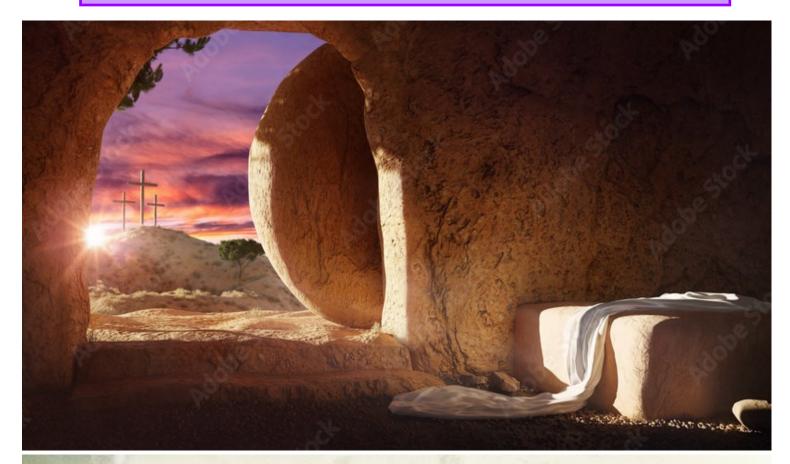


April 2, 2024 Volume 3, Issue 7



HE IS RISEN! Death could not hold Him! Rejoice in the ressurection

OF JESUS CHRIST!

Calendar of Events

April—CLM Classes start April 4—Bishop Easterling's podcast April 10—General Conference presentation via ZOOM April 13—Camp Pecometh Volunteer Day April 24—HOPP Pack & Pray Service April 27—Camp Pecometh, Pecometh Day May 22—District Clergy Meeting June 6-8—Annual Conference





If your Church has an upcoming event that you would like to advertise in the District newsletter, please email the flyer and information to the District Office at DelawareDistrictUMCDgmail.com.

The newsletter is published bi-weekly on a Tuesday and the article will run until the event ends! Event flyers must be sent as a word doc, or jpeg format.

Peninsula-Delaware Conference



The United Methodist Church

Rev. ERICA ROBINSON-JOHNSON Chief Administrative Officer

Bishop La Trelle Easterling Bishop, Peninsula-Delaware Conference, Baltimore-Washington Conference

April 1, 2024 | In the Light of Easter

Living the Resurrection

Hallelujah! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! There is joy in those words as we enter the sanctuary that we exited on Good Friday, which was then draped in black and is now adorned with lilies and bright colors. It's exhilarating. The long Lenten journey always culminates in the celebration of Easter and the reminder that death, empire and corrupt conspiring do not have the last word.

And yet, this Easter feels different. There is celebration, but there is also lingering grief. There is joy, but the sorrow is still palpable. There are lilies and beautifully decorated eggs, but the debris that became our reality on March 26, when the Key Bridge collapsed, is still visible. Christ is risen. And, the pain of our broken world is profound. Perhaps this is exactly the tension we should be confronting as we gather in the Light of Easter.

In our world today, brokenness is all too apparent. We witness it in the cries of the oppressed, the hopelessness in the faces of children mired in poverty or war, and the wounds of injustice that scar our world. This brokenness does not magically disappear on Easter Sunday, nor fade away in Eastertide as we remove the dressings from the altar. It remains for all who have eyes to see.

The deep message of Good Friday is that God does not abandon us in our suffering and pain. The cross stands as a stark reminder of the depths of human depravity, not God's divine will. God does not ordain this suffering, but God will not leave us alone in our most vulnerable, agonizing moments. God is with us. God is with us, and God loves us. The message of Good Friday is not that God caused or causes suffering. There is nothing redemptive in suffering for suffering's sake. Rather, the message is that God will **never** abandon us. The bond between Creator and creation cannot be broken. It cannot be broken by human hubris, lust for power, tyranny, or any other machinations of man. God is with us.

I resonate with the words of G. Sujin Pak, dean of Boston University School of Theology, when she writes, "To be an Easter people is not to be a triumphal conquering people. To be Easter people is to be a people of compassion and radical love who stand in the gap between Good Friday and Easter, vigilant to be fully present to and for one another, to see and not look away, to walk with the wounded, remain with the weary, and witness to resurrection."

As United Methodists, we are called to live in the tension between brokenness and hope -- to acknowledge the reality of suffering while holding steadfastly to the promise of resurrection. This tension challenges us to embrace our vulnerability and stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized and oppressed. It calls us to cultivate empathy and compassion, recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. And, it compels us to act with courage and conviction, working to dismantle systems of injustice and build communities of love and inclusion. Easter people are present for and with one another, in a bond of unbreakable love. This is how we live the resurrection.

Blessings and Peace, **Bishop LaTrelle Easterling** Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula Delaware Conferences The United Methodist Church

Peninsula-Delaware Conference



The United Methodist Church

Bishop La Trelle Easterling

BISHOP, PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE, Baltimore-Washington Conference

REV. ERICA ROBINSON-JOHNSON Chief Administrative Officer

The Rev. Dr. Tom Pasmore has been appointed by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling to serve as the new superintendent of the Delaware District of The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference, beginning on July 1, 2024. In this pivotal role, Pasmore brings a wealth of experience, a deep commitment to community-based ministries, and a steadfast dedication to the Gospel.

"As we continue to emerge from the pandemic and find some sense of normality and stability," Pasmore said, "I'm hoping to continue to invite the district to be open and welcoming, as well as looking for ways to get outside of their buildings to do the work that we're called to in the community."



Bishop Easterling is excited to invite Rev. Pasmore to join the appointive cabinet. "Rev. Tom Pasmore is first and foremost a committed disciple of Jesus Christ. This profound grounding has led to fruitfulness in all his appointments. He also leads by example, including his participation in the leadership and development opportunities provided by the district and conference. Further, he has a heart for God's people and an unwavering love for The United Methodist Church," said Bishop LaTrelle Easterling. "As a leader, he is blessed with gifts of boldness, faithfulness, and innovation. He will carry these traits with him as the new superintendent of the Delaware District."

As a denomination, we are entering a new season, the bishop said. "Rev. Pasmore's empathy, discipline and his devotion to God, will serve us well as, together, we continue to create and nurture vital congregations and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

A superintendent is an ordained Elder, appointed by the bishop, to serve as the missional strategist and a supervisor of pastors and local churches within a district. The Delaware District, situated within the state of Delaware, is made up of 113 churches and 101 clergy members.

