



From the Office of the Pastor

The season of Lent started on Wednesday, February 22, 2023. The Christian Season of Lent is a time to think and reflect on the content and context of our lives, and about things that separate us from God and the abundant lives (John 10:10) that Jesus envisions for us. The following is an adaptation of a short story titled *The Room*, written by Joshua Harris. This story brings into focus what is at stake in our relationships with God and with each other.

><> ><> ><> The Room <>< <>< <><

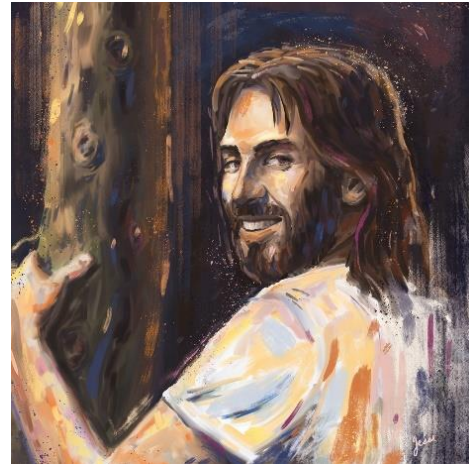
In that place between wakefulness and dreams, I found myself in a room. There were no distinguishing features except for the one wall covered with small index card files. They were like the ones in old-fashioned libraries that list titles by author or subject in alphabetical order. But these files, stretching from floor to ceiling and seemingly endless in either direction, had very different labels.

As I drew near the wall of files, the first to catch my attention was one that labeled "Girls I Have Liked." I opened it and began flipping through the cards. I quickly shut it, after realizing that I recognized the names written on each one.

And then without being told, I knew exactly where I was. This lifeless room with its small file boxes cataloged my life, in such detail that my memory couldn't match it. A sense of wonder and curiosity stirred within me as I began randomly opening files and exploring their content. Some brought joy and sweet memories; others a sense of shame and regret so intense that I would look over my shoulder to see if anyone was watching.

A box labeled "Friends" was next to one marked "Friends I have betrayed." Titles ranged from the mundane to the outright weird: "Books I Have Read," "Lies I Have Told," "Comforts I Have Given," "Inappropriate Jokes I Have Laughed at." Some were almost hilarious in their exactness: "Things I've yelled at my siblings." Others I couldn't laugh at: "Things I Have Done in My Anger," "Things I Have Muttered Under My Breath at My Parents," "Gestures I Made While Driving."

The content of the boxes was surprising. Most boxes had many more cards than I expected. Other boxes had fewer than I hoped. I was overwhelmed by the sheer complexity, volume, and weight of the life I had lived. Could it be possible that I had the time in my years to fill each of these thousands or even millions of cards?



But each card confirmed the truth. Each was written in my own handwriting. Each card, no matter how mundane, was signed with my signature.

When I pulled out the file marked "TV Shows I have watched" I realized the files grew to contain their contents. In that box, the cards were packed tightly, and yet after 2 or 3 yards, I hadn't found the end of the file. I shut it, shamed, not so much by the quality of the shows but more by the vast time I knew that this file represented.

When I came to a file marked "Lustful Thoughts" I felt a chill run through my body. I pulled the file out only an inch, not willing to test its size, and drew out a card. I shuddered at its detailed content. I felt sick to think that such a moment had been recorded.

An almost animal rage broke within me. One thought dominated my mind: no one must ever see these cards! No one must ever see this room! I have to destroy this catalog! In an insane frenzy I yanked one file box out. Its size didn't matter now. I had to empty it and burn the cards. But as I took it at one end and began pounding it on the floor, I could not dislodge a single card.

I became desperate and pulled out a card, only to find it as strong as steel when I tried to tear it. Defeated and utterly helpless, I returned the file to its slot. Leaning my forehead against the wall, I let out a long, self-pitying sigh. And then I saw another box; the title was "People I Have Shared the Gospel With."

