- not "has risen" or "rose." This is powerful because it places us in community with those who witnessed the resurrection in their own lifetimes, and reaffirms our own hope of being set free from death. "Made like him, like him we rise" -- also stated in the present tense -- conveys a hope that brings God's power and new life now, lifting us from our current situation of "death" and into everlasting-life.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, March 6, 2016



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the not-for-profit humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church. Since 1940 UMCOR's mission — providing relief in disaster areas, aiding refugees and confronting the challenge of world hunger and poverty — has helped to heal the hurts of humanity in nearly 100 countries.

United Methodists assist UMCOR through gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Observed on the Fourth Sunday in Lent, this church wide Special Sunday calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR keep its promise that every gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not for administrative costs.

DeBows UMC will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 6, 2016. Special offering envelopes will be available to support this UMC ministry.

Ministry Action Plan

The Church Council met on February 24 to kick off the planning to create a Ministry Action Plan (MAP) for DeBows UMC. The primary purpose of having a MAP, using guidelines set forth by Conference, is to create a tool that will help DeBows achieve its Mission Statement and optimize the use of our God given resources.

The discovery phase is the first step in the process and we need & welcome your input. To facilitate this we have scheduled two Town Hall events to further explain the MAP process and to give you an opportunity to let us know your thoughts and concerns.

Saturday, April 9 at 9:00 AM (Breakfast)

Sunday, April 17 at 12:30 PM (Lunch)

There will be sign-up sheets posted in the near future for these events. We encourage you to attend the event of your choice. We collectively are the church and we value your opinion as we move forward together.