

From Pastor Rachel

Lent is a season to be more focused and intentional about our faith. The Spiritual Disciplines class that Sarah Branch is leading will help us learn more about what it means to pray, fast, or practice our faith in other ways. A lot of times we talk about what we are giving up for Lent but we don't think about what new thing we are embracing in the place of what we gave up. So, for example, if you give up sweets for Lent

then perhaps you could use the money you would have spent on sweets to donate to the food pantry or you could donate the time you would have spent baking your sweets in the clothes closet helping to sort out donations. During Lent we learn to say "no" to something that isn't necessary or life-giving to us and replace it with something that brings us closer to Christ. I would love to hear more about what you are doing on our journey of Lent to

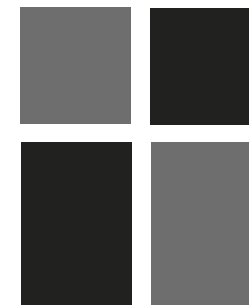
draw closer to God, just call the office and we can schedule a time to meet! Thank you for being a part of the amazing church family at The Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC!

- Rev. Rachel Gilmore



THE GATHERING at SCOTT MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
409 First Colonial Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

LENT 2018 EDITION



THE GATHERING at SCOTT MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The **Courier**

RECONNECTING WITH GOD, OURSELVES, OTHERS, AND CREATION

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LENT 2018 EDITION



Lent - Growing Closer to God & to each other

Bobbie Wilcox

*Traditional Worship Leader
& Choir Director*

“Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us didst fast and pray. Teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.” Lord Throughout These Forty Days is a hymn in the United Methodist

Hymnal typically sung Ash Wednesday or the first Sunday of Lent. Lent is a season of 40 days in the church year starting with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Sunday. It is a time where we remember the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert. After being baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus fasts for 40 days and nights in the desert, while being tempted by Satan the whole time. It is

common for many Christians to give up things during Lent, to practice self-denial like Jesus did while he was in the desert. We give up chocolate, soda, potatoes, etc., etc. Although these things are very hard to give up (believe me, I know), they are nothing compared to what Jesus gave up for us. He gave up his life, so that we may have eternal life. He gives us his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>>

constant grace and love. So when you are complaining about the little things you are denying yourself this Lenten Season, just remember He made the ultimate sacrifice. Instead of worrying about what you are not having, replace what you are giving up for more of Him. Take time to pray and grow closer to him. Give up those things that you feel you need to but add more of Him in return. It is a time of sacrifice but remember when Jesus was in the desert, his faith in God never wavered. He stayed true and never was tempted. He went on to minister to the poor and the broken. He rode into Jerusalem not on a prized horse but on the back of a donkey while people cheered and waved palm branches at him. He was then tried like a criminal and hung on a tree to die. But our Lord didn't die; three days later, He rose from the dead. So as we go through this time of self-denial, repentance and reflecting all the while looking forward to the dawning of Easter Sunday, let us do it together as one body of Christ. Let us fully support each other and help each other grow in faith and love.

- Bobbie Wilcox

YOUTH MINISTRY



at the Gathering at Scott Memorial

Jason Houser
Director of Youth & Sports Ministry

Youth Group is alive and well at the Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC! There are three ways for the youth to get plugged into the church:

- Participate in scheduled special events
- Come to weekly Youth Group on Sunday evenings
- Attend Sunday school (every Sunday at 10:15 am)

We are averaging about 10 students per event but would love to make more friends!

The youth have been busy over the past few months. They had a lock-in at the church, hosted a Santa's

Workshop for the younger families of the church, celebrated the holidays at the Youth Christmas Party, and served at the Longest Night Memorial Service held for the homeless in our community. Recently, they went roller skating and attended an Admiral's hockey game. In March, we are hoping to play paintball.

The Youth Group meets every Sunday night from 6 pm—8 pm at the church. At Youth Group we play active games like Romans & Christians, Capture the Flag, and Last Man Standing. We also eat snacks, discuss our faith, and build meaningful and supportive friendships. Sunday school meets every Sunday morning at 10:15 am. We just completed a 4 week study on the book of Jonah. This spring we are looking forward to a retreat as many youth prepare for confirmation!

For more information on Youth Group, please contact Jason Houser, jason@gatheratscott.com



Youth Group Skating Day, January 14, 2018

PRAYER REQUESTS ♥ Remembering in Prayer

Church Family

Agatha Sigley	Jackie Ginn
Betty Wise	Janie Yamrick
Carla Morrisette	Jill Moore
Chris Ramsey & Family	Joe Wise
Dorothy Belile	Mike Petrillo
George Schimmel	Naomi Mitchell
Harriet Van Blarcom	

Friends & Relatives

Al Reil, brother of of Barney Reil
Bill Carroll
Chad Stokely, (son of Herk & Lennie Stokely)
Charlotte Biggs
Cindy Sager, daughter of Jean Schimmel
Donald Hall (nephew of Betty & Barney Reil, kidney failure)
Dwayne Einsphar
Elizabeth & Betty Rehpelz
Gene Sipe
Janet Deham
John Hendriksen
Larry Caffee
Sandy Vickers, Starke, FL

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain has been active for over 25 years. Anyone who wishes the Prayer Chain to be activated for them or for someone else (upon their request) should call: call **Cheryl McClenney, 431-4405** or **Pastor Rachel, 802-2282** to activate the Prayer Chain.