"My journey in ministry has been marked by a profound calling to lead local churches in embracing community-based ministries and living out the Gospel message," Pasmore said.

Pasmore's journey to ministry began about 20 years ago, sparked by a chance encounter at a church event. Little did he know that a simple conversation about football and faith would ignite a lifelong commitment to serving others.

Recalling the pivotal moment, he shared, "My call came 20 years ago, in 2003. It really developed as a result of a weekend at a Walk to Emmaus. ... I felt led to do more. It's been a journey where I feel God has given me everything I need."

Pasmore's commitment to community is evident through his involvement in initiatives such as the Code Purple shelter in Milford and the ministries of Richardson Park Community Action Program. "We need to help embrace and meet families where they are," he said. Before assuming the role of district superintendent, Pasmore served in various pastoral roles, including at Avenue UMC in Milford, Richardson Park UMC in Wilmington, and Hope UMC in Dover, Delaware.

Pasmore said that as he makes this transition into the superintendency, he'll be embracing 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 as his guiding Scripture, "Keep alert; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

He is an advocate for solid leadership, courage, and an unwavering focus on love as the cornerstones of effective ministry and community engagement. "I envision my role as one of empowering churches within the district to fulfill their calling to be the hands and feet of Christ in their communities," he said. "God is going to do the work, but I'm hopefully there to help facilitate what the congregations are going to need moving forward to be vital points in the communities where they find themselves."

Bishop Easterling invites us into a time of prayer for the Pasmore and Archie families, as well as Asbury United Methodist Church Salisbury Maryland during this time of transition.

Rev. Joseph Archie chosen as Pen-Del's Episcopal Candidate

In today's world, prophets of joy are rare. But in the Rev. Joseph Archie's life, the truths spoken by Old Testament and modern prophets combine with God's call to transcendent joy in ways that define his faith and have led him to offer himself as a candidate for the episcopacy.

His candidacy was endorsed by the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation from the Peninsula-Delaware



Conference. Clergy and lay members will vote on whether the Conference will endorse him when they meet June 6-8 in Ocean City. If endorsed, Archie will be eligible to be on the ballot to be elected as a United Methodist Bishop, when the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference meets July 8-12 in Pittsburgh.

Archie, who serves as superintendent of the Delaware District and pastor of Whatcoat UMC in Dover, Delaware, realizes that embracing this unique combination of justice and joy can take him into some deep thoughts and situations. "But the church has the power to change the world, to turn the world upside down," he said. "I feel like I have such limited time on this earth. I just don't have time for trivial things. I want to spend the time I have doing things that matter so that, as the old song goes, 'my living will not be in vain.'"

"If it is God's will for me to be bishop, connecting love and justice would be a top priority," Archie said. "The church doesn't do that enough." He can image, as The United Methodist Church undergoes some dramatic transitions, taking faith outside of the church walls, and engaging society more readily. He can see pastors being not just church leaders, but pastors to entire communities. He also sees the laity being more empowered, and the church's structure and polity beginning to earnestly reflect Bishop LaTrelle Easterling's call to "be flexible, nimble and adaptable."

As a leader, Archie embraces joy. "I love the word joy," he said. "I used to ask people, 'Is there joy in your church?'" He thinks of Romans 14:17, and the righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirt "That is a deep and abiding hope that is within us," said Archie.

"We're called to spread joy in the land. I'm not sure I have the whole definition of that," Archie said. "What does it mean to bring joy to the world? I think it's about bringing peace – true *shalom*."

In this moment, he and his wife, April, to whom he's been married for 25 years, are celebrating joy. And, in this unique season, as he is being considered as a candidate to the episcopacy, joy feels close at hand. Archie is focusing on being light to the world and the salt of the earth – and helping the church to be the same.



General Conference Presentation & Listening Session

General Conference approaches quickly and the Peninsula-Delaware Delegation continues to prepare. Part of that preparation involves offering **YOU** a brief presentation on the main petitions before the Conference and hearing your questions and comments. We invite you to join us via Zoom on Wednesday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to send questions ahead of time to ensure that we cover them in the presentation, please email them to the Chair of the Delegation, Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith (vgordy-stith@epworth.faith)

You can also find information online at:

Resource UMC (https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020)

<u>Mainstream UMC</u> (https://mainstreamumc.com/resources/gc-2024/) has videos and information to share.

The session will be recorded for you to view if you cannot attend. We will also open the floor to questions on that evening. Please let us know if you have any questions. As a

reminder, the first week of the General Conference (April 23-27) involves committee work and will not be live-streamed. The second week (April 29-May 3) will be livestreamed.

Please pray for the entire delegation as we prepare for this important Conference. Your delegation consists of Clergy: <u>Vicki Gordy-Stith</u>, <u>Megan Weston</u>, and reserve, <u>Jackie Ford</u>; and Laity: <u>Bill Wesbrook</u> and <u>Regina Nichols</u>.



DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING

Please mark your calendars for the next Delaware District Summer Clergy meeting with Rev. Archie on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 @ 10:00 am. The meeting will be held at 39 N. Main St., Magnolia, DE 19962**

All appointed Delaware District Pastors are encouraged to attend. This will be Rev. Archie's last clergy meeting as District Superintendent.

This picture is from the clergy meeting last month at Immanuel UMC. Thank you to Immanuel UMC for hosting us.



Apportionments

The 2024 Apportionment totals were mailed to all appointed pastors in the fall. If you do not have your totals for 2024, please contact the District Office.



Rev. Archie suggests churches split their Apportionments into 11 payments, so they are not worried about final payments at the end of the year. All payments should be sent to the Conference Office at 139 N. State St., Dover, DE 19901. Payments should NOT be mailed to the District Office.



Bishop LaTrelle Easterling continues her podcast. Thursdays at the Table

Asking good questions, engaging in deep conversation and telling the whole truth can change the world.

In her podcast Bishop LaTrelle Easterling invites you to join her for Thursdays at the Table as she is joined by leaders from across the connection, serving up new insights and interesting ways of experiencing our lives together.

New podcasts are the first Thursday of each month. Tune in April 4, 2024 for the next podcast.

