



MARINERS NEWS

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Written by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Collison

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Psalm 51:10 (NIV)

Grace and Peace,

If you were at church on Palm Sunday, you noticed that all the furniture, clipboards, and decorations in the narthex had been moved. As I mentioned in my sermon, titled "Unexpected," spring cleaning was a part of this effort. But it also had a spiritual message too.

During Lent, we take a look at our lives and may have started some spiritual discipline to align ourselves with God's will, in preparation for Easter. But often, after the Easter celebration, we tend to re-clutter what we just uncluttered in our lives.

In Psalm 51, David cries out to God to help him not only clean up, but clean out the junk in his soul. This "man after God's own heart" was not perfect and he knew it. In staying home from his duty on the battlefield, he became self-focused and self-indulgent. The self-focus then faded into lust and coveting, which led to actions that not only hurt him and his witness, but also affected others around him (2 Samuel 11). However, David didn't stay in sin's grasp; he sought God to "clean out" those things that came between him and God's Spirit at work in him.

It is when we take the time and go to prayer that God will show us what we need to put in its proper place, and what we need to discard in our homes and our lives. When we read Scripture, we can also hear God affirming us as his chosen ones and what His best is for us.

At Mariners, we are making way in our physical space so we know what we have, and can make room for where God is calling us to grow.

Spiritually, we need to take an assessment of where we are and where God is leading us as individuals and as a church.

- That is why we are taking a fresh look at prayer in all areas of our worship, study, and practice - thanks to Pastor Leo.
- That is why the men's group is taking the Initiative and covering the April 27 Men's Retreat with prayer on Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons - thanks Ken Christenbury.
- That is why the weeks leading up to the first convening conference of the North East Annual conference of the GMC (April 11-13) have been, and are continuing to be, covered in prayer throughout the month. Making way for God's plan and God's way - not ours.

And prayer is just the start. Colossians 1:10 reminds us we are to continue to grow "so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God." It's time to grow. And growth involves practice and study. And growth also takes risks of stepping into the unknown and uncharted.

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Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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- That is why Glenn and I believe It's time to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land In March 2025 – and are planning and praying for it now. We hope you join us for lunch and a presentation following the 11:00 am service on Sunday, April 14.
- That's why the decision was made to offer a short and simple 8:00 am Sunday service in the Hope Center gym from Memorial Day to Labor Day, to reach people we might be missing. We're still working on the name – ideas welcome – see Gary Ringold.
- And that is why the strategic planning team is focusing more on being spirit-led than calendar-led; looking at how we are structured as a staff and in our ministries to be ready for what is coming.

However, we can't do any of this unless we clear the way.

Having a clean heart is a daily endeavor. But the good news is as we constantly seek God's grace and mercy to clean up the sin in our lives, we will receive that steadfast Spirit that feeds our faith and strengthens our witness for Christ. So, let us as a community of faith support each other in this spiritual spring clean-up as we seek to be a place where life happens...in Christ,

Blessings,

Pastor Becky



THE VISION OF MAKING THE NORTHEAST GMC

A PRAYER-BASED CHURCH

Written by Rev. Leo Park

As a chairperson, I lead the Northeastern GMC Conference Prayer and Intercession Team. In this article, I want to share with you the vision of the team.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, prayed every morning at 4 a.m. on a kneeler in the corner of his room, and that's the birthplace of Methodism. Next to where he knelt was a fireplace. He would light a fire as he prayed, and that's where the fire of revival began. This is the DNA of our Methodism. Our Conference Prayer and Intercession Team wants to restore this DNA to the Northeast GMC. Our vision is to make the Northeast GMC a prayer-based church, and that's what we're trying to do here in the Northeast.

John Wesley said prophetic words near the end of his life. He said, "I am not afraid that the people called Methodist should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out." John Wesley spoke these words in 1786, two years after the start of American Methodism. John Wesley's fear for the future of Methodism was that it would lose its power and become a dead sect. Unfortunately, his prophecy came true.

We have started a new movement called "Global Methodist Church." We don't want to call this simply a denomination, we want to call it a movement. We want to keep this as a movement, and we don't want to repeat another mistake of losing power and becoming a dead sect.

There's a reason why we lost power.

Watchman Nee, a Chinese pastor and writer, once said, "Prayer lays the rails upon which the purpose and plans of God can and will travel." Rev. Dr. Terry Tykle said, in his book, *The Chronicles of Prayer: Praying in Jesus Name for 21 Centuries*, "And so it was the early church, their prayers that laid the rail for a phenomenal expansion of the church. In just 30 years, they, a motley group at best, changed the world and set in motion a movement of conversions to Jesus like none other. They were united in prayer. Jesus told them to wait to be endowed with power from on high,

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and so they waited constantly and prayed. And then it happened, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost like a giant waterfall to launch as movement across their known world." This is what we, the Northeast GMC Conference Prayer and Intercession Team, are trying to do. We are trying to lay the rails upon which this movement called the Global Methodist Church can and will travel.

