We have been talking a lot during the season of Lent about souls. We have talked about deepening our soul, understanding our soul, and being open and honest about the condition of our soul.

As I have tried to befriend my own soul, I have come to know that my soul needs openness and the space to breathe. That’s why I feel at home in the Judean desert and the wide-openness of New Mexico, why I’ve enjoyed sailing in the Chesapeake, why I love to worship in Gothic cathedrals, why my preference is for al fresco dining, why I sit by the windows in coffee shops, and why I love to worship in Gothic cathedrals, why I sit by the windows in coffee shops, and why I cherish the rich expansiveness of silence. It’s why I'm not good at multi-tasking, why I don't like to write in a hurry, why I find Facebook overwhelming, why too many days in the office make me feel claustrophobic, why I despair my daily avalanche of email, why (to the annoyance of many) I’m resistant to allowing my thinking to become too cluttered with details. These are all things that I have to live with, but they are not always healthy for my soul. There are times I watch my soul blossom and there are times I watch my soul languish.

What about you? How would you describe the condition of your soul? To use the historic Wesleyan question, "How goes it with your soul?"

The condition of your soul is important. It is important for your physical well-being—the well-being of your body. It is important for your mental well-being. It affects your sense of joy and your excitement about life. It makes you either a joy to be around or it makes people feel awkward and uncomfortable in your presence.

Surprisingly, the things that our souls need are not shadowy or unknowable. They are pretty straightforward: We have to feel loved, we have to be true enough to ourselves that we don’t feel compromised or conflicted, we have to feel that our lives have meaning and purpose, and we have to find ways of dealing with our guilt, our need to forgive, and our need to be forgiven.

Obviously, as my Lenten sermons have suggested, I think that we are most likely to find these things as we:
- quit hiding from God and open ourselves to God’s grace,
- allow the message of Jesus to permeate our being,
- trust in the forgiveness that is ours through Jesus,
- allow ourselves to know the hope and promise that comes through his resurrection, and
- respond to Jesus’ invitation to share in the work of God’s kingdom.

As this Lenten series tries to make clear, our souls are important. Jesus came to save—i.e., heal, rescue, restore, liberate, renew, salvage—our souls for this world, not just the next.

So, it’s an important question: how goes it with your soul?
Pastor Gary’s series *How to Live a Fruitful Life* continues as we approach Holy week and Easter on March 27. We invite you to join with us as we explore ways of being more deeply and fully Christian. Together, we are looking at the spiritual disciplines of prayer, worship, service, generosity and study—those “practices” that deepen our faith and help make us Christian through and through.

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Saturday/Sunday March 19/20**  
Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 9am & 11am  
nursery available Saturday and Sunday  
Kids Own Worship available Sunday morning

**Holy Thursday March 24**  
7:00 pm – Go to Dark Gethsemane

**Easter Saturday/Sunday March 26/27**  
Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 9am & 11am  
nursery available Saturday and Sunday  
Kids Own Worship available Sunday morning
**Looking Back…**

The **Ash Wednesday service** on February 10 offered a wonderful combination of different worship styles and music, using both traditional and non-traditional elements to resonate with members attending any of our three weekend worship services. Meditative images on the screens before worship, a Spanish and English anthem with flutes sung by the youth choir, a traditional “Kyrie” setting sung by the Wesley Choir, and a classical flute duet all added to the rich variety of ways to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

**Thank you** to Ward Ferguson, Jason West, the Wesley and Voices of Truth choirs, and Christy Sullivan and Carrie Kurtz for sharing their musical gifts during this special worship service!

**Looking ahead….**

Please mark your calendars for two exciting music performances coming up this spring!

**Sunday, April 10- Jacob Reeves, percussion & Aimee Toner, flute- Senior Recital**
6:30pm- Herndon UMC Sanctuary/Reception following in Narthex

**Saturday, May 7- Spring Missions Concert… goes to the movies!**
6:30pm- dinner in Doe Fellowship Hall
7:00pm- Concert featuring movie themes performed by all Herndon UMC music groups, puppet troupes, the HHS Percussion Ensemble, and various solo vocalists and instrumentalists
HUMC KIDS

MARCH 2016

Mar 12 @ 8:30-10 am
Easter Egg Roll & Breakfast

Joyful Noise Sings
Report @ 8:30 am

Mar 20 @ 9 am
Joyful Noise and One Accord sing
Report @ 8:30 am

Mar 19 - Mar 28
SPRING BREAK
No KIDS CLUB
No Puppets or Gloria Bells
No One Accord or Joyful Noise

Mar 27
Happy Easter!

May 1
Vacation Bible School Registration Opens

Thanks for a Great Season!

Special thanks go out to everyone who contributed to making this year’s Upward basketball season great—players, coaches, and all the other volunteers!

See you in camp Aug 1-5! Registration opens Jun 1.

KINDNESS CHALLENGE 2016

Everyone is encouraged to try to do at least one kindness each day. Kids are invited to share their stories of kindness at KIDS CLUB throughout Lent.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG ROLL & BREAKFAST

8:30–10 am, Saturday, Mar 12
in the Fellowship Hall
Rain or Shine!

