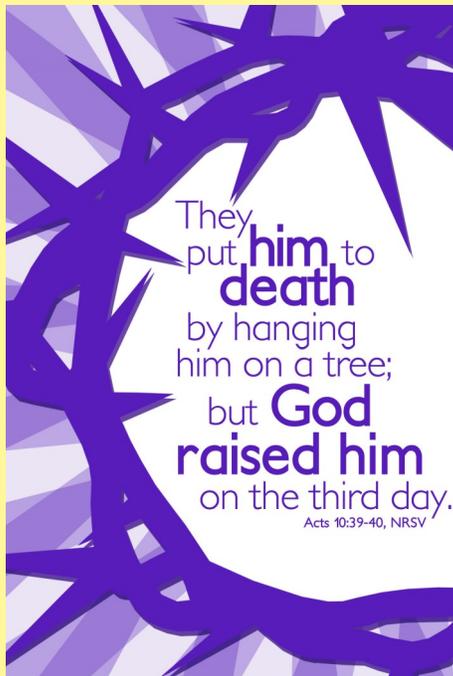


APRIL 2014

# The CHIMES

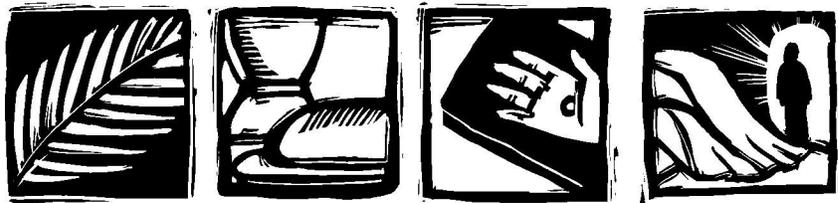
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Franconia United Methodist Church

## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, April 13**  
**8:30 AM and 11 AM**  
**PALM SUNDAY**  
*Triumphal Parade*

**Thursday, April 17**  
**7:30 PM**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
*Living Last Supper*

**Friday, April 18**  
**7:30 PM**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
*Service of Darkness*

**Sunday, April 20**  
**EASTER**  
**CELEBRATE THE RISEN LORD!**

**6:00 AM**  
**SUNRISE SERVICE**  
 With bonfire followed by Continental Breakfast

**8:30 AM and 11:00 AM**  
**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**



**Earth Day  
April 22, 2014**

**Arbor Day  
April 25, 2014**

**TREES by Joyce Kilmer**

I THINK that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the sweet earth's flowing  
breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

## Looking for a Spring Getaway?

- \* *Wish you knew more people at Church?*
- \* *Want to enjoy Nature without Camping or Cooking?*
- \* *Want to take a step forward on your Christian Journey?*

**We've got the weekend for you!**

### **Weekend Getaway at Camp Highroad April 25—27**

Back by popular demand after a very long time, the Franconia UMC Weekend Getaway at Camp Highroad is a great weekend for families, couples and singles. It's a perfect way to get to know some of the people you see at Church, enjoy nature, a bonfire complete with roasted marshmallows and s'mores, music, games, relaxation, and reflection. All without cooking, cleaning or camping.

This is a great way to unwind away from the hustle and bustle of Northern Virginia without driving for hours. Camp Highroad is only 50 miles away in Middleburg, VA. It is set in the Shenandoah Mountains and will be beautiful in late

April. The weekend includes a nice balance of fun, Christian reflection, and free time to enjoy as you choose.

The weekend is enjoyed by people of all ages and is a great way to get to know your Church family and reflect on your spiritual journey, all in the beauty of God's creation.

**Please join us for the weekend!**

If you have questions please talk to a member of the planning team (Cindy Langan, Keisha Miller, Sharon Sheldon, Brenda Talley and Frankie Todack). Brochures with registration forms are available in Cokesbury Hall and on the Web at

[www.franconiaumc.org](http://www.franconiaumc.org).