You can join at 8 a.m. or listen any time on: Spotify, Apple Podcasts or at pdcbwc.org/thursdays-at-the-table.html

The Bulletin

A newsletter published by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling is a reproducible resource for local churches. In the most recent issue, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling offers a word of gratitude for the United Methodists serving faithfully in a vast array of mission and ministry. "It is a privilege to serve in ministry with you as we share the love of God and bring hope to our communities," she writes. "Because you rise every morning and say, 'Yes!' to discipleship, seeds are being planted, challenges are being met and lives are being transformed."

You can view The Bulletin at: www.pdcbwc.org/the-bulletin



This year we will gather at the **Ashore Resort & Beach Club, 10100 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842** for the **240th Session of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference**, from Thursday, June 6th, through Saturday, June 8th. Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, our Episcopal Leader, will preside over our Conference.

Every delegate and attendee **MUST** register individually in order to attend this year's Annual Conference.

- REGISTRATION CLOSES ON MONDAY, MAY 6th.
- REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 6TH.
- NO WALK-IN or ONSITE REGISTRATION PERMITTED.
- NO EXCEPTIONS.

All appointed Pastors, Lay Members and Reserve Members were sent the registration link on March 7th.

For more complete details go visit the Conference website, (pen-del.org) and click on the 2024 Annual Conference tab at the top of the page or go to: https://www.pen-del.org/2024-annual-conference



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Annual Conference will be held at the Ashore Resort & Beach Club, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland on June 6-8, 2024.

Annual Conference provides the opportunity for your Board, Commission, Team, Agency and/or Task Force to tell your story of ministry and mission.

Annual Conference Display Area Request Form

https://www.pen-del.org/files/content/annual+conference/2024/ annual+conference+display+request.pdf

If you are interested in display space at the 2023 Annual Conference, please complete and return the request form no later than **Friday**, **May 3**, **2024** to:

Rev. Dr. Rick Vance, c/o General Commission on United Methodist Men, 810 12th Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37203,

or e-mail to annualconference00@yahoo.com.

Please include – "Attn: Display Requests" on any correspondence. Please direct any questions to Rev. Vance at 615-620-7277.

Christine Trott Peninsula-Delaware Conference

Appeals Calendar Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference

Dear Leader: To help you plan out your Giving Calendar, this provides a list of dates for both the United Methodist Appeals and the Conference Appeals. We encourage you and your mission committee to plan your support for which of these you will support and how you will support them. Special offerings on these Sundays, and/or designating a budgeted amount for these, or other methods are encouraged. If you would like training or a speaker, please contact either Pastor Amy or Kevin (see below).

Date	Appeal	Information
1/14/24 1/14/25	Human Relations Day (Sunday before MLK Day)	This Appeal supports the UMC's Community Developers Program, Voluntary Services Program, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. <u>https://www.umc.org/en/content/human-relations-day-sunday-ministry-article</u>
3/10/24 3/30/25	UMCOR Sunday (formerly called One Great Hour of Sharing) Lent 4	When a catastrophe occurs, your offerings enable the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to reach out and ease the pain and suffering by providing humanitarian aid of food, shelter, health and peace. <u>https://www.umc.org/en/content/umcor-sunday-ministry-article</u>
3/17/24 3/9/25	PLRCA	Partners of Leadership Resources for Churches in Africa. Contact Rev. Labala at jsei@dimdigital.com
4/14/24 5/4/25	Native American Ministries Easter 3	Funds support urban missions with Native Americans and fund scholarships for Na- tive American seminarians. 50% of the Appeal is used for these programs within our Annual Conference.
		https://www.umc.org/en/content/native-american-ministries-sunday-ministry- article
5/26/24 6/15/25	Peace With Justice First Sunday after Pentecost	Poverty and violence need not be a reality in the world today. This Appeal aims to witness to God's hope for a faithful, loving world. 50% of the Appeal is used for these programs within our Annual Conference.
6/1/24	AC Appeal Sunday	https://www.umc.org/en/content/peace-with-justice-sunday-ministry-article Receive offering for AC Appeal if not already provided for
6/624- 6/8/24	Annual Conference Appeal: You may bring funds to the Con- ference or remit directly to the Conference office.	Churches are encouraged to raise funds in advance and bring them to Con- ference. Each year we ask churches and members of the Conference to support, BOOM Scholarships and the Central Congo Partnership. A third offering is designated each year and will be announced in the Spring.
7/14/24 7/13/25	Deaf Awareness Sunday	Provides our churches a Sunday to uplift those with deafness or other hearing prob- lems. Offerings will support the Deaf Ministries within the Annual Conference.
8/11/24 8/10/25	Camp Pecometh Sunday	This appeal provides fund for programs at and scholarships to Camp Pecometh. www.pecometh.org
9/8/24 9/14/25	PenDel Student Scholarship Sunday	This appeal directly benefits Pen-Del students attending college by providing schol- arship funds. <u>www.pen-del.org</u>
10/6/24 10/5/25	World Communion First Sunday in October	Provides funds for racial & ethnic undergrad scholarships and advance-degree work related to the mission of the UMC. <u>https://www.umc.org/en/content/world-</u> communion-sunday-ministry-article
10/13/24 10/12/25	Disaster/VIM Sunday	Funds raised are used for disaster response within the AC and for VIM Team schol- arships.
11/3/24 11/2/25	Africa University Sunday	Raising costs and a growing student body means every year more scholarships are needed at AU. Your gifts help grow the endowment fund that provides this assistance. A bulletin insert will be provided. www.africau.edu
11/24/24 11/30/25	Student Day Last Sunday of November	Provides loans and scholarships to students attending a UM Church affiliated col- lege. Some of the funds are returned to the Annual Conference to award. https:// www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-student-day-sunday-ministry-article

Questions? - contact Amy Yarnall at pastor.amy@wesleyumc-dover.com 302.354.2982

News from the CLM Corner

If

you are a member of the United Methodist Church.. you have taken the *Basic Lay Servant Course* you serve in a leadership position in your church you have taken advance course to become a

Certified Lay Servant

You feel the call to go further in ministry..You read the book "Christian as Minister"You discussed your call with your *SPRC & your Pastor*..You have met with your District Superintendent (DS)You are ready to take the 4 Module

Certified Lay Ministers Class (CLM)

Secure a registration form from your District Office, print it out from this newsletter, call or email:

Brenda Tildon at 302-530-6422 <u>tildonbrenda@aol.com</u>

Next class starts in April -

Watch Newsletter for dates, time and location.