It's a biblical and historically proven fact that when prayer stops, power stops. When that happens, the movement becomes a dead sect. We don't want to make the same mistake. It's our job to lay the rails. If we stop praying, this movement will stop. We want to keep this a movement, not a denomination. We want to keep the flames of this revival going by continuing to lay rails. We want to see the Northeast Global Methodist Church continue to move forward according to God's purpose and plans.

From April 11-13, the first Northeast GMC Annual Conference will be held in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. This is an historic moment. It's a moment we've been waiting for a long time. Please join us in praying for the Northeast GMC Convening Annual Conference. Please pray with us that the vision of making the Northeast GMC a prayer-based church will be fulfilled.

A MESSAGE FROM MARINERS CHURCH COUNCIL

Written by Jim Rindfuss, Chair

The Church Council met on Tuesday, March 19th in the Social Hall. The Council discussed several upcoming and new initiatives that are being considered and planned. These include an 8:00 am Sunday service to be held in the Hope Center to be held in the summer, a church-wide potluck dinner, and a Healing Prayer service. Also, plans are being made to put together a Fall schedule for another Alpha program. The Council will be looking for volunteers to help with these new activities. If you are interested, please reach out to a member of the Church Council and we will get you connected with the right leaders. We will need your help. The council is also continuing to work on setting the vision and strategy of the church. More information will be forthcoming as this is a work in progress. As always, I encourage all members to attend these Church Council meetings. They are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 16. Please reach out to me at jimrindfuss212@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Written by Michelle Christopher



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." -- Matthew 19:14

When God placed this calling on my life, I thought He was joking. I didn't have any idea how to run a kids' program, how to be a teacher, how to be a producer or how to be an event planner. I had no experience in any of this and just thought God had a weird sense of humor. My first year, I cried A LOT. I didn't know what I was doing or what He thought I should be doing, but I kept moving forward because I believed (and still do) in the foundation of a child's walk of faith. What I realized right away was the prayer that surrounded this ministry and myself. It's a beautiful blessing to know in the middle of organized chaos, there are so many people in prayer for YOU. I knew, because of the prayer supporting me, that I could handle anything. There were many times I was completely overwhelmed, but I learned over the years that God would work every detail out every single time. It didn't take me too long to realize I didn't need to stress or worry - I just needed to be covered in prayer and allow God and the Holy Spirit to work through me and everything would ALWAYS work out.

It's been an amazing 12+ years. I realized that where I lacked skills or training, God would place people in my life to fill those gaps. When I lacked confidence or would question what I was even doing, God would place people in my life to lift me up and encourage me. You see I didn't have the skills I thought I needed, but God knew the skills I did have and He sent me the rest. He will always equip the called - you just need to answer Him.

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Many of you know that I had given my resignation in this position 4 years ago - it's been the longest resignation notice ever! Seriously, I knew then that it was time for the church to have someone else in this place - you see I already have a full-time job and my time I can give here is limited. At the time, both of our kids were in high school and their schedules were filling our calendars. It was hard for me to handle everything. Then COVID happened. I have often joked that God literally shut down the world because of me. He had different plans. So I was asked if I would stay on another year to get through whatever COVID transitions would look like and, of course, I said "yes."

Then our church went through many changes over the next couple of years and I never felt like it was time. I didn't want to be one more reason for any kind of hurt feelings. You see at the beginning of COVID, God gave me two visions. One was that our church would literally explode (like a bomb went off). I remember asking Him why He would show that to me and what that meant. Fast forward a couple of years, and I knew what He meant. The changes that we went through and the turmoil that happened here was the explosion at Mariners.

However, I held strong (as strong as I could) because God had also shown me a second vision in that same time period. The Hope Center was still under construction and I was so upset that the church was closed due to COVID. I remember talking to God and asking why He would even have us build another building when the first one wasn't even open. He showed me both buildings full of people praising God. I can still see both of those images.

The church didn't really explode, but He did break it down a bit so that He could build it back up the way He wanted. I have held on to that second image through all of these challenges the past few years. I still KNOW without a doubt that He is going to fulfill that vision, and that both of these buildings will be full, at some point, with people praising Him. It's just in His timing - not mine.

