

Zion United Methodist Church
 612 Locust Street
 Cambridge, MD 21613

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Soup Day is Back!!!

Wednesday March 24, 2021

Time: TBA

Chicken Noodle or Vegetable Beef with biscuits

This will be a “pre-order only” event, and there are a few details that are still being worked on. Once all the plans are finalized, we will let everyone know.

Soup will be picked up in the Glasgow Street parking lot.

In the meantime, if you are available to help either, before, during or after, or if you have any questions, please contact Elaine Horseman at (410) 228-9134.



We are now in the Season of Lent. Lent began with our Ash Wednesday service, where we were reminded once again that we are but dust and to dust we shall return. We repent of our sins and believe that Jesus Christ came to this earth to give His life as an atonement for our sins. During the season of Lent some of us give up enjoyments, such as chocolate or dessert, or watching sports or auto racing. I have at times done the same. This year, I prayed to God about what I should give up, and the Lord told me to get away from the negativity. God showed me that a lot of talk in society today is about running others down. The political climate is not about working together for the good of the country, but making sure that we make the other party look bad. The mass media thrives on getting the latest dirt. Social media is searching for the next victim on which to pounce.

I remember a line from *Kelly's Heroes*, a bad movie that came out in 1970. It was a satire using the backdrop of World War II. The gist of the movie is that people are all different, but they will do anything for riches. In the movie there is a hippie



tank commander named Oddball, played by Donald Sutherland. He wants everything to be peaceful even though he is in charge of a Sherman Tank. Serving under Oddball is Moriarty, played by Gavin MacLeod (later the captain of the Love Boat). He is a realist, always pointing out the possible problems. Moriarty sees everything in a negative light. Oddball is constantly saying to Moriarty, “Always with the negative waves! Have a little faith, baby. Have a little faith.”

I have faith in my God. Paul says in Romans 4:19, “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.” Starting this season of Lent, I am going to stay away from the negativity of this world and keep my focus on Christ. I am going to think of ways that I can help others. I hope you will join me and do the same. With the help of Christ, we can create positive experiences for others. So, away with the negative waves, and have a little faith, baby!

God bless you,
Pastor Dave





by Susan Robinson



For more than 75 years, Heifer International has worked in 21 countries around the world alongside local farmers and business owners. Heifer supports farmers and their communities as they mobilize and envision their futures, provides training so they can improve the quantity and quality of the goods they produce, and helps make connections to market to increase sales and incomes.

During the Lenten season, the people of Zion will again have the opportunity to support Heifer International. As we have done for many years, we are working to donate a specific item for Heifer. In the past, Zion's gifts have included sheep, fish fingerlings, water buffalo, bees, and an actual heifer. This year, we are planning to donate several Hope Baskets, which consist of rabbits and chickens. Each basket costs \$50.

We have chosen this Hope Basket to honor Kay Bramble, who was a long time supporter of Zion's Heifer International projects every Lent. After she and Lance moved to South Carolina, she would faithfully send a check every year to our Heifer Lenten fund. Kay loved bunnies, so when we support Zion's Heifer plan to gift "baskets" of chickens and rabbits to those in need, we will be also be sending a little nod of acknowledgement to Kay.

This gift includes rabbits and a starter flock of chickens, along with training and education on their care. These fast-multiplying animals will jumpstart families toward a sustainable future. A Hope Basket:

- provides eggs and protein for nourishment
- boosts income through sales of extra eggs and offspring
- passes on the gift to others, since livestock can multiply quickly

Rabbits are easy to care for and can reproduce in a short amount of time. Chickens lay eggs and provide manure for vegetable gardens. Zion's livestock donation provides hope for struggling farmers looking for a way out of poverty.

Our congregation has always been very supportive of Heifer in the past, and will hopefully be just as supportive in this unprecedented year. Simply put your donation in an envelope marked Heifer and put it in the offering basket. Since many of us are still worshipping virtually, the easiest way to make a donation may be to write a check and send it to the office. If you choose to do so, please make it out to Hattie Brooks Skinner Circle and mark Heifer in the memo line.