God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.

Ephesians 3:30

Pen-Del Certified Lay Minister Registration Form

*Refer to Current Discipline on CLM

Please print clearly

No Todays Date			
**email(required) -			
**email(required) -			
Zip			
Cell Phone			
Church			
n: Yes No If yes, C hurch Name			
Completed the book "Christian as Minister" & discussed with Pastor: Yes No			
are Upper Shore Lower Shore			
Date			
Date			
Meeting Date			
to be reached on to receive email, documents and zoom conferencing if necessary.			
Required Attachments:			
Registration form with all required signatures			
Copy of Pastors letter to District Superintendent (Optional) Certified Lay Servant Certificate			
(Please keep copies of everything you send)			
Registration Fee \$35.00			
e per Module \$100.00 (Payable after each module)			
Nodules must be taken in order for completion certificate			
Send this form with all required signatures, and \$35.00 registration fee to			
Brenda Tildon, 133 Portside Court, Bear, DE 19701			
302-836-8553 or 302-530-6422 tildonbrenda@aol.com Checks should be made payable to Pen-Del Conference			
iecks should be made payable to ren-bei conference			
You will not be scheduled for class until registration form is received with all required information, signatures and attachments.			

Student's Signature: _____

See CLM Director for Class dates - tildonbrenda@aol.com

CounterPoints in Stewardship A Second Opinion

Conventional thought: A church needs to have money so it can give to the poor.

CDB Second opinion: While giving **to** the poor is important, the gifts of the poor are the most overlooked gifts in the church. As a result, the church misses out on the resources God provides through the ministry of the poor.

At a "Meet the New Pastor" dinner some years ago, a well-respected philanthropist noticed that my Doctor of Ministry professional project at Drew University focused upon the church's ministry with the working poor. Having given money to the poor his whole career for the Rockefeller Foundation, he asked, "When will we have given enough to the poor?"

"Wrong question!" was my response. The question is, "When will the we have sufficient humility to recognize and accept the gifts of the poor?" One of the most prominent gifts of the poor is generosity. What church is not hoping for a generous response to their financial stewardship program? For decades, study after study has concluded that the poor are the most generous givers to philanthropic causes; usually about twice the percentage of giving as the rich. Consider the widow with two coins.

He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; 2he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. 3He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; 4for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." (Luke 21:1-4)

Have you ever considered the legacy of the widow in this story? Those two copper coins are the most famous copper coins in history. They have become famous because Jesus attached such value to them. Imagine that they could be retrieved. How much would they be worth at auction? Consider how many times this story has been told to encourage all people toward generous giving. How much money have these coins raised? How many people have benefitted from the generous spirit that springs from them?

Little did this widow know how much her two coins would mean over the ages. She left a legacy. Besides her generosity, she gave us examples of a willingness to sacrifice, a strong faith, humility and courage. No wonder Jesus saw such value in her gifts.

St. Paul's words come to mind. "For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich." Without even thinking about it, we benefit from the gifts of the poor every day.

Still striving to be a Steward of God's grace...,

Dave

CALLING ALL MEN!

Ŵ

WE NEED YOUR HELP

THE Pen-Del CONFERENCE BOARD OF UNITED MEN'S MINISTRY ARE SEEKING MEN WHO LOVE THE LORD, WHO WANT TO GROW AND HELP SUSTAIN EFFECTIVE MEN'S MINISTRY, WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR MISSION, CALL OR EMAIL

JAMES TURNER - 443-298-9774 tfactor750@gmail.com

ALLEN STREETT - 302-731-8199 astreett@aol.com

BILL PAXTON - 410-708-7687 bpaxton60@verizon.net

ALLAN LOOMIS – 443-350-5296 aloomis@zoominternet.net



Dear Pastors and Church Offices,

I am writing this letter as an introduction and a request for guidance. I represent a brand new team within the Pen-Del Conference- Creation Justice. We were created as the Conference's response to Climate Change.

At the Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference of 2022, the committee Creation Care -Creation Justice was tasked with guiding and encouraging congregations and individuals within the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference in the areas of sustainability, environmental justice, clean water, renewable energy, and environmental advocacy. It will serve as the conference hub to the churches within the conference.

In this effort, we are asking if you know anyone in your congregation who is passionate about Earth Care. We are looking for someone in your church to be a Communication Liaison who could update your congregation monthly with our plans & events. The liaison could post these in the church bulletin, newsletter, e-blast, or, if comfortable, announce them in service. Rather than burden you with additional emails explaining our projects and updates, we would prefer to have a person who could be our single point of contact.

Please send your liaison recommendation to: creationjusticeteam@gmail.com.

In the Bible, we are called to be good stewards of the Earth. We have not always been faithful to this command, and thus caused much harm to all living things and the earth that sustains them. We must realign ourselves with God's instructions.

We truly appreciate your consideration of this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings, Janet Taylor Smith jtaylorsmith711@gmail.com



Bethesda UMC in Middletown has a unique opportunity to serve caregivers in the MOT area beginning this spring, and we want to share it with you!

Late in 2023, the Alzheimer's Association received an endowment to support respite services for those who are caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. The endowment specified that the money must be spent in the MOT community, and they reached out to Easter Seals in New Castle County to facilitate a partnership opportunity.

In 2023, 1 in 9 people in the US age 65 and older has Alzheimer's disease- almost 11%. By the year 2050, that number is projected to double. With that in mind, the need for programs that support the social and spiritual elements for patients AND caregivers are in demand...and that's where churches come in!

Utilizing the endowment money from the Alzheimer's Association and under the direction of Easter Seals and the Respite for All Foundation, we have been invited to pilot a program that will provide respite services for caregivers with loved ones who have Alzheimer's or dementia. There are twenty programs around the nation, and ours would be one of the first in Delaware.

We are in the very beginning stages of planning our program right now- the money becomes available in March, and our intent is to plan and train during the spring and summer months, and implement a respite opportunity for caregivers at BUMC during the fall.