The handle was brighter than those around it, newer, almost unused. I pulled on its handle and a small box not more than 3 inches long fell into my hands. I could count the cards it contained easily. Then the tears came. I began to weep... sobs so deep that they hurt. They started in my stomach and reverberated through every fiber of my body.

I fell on my knees and cried. I cried out of embarrassment and because I felt helpless. I cried out of the overwhelming shame of it all. The rows of file shelves swirled in my tear-filled eyes. No one must ever, ever know of this room. I must lock it up and bury the key in the deepest part of the ocean where no one would find it.

But then as I wiped the tears away, I saw Jesus... Jesus? What was Jesus doing here? “No, please not Him and not here,” flashed through my mind... “Oh God, anyone but Jesus... please...”

I watched helplessly as He began to open the files and read the cards. I couldn't bear to watch His response. And in the moments I could bring myself to look at His face, I saw a sorrow deeper than my own. He seemed to intuitively go to the worst boxes. Why did he have to read every card...

Finally he turned and looked at me from across the room. He looked at me with love, and understanding. There was no anger in his eyes; I did not feel patronized or inferior. Nor did I feel scolded. I dropped my head, covered my face with my hands and began to cry again. He walked over and put his arms around me. He could have said so many things. But he didn't say a word.

He just cried with me (John 11:35). Then Jesus got up and walked back to the wall of files. Starting at one end of the room, he took out a file and, one by one, began to sign his own name over mine on each card.

“NO!” I shouted rushing to Him. All I could find to say was, “NO! NO!” as I pulled the card from Him. His name shouldn't be on these cards! But there it was, written in red so rich, so dark, so alive. The name of Jesus covered mine. It was written with His

blood. He gently took the card back.

He smiled a sad smile and continued to sign the cards. I don't think I'll ever understand how he did it so quickly, but the next instant it seemed I heard him close the last file and walk back to my side. He placed his hand on my shoulder, looked me straight in the eye and said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). I stood up, and he led me out of the room. There was no lock on the door.

There are still cards to be written...

><> ><> ><> The End <>< <>< <><

Although all of us still have cards to be written, we know that God did not create us to grovel in the grime of our sinful nature. We know that Jesus came because God understood and forgave us, he came so that God could live among us here on Earth and the Holy Spirit could guide our lives, so we can be instruments of God's Love and Grace.

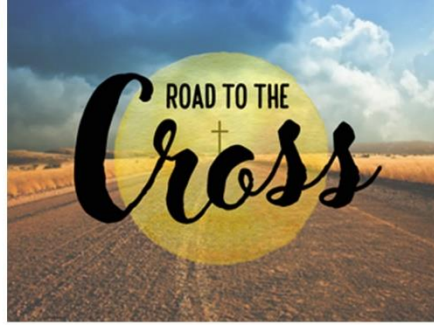
May this Lenten season bring each of us closer to God.

Philos,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Asher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

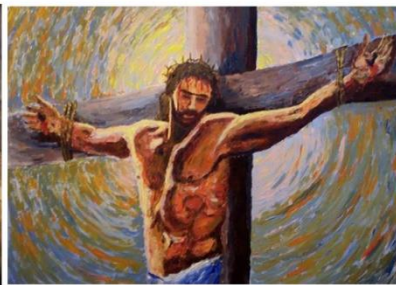
Pastor Asher

God is my conscience; Jesus lives in my heart!



**“Lent is about becoming,
doing and changing,
whatever it is
that is blocking
the fullness of life
in us right now.”**

~~ Sister Joan Chittister (April 26, 1936 -)



Lent is not just about the sacrifices we make,
but about discerning where our hearts are
directed.



Please Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday; Beginning of the Holy Week.

Thursday, April 6: Soup and bread meal in our fellowship hall, followed by **Maundy Thursday service** in the Sanctuary.

Friday, April 7: Good Friday service. We will gather in the Sanctuary of the EverSpring church to worship and to remember the 24 hours that changed the WHOLE world.