## **Community Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, April 12 9:00 AM—Noon**

**Sponsored by the United Methodist Men**





**Bronze Serpents and Crosses  
Numbers 21:1-9, John 3:14-16**

I really love the opportunity to teach. I always learn so much more from the other participants than I ever have to offer. This current class, Grand Sweep, is no exception. We were discussing Numbers 21 about the time the Lord once again delivered a foreign nation into the hands of the Israelites. Unfortunately the Israelites were not long in resuming their rebellious grumbling against God again: they hated the food, there was not enough water – what was God going to do about it – it wasn't their idea to wander in the desert! So God sent poisonous serpents among the grumblers and many died. The people immediately acknowledged their sin, prayed that Moses would intercede with God, and – in the scenario that continuously played out among Moses, God and the Israelites – God showed merciful compassion, and the Israelites lived to complain another day. What did God do this time in response to Moses' prayer? He instructed Moses to fashion a bronze serpent on a pole and whenever a serpent bit someone, Moses was to have the individual look at the bronze serpent and he or she would live.

The question brought to the discussion was: what does this have to do with the passage in John about the Son of Man being lifted up just like that bronze serpent. What an appropriate question for Lent – and what a wonderful time of reflection

we had as we discussed the role of the serpents in Moses' day in bringing death as a consequence of the people's actions. However, in God's great mercy, the serpents' fatal power was neutralized by the bronze image on the pole. I am speculating, but I would imagine that, as the Israelites considered the bronze image, they recalled the original circumstances that caused all the trouble to begin with and their reflection of the visual served as a mighty corrective to their rebellious nature, at least for a time. As we talked, the relationship between the Numbers and John passages became clear. We know from scripture that the wages of 'sin' – our rebellion against God - comes at a price/wage. The price – the consequence for sin is death. However, God in His great mercy sent His Son to be lifted up on a cross of death, essentially neutralizing the poisonous eternal power of death that was to be our fate. As a result, whoever believes in the Son and His work (death) on the cross will have eternal life. What an ap-

**What does the cross mean to us?**

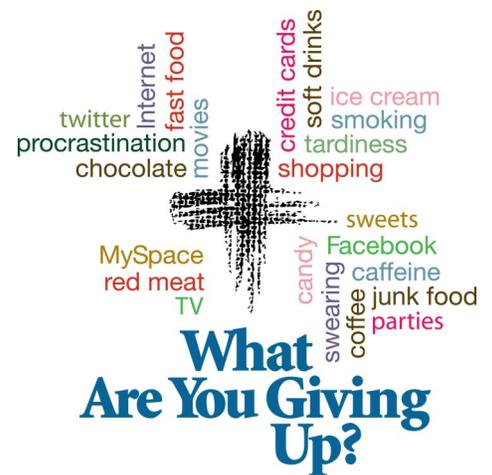
propriate conversation for Lent!

What does the cross mean to us – what is our response when we see it? What should our response be? We see crosses all around us – in our church, around our necks, on the walls of our homes, even on t-shirts. Sometimes we display them without much thought of the merciful price that was paid – crosses are just sort of part of the Christian landscape. We often forget that they are to serve as a reminder of the life giving gift that came as a result of that deadly mechanism. But, we don't have to

continue taking the cross for granted. What if, as part of our Lenten discipline, we intentionally considered the life-giving love of our great God has provided for us through the sacrifice of the Son. What if we resolved to live a life worthy of this sacrifice. What if this Lenten, we did more than give up chocolate or bread, but rather gave up our rebellion against God and received the healing found in the cross. What if.....

As we approach Easter this year – it's only a few weeks away – let's look to the cross and walk in the way of eternal life – for the crucified One LIVES! And so shall all who believe!

***And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."***





## Easter Egg Hunt: Youth Bake Sale

On Saturday, April 12, you can purchase cinnamon rolls, breakfast breads and muffins and support the youth of the church as they raise funds for their summer mission trip!



## Youth Retreat: Nothing is Impossible for God

By Sussie, President, Youth Group  
March 7—9, 2014

The youth were astounded as they reveled at the house in Deep Creek., Maryland. With the help of Pastor Guest, Ms. Pat Hobbs, Mrs. Mende, and Mr. Bruce, the youth had an amazing time talking about God and getting to know each other. The retreat was a success. It consisted of sessions that lasted an hour long, sessions that often covered God, and had a common theme: Nothing is Impossible for God. There would always be scriptures that were looked up and discussed followed by stories that left the youth pondering God's almighty power. Along with the discussions there were breaks for food. Each youth and adult had a place card that was often rearranged, so that everyone sat with a different person every time, in order to get all of the youth mingling with different people .