In the meantime, we're asking our sister churches the following questions:

~Are there people in your congregation who may be interested in learning more about the program, with the intent to possibly volunteer? For more information on what our program may look like, please watch the video next to the "Respite Changes the World" paragraph on the "Respite for All Foundation" Website. <u>https://respiteforall.org/</u>

~Do you have caregivers in your congregation, or do you know a caregiver, who would benefit from respite services like this? If so, please let me know.

This service opportunity will be open to everyone in our community, so we encourage you to share this info with your congregations, and ask them to help us spread the word by talking about the opportunity with their friends, neighbors and families.

If you would like more info, we'll be partnering with Easter Seal's and the Respite for All Foundation this spring and hosting a webinar (with an in-person option) at BUMC that will provide more details and give you a better idea of what the program will look like. We intend to offer that in March or early April, and are awaiting a confirmation for a date.

There are opportunities within the program to work together and create collective support for caregivers within our community. Galatians 6 calls us to be "Burden Bearers" for one another. Here's our opportunity to answer that call!

If you are interested in participating or learning more, please email Mika Blackburn at: <u>Mikab@bethesdaumcde.org</u>









Website: Pecometh.org



Spring Volunteer Day and Mini-Mission Trip - Saturday, April 13, 2024



Pecometh Day - Saturday, April 27, 2024





Summer Camp Programs June 17 thru August 23, 2024

Renew: Clergy Renewal Retreat April 30 through May 2, 2024

Camp Pecometh, 136 Bookers Wharf Rd, Centreville, MD 21617 (410) 556-6900

The Delaware District of the Peninsula Delaware Conference Committee on Urban Center Ministries Request for Grant Proposals

MISSION of Committee: Supporting Urban Center churches in developing and executing intentional urban mission and church strategies that led to vital congregations and communities by funding programs, capital improvements, or recommending services.

VISION of Committee: Urban Center churches are vital, healthy, and fruitful congregations engaging with their thriving communities through urban ministry.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants are limited to United Methodist Congregations, Organizations, and Nonprofit Agencies located and operating within the geographic boundaries of the City of Wilmington, Delaware..

We also encourage involvement in urban ministry by suburban UM congregations in partnership with urban UM churches and organizations. In cases where the ministry involves such a partnership, the grant money would be given to the urban church/organization. The program leadership can come from either or both groups in partnership. The planned leadership model must be clearly described in the grant request.

Grants will be accepted on a rolling basis.

For more detailed information and to fill out the application, go to the Conference website: Pen-del.org; click on Districts; click on Delaware; click on Urban Ministries. **The application is at the bottom of the page.**

For questions or assistance contact the Delaware District Office at: <u>delawaredistrictumc@gmail.com</u>





Indoor Plant Workshop

Saturday, April 13th 2:30–4:30 P.M. • Discover all the dos and don'ts of indoor plant care! • FREE indoor plant!

Gardening Workshop

Saturday, May 18th 2:30–3:00 P.M.

- Interested in starting a vegetable garden right in your backyard?
 - FREE vegetable seeds to get you started!







Harvest Fest

Saturday, August 3rd 2:30 P.M.

 Celebrate our first growing season at this community gathering!

 Food trucks, music, vendors and more!







March 5 & 12 April 2, 9 & 16

May 7



Sign-up to volunteer here.

VOLUNTEER DAYS

Want to get involved in the community?

Tuesdays 7 12:00-4:00 P.M.





& PRAVICE

JOIN US THIS MONTH AS WE PREPARE FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR 1000 FAMILIES!



APRIL 24TH 9 - 12 PM

ASBURY UMC • 300 E BASIN RD • NEW CASTLE, DE 19720

1-888-323-HOPP (4677)



CONNECTING PEOPLE FROM PLACE TO PLACE

Food - Social Services - Health -Tech

The Harvest Outreach People's Project known as The HOPP, finds strength and potential in our community, driven by the collective action and generosity of individuals like you. A connection of United Methodists, other church families, non-profit partner, and for profit servants and friends, who want to make a difference.

James 2:14-17 (NIV):

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

We've been on a on a journey over 3 years building a replicable mission model to make meaningful changes, and your involvement can significantly magnify our impact.

Pack and Pray

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In October 2023, we were led to start Pack and Pray to The HOPP Mission, a deeply moving and transformative experience that lies at the core of our mission within the Peninsula



Delaware Conference. It embodies our commitment to connecting Christians and offering the hope of Jesus Christ in today's world. This effort extends beyond the confines of our individual United Methodist church, weekly service, annual days, and special events, creating a Monthly United Day of Service where we share together as a body of Christ. Each month, over 200 servant leaders from 20 United Methodist (UM) Churches, together with from other church groups, nonprofit organizations and for-profit organizations, come together in a powerful display of unity and service. This collective endeavor focuses on the crucial task of preparing for the Friday distributions that reach over 1,000 families across 13 UM Churches and community locations. In doing so, we actively live out Jesus' teachings, fostering unity and spreading love to address the needs of those most vulnerable among us.

The servant leaders involved in Pack and Pray participate in a diverse array of activities that go beyond simple acts of charity. They assemble bags filled with fresh produce like tomatoes, peppers, and onions, and fill shopping bags that include potatoes and other vegetables such as cabbage and lettuce. These carefully prepared vegetable bags are then distributed according to the identified by the church's mission teams.









4th Friday's

Every fourth Friday of the month, 13 venues across New Castle County, 11 United Methodist Churches and 2 nonprofits, transform into hubs of generosity and unity. This is when churches and nonprofit organizations join forces to tackle the pressing issue of food insecurity, simultaneously creating opportunities for various social, health, and technological services to reach the community. These distribution centers, located on church properties and the sites of partnering non-profits, shine as pillars of hope for countless people.

A tapestry of people from various walks of life gathers at these venues, united by the common goal of supporting and uplifting those in need. Their collaborative efforts lead to handing out of food bags, each filled with nourishing items intended to convey a sense of communal care and unity. Moreover, over 30 non-profit partners are invited to present their services, further enriching the support provided to the community. From the Wilmington Manor Lions Club's efforts at the Western Senior Center to initiatives like the Wilmington Community Advisory Council's inclusion of free internet opportunities in the bags at Arise @ Peninsula McCabe, Mt Joy, and Ezion Mt Carmel, the range of services is broad and impactful. Additional partnerships, like

Christiana Care's mammogram screening s ign-ups at Ezion Mt Carmel and aTTack Addiction's information distribution at Bethesda in Newark, underscore the comprehensive nature of this initiative



The recent collaboration and press release from City of Wilmington's Cultural Affairs Director Tina Betz, and Program Manager Tish Williams - UMC Pastor announcing partnership with Urban Artist Exchange (UAE) amd the HOPP introduces a cultural dimension to the food distributions, highlighting the program's growth and diversity.