Sunday, April 9: Easter: Sunrise service will begin at 6:15 a.m. (the time of this service is tied to astronomical local time of the sunrise, which is 6:19 a.m. on April 9, 2023). This service will be followed by breakfast and fellowship in our fellowship hall downstairs. At 10 a.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for our Easter Celebration.

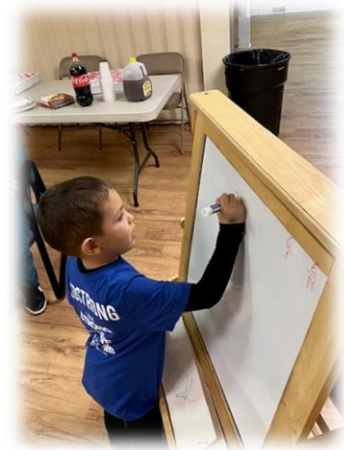
Sunday, April 30: Fifth Sunday of the Month. We will worship downstairs.



Donna Goes Walkabout

February is generally a rough weather month around here but as I write this we are cruising! No snow which disappoints me but if were not going to get any snow, then lets get on with spring ! On the positive side, we have not had to cancel any activities or services because of weather and boy have we been busy!

Game night was a ton of fun on February 11th. We started the evening off with tasty pizza and then moved on to Jenga, Tri-ominoes, and Pictionary. And let me warn you that Lyndsey Ordorica's 4 year old son Juan is very good at Tri-ominoes



AND Pictionary We all had a great time and look forward to our next game night on March 18th.

Scout Sunday was awesome! Its always great to have the scouts participate in our worship service and on February 12th we had quite a group in attendance. Some of the scouts took on the duty of liturgist and scripture reading, and Eagle scout Jason graced us with some special music on the piano



AND, after the service, the women held their annual Souper Bowl Sunday Sale. We had 50 quarts of delicious home made soups to purchase and take home. Tortellini, Gnocchi, ham and bean, vegetable beef, clam chowder and more! SO good!



So you can see, there's a lot of activities continuing like Lentin Bible studies, special activities and events, and we get to gather together on Sunday mornings to worship. May we always remember how blessed we are. Be well and I will see you on Sunday morning.

Donna



Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays'

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

St Georges UMC Church

Winter/Spring 2023

For information contact:

Karen Higgins – kvalhig@gmail.com

(302-595-4122)

Claudia Windward – cwinward1@verizon.net

(302) 690-5130

Lenten Prayers

Loving and Gracious God!

I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you. Help me to become the best version of myself by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world.

Open my heart to areas in my life that need to change in order for me to carry out the mission and experience the joy you have imagined for my life. Inspire me to live my faith and devotion to you in ways that are dynamic and engaging. Show me how to best get involved in the life of my church.

Give me courage when I am afraid, hope when I am discouraged, and clarity in times of decision. Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times. Amen.

Prayer of Richard of Chichester (1197 – 1253)

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,
 love you more dearly,
 and follow you more nearly,
with every breath that we take and every day that we live.
Amen.

United Methodist Women

Souper Sunday was a big success! Thanks to all who made soup and/or bought soup. We had a wonderful variety to choose from and we hope everyone enjoyed the soup they purchased. Because of your generosity we made a little over \$400 for our banquet in May.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 9 at 7 pm in the church social hall.



Friendship Star Quilters

The Friendship star Quilters will be meeting on Tuesday, March 7 from 9:30am to 4pm. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. Lunch will be provided.



Your Help is Needed

For years St. Georges has been delivering Meals on Wheels on Mondays. We need two people who would be willing to deliver Meals on Wheels the **first Monday** of each month. The team that was delivering can no longer do it. Meals are picked up at 11:00 at the Delaware City Library. Our delivery area is from Route 72 to Porter Road, then Route 71 area including Caravel Hunt and the trailer park. It takes about an hour to deliver and coolers then need to be returned to the library.