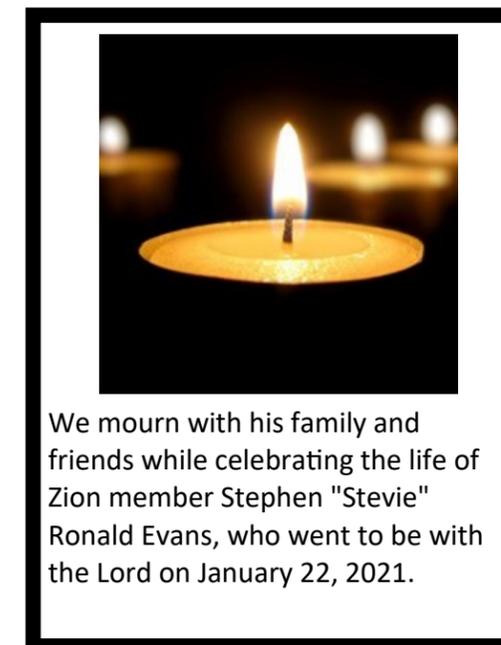
More information about Heifer International can be found at their website: <http://www.heifer.org>.



A heartfelt thank you is extended to all of the volunteers who helped assemble and deliver the Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday bags to our ZUMC family. Your time and help are very much appreciated! Many thanks go to: Wanda Ciekot for preparing the bags, tags and candy hearts as well as Gloria Brake for arranging the volunteers to make the deliveries (especially when the timeline was moved up by two days because of forecasted winter weather!). To our delivery volunteers: Kenny & Debbie Thomas; Ham & Gloria Brake; Spicer Leaming; Elaine Horseman & Robert Condon; Mike & Vista Cheesman; Joe Turner; Susan Matthews; Janel Parke, and Pastor Dave.



We mourn with her family and friends while celebrating the life of faithful Zion member and former church secretary Kay Bramble, who went to be with the Lord on January 21, 2021.



We mourn with his family and friends while celebrating the life of Zion member Stephen "Stevie" Ronald Evans, who went to be with the Lord on January 22, 2021.



Thank you!

Shirley Spedden sends her heartfelt thanks to Pastor Dave and her Zion UMC family for all the cards, gifts and prayers (especially the prayers) while she recovered from COVID and in honor of her 99th birthday.

ANNIVERSARIES in March

7 Wendy and Bruce Collins
11 Susan and Sewell Matthews

13 Nita and Austin Webster
20 Joanie and Donnie Peters

BIRTHDAYS in March

1 Miranda Lednum
5 Jenna Willey
6 Carlton Mackert
6 Richard Morse
6 Brittany Trickey
6 Joyce Turner
7 Kathryn Collison
7 Craig Duerling
8 June Welsch

13 Pastor Dave Kelley
15 Logan Hubbard
15 Lauren Pridgen Zacharko
16 Cami Collison
16 Courtney Peters
17 Amanda Norton
18 Aubrie Lee Kowitzk
19 Robin Mackert
19 Diane McCarthy

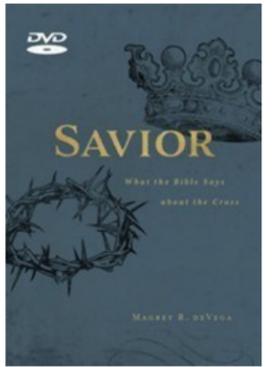
21 Lynn Thomas
22 Kristen Willey
23 Amy Norton
24 Wendy Collins
24 Rebecca Lynn Schunick
27 Megan Harp
27 Janice Webster
28 Ryan Fox
29 Alyssa Fox

Lenten Bible Study It's not too late to join

Pastor Dave is leading a Lenten Bible Study. It began Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. and Thurs., February 25 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom (telephone or video). It's not too late to join this six-week course. You can participate on either day of the week. If you wish to participate, please contact Janel (office@zionumccambridge.org). A \$12.00 love offering is appreciated.