When we receive notice to activate the Prayer Chain, the information is passed to our callers who notify others of the request. If you would like to be apart of us and be notified of the Prayer Chain calls, please contact **Cheryl McClenney, 431-4405**.

Our world, our country, & our leaders

Misplaced refugees throughout the world

Missionaries

Kate & David O'Donnell
Vladi & Nadia Todorov
Reyes Family
Emil & Katiya Markov

Celebration of DISCIPLINES

New Study | Mondays - 6 pm | beginning Feb 19

Great weekly study during the season of Lent!

Mondays, 6 pm – 7 pm, Feb. 19 - March 26 @ 409 First Colonial Rd.

Looking for a study during the Lenten season? This 6-week study based on Richard Foster's Celebration of Discipline will help you discover a richer spiritual life infused with joy, peace, and a deeper understanding of God. Childcare provided.



Lent Prayer Challenge & Sermon Series: “Last Words”

Tuesdays & Thursdays through Lent

Join us on Tuesday & Thursday mornings on Facebook Live during Lent as we look at the last 7 statements Jesus made before his death, and join us on Sunday mornings as we look at the last 7 statements that Jesus heard as he hung on the cross. May these final words prepare us to serve him with deeper devotion this Lenten season as we truly see Christ's character revealed in the words spoken during his darkest moment.



Lenten Giving Tree – Giving Challenge for Lent

Help fund the ministries of the Gathering at Scott Memorial! Look for the Lenten Giving Tree located near Pastor Rachel's office. Envelopes are placed on the tree listing a ministry area & monetary amount and “adopted” by members of the church in addition to their general giving. We hope to raise \$4000 by Easter Sunday! Thank you for your generosity and prayerful consideration!



Palm Sunday Egg Hunt & Potluck

Sunday, March 25, 10 am

Join us for **ONE** service at 10 am followed by a potluck & Egg Hunt. The church will provide fried chicken. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hope to see you there!



Worship Service Schedule for the winter 2018

- **9 am:** Traditional service in the Sanctuary
- **9:15 am:** Experiential service in fellowship hall
- **10 am:** Sunday school/chapel - style service in the Pearsall Sunday School classroom
- **10:15 am:** Experiential service in sanctuary

Church office hours:

Mon. — Thurs. 9 am - 1 pm

www.gatheratscott.com

admin@gatheratscott.com

757.428.3720

Find us on Facebook-

The Gathering at Scott Memorial

Upcoming Events

- **Feb. 18** - Lenten Giving Tree begins
- **Feb. 19** - Celebration of Disciplines study begins
- **Feb. 20** - Hilltoppers
- **Feb. 25** - Society of St. Andrew Sunday
- **March 13** - Scott's Sisters Dinner at Tapped
- **March 17** - Couple's Night Out
- **March 20** - Hilltoppers
- **March 25** - Feed the Homeless at PIN Ministries
- **March 25** - Palm Sunday Egg Hunt & Potluck
- **March 29** - Maundy Thursday Challenge
- **March 30** - Good Friday Service
- **April 1** - Easter Sunday
- **April 8** - ONE service: 10:15 am



New Community Outreach at the Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC

Join us for this emerging and exciting opportunity in 2018!

Reconnect with creation & others at the community gardens of Nimmo UMC & Charity UMC. Harvested produce will be delivered to food deserts in Norfolk, Chesapeake, and Va. Beach where there is limited access to affordable fresh fruits & vegetables. Volunteer gardeners will come together for potluck dinners and share together in a short devotional that helps us understand creation care from a deeper theological level.

Rick D is heading up our Connectional Garden committee and has been busy learning about the community garden at Nimmo UMC where we will glean produce in late spring/early summer. We are always looking for more helpers on our gardening committee to help Rick and the others with our church garden. We tilled up a 30x30 plot behind the church near the 3 crosses and the Boy Scout trailer and had free wood chips donated to help us prepare the soil for planting. We are having the soil tested and are excited to plant okra and tomatoes when it warms up and mother nature tells us it's time to plant our first produce. Everyone who helps in the garden is welcome to take a little produce for themselves and we will bring everything else to people struggling to afford produce in lower income areas of Norfolk and Virginia Beach.



Our garden committee was hard at work this winter tilling up a small community garden for us at our church in addition to the two community gardens that we will be using at Charity UMC and Nimmo UMC!



We're almost there!

We have raised almost \$11,500 for the playground fund and only need another \$500 to reach our goal of a ADA approved commercial playground for 2-12 year-olds! Thank you for your generosity. The current playground that we have was a wonderful Eagle Scout project done by Barney and Betty Reil's son and for the last 25 years it has brought joy to countless children. We could not be more grateful for this Eagle Scout project that helped us realize how important it is to have a fun place for children to play together. With new safety codes and standards for playground equipment, we are excited to have this new playground going in sometime in late spring or early summer. If you would like to contribute, every little bit helps and any additional money raised above the \$12,000 will go to cover the cost of mulching the area around the playground. The kids will also be contributing change all throughout Lent to move us closer to our \$12,000 goal!



Future Playground of the Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC

STAFF AT THE GATHERING AT SCOTT MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ZACK WRIGHT
Custodian

**WE BELIEVE IN
INCARNATIONAL
MISSIONS - BRINGING CHRIST'S
LOVE TO BEAR ON A HURTING
WORLD WITH OUR HEARTS & HANDS.**