I say all of this so that people know that, over the past twenty years, I have always been and remain committed to this church and to these ministries and to the vision God has placed in my head and my heart. However, I also think sometimes God has more in store for us and we need to make room for those new places He wants to send us. Now, both of our children (ages 21 & 18) are at Liberty University and they still (currently) want us in their lives. It's very hard being in charge of a ministry and needing to be here every week, but also needing some freedom. So that is the main reason we have decided, as a family, it is time for me to step aside. I do plan to work with the church, its leadership and anyone involved in this transition for the children's ministry and I have already offered to be a volunteer in the program. I want to stay involved - just in a different capacity.

Many people say that kids are the future. Years ago, I attended a seminar that said the kids are "Today." And I truly believe that. We have to put in the work and plant those seeds in their early years TODAY so that they will carry that with them in their lives. Proverbs 22:6 tells us to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." I love seeing the growth in so many "kids" who have come through our program. Those seeds planted in their hearts will flourish in their lives and those bible stories they learned as kids will lead them through their lives as adults. It is such an important ministry and will always be a part of my heart.

We will be having a Children's Ministry Visioning meeting on April 15th at 6 pm. I welcome anyone who has been or even thought about being involved to attend. Whether you are a parent or grandparent with a child involved or you have volunteered in the past or there is something poking you right now that you may just need to check this out and see how you can be involved - we would love for you to join us to discuss and plan for the children's ministry here at Mariners. Believe me when I tell you, He will equip you with anything He calls you for. He did for me, and my life has been so blessed by God entrusting me with these kids over the last 12 years. And I know, He will bless YOU too!

MARINERS BETHEL WOMEN

Monday, April 8 at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

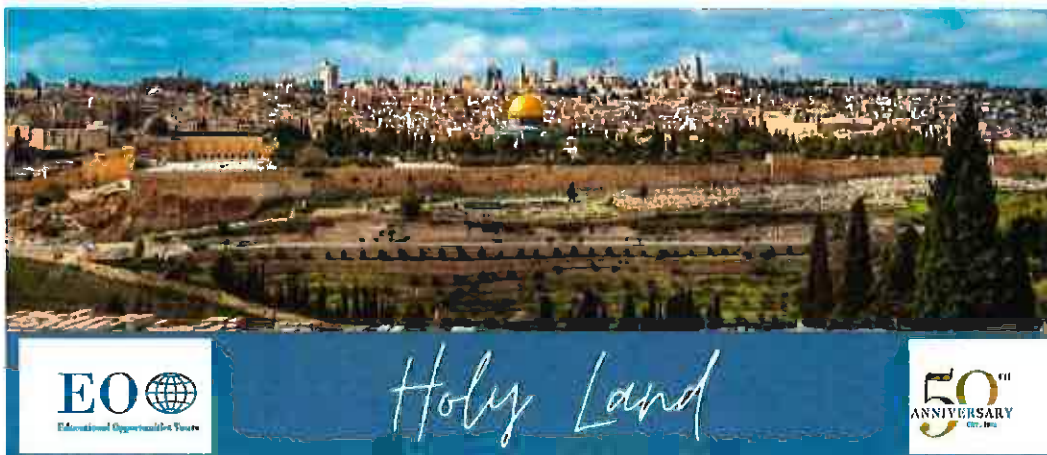
All women are invited to our meetings. This month we will enjoy a presentation on The Ark Encounter in Kentucky. We hope to see you there. You are welcome to bring a friend. Contact Bonnie Cannon or Nancy Lathbury.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

2025 Holy Land Trip Information & Luncheon

Hosted by Pastor Becky & Glenn Collison. Meeting in the social hall at 12:30, with lunch at 1:00PM (signup requested for a food count). Presenter: Rev. Dennis Derr, Educational Opportunities. Rev. Derr will also be available at the AHOD table in between services to answer questions concerning this March 3 - 12 2025 land tour, which will include Bethlehem, Cana, Jerusalem, and more. The option is also available for a 4-day extension trip to Jordan and Petra. The trip is open to anyone, not just Mariners members; early registration will provide a discount on the trip. For more information, contact Pastor Becky.



