It seems impossible that we are halfway through lent already and that spring has sprung! I know we moved downstairs due to heating, but I would love to hear how it is feeling for you as a worshipper to be in fellowship hall. I personally am loving the smaller space while missing the grandeur of the sanctuary. I think our visitors are feeling more included as coffee hour is right there. And how do you like the worship series? Would you like to do another of these series this year?

The Holy Week worship plan goes like this; On Palm Sunday we will have our Palm Sunday parade meeting across the circle at First English at 9:30 am directly following the parade and at 10-ish we will start our worship in the fellowship hall. On Maundy Thursday we will worship with First Congregational which starts at 6 pm. On Good Friday at noon we will worship with the West End Congregations at Monument Heights Baptist Church located at 5716 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23226. On Easter Morning we have been invited to First Congregational again for SUNRISE service at 6:30 am. At 10 am we will celebrate Easter and rebirth in our sanctuary with a rolling away of the stone and reentrance as well as communion, special music and welcoming new members.

For the season of Easter, we will worship in the sanctuary and follow our normal worship order. The season of Easter this year continues through June 9th when we celebrate Pentecost. By the end of the season if the air handler is not finished, it may be warm in the sanctuary, once the air handler is finished, we hope it will be pleasantly cool.

May you continue to have a meaningful lent and enjoy time with our unhurried God.

Peace and Blessing,

The Rev. Linda Higgins
Palm Sunday Parade ~ We will gather at First English (across Stuart Circle) at 9:30 am; worship in The Fellowship hall follows the parade at around 10 am.

Maundy Thursday ~ Worship begins at 6:00 pm at First Congregational Christian United Church of Christ located at 4310 Courthouse Road, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832. This service will include washing of feet, a simple meal with Communion and Tenebrae.

Good Friday Worship will be held at 12:00 noon at Monument Heights Baptist Church, located at 5716 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23226. Rev. Cliff Jordan will be preaching.

Easter Sunday Sunrise service at 6:30 am at First Congregational Church, located at 4310 Courthouse Road, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832.

Easter Sunday Celebratory Worship begins at 10 am. We will meet in the Narthex to enter together after rolling our stone away. The service will include Communion and welcoming new members.

If you wish to order a plant in memory of or in honor of a loved one for Easter, please complete the order form and drop it by or mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. The cost is $20 per plant and you may take it home after the completion of the Easter morning worship service. **THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERING TULIPS has passed.** If you wish to order the Lily, Begonia and Hibiscus flowers the deadline is **Sunday, April 7th.** Please see Johanna Gilbert if you have questions.
Church Council met for the monthly meeting on Monday, March 11, 2019.

**Announcements** - Council is seeking three new council members for the 2019-2020 term. Dreama asked all to think of someone who may be interested in being on council.

**Finance** – February’s report had not been received. Money will need to be moved to the Vanco account. Don Warren and Mark Souza agreed to be on audit committee. Jeff Michel may be able to assist. Another meeting with accountants is planned because some issues still haven't been addressed.

**Stewardship** – Received 40 pledges for total of $94,110.

**Restoration Committee** – We are in the final stages of the engineering proposal and contract, which should be completed the week of March 11. The air handler for the sanctuary has stopped; and they working with Etech to replace the handler quicker than originally planned. Received a proposal for cleaning outside walls of the front of the church, which will need chemical cleaning rather than pressure washing: $2000 for lower section of front of the church. Council recommends waiting until later in the restoration to clean. Council also states that three bids are needed before any contracts are signed. Restoration Committee agreed but stated that if they can't follow this process of getting three bids, they will offer an explanation. Restoration Committee says they will consider council's comments. Tax credits will not be available until all work is completed. Significant fees are required for each application so it's more efficient and less costly to complete all or most of the work before applying. The fee is a percentage of the total cost of the renovation per application, minimum $5000. Discussion about fixing the sidewalk on Franklin side of building.

**Committee Updates:**
- **Mission:** We received $20,000 from the Stille grant. Committee is meeting Sunday, March 17 after worship. Caritas intake began Saturday, March 9. The Equality Virginia dinner table is full. Reviewed Mission of the Month for the next few months
- **Worship and Music:** Easter service has been planned by Linda and Shirley. First Congregational has invited us to their Maundy Thursday service on March 13 and then for their sunrise service on Easter morning. We will order palms for Palm Sunday, and will have a choice of four different types of flowers to order for Easter.
- **Congregational Life and Care:** Birthday Celebration will be held on the first Sunday of each month. Birthday supplies are in the Parlor kitchen. Thinking about the Women’s Retreat in the Fall. Tickets will be purchased for a baseball game in the summer. We will celebrate Dorothy Cook on March 17.
- **Pastor’s Report:** Linda shared handed out the Pastoral Relations Committee guidelines from the UCC. Dreama asked everyone to review and consider volunteering to be on the Pastoral Relations Committee.

**Motions:**
- Minutes – February 11, 2019 approved as submitted.
- Audit Committee – Motion to staff Audit Committee with Don Warren and Mark Souza, with Jeff Michel as a possible third member to complete the 2018 audit. The final report is due June 2019 and will be presented to Council.
Ecumenical Advocacy Days is
April 5-8, 2019 from 10 am-4:30 am
First Congregational UCC (945 G St. NW in DC)
Register Now!