There will be craft stations, entertainment, and the Egg Roll! Breakfast is provided as a fundraiser to benefit Youth Missions. Register today at herndonumc.org.

SPRING BREAK
Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday

There will not be KIDS CLUB, Gloria Bells or Hands Up for God on March 20 & 27. One Accord and Joyful Noise will not meet on March 23.
There will be Kids Worship (KOW) on March 20 & 27.

Save these dates:
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
July 11-15
Volunteer Sign Up Begins
April 1
Registration Opens
May 1

For more information, contact Melanie Ayers at 703-707-6721 ext 103, or by email, Melanie@herndonumc.org.
Easter Egg Roll & Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 12th, 8:30-10:00am
Doe Fellowship Hall - RAIN OR SHINE

Egg rolling, entertainment, crafts & goodie bags.
Please register at www.herndonumc.org
Open to ages ‘just walking’ – 6th grade

The Egg Roll is FREE
Breakfast is $5 person/$15 family
Proceeds go to Youth Led Missions
February was a busy month for the youth. We had an awesome time at Cosmic Bowling, we hosted Ash Wednesday Dinner, delivered some LINK food, started some new small groups and continued to volunteer through UPWARD by coaching, 'reffing', running concessions and getting ready for performing in the 9th ANNUAL CLOSING CEREMONIES at Herndon High School on Sat, Feb 27 at 5pm.

This is what we have planned for March.....

- Sun, Mar 6th     YOUTH GROUP 5:30 (Open Gym 5:00pm)
- Sat, Mar 12th   PANCAKE BREAKFAST - 7:30 am
  Come help cook pancakes! To sign up, follow this link: http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044eaaad2e5-easter
- Sun, Mar 13th   YOUTH GROUP 5:30 (Open Gym 5:00pm)
- Fri, Mar 18th-20th MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT - now $140
  LET ME KNOW ASAP Check out the website- www.journeyweekend.org
- Sun, Mar 20th  SPRING BREAK - no youth group, no Out of the Darkness Puppets
- Sun, Mar 27th  EASTER - no youth group, no Out of the Darkness Puppets

This year I’m using Remind (a communications tool to reach students and their parents with quick, simple messages on any device) to send updates about important youth information. Please get your kids to sign up as well!

To sign up for Youth notifications, please visit https://www.remind.com/join/h2hc2g

WEEKLY SMALL GROUPS

Wednesdays 3-6pm -Drop in anytime to hang, do homework or play games before Choir or the GIFT DINNER

Thursdays - High School Seniors Breakfast 7:15 am
Sundays - 10:10am—Small group for middle and high school students

Contact Student Ministry Director Sheri Fairchild at sheri@herndonumc.org if you have any questions about any of these events.
Ministry

New Ministry—New Member Shepherds

Several times a year, new members join Herndon UMC- new members who need to feel welcomed into our church family, connected to other members, and nurtured in their faith development through small groups, bible studies, or mission opportunities.

Would you like to help shepherd a new church member or family?

Some ways to shepherd a new member might include:

- sitting by a new member at a worship service
- answering questions about ministries, activities, or worship
- introducing a new member to others in the congregation with similar interests or backgrounds

Please contact the church office at office@herndonumc.org if you are interested in this new service opportunity!

The Herndon UMC United Methodist Women would like to invite all women of the church to join us for a retreat on April 22 & 23 at the beautiful Mt. Zion Retreat Center near Charlestown WV. Our guest facilitator will be Kris Beckert former Director of Discipleship at Herndon UMC and currently one of the pastors at The Vine church. The theme with be Growing in Blessedness based on the Beatitudes.

The cost is $80.00 for overnight including three meals and $35.00 for Saturday including lunch. It is on the banks of the Shenandoah River and is great place to revive you spiritually. You may come and spend the night. There are both single and double rooms available on a first available basis. If you have any questions contact Shellie Klet at lklet2dsl@verizon.net or 703-481-5951.
Rebuilding Mission Ministry (RMM)

Upcoming RMM Activities- 2016
Watch all HUMC communication outlets for detailed info or contact the contact person listed

Now until March 18 – Used Books, CD, DVD Drive
March 19 – Used Book, CD, and DVD Fundraising Sale for RMM
April 17 – 23 – HUMC VIM Trip to South Carolina
April 30 – Rebuilding Together annual event (formerly Christmas in April).
  Contact Joe Hogan, jphogan20@live.com
May through October – monthly local EZRA rebuilding projects
  Contact: David Bonasso, dbonasso@gmail.com
May 29 – June 4 – Costa Rica Mission Project annual trip

THANKS! FOR ANOTHER GREAT CHILI COOK-OFF!

Rebuilding Missions Ministry (RMM) wants to thank everyone for attending and participating in the chili cook-off GIFT dinner this past Wednesday. Despite the tornado warnings that evening, we had a great turnout, wonderful entertainment with the puppet show and lots of great food. Congratulations to Cathy McCranie for winning the cook-off with her All American Chili! The proceeds will be used for our adult missions work that happens across Herndon UMC. Thanks for all the support!