The cross is the central symbol of the Christian faith. But what exactly did Jesus do to save us from our sins? Why was the cross necessary, and what does it mean for us today?

In *Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross*, Magrey deVega faithfully describes the need for reconciliation between humankind and a holy God through Jesus' death on the cross. The Bible uses many images to understand the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection, and deVega guides us through these images to achieve a richer understanding of the Christian faith. By exploring the mystery of salvation through the cross, we can deepen our love for God and others and strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus.



News from the Community Garden

By Robin Herman

Spring and gardening are just around the corner. Soon the earth will turn to another cycle of renewal and rebirth. The Community Garden at Waugh Chapel Church will be entering its 7th year of supporting the community and serving as an outreach program. There are 50 raised beds that are planted by local community members who enjoy



gardening and raising their own vegetables. We tell the gardeners that they can grow anything as long as it is legal. So far, just the traditional crops are grown with a strong emphasis on tomatoes. Early planting will start in mid-March with the planting of peas, onions, kale and other cold weather crops. When the soil warms (usually around mid-May) tender plants can be planted; tomatoes, peppers, beans, etc.. There is a phenomenon in mid-May called the three chilly saints. In mid-May there is always a cold snap in the weather. This dates to the Middle Ages and has held true throughout the centuries. This is one of the fun facts that you learn when you garden.

The gardeners support the local food banks with their excess produce, and beds are available to people in need if they want to garden. Plants and seeds are donated by various local suppliers so that the cost is minimal. By working with Waugh Chapel Church, we have reached a broader community and had a positive impact in Cambridge.

There are usually a few beds each year that are available to new gardeners. No knowledge of gardening is necessary as another Master Gardener and myself oversee the gardens. Fellow gardeners are eager to pass along information and share experiences. If you think that you might want to join us, the contact is communitygardenwaughchapel@gmail.com.

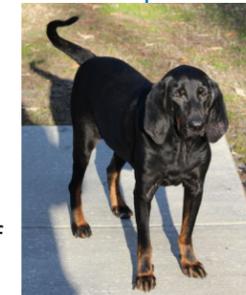
With COVID-19 still with us, it is important to be active and gardening is one way to do that.

Recognizing God at work in the world, in other's lives, and in my life

by Craig Duerling

In October 2019, both of our beloved retrievers died. Recently, Nan and I decided we were ready for another furry companion. We started looking at dogs on the Baywater Animal Rescue website and saw a dog we were interested in, but that dog had already been adopted. We felt that God would show us which dog we should adopt, so obviously that dog wasn't for us. Nan saw a dog whose face looked a lot like our Ada, although this dog was a Coon Hound/ Lab mix. We had a Coon Hound across the street from us at our house in Crownsville, and that dog was quite vocal at all times of the day or night, so I said that a Coon

Hound was not the dog for us. After seeing another pair of dogs, we inquired, but again were too late. I asked about the Coon Hound/ Lab mix and was told that he was not vocal at all, so we went to meet him. When we met him, we really felt that God had pointed us to our new family member. We brought him home, and Ajax has been a joy. He is well-mannered and quiet. According to our vet, he is in good health. He is 6 years old, so we know we will not have him for the 15 years we had littermates Ada and Bentley, but we will enjoy loving him for as long as God gives us with him. I believe God works in all aspects of our lives!