If anyone is willing to help, contact Kris Foltz, 302-834-9444 or krisofoltz@aol.com.



The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve. – Matthew 20:28

ZOOM Link To Sunday's Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82959934703?pwd=eUgveXZzZk1BRHZ1MXRZUHJHTDkvdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 5993 4703 Passcode: 471914

This Link is valid Until **November 19, 2023**



St Georges United Methodist Church

MEN'S WEEKLY

BIBLE STUDY

S E S S I O N S

**EVERY
THURSDAY**

10:00 am
at Church
109 N. Broad Street
St Georges, DE 19733

www.stgeorgesumc.com

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Happy Birthday to...
Lyndsey Ordarico.....March 7





Troop 123's Eagle Scout, Jason Breidenbach and his classmates will be performing in the musical production "The Music Man" at Red Lion Christian Academy (1390 Red Lion Rd, Bear, DE).

Showings March 2nd, 3rd, 4th at 7pm and Sunday March 5th at 2pm. We invite you all to attend!!

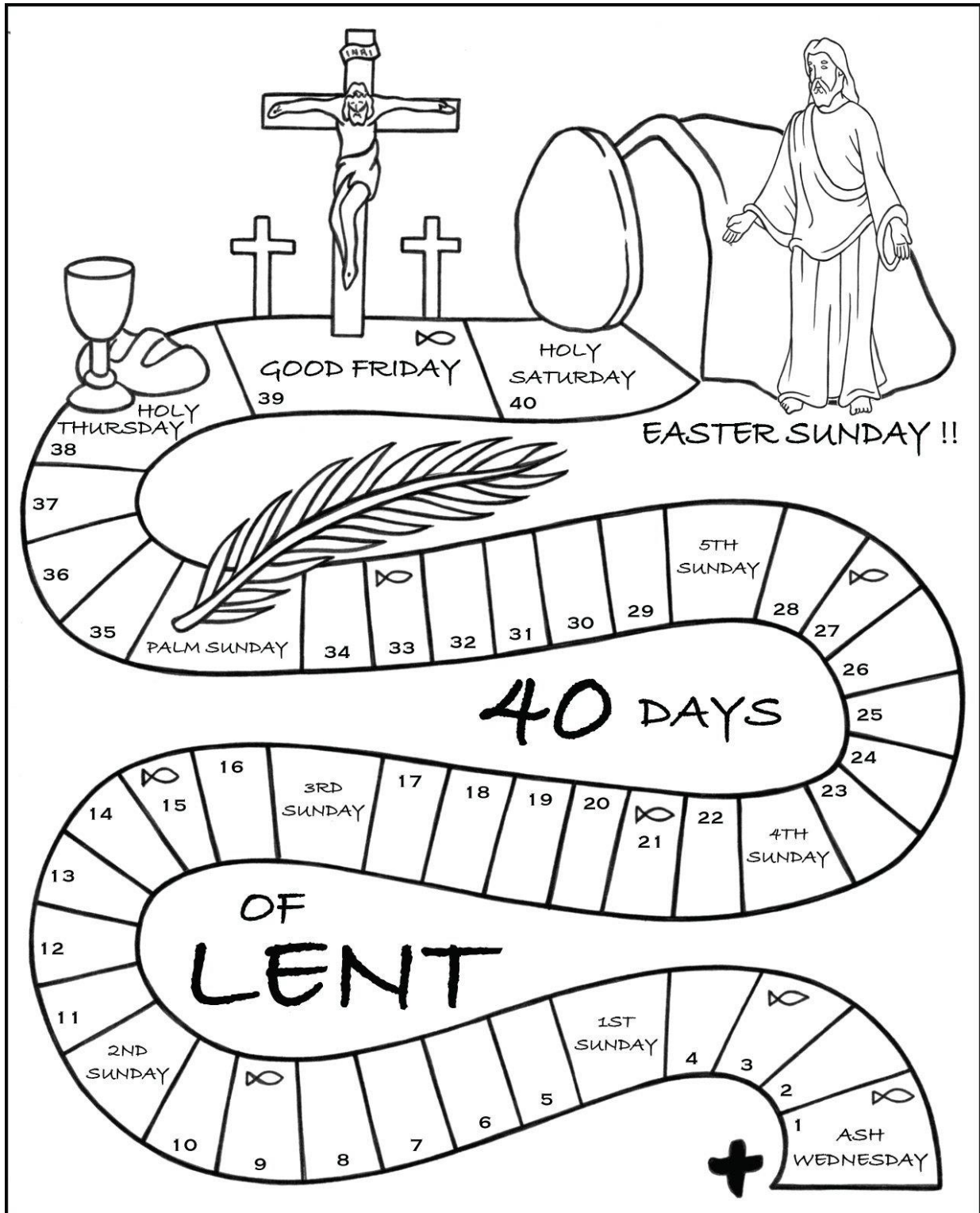
General Admission Tickets can be purchased at the door Students/Seniors \$5 and Adults \$10 per person. Prime Seating - Front Row Tickets are \$50 each and 2nd/3rd row tickets are \$25 each. All proceeds benefit the Fine Arts Program. Hope to see you there!!