Join us in D.C. for the 2019 EAD “Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the World.” Through workshops, worship, and training, we will empower and encourage one another to go to Capitol Hill and call on elected officials to support much needed reforms in our democracy and lift a voice on human rights around the world.

On Friday April 5th, you are also invited to attend a UCC EAD Pre-Event “#GoodTrouble for a Just World” from 10am-4:30pm at First Congregational UCC (945 G St. NW in DC). You can attend this whether or not you register for the full conference. Join us in Washington D.C. in April as we seek to stir up #GoodTrouble for all God’s children.

From the CAC Justice & Witness Action Network

Come to Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2019 and UCC Pre-event:
#GoodTrouble for a Just World

Calling all justice advocates! You are invited to join other UCC advocates for the 2019 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference, “Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the World -- #GoodTrouble!” This year’s conference will focus on movements, best practices, and highlight the voices of young activists to energize today’s struggle for justice.

On Monday, April 8, we will go to Capitol Hill to call on our elected officials to support much needed reforms in our democracy by strengthening voting rights, addressing corruption and money in politics, as well as lift a voice on the decline of human rights around the world. Keynote speakers will include Rev. Dr. Theresa Hord Owens (Christian Church Disciples of Christ), Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock (Ebenezer Baptist Church), Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis (Poor People’s Campaign), Rev. Adam Taylor (Sojourners), David LaMotte (songwriter), and others.

On Friday before the EAD program begins, you are also invited to attend a UCC EAD Pre-Event “#GoodTrouble for a Just World.” You can attend this whether or not you register for the full conference. This gathering will be a time to lift up the good work being done by several UCC justice networks and together see how we can share best practices and find intersections in our work. The event will take place on Friday April 5th, from 10am-4:30pm at First Congregational UCC (945 G St. NW in DC).

Over this powerful weekend, we will deepen connections and explore new ways to stir up #GoodTrouble for the sake of the gospel and the UCC’s mission to Build a Just World for All. We hope you will join us and help us spread the word!
UCC ALL CHURCH READ  ~ Pulitzer Prize-winning author Matthew Desmond, winner of numerous awards for his book which chronicles the lives of several families in the poorest neighborhoods in Milwaukee, will be the keynote speaker at the the United Church of Christ General Synod 32 in June. Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, a New York Times Bestseller, will also be the subject of the denomination’s 2019 All Church Read.

Evicted, based on years of embedded fieldwork and data, points to eviction as a root cause of poverty. Desmond’s keynote address will take place in the same city as his book, on Saturday, June 22 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. UCC congregations throughout the country are encouraged to organize book discussion groups around Evicted in ways and at times that best suit them and participate in the All Church Read. Everyone is invited to register to attend General Synod to hear Matthew Desmond’s keynote or tune in to the live stream and listen to his address as a group or on your own.

Call to General Synod 32 — Join us in Milwaukee!

I am officially calling all delegates, visitors, and friends of the United Church of Christ to join us in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the 32nd General Synod, June 21-25, 2019!

The 32nd General Synod promises to be an inspiring and engaging event in the life of the Church. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Matthew Desmond, professor of Sociology at Princeton University and Pulitzer Prize winner for the book, “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City.”


We will also celebrate the ministries of retiring Associate General Minister for Global Engagement and Operations, Co-executive of Global Ministries, The Rev. Dr. Jim Moos and Mr. Don Hart, President and Chief Investment Officer, United Church Funds.

We will re-elect the General Minister and President and elect a new Associate General Minister for Global Engagement and Operations, Co-executive of Global Ministries.

I invite you to bring a spirit of love, of compassion, of openness and of hope with you. I look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee! Until then, let the light of the living Christ shine in and through you, and be known to all whom you meet along the way.

John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President
Official Call to The Potomac Association 2019 Spring Meeting

To the Delegates of the Local Churches and Authorized Ministers of the Potomac Association, Central Atlantic Conference–United Church of Christ.

The Delegates and Authorized Ministers of the Potomac Association are called to the 2019 Spring Meeting.

United Christian Parish
703-620-3065
11508 North Shore Drive
Reston, Virginia 20190-4316
Saturday, May 4, 2019
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
$15.00 Registration Fee
(Registration Fee includes Registration, Continental Breakfast and Lunch)

Please contact: Robert Faison to register associatemoderatorpa@gmail.com. Revised Constitution and Bylaws to be considered at May 4 Spring Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors will be offering to the Spring Regular Meeting, for discussion and, ideally, approval, a revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Potomac Association. The revised Constitution and Bylaws are intended to simplify the Association’s governing documents, and also to eliminate a number of instances in which our actual practices no longer conform to the current Constitution and Bylaws. With the thought that some in the Association might want to discuss the new documents prior to the Spring Regular Meeting, the Board will be holding a discussion of them, by Zoom, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 6. Details of the Zoom meeting are as follows:

Your invitation to a scheduled Zoom meeting
Topic: Proposed Constitution and By-Laws Changes
Time: Apr 6, 2019 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/674910335
One tap mobile