April

BIRTHDAYS

4/1 - Rebecca Baker
4/4 - Kerri Travalini
4/5 - Theresa Pitman
4/3 - Mary Stokes
4/7 - Linda St. Clair
4/7 - Jessica King
4/7 - Jessica Gude
4/8 - Callan McCowan
4/8 - Russ Huffman
4/9 - Jim Reibel
4/10 - Cora Burgan
4/10 - Stephen Treadwell
4/11 - Brenton Archut
4/11 - Jim Collins
4/12 - Brian Mushrush
4/14 - Pete Moore
4/15 - Eric Beam
4/15 - Charlie Trois
4/16 - David Deganich
4/16 - Judy Mendenhall

BIRTHDAYS

4/19 - Mark Rubendall
4/19 - Cathy Blackburn
4/21 - Donna Waughtal
4.22 - Dennett Pridgeon
4/24 - Carolyn Lawson
4.24 - Joseph Calhoun
4/25 - Toni Wilkerson
4/26 - Ruth Alexander
4/26 - Jim Beachboard
4/26 - Gary Piel
4/30 - Mimi Robets
4/30 - Shayne Van Zee

ANNIVERSARIES

4/7 - David & Peggy Brasure
4/8 - Dave & Lisa Moeller
4/11 - Don & Denise Van Buren
4/28 - Fred & Nancy McCreay
4/29 - Don & Donna Degidio

Menu for April

Feed My Sheep Cafe
Tuesdays from 11:30-1:00
in the Hope Center

April 2

Lasagna

Soups: Minestrone and Chicken Noodle

April 9

Meatball Sub

Soups: Greek Chicken and Beef Broccoli

April 16

Cheeseburger and chips

Soups: Latino Chicken and Pasta Fagioli

April 23

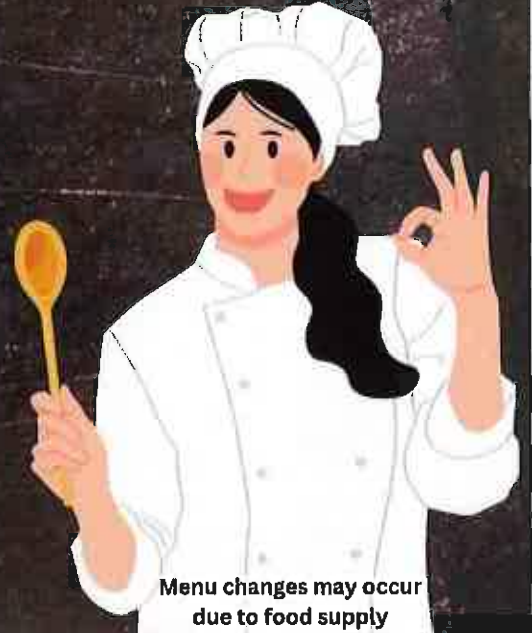
Meatloaf with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Soups: Jamaican Red Bean/Creamed Chicken & Spinach

April 30

Grilled Chicken Patty w/Mozzarella and Cheesesticks

Soups: Spicy Creole/Lime Chicken



WOMEN CENTRAL

Come Rock'n'Roll with Women's Central on **April 3** at 7:00pm. A DJ will provide music, snacks will be available, we will play "Mingo" and dance and sing the night away! As all Women Central events, attendance is not limited to Mariners women only; invite a friend and bring her with you!

This is the kickoff for our spring study Perfect Love, beginning **April 10**, with both morning and evening sessions. In six powerful sessions, Lisa Harper, author and teacher, walks us through the Song of Solomon and answers questions like "How do we pursue intimacy with an invisible God?" and "What if we do not feel worthy of His love?" and "How can we fill our hearts with the perfect love of Christ?" Harper takes a Christ-centered approach to relate the ancient love story to our current life and our relationship with Jesus today.

Register online or at the All Hands on Deck table. Don't miss this opportunity to learn to embrace God's Perfect Love and realize your beauty in God's eyes.

GRIEF SHARE



Loss creates a void in our lives. Loss of a close friend, a spouse, a parent, and even a pet. When we lose someone special, we naturally grieve. Our world is turned upside down. Everyone grieves differently and there is no right or wrong way to grieve. The Grief Share program allows us to know what to expect from grief and gives us ideas on how to process our grief. It also connects you to others that may have this journey in common with you that provides additional support and comfort. In order to get beyond our grief, we have to go through it, and most of all we need to rely on God to help us make it through the journey and beyond the grief.

Come join us from April 15 to July 15 on Monday nights from 6-8:00 pm. If you need a ride, let us know and we will try to accommodate you. If you have questions, feel free to call me at 240-595-1322 or email ejettmom@msn.com.

Eileen McDaniel

CRASH YOUTH

Written By Tiffany Kelley

Each December, the youth group takes a trip to Philadelphia for a "Blitz Weekend," which is a weekend of serving the area through home repairs, church partnerships, and mercy work (serving at shelters, resource centers, and providing hot meals and words of hope to the city's homeless population). This is a much-anticipated weekend for our group and always produces such awesome testimonies. God really shows off in our youth during this weekend away.