BOOKS ON A MISSION!

The Rebuilding Mission Ministry (RMM) is preparing for their 3rd Annual Used Book Sale. Between now and March 18th the RMM will be collecting gently used books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs. Collection boxes are located inside the two main entrances to HUMC. All the collected items will be offered for sale during a community used book sale on March 19th in Doe Hall. Proceeds from the book sale will be used to fund the various RMM mission trips. Contact Jay Horstman with any questions at 703-206-8988 or James.Horstman@FairfaxCounty.gov.
Mission Trip Opportunities

2016 DOMESTIC MISSION TRIP -
The 2016 HUMC domestic mission trip will be heading to the state of South Carolina. This past summer South Carolina received 29 inches of rain within a three day period. The excessive rain caused massive flooding of roads, businesses, and homes. Many of the homes were damaged to the extent that it left them in need of major repair. Families were forced to seek other shelter until the repairs can be made.

HUMC has a long history of going to the aid of people who have suffered losses due to disasters such as the ones in South Carolina. Communication has been established with the South Carolina UMCOR disaster relief coordinator. The mission trip is scheduled for April 17 – 23. Actual work days are April 18 -22. The tentative area is the Columbia to Florence SC corridor. The exact location will be determined by the S. C. UMCOR disaster coordinator sometime in mid March.

Debby Burt, Chip Burt and Richard Yuras will be acting as the team leaders for this mission Trip. All adult age groups are invited to participate on this mission trip. We would like to extend a special invitation to the young adults in our church to join our team. Special skills are not required. We provide on the job training. This is a great opportunity for others to witness God’s love through your actions. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Yuras at rjyuras@gmail.com

CALLING ALL SOULS TO COSTA RICA— Herndon UMC has been in partnership with Costa Rica Mission Projects for nearly 8 years. Now, in 2016, we'll grow our mission family to include our neighbors right here in Northern Virginia. This year, we are partnering with Sterling United Methodist Church to make a mega-team to serve in Central America. Join us, won't you? We'd like to invite ANY-AGE adult (college age and up) who feels called to serve God through missions to travel with us. The dates of the trip are May 28th-June 4th, 2016. Sign-up deadline is March 15th, 2016. Contact Carrie for more information: carrie.delisio@gmail.com
Neighbors In Need

**Hypothermia Dinners**
March 14 is our final Hypothermia Dinner of the season. If you are interested in helping cook, serve or donate food, the sign up board is in the narthex. The program has been very successful - many thanks to all of you for supporting this important program. We will be participating again next year, starting in December.

**5th Sunday Collection**
Supportive Housing Spring Cleaning collection. Thanks to everyone for the donated supplies and household items. These supplies are so appreciated as families transition from being homeless to moving into their own apartment. Most families move into housing with little to nothing and everything they receive is so appreciated.

**Dranesville BackPack Packing**
Thanks to Melanie Ayers and Julie Albanus's Girl Scout Troop we packed 100 bags for a week’s distribution. Supplies were purchased using funds collected earlier in the year.

Our May 5th Sunday Collection will support the BackPack Program for Dranesville Elementary. We will be collecting food items and cash to purchase the supplies needed for 200 ziplock food bags for distribution the last few weeks of the school year. Packing will be on June 2 - 10:00 and June 8 at 5:00. Watch for information to come.
Neighbors In Need

A Timely 5th Sunday Collection
For Supportive Housing Spring Cleaning collection

Our delivery to Cornerstones was very timely. Cornerstones was low on cleaning supplies and they found out the day we delivered the supplies that 4 families were moving from the shelter to permanent housing.

February 18, 2016

Thank you for your recent donation to Cornerstones. With your generous support, unsheltered homeless adults living around our community have a place to seek shelter from the cold weather.

Your donation is helping us operate the North County Hypothermia Prevention Program to prevent weather-induced illness and loss of life among homeless men and women in our community. We expect to serve 250 individuals this season who live outdoors, in cars, or in other places unsuitable for human habitation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, thank you for choosing to support Cornerstones and the men, women, and children who find themselves needing emergency assistance to obtain stability.

With sincere appreciation,

Kerrie Wilson, Chief Executive Officer
## Worship Services

**Sundays**
- 9:00 a.m.  "Sanctuary" - Traditional Worship Service and Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m.  "Connection" - Contemporary Worship Service
  "Kids Own Worship (KOW)" - Available at both 9:00 am & 11:00 am services

**Saturdays**
- 5:30 p.m.  "Relax and Renew" - Casual Worship at HUMC

Nursery Care available for infants through age 3 at all worship services and Sunday School

## CHURCH STAFF

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Nursery Workers</td>
<td>Robin Garcia, Kayla Miller, Dominique Hart</td>
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<td>Custodians</td>
<td>Victoria &amp; Audelio Ayala</td>
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April Newsletter Deadline—**March 20th**

You can e-mail your articles to: LisaLombo@signaturecos.com