Though the retreat was based on God, the youth decided to also make time for a snow ball fight, go snow tubing, and also relax in the hot tub. There was even a movie night that kept the group up, laughing and conversing together.

The youth retreat meant for me, and for many of the youth, a time to bond with each other and God. Not only was it a wakeup call to the youth spiritually, but also mentally, as discussions often led to epiphanies which caused the youth to dig deeper into their own lives and find God working through them every day, not just through miracles. This retreat marked the beginning of a stronger youth group and a stronger bond between us and God. If another retreat is in store, we would jump at the opportunity.





**Is God Calling You to Serve?**

In the words of Pastor Catharine: **God does not call the equipped. He equips those he calls.**

Perhaps you could help as an usher or by setting up for coffee after church. Maybe you could sing in the choir or teach a class. Becoming an active member of the United Methodist Men or serving on a ministry team could be your way to serve. Sign up to help with an outreach activity or assist with the youth group.

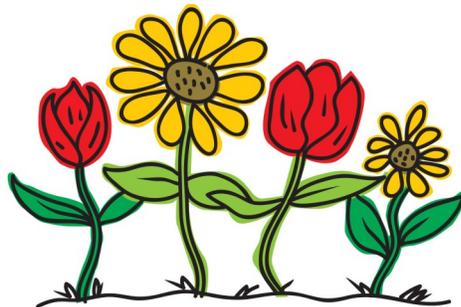
Opportunities include:

**Volunteer drivers** – Drivers who are available to provide rides, during the weekday and/or on Sunday mornings. Some of our members need this support to stay connected to our community. Contact Peggy Brown ([twb@ieee.org](mailto:twb@ieee.org)).

**Hospitality ‘hosts’** – Willing hands are needed to make a few pots of coffee and put out light snacks following 11 AM Sunday worship. The church provides everything but the elbow grease!

**I always wondered why somebody didn’t do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody.**

- Lily Tomlin



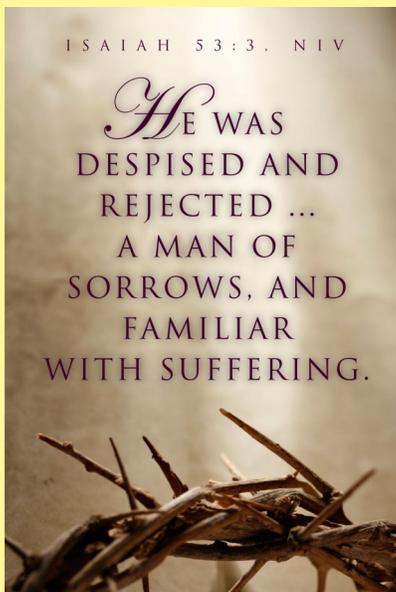
Time to Bloom!

**HUMOR COLUMN**



**Are You On the List?**

Join the e-prayer list for the Franconia United Methodist Church community. (Separate from the prayer list in the bulletin.) To subscribe to the e-prayer list, go to our website ([www.franconiaumc.org](http://www.franconiaumc.org)), click on Connect, then “Request Prayers.” To place names on this list, simply email [prayers@franconiaumc.org](mailto:prayers@franconiaumc.org).



In January, the following joined Franconia United Methodist Church:

Norma Dodson

Janet Hedrick

Jason Lotz

Elizabeth Nylander

## All God's Children Preschool

The children and teachers of All God's Children welcome the arrival of Spring! Everyone is thrilled that we are able to play outside on our playground and not inside the church in the stage room.

Registration for the 2014-15 school year has gone very well as most classes are full. Please call director Myleen Lankford if you are interested in enrolling your child.

"New life" is a theme for our month as we celebrate Spring. We will witness the process of metamorphosis as each class receives a set of caterpillars. Once our butterflies appear they will be set free.

Our classes will plant seeds to watch them sprout and grow, and we will observe the reawakening that comes this time of year. As always, we are learning about the world around us and are making progress learning our alphabet, numbers, and pre-reading and writing skills.