Patio Door Replaced at the Parsonage

Thanks to Pastor Dave, Joe, and Tom



Two Ways to Listen to God

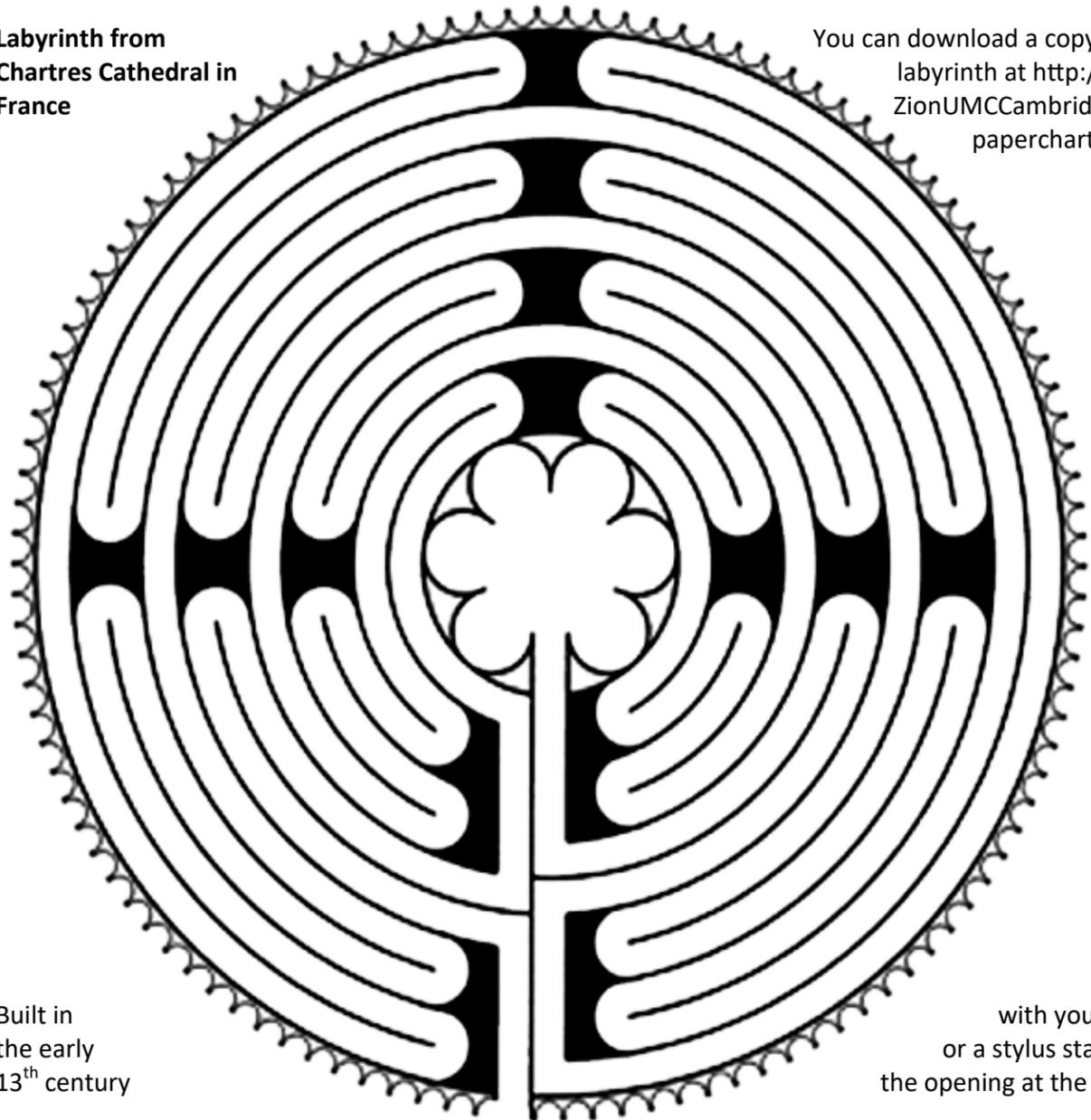
by Nan Duerling

In the story of Jesus' transfiguration, we hear: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him" (Mark 9:7). Let's consider two ways that we can listen to God. *Lectio divina* (divine reading) is an ancient, contemplative way of reading the Bible that creates a space for us to meet the Living God through our hearts, rather than our heads. We don't whiz through the text, but rather read a passage slowly as we allow God to speak to us through the Bible. *Lectio divina* is based on the belief that Christ is truly present in Scripture and that the reading of Scripture allows God to speak to us. To hear God speaking, we

have to be open and receptive. *Lectio divina*, which includes five steps, can be done on your own or with a group. Use whatever time you have, but twenty to thirty minutes is a helpful length for this activity. You may want to have paper available to make notes about what you've discerned from this time spent with Jesus in the word of God. There is no special passage, but until you become accustomed to this way of reading, you may want to choose fairly small segments of familiar Scripture. You might, for example, want to use Psalm 23 or Satan's temptation of Jesus in Luke 4:1-11 or Mark 1:9-15 as