The proposed HOPP Center is includes three buildings, consisting of two 5,000 sq ft in h addition to a Marketplace, allowing the community residents to have access to free and budget produce. Our Renewable energy project will consist of refurbished shipping containers, water, energy, solar in addition to incorporating hydroponic practices. We are committed to energy efficiency and reshaping the land for the good of the community. We will employ community members to support workforce development and environmental education. The building built on on 2 acres of land acquired by Penninsula McCabe Church in 2022 and is located redevelopment Zone of Wilmington's Governor Printz and Riverside Area.

We invite you to explore and share with your community the various levels of engagement available through the HOPP Monthly Donor Program, each offering a unique opportunity to contribute at www.thehopp.org or call 888-323-4677

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES ALERT



The Harvest Outreach People's Project Resource Center naming opportunity. Join Longwood Foundation, Richardson Park and Penninsula McCabe and Asbury with naming opportunities.



Reach us at 888-323-HOPP (4677) www.thehopp.org email: hope@thehopp.org

MARQUEE SPONSORS: MURAL WALL 8' X 4'

PERMANENT MISSION CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL ON BUILDING EXTERIOR \$100,000 (MURAL WALL 8' X 4')

PERMANENT MISSION CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL ON BUILDING INTERIOR \$50,000 (MURAL WALL 8' X 4')

PERMANENT MISSION CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL ON INTERIOR CEILING/WALL HANGER \$10,000 (MURAL WALL 4' X 6')

PERMANENT MISSION CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL ON INTERIOR CEILING/WALL HANGER \$5,000 (MURAL WALL 2' X 3')

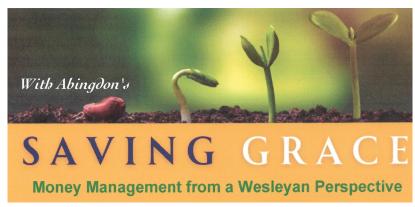
MISSION WALK STAR: ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL \$1,000 (STAR WITH NAME)



Join the Growing Circle of Servant Leaders at The HOPP This Spring!

This spring marks a significant milestone for The Harvest Outreach People Project (The HOPP): 17 months of our enriching "Pack & Pray" initiative. We are delighted to extend an invitation to like-minded servant leaders to join us in this journey of community enrichment and spiritual connection. Our journey began with 50 dedicated individuals, and we are thrilled to share that we now have over 200 servant leaders joining us monthly. This remarkable growth is a testament to the collective spirit and commitment within our community. Every month, on the Wednesday before the 4th Friday, Asbury UMC in New Castle transforms into a hub of hope and collaboration. Here, pastors, congregations, and community non-profits come together to prepare 1,000 bags filled with fresh, nutritious produce. These bags, infused with care and prayers, are then shared through UMC churches and community partners on the 4th Friday, spreading joy and sustenance to many. Our "Pack and Pray" gatherings are far more than just events; they are a vibrant testament to the power of collective effort and the Holy Spirit's unifying presence, creating a profound sense of fellowship and belonging among all who participate. This spirit of unity and service is echoed in Scripture, as Paul writes in Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." We warmly invite you to be part of this expanding circle of service this April. Join us on Wednesday, 4/24, from 9 AM to Noon. Your involvement will not only contribute to our shared mission but also immerse you in a rewarding experience of community and spiritual enrichment. For more details on how to participate in our next Pack and Pray or to explore the possibility of a HOPP Drop at your church, please reach out to Travis Smith Sr. at hope@thehopp.org or call 888-323-4677.

Let's continue to grow this movement of service and connection, making a meaningful difference in our communities together, guided by the wisdom and spirit of our shared faith.

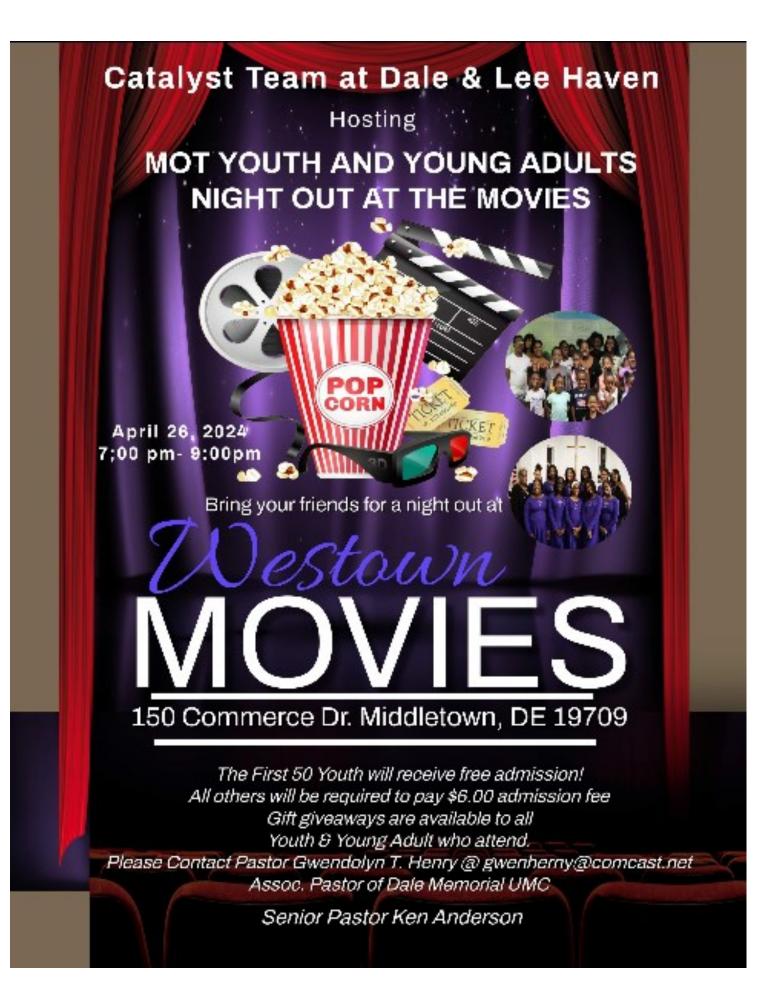


"Saving Grace" is a new resource by the United Methodist Publishing House, Abingdon, for your local church to teach its members about better personal money management, and to give them a good theological foundation for earning, saving, investing, spending, getting out of debt, and giving their money to ministries they want to support.