This is a classic musical and a wonderful opportunity to support one of the fine young men in our scout troop. We hope you mark your calendar and make it a fun evening out.



Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. –
Matthew 11:28

Young Disciples Page and Activities

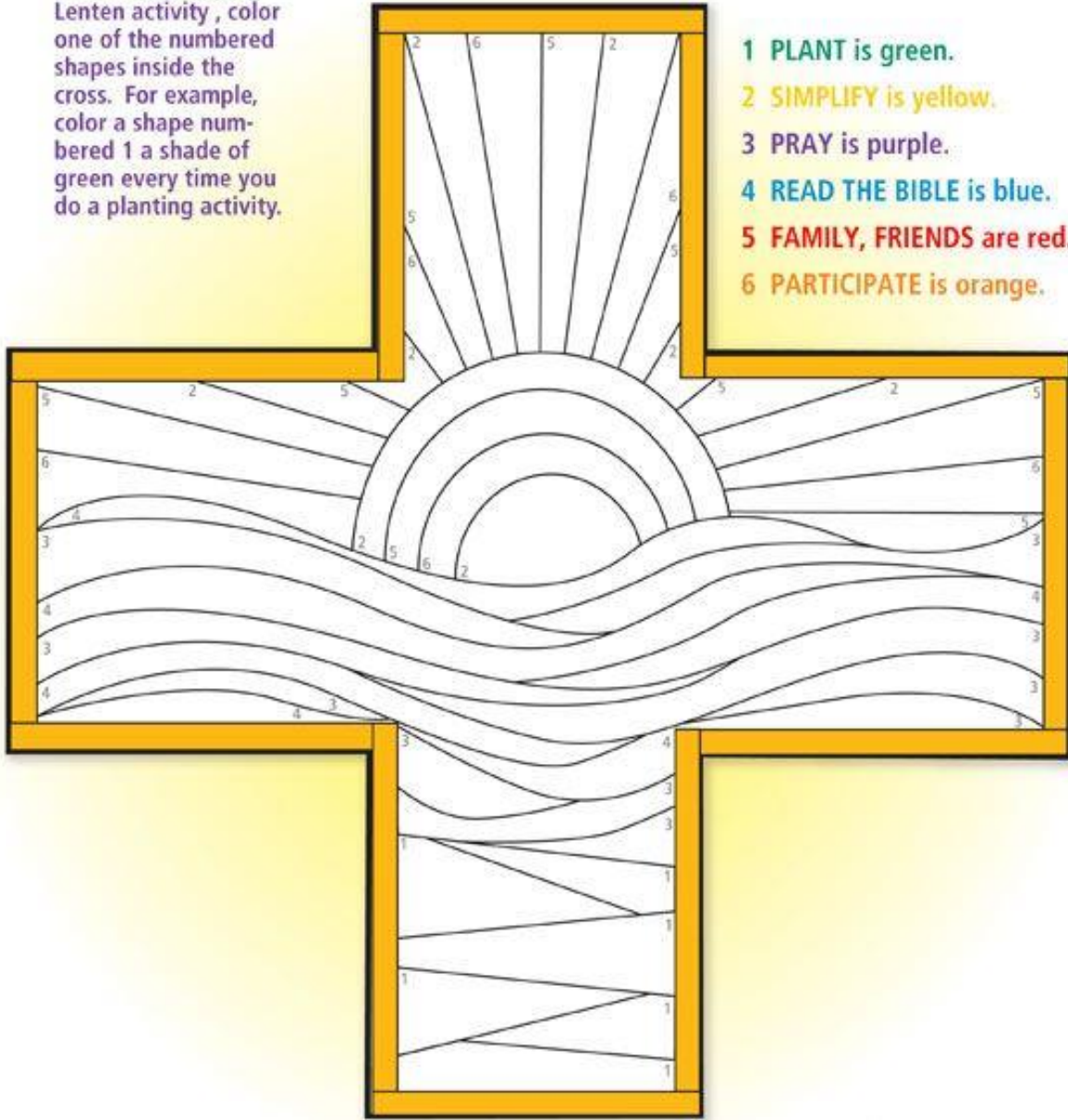


Color a block for each day of Lent

Young Disciples Page and Activities

Each time you do a Lenten activity, color one of the numbered shapes inside the cross. For example, color a shape numbered 1 a shade of green every time you do a planting activity.

- 1 PLANT is green.
- 2 SIMPLIFY is yellow.
- 3 PRAY is purple.
- 4 READ THE BIBLE is blue.
- 5 FAMILY, FRIENDS are red.
- 6 PARTICIPATE is orange.



How to Reach our Bishop and District Superintendent

Our Bishop



Rev. Latrelle Easterling

Peninsula-Delaware Conference

Bishop Felton Edwin May

Resource Center

139 N. State Street,
Dover, DE 19901

Website: www.pen-del.org

Phone: 302-674-2626

Toll Free: 1-877-736-3351

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference
office is open:

Monday thru Thursday

Our District Superintendent



Rev. Joseph Archie