Labyrinth from Chartres Cathedral in France

You can download a copy of this labyrinth at <http://www.ZionUMCCambridge.org/paperchartres.pdf>



Built in the early 13th century

Follow with your finger or a stylus starting at the opening at the bottom

we begin the season of Lent.

Prepare by sitting comfortably, breathing slowly and deeply as you ask God to speak to you through the passage you are about to read. As you (or someone else, if you are in a group) reads the passage the first time, listen for a word or phrase that attracts your attention. Consider this God's word for you today. Repeat this word or phrase several times silently and aloud. Read the passage again, this time asking how this word or phrase speaks to your life and why you connected with it. As you sit silently, construct one sentence that conveys what the word or phrase is saying to you. Read the passage for a third time, this time asking what Jesus is calling you to do, or to consider, or to give up in response to what you believe God is saying to you in the word or phrase you selected. Spend a few moments in silence, asking the Holy Spirit to plant this word in your heart and allow it to take root. If you are with a group, talk and pray together for a few moments. If you are by yourself, consider writing a journal entry. I have found that God can use this time to plant seeds, but the actual fruit may come later, so keep your eyes and ears open!

The other method I would like to suggest to you for listening to God is walking a labyrinth. This activity has roots that far predate Christianity, stretching back about 4000 years. The church adopted the labyrinth, and it became very popular during the Middle Ages. Several medieval monasteries in France had labyrinths built into the floor. Due to a resurgence of interest, you can find outdoor labyrinths around Maryland, including some fairly close to us in Easton and Salisbury. But you don't need to physically walk to get the benefits of a labyrinth. You can find handheld ones made of different materials such as pewter, wood, or clay. You just trace your way around the labyrinth with your finger. One great thing is that, unlike a maze, the labyrinth has only one way in and one way out, which you just keep following until you reach the center and then retrace your path to exit. You cannot get lost!

So, how does a labyrinth help us listen to Jesus? Think of yourself as a pilgrim walking with Jesus. Centuries ago, people who could not make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem walked a labyrinth as a substitute for such a journey. If you look at the paper

labyrinth on the preceding page, you'll see the entrance/exit at the bottom center. "Stand there" and think about what you'd like to get from this walk. You may want to choose a word or phrase, such as "grace" or "peace," or say, "I am a pilgrim seeking..." Begin to "walk" by allowing your finger to trace around the circuits. Move at your own pace; this is not a race to the finish line! As you "walk," let go of any concerns or worries you have. When you are halfway through, you will come to the rosette in the center, which is the place where you may receive clarity or focus concerning whatever you've had on your mind. You may want to enter each petal, which some say represents the six days of creation. Remain here in a prayerful or meditative mood, listening for God. And then, as you begin to retrace your steps on your outbound journey you will likely feel empowered and energized as you start to integrate any insight you've had. With a paper or handheld labyrinth, you can take whatever time you need. However, if you are walking an indoor or outdoor labyrinth, you do need to be mindful of others who are on the journey with you. Maintaining silence is essential so as not to disturb others. I have found it useful to write a journal entry after I have finished



the walk. Those with more artistic talent may want to sketch an image. Places that have outdoor labyrinths usually have benches or some places to sit and write, draw, or meditate further. If you adopt the habit of walking a labyrinth, whether on your feet or with your fingers, you will likely find that God speaks to you in ways that you cannot hear over the din of daily life. Then, you can respond, based on whatever has been discerned.