This course is similar to Dave Ramsey's

"Financial Peace University" but is geared toward John Wesley's principles of "Earn all you can, and save all you can, so you can give all you can."

Rev. Dr. Bruce Jones has been trained to lead this learning session, and when you have completed it you will be able to bring it to your church and your members. The class begins on April 9 so you must sign up by April 4. One clergyperson and two lay people from your church are required participants. All the classes are by Zoom, and are from 7 to 9 PM. The class is free and all the materials will be provided to you. This is your last chance to join this training session. It will prepare you to offer it to your church this fall.





CAMP HOPE FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 27th 11am – 3pm

VINTAGE AMERICANA " A reminder of the past"

* FAT VINNY FOODTRUCK * CLASSIC CARS & MOVIE CARS * VINTAGE SIGNS & ANTIQUES *And LOTS MORE!

Come support Camp Hope Fundraiser, to raise money for underserved children from our community. Camp Hope provides kids with activities, food & field trips during the summer months!

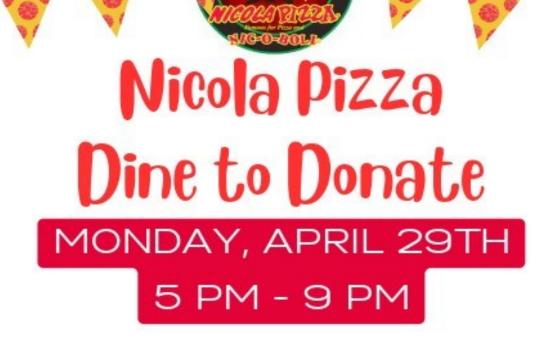
SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH {Rain Date May 4th) 11am - 3pm "TOMMY TOWN" 20104 DODDTOWN RD HARBESON

\$10 ADMISSION

Kids 10 & under free

Volunteers Needed!

Contact: Karen Lessey





Blood Drive

The Outreach Team has partnered with the Blood Bank of Delmarva to host a blood drive. On Tuesday, April 30th, 2024, the BBD Bloodmobile will be parked in front

of the church from 8 a.m. to I p.m. Scheduled donations will be taken every 15 minutes during those hours. An easy way to schedule a donation is to scan the QR code with your phone. Doing so will provide a link to the Wyoming Church Blood Drive website. Alternatively, you can type into your browser: <u>https://donate.bbd.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/9876</u>



Blood cannot be manufactured, and donated blood has a limited shelf life. Therefore, there is a vital need for continuous blood donations.

Please volunteer and schedule an appointment for our blood drive! A photo ID will be needed for verification at the time of your appointment. As it is mandatory to rest for 15 minutes following your donation, chairs and snacks will be available in the narthex.

For those who donate blood on a regular basis you might want to schedule an appointment for April 30th. And, for those who cannot donate blood, you might want to support the Delmarva Blood Bank by writing a check made out to Wyoming UMC, with the Outreach Team designated on the memo line. All proceeds will then be given to the Delmarva Blood Bank.



Donating Blood Saves Lives!



St Mark's UWF Outside Yard Sale

- May 18th 8AM- Noon
- Rain or Shine
- Vendor spaces by contract only \$30 ea
- BYO Table/Shelter
- Contact Church Office at 302-994-0400 for contract/payment

If interested you must fill out a reservation form and return it with your CASH payment to the Church office. Payment will be held until we confirm there is enough interest, and refunded if there is not.

It is a first come first serve process, so secure your space ASAP

For a reservation form, CONTACT the OFFICE AT; office@stmarksumcde.org or (302) 994-0400



St. Mark's UMC 1700 Limestone Rd. Wilmington, DE 19804

JOIN CENTENNIAL UMC Summer Outing Fellowship SIGHT & SOUND DANIEL Lancaster, PA



AUGUST 1st, 2024 **Time: 7:30AM**

THURSDAY

Ticket: \$160.00

eat buffet meal

Included: Motorcoach transportation, show ticket, and an all you

Fun

Bus will depart from 44 E. Mt. Vernon St. Smyrna, DE 19977

> For tickets & information Sis. Elaine Perkins 347-454-1072 Sis. Truee Dorsey 302-561-0519 Shari Morrow, Pastor

Tickets given when paid in full. Make checks payable to **Centennial UMC** or use the QR code (+fees)

> Don't delay. Get your ticket today

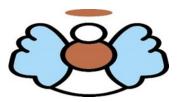




Look for Sight and Sound

Payment plan available \$60 due now \$50 due March 1st, 2024 \$50 due May 1st, 2024

ISRAEL U. M. CHURCH - MIRACLE ANGELS 20230 PLANTATION RD, LEWES, DE 19958 PASTOR: REV. MARJORIE BELMONT



MIRACLE ANGELS RAINBOW OF HOPE LUMINARY FUNDRAISER

Dear Fellow Sponsors, Family and Friends:

The Miracle Angels will be sponsoring a Cancer Mission fundraiser selling Luminary bags in honor of and or memory of cancer survivors for our sole support to Beebe Oncology Center, Lewes, DE, "Patient Special Needs Fund".

We will be having a "Rainbow of Hope Survivorship Worship Celebration" service for cancer survivors, caretakers, family and friends on Sunday, September 22nd at our church at 10:00 a.m.; wherein the luminary bags will be placed in the church sanctuary and lighted. Come, wear your survivorship ribbon color attire as we create a beautiful Rainbow of HOPE together!

The luminary bags will be on sale for \$10.00 per prior to the church worship celebration service at our 1 st Christmas in July Yard Sale on Saturday, July 6 th at the Rabbit's Ferry Community Center, 19112 Robinsonville RD, Lewes, DE 19958 – 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. You can purchase your bag at our yard sale and take home to decorate and place a name(s) on it and bring to the church service for placement or use the order form on the back with payment and we can place the names on it only for you. You may also keep the luminary bag and light it from your home if you choose to do so.