The program director reached out to me right after the new year and invited the group to come back this summer for a week-long "Summer of Service," which is just an extension of the weekend we participate in. The youth will have the opportunity to serve in Philly from Monday through Friday, with a break on Wednesday to do some sightseeing. When I pitched this idea back to the youth, they immediately expressed interest in participating. So... WE ARE GOING BACK!

Our youth will be fundraising over the next few months to raise the funds needed to go, which will be approximately \$6,500, depending on how many youth attend. They will be hosting a series of Parent's Night Out, Car Wash, Merchandise Sales, and possibly a few other things.

We hope you will help spread the word as we get information out and support our youth so we can continue to be Jesus' hands and feet. Stay tuned for more information on fundraisers.

SAVE THE DATE CALENDAR

4/1	Easter Monday - Church Offices closed	4/20	Tour of Barratt's Chapel in Frederica, DE
4/3	Women Central's Rockin' Kick-Off Party		Leave Hope Center at 9 am
4/7	New 8:00 AM Summer Service In the Hope Center	4/21	Youth Sunday & Confirmation Sunday
	Planning Session at 10:15 am in Fellowship Hall		Baptisms & Reaffirmations
4/10	Women Central's Spring Study Starts (10am & 7pm)	4/27	Men's Retreat in Hope Center
4/11-13	Northeast Convening Conference of GMC	4/28	Compassion International Sunday
	in Camp Hill, PA	5/12	Mother's Day/Communion Sunday/Launch
4/14	Communion Sunday/New Member Launch	5/18	New Member Voyage
4/14	Holy Land Trip March 2025 - Information & Lunch	5/19	Pentecost Sunday/New Member Sunday
	Session at 12:30 in Fellowship Hall	5/26	Memorial Day weekend - 8:00 AM New
			Sunday Service in the Hope Center Gym
		5/27	Memorial Day Monday - offices closed



**New! Summer Sundays at the Seashore
in Mariners Hope Center Gym
on Sundays at 8:00 AM**

Come to the Social Hall
on Sunday, April 7 from 10:15 - 11 a.m.
Information will be shared
on our new Sunday outreach for the summer.

Join the new thing God is doing!

Contact Gary Ringold for more information
on how you can help
gwringold@gmail.com



UPCOMING MEN'S RETREAT

Written By Russell Archut

The Tuesday Men's Bible Study (TMBS) is sponsoring a one-day spiritual retreat entitled "Relationships to Redemption" to be held on April 27, 2024. The TMBS is made up of men from several different churches in the area who have a shared passion for Jesus and his message.

Planning for the retreat started at the end of last year. Since then, they have been surrounding the retreat and its participants in prayer as they prepare for the faith-based event.

It will be held at Mariners Bethel Hope Center located at 97 Central Avenue in Ocean View, Delaware. Registration will start at 8:00 am, with presentations beginning at 9:00 am. There will be a variety of speakers and related activities. It will focus on personal, family, and spiritual relationships in the morning. The afternoon will focus on initiating or renewing our relationship with Jesus Christ. The program should end around 3:00 pm.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

There is no charge to attend. Men of all ages, no matter where they are in their walk with Jesus, are welcome. It is open to men, "churched" and "unchurched," who desire a stronger relationship with our Lord and Savior.

Men can register by:

- Using the QR code shown here;
- Going to <https://MarinersBethel.ChurchCenter.com/registrations/events/2110858>; or
- Contacting Craig Courter at csc1948@comcast.net or (443) 377-2769



Please come join us for a time of musical revival
as the Mighty Mariner's Choir presents
their Spring Cantata on **Sunday, April 28th at 4PM.**

REVIVAL: GOSPEL CANTATA

arranged by John Gross

We will present some of the greatest gospel music ever written.
Be ready to share your favorite hymns that we will sing together.
Come ready to be refreshed!

April 2024 Sermon Schedule

APRIL 7

Late to the Party

Rev. Becky Collison

Scripture: John 20:19-31

APRIL 14

"What did I agree to?"

Communion Served

Dennis Rader

Scripture: Romans 12:1-5

APRIL 21

Youth Sunday

CRASH Youth

APRIL 28

Unshakable Truth:
Sin

Rev. Leo Park

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-7

 **Mariners Bethel**
Global Methodist Church Ocean View, Delaware



Mariners Bethel Global Methodist Church

Navigating the seas of life together with Christ at the helm

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The purpose of Mariners News is to share the message, mission, and ministry of the church. The release date is the 1st of each month; the submission deadline is 10 days prior. All submissions should be sent digitally, if possible, to administrator@marinersbethel.org. Any questions, contact the church office.