

The Messenger

We could care less but decided to care more.

From the Pastor's Desk

Wrong was easy; gravity helped it.

Right is difficult and long.

-Wendell Berry, A Timbered Choir, 1983.V

I'm getting pretty worn out by how complicated everything seems. I don't think I'm alone either, that's why people seem so eager for easy answers. That is, at least in part, why we buy the pandering of wannabe tyrants and engage in all sorts of magical thinking that imagines a world where some benevolent power will solve all our problems for us. One of the things that used to mark mature thinking was the realization that most things that are worth doing are going to be difficult and take some time. The world we live in has lost the patience it takes to do some of the hard things simply because they take too long.

In the last century (I love to refer to the 1990s that way), I used to order fishing gear and such from Cabelas, which had only one location in Nebraska and sent all the stuff you ordered from there. It usually took 6-8 weeks to get to me, sometimes it would get there in less than a month and I was tickled about that. These days, if I don't get something I ordered in two to three DAYS, I'm wondering if the order got lost, or something else went wrong. If something actually took over a month to get to me, I would probably forget why I wanted it in the first place. I bring up this example, because I definitely do not want to return to the days of 6-8 week shipping, but I am also aware that there are a lot of costs to the rapid results that we now assume as our right.

The Amazon.com/technology model may be great in a lot of ways, but it is not right for everything and every situation. Not everything fast is necessarily bad, but a lot of things go badly if you rush them, or if you don't think through some of the consequences. Many wise teachers have come up with the collective wisdom that to go fast, you should take your time and learn to do things correctly. Taking shortcuts often leads to wrong turns, mistakes and chaos that eat up more time than just doing it right the first time. Compare this to the oft cited mantra of the Tech Bros: "move fast and break things." Maybe it's because I'm becoming an old curmudgeon, but I'm deeply distrustful of that modus operandi. The wisdom of the ages versus the wisdom of the dudes that allow us to argue with strangers online; I'll take door number one please.

This is, before it becomes an action plan, a spiritual exercise: to slow down, find your peace, your center, your foundation. Determine what is valuable and good, assess what it will take to get where you're going along the path of virtue and justice rather than by any means necessary. Patience doesn't come easy when you really want to get to the goal, but it is always necessary. It also makes the work at hand more pleasant and fulfilling. It allows you to see the good results of each step and relish a job well done. Something about the emergence of Artificial Intelligence makes me quite apprehensive about measuring value by speed and efficiency, we're going to lose that race to machines. What we

Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church

Mailing address:

PO Box 925, Waldorf, MD 20604

Website:

www.goodsampc.org

Email:

gspc@comcast.net

S e s s i o n

Pastor: Reverend Mark Gaskill

Communion Team

Michele Gaskill
Charlotte Mandragos
Mindy Tracy

Discipleship Team

Sally Brandt
Liz Carroll
Sandy Webb

Hospitality Team

Al Flora
Jay Koehler
Bill Wetmore

must not lose is the value of our humanity; the power to do things slowly, imperfectly, but with freedom and agency that cannot be taken from us.

Our faith tells us that God has made us, and we are beloved. That truth has been playing out for thousands of years, and it will continue. The speed and power of technology is a manifestation of our creative instincts and invention, but it begs so many questions about how we maintain our humanity as the things we have wrought become powerful enough to replace us and destroy us. The work of keeping our balance involves something that is old and slow: insistence on human dignity. Maintaining dignity cannot be rushed, it takes work and intention. Losing dignity happens with haphazard unconsciousness. One path is difficult and necessary and the other is easy, and slippery. I think we all know which one is better.

Mark

FINANCIAL STATUS—March 31, 2025

Balance, Beginning of March		\$17,151.85
	Income	\$20,329.92
	Disbursements	\$16,352.68
Balance, End of March		\$21,129.09

Summary of Assets	03/31/2025
Shore United Bank—Checking	\$23,226.85
Shore United Bank—Reserve	\$18,933.53
Investments	
Morgan Stanley	\$185,781.27
Total Assets	\$227,941.65



Please use this time of year to clean out basements, garages, closets, etc. and donate the items to the Yard Sale. During this outdoor event we take all items (call if you have a question). **We will not sell cloths or shoes.** Since we will not be pricing things we will remind people to take what they want and give what they can/or feel that it is worth, because everything they give goes to the work of GSPC.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at #301-645-4134 or gspc@comcast.net.



OPEN MIC NIGHT

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH AT 7 PM

AT GOOD SAMARITAN PRESBYTERIAN
13025 GOOD SAMARITAN DR, WALDORF

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
GOOD SAMARITAN AT
301-645-4134 OR
Email: gspc@comast.net

ALL ACTS WELCOME
COMEDY, POETRY, MUSICIANS,
STORY TELLING, SINGERS, DANCING. . . .ANYTHING!
(but keep it PG)

LISTENERS WELCOME

****Performances will be in the sanctuary with snacks in the back of the sanctuary afterwards. We are looking for performers and audience members to make this a success.**

SET UP: Folks who are willing to come ahead of time to set up mics, etc.

FOOD: Drinks, appetizers and desserts to share with a crowd.



Service
April 17th at 7PM



Worship Service at 10 AM

**Join with your family and friends
for some food and fellowship
following the worship service on
Easter Sunday**

Lectionary for April

Fifth Sunday in Lent—April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Passion/Palm Sunday—April 13

Liturgy of the Palms
Luke 19: 28-40
Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Philippians 2: 5-11
Luke 22: 14—23:56

Maundy Thursday—April 17

Exodus 12: 1-14
Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26
John 13: 1-17, 31-35

Good Friday—April 18

Isaiah 52: 13—53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10: 16-25
John 18: 1—19:42

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter— April 20

Acts 10: 34-43
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15: 19-26
John 20: 1-18

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5: 27-32
Psalm 118: 14-29
Revelation 1: 4-8
John 20: 19-31



5th—Charlie Persing

7th—Jill Buntz

15th—Cindy Benjamin

18th—Jeremy Mandragos, Jean Robinson

20th—Siyami Takha

21st—Judy Howell, Jay Koehler, Terri Tipsword

23rd—Karen Brandes

26th—William Buntz

27—Jim Daugherty

29th—Jim Kriebel

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Women's Bible Study @9:30	2	3	4	5
6 Sunday School @ 9:00 Worship@ 10:00 Soup & Salad	7 Crafters @ 10:30	8 Women's Bible Study @9:30	9	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday Sunday School @ 9:00 Worship@ 10:00	14 Crafters @ 10:30	15 Women's Bible Study @9:30	16	17 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00	18	19
20 Easter Sunday Sunday School @ 9:00	21 Crafters @ 10:30	22 Women's Bible Study @9:30	23	24	25	26 Open Mic Night At 7 PM
27 Sunday School @ 9:00 Worship@ 10:00	28 Crafters @ 10:30	29 Women's Bible Study @9:30	30			