If you wish to support this fundraiser, please contact **bjnscruisers@aol.com** for an order form.

God Bless,





St. John's UMC in Seaford, DE is looking for a Choir Director, Organist, & Piano Accompanist.

We have an active choir and a beautiful pipe organ!

For more information please contact the church via email: stjohns@stjohnsseaford.com or SPRC Chair, Larry Grantham at 302-339-1460





Job Description /Position Title: Co-leader of Contemporary Worship and Music Reports to: Pastor / SPRC Status: Part-time, Nonexempt (10 to 15 hrs/wk for weeks when responsible for worship)

Contact: John Mosko jcmosko@gmail.com

Hockessin UMC—Job Summary

The Co-Leaders of Contemporary Music and Worship will be responsible for

organizing and leading the contemporary music worship service each Sunday, including weekly rehearsals, and assistance in contemporary worship planning at **Hockessin United Methodist Church (HUMC).** The individuals hired for this position will serve HUMC by building on our current team of

volunteers to provide a praise-filled contemporary worship experience which engages with the congregation to the glory of God and Jesus. This is a team-based position in which two or more individuals will co-lead by alternating responsibility for leadership. Each co-leader will be scheduled in advance to be responsible for a week of musician coordination, practice, and leadership on Sunday. All co-leaders will work collaboratively on duties that build and develop the base of volunteer musicians.

Essential Job Duties:

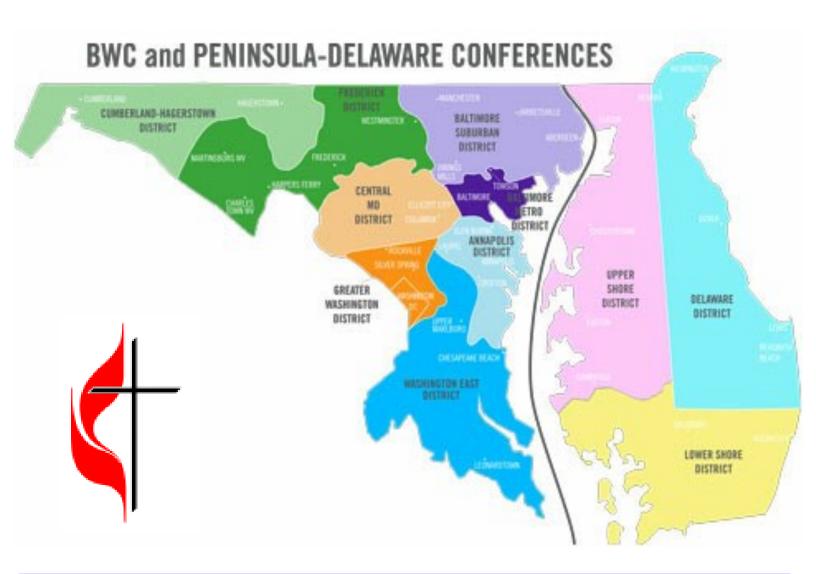
- Collaborate with Contemporary Worship Coordinator and with other Co-Leaders to designate who will lead each week's contemporary worship and practices
- Collaborate with Pastor and Worship team to create a cohesive message and praise-filled experience for all congregation members from youth to elderly
- Plan and Coordinate with Pastor, audiovisual team, and Celebration Cluster including selection of songs based on weekly service themes
- Lead weeknight and Sunday morning rehearsals with musicians and vocalists
- Lead contemporary worship services to bridge between songs with scripture and prayer
- Select/create vocal/instrumental musical arrangements which engage the congregation
- Collaborate with existing HUMC contemporary musicians as well as recruit and develop new members for vocal and instrumental participation
- Hire guest instrumentalists, as needed, and within budget guidelines
- Coordinate and communicate rehearsal schedules, materials and other information to team members
- Prepare song texts for printed bulletin and projection and coordinate with office staff
- Maintain and further develop contemporary music library within copyright requirements
- Attend staff meetings, worship planning meetings, and other church meetings as appropriate

Qualifications Our ideal candidate:

- Is a Christian who loves Jesus and shares that love on a daily basis
- Has demonstrated success leading contemporary worship services as a participant in a contemporary Christian music ensemble
- Has demonstrated ability to set the spiritual tone for both rehearsals and worship
- Participates in the music with excellent musical skills, in particular strong piano/keyboard and/or guitar skills, with the ability to sing, play and lead from both standard notation and chord charts
- Inspires our amateur and youth musicians and vocalists to the glory of God
- Demonstrates good administrative, time management and communication skills
- Is proficient with audio systems and other relevant technology
- Has extensive knowledge of contemporary praise music repertoire including creed and prayer selections
- Degree in music desirable but not mandatory, depending upon skill and experience
- Must pass background check prior to selection

Compensation

- Co-leaders will be compensated on the basis of a fixed rate for each week of practice and worship that they lead
- Given the team-based approach, there is no vacation earned for this position



Peninsula-Delaware & Baltimore Washington Conferences

Check out our affiliation website: https://www.pdcbwc.org Under the leadership of Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, the affiliation is a unique partnership, which connects the leaders and members of more than 1,000 churches to share resources and create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Delaware District Office 900 N. Washington St. Wilmington, DE 19801

District Superintendent **Rev. Joseph Archie, III** Phone: 302-494-1030

Andrea Lenker Administrative Assistant Phone: 302-655-8873 Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 7:30 am—2:00 pm DelawareDistrictUMC@gmail.com Peninsula-Delaware Conference 139 N. State St. Dover, DE 19901 www.pen-del.org Phone: 302-674-2626 877-737-3351

Presiding Bishop **Bishop LaTrelle Easterling** 11711 E. Market Pl. Fulton, MD 20759 410-309-3400

The United States Postal Service has increased the price for a regular letter from **66¢ to 68¢** effective January 21st.



The IRS mileage rate for 2024 has been set at **67¢** per mile.



The Delaware District Newsletter is published bi-weekly on a Tuesday. Articles or flyers for the next issue are due on Saturday, April 13, 2024. To submit articles, please send them to the District Office.

When submitting articles or flyers for the newsletter, please send them as a word document or jpg so I can easily insert them into the newsletter.