Delaware District Office

900 N Washington St
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Website: delawaredistrictumc.org

Phone: 302-655-8873

e-mail:

delawaredistrictumc@gmail.com

The District Office is open:

Monday thru Thursday



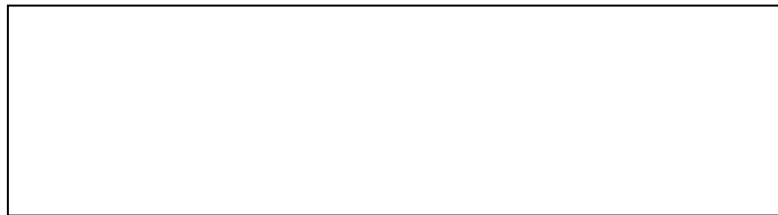
Our Pastor: Rev Asher F. Tunik

Email: pastorasher@gmail.com

Cell Phone / Voice Mail / Text: 443-350-5077

I am in the Church office on Friday mornings and by appointment. Rest of the week I work from my home office and can be reached via phone or e-mail/text.

St Georges United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 145
St. Georges, DE 19733



Please Mark Your Calendar

March 9...Women's Society Meeting 7pm

March 17... St. Patrick's Day

March 18...Game Night 6pm

April 2: Palm Sunday

April 6: Maundy Thursday/Soup and bread meal in our fellowship hall followed by a service in the Sanctuary.

April 7: Good Friday service @the EverSpring church

April 9: Easter Sunrise service at 6:15 a.m.
Breakfast and Fellowship .
Easter Celebration at 10 a.m in the sanctuary.

April 30: Fifth Sunday of the Month/We will worship downstairs.