"New life" also refers to the promise Jesus gave to all. We will learn that He died for us out of unending love, and rose from the dead on Easter. We will learn Bible verses and enjoy Easter art projects and activities. Our preparation will culminate **April 10 at 11:00am** with our Easter program. The children have spent time preparing songs to sing, and will have the opportunity to show off their wonderful bonnets and hats at our Easter Parade. Please come to enjoy some beautiful singing by our wonderful preschoolers!

## Movie: Son of God

Review by Bruce Bartolain

On Monday, March 10th, a group of FUMC parishioners went to see the movie, "Son of God" at Kingstowne Cinemas. I thought it was a straightforward highlight of the life of Jesus from his birth to his death and resurrection. I liked it. It had great acting and great cinematography. Although I'm not familiar with the lead, Diogo Morgado, who played Jesus, I thought he brought a sense of tranquility to the role. The actors who played the original disciples also did a great job. I particularly remember Peter, John (the narrator), 'doubting' Thomas, and Judas. Adrian



Schiller played Caiaphas, and I thought he was fantastic. Pilate? Hmm; not so much! I was originally concerned that the flogging scene would be too graphic, but although it was graphic, it wasn't *too* graphic – you know what I mean? When the movie ended, I was impressed that almost everyone in the theater stayed, sitting silently for the credits as Ceelo Green sang "Mary, Did You Know?" All in all, it was a great experience and I recommend going. I think it will generate a lot of discussion among church members.

## Franconia Elementary School

Would you be willing to spend an hour a week to help kindergarten and first grade students at lunchtime (11:30 AM—12:30 PM)? Assistance needed includes carrying their trays, opening their milk, cutting their food.

As part of our Outreach Ministry to our local neighbors, we asked Franconia Elementary School to identify

ways we could help meet the needs of the students. The younger children need assistance on Tuesday - Friday with these tasks.

If you feel God nudging you to do this, please see Pat Hobbs, Kathy Woodley, or Debbie Gordon to learn more.

## Rainbow of Hope

Highlights from the report from Nancy Robinson on activities in which she and her husband Kip have participated:

Groundbreaking ceremony for a new United Methodist Church outside of Freetown, Milton Margia Memorial UMC

“Kickoff” worship service for the very first Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry for youth and young adults on college campuses in the South and Western parts of Sierra Leone—over 60 students—have connected with

*“When I come into your presence I’m so happy, When I come into your presence I’m so glad, In Your presence is anointing, Holy Spirit all around me, In Your presence the anointing breaks the yoke.”*

the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech.

Nancy is traveling in the provinces meeting with and getting to know the pastors, primarily to provide encouragement and connection, and to coordinate continuing education.

Nancy and Kip were preparing to host guests during the 134th session of the Sierra Leone Annual Conference. (February 26 - March 2, 2014)

To be continued . . .

Nancy writes of this song they often sing: “this invitation to prayer and worship sings what we are experiencing, **God breaking the bonds that separate us from fullness of life, drawing us close to His heart and to each other in the midst of challenge.**”

### Sunday, April 6 SHARE Sunday

SHARE Sunday for [Koinonia](#).

(Koinonia consistently provides emergency relief for the people in the zip codes of 22150, 22303, 22310, 22312, and 22315.)

Donations of cleaning products are greatly appreciated; please use the



marked bins in the narthex (front entrance of the church) or in Cokesbury Hall (peek behind the gray room divider). Those served by Koinonia greatly appreciate our support.

### Sunday, April 13

**Mission Breakfast:** Support for Nancy Robinson: United Methodist Missionary Sierra Leone



## Men's Fellowship

## Looking For A Few Good Men!!

United Methodist Men meet monthly for fellowship, devotions, and breakfast on the Fourth Saturday of the month in Cokesbury Hall at 8:00 AM. The men help members of the Church with small household projects and sponsor events, such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Mother’s Day Lunch, and group outings to baseball games.

To learn more, contact Thom Hostetter 703-971-9107.



*The Lord is Risen!*

Holy Week Services—Page 1

The CHIMES

April 2014

Coming soon!



*Confirmation  
Sunday*

