

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 16 – FH RESERVED

9 AM – ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – LOUNGE
10 AM–10:25 AM – FELLOWSHIP TIME – EXT.
10:30 AM – WORSHIP & CHILDREN’S CHURCH
11:45 AM – UMCOR PROJECT ASSEMBLY – FH

MONDAY, MARCH 17 – ST. PATRICK’S DAY

NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

TUESDAY, MARCH 18 – NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 – NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 – FIRST DAY OF SPRING

9 AM – BMG – EXT.
11 AM – 2 PM – THE SHOPPE & ANNEX at RPUMC
Open for shopping *Proceeds Benefit Missions/ Outreach*
11:30-12:30PM – FREE LUNCH MINISTRY – FH

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 – NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 – NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

9 AM – ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – LOUNGE
10 AM–10:25 AM – FELLOWSHIP TIME – EXT.
10:30 AM – WORSHIP & CHILDREN’S CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

UMCOR Sunday 3/30 – The Rev. David McMillan has invited RPUMC for a worship celebration on Sunday, March 30, at 9:30 am, at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church. Guest preacher will be Bishop Latrelle Easterling of the Peninsula-Delaware and Baltimore-Washington Conferences. To celebrate this special occasion, the formation of a community choir, to sing the morning anthem, with all participating churches. A rehearsal will be held in the sanctuary before the service at 8:45 am. Following the service, everyone will be invited to Fellowship Hall for a delicious brunch. Please join us and if you are able to attend, join in with the community choir to sing the anthem. If you are attending the church brunch, please let the church office know, so we know how many members will be participating and how many are expected to stay for the brunch. Thank you.

Book Club – Our February meeting was held on Friday, February 14th at 2 pm at the church. We discussed “Must Love Flowers” by Debbie Macomber. The discussion questions provided by the author led to one of our most interesting discussions. Our March meeting will be on Friday, March 14th at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss “Who is Maud Dixon” by Alexandra Andrews. If anyone has trouble getting a copy, please let me know. I hope to have access to an extra copy. We received copies of “Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt which will be the book for our April meeting on Friday, April 11th at 2pm. It is also the book selected by News Castle Reads for their event for 2025, which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7 pm at the Chase Center. We will enjoy dinner at Iron Hill Brewery before the event at 5:15pm. Coming attractions include “The Wedding Planner” by Daniel Steel, “Dreamland: A Novel” by Nicholas Sparks, “Hidden Pictures” by Jason Rekulak, “The Housemaid’s Secret” by Freida McFadden, “The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek” by Kim Michele Richardson and several books by Ariel Lawhon (“The Frozen River” and “Flight of Dreams”). Paul

Boy Scouts-Pinewood Derby – Scouts Troop 339 will be holding the Pinewood Derby down in Fellowship Hall on Monday, **March 24 at 6pm**. You are invited and encouraged to come on out and watch this event.

Easter EGGStravaganza – Candy donations for the Easter event are needed. **Please note:** Individually wrapped candy-no nuts, peanuts or peanut butter. Kit Kats, Peppermint Patties, Hersey Kisses, Chocolate Easter Eggs, Starbursts, Smarties, Airheads, Sour Patch Gummy Candy, and/or Fruit Snacks. Please drop off at the Church Office or give to Michelle Anderson in Church No later than Sunday, March 30th. We plan to stuff the Easter bags and clean up the outside grounds directly after worship on Sunday, March 30th.

Fellowship Time – Sunday Social meets from 10 am until 10:25 am in the Extension before morning worship. Join us for fellowship. We will have snacks, coffee and tea to enjoy. Donations of prewrapped snacks, if you are able to contribute, would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Dottie & Rose

Flower Containers – We love delivering altar flowers to shut-ins and they love the visit BUT we are in need of containers. I have found the 1 lb. metal coffee cans do work very well. Please donate these so we can continue this wonderful program. Blessings, Marlene

Free Lunch – The Free Lunch Ministry program continues every Thursday from 11:30am-12:30pm. We prepare a hot lunch in take-out containers. Each person also receives a ‘bag of blessings’. Our dedicated

volunteers work on Wednesday mornings preparing food and the 'bags of blessings' to hand out. We are averaging about 110 meals a week now. Contributions of items are always accepted. Some church members pick up meals and deliver them to family and elderly neighbors. Thank you for your contributions to this wonderful ministry.

The Shoppe & Annex – is **Open** for shopping on Thursdays from 11 am until 2 pm. Stop on by The Shoppe & Annex, grab a deal or two and be sure to tell your family and friends! Thank you everyone for your support! *Proceeds Benefit Mission/Outreach*



way of living in the world, a way that changes minds, softens hearts and teaches transformation, is the work of those who claim discipleship in Jesus Christ. Inviting others into a relationship with Jesus Christ is to offer an opportunity for the only vehicle that creates lasting change – repentance. Repentance is not the suppressing of errant beliefs, values or behaviors until an opportune time arises to revert. Repentance is not quietly biding your time until the environment is right to double-down on selfish practices. Repentance is a realization that something is antithetical to the very nature of God and turning away from it. Repentance is a change of heart and mind. And, for our founder, John Wesley, repentance is just the front porch of our faith, which opens the door to a deeper abiding life in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to continue this perfecting work.

The psalmist invites us into a conversation with God – a conversation that confesses our ability to hide behind a façade from everyone except our Creator. We may even fool ourselves, but we cannot fool God. The psalmist encourages us to seek God’s examination of our hearts, minds, intentions, even our most hidden thoughts – and to lead us in the way everlasting. To be led in the way everlasting is to repent of the ways that are not within the will of God, the love of God and nature of God. To be led in the way everlasting is to live the character of the beatitudes, the anointing of the Good News extolled in Luke 4: 18-19, the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians and the uncompromising love of 1 Corinthians 13. This is not the whole of the matter, but it is a tremendous start.

On this Ash Wednesday, as we receive the ashes, we are reminded of our fallibility and our need for God. These ashes symbolize both our humility and our willingness to turn away from sin and toward the grace and mercy of God. We are not perfect, and it is through humility — recognizing our imperfection and seeking God’s strength — that we are transformed. In the succeeding days of Lent, may we allow God to examine our hearts and call us to true repentance. That repentance will lead to Christ-centered change. And individual change is the first step toward communal transformation. A transformation that does not seek to revert when the political or societal winds change; rather, it remains steadfastly rooted in the expansive grace of Jesus Christ. May it be so.

[View in browser](#) | [Unsubscribe or manage mailings](#)

Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference, 139 N. State Street. Dover, Delaware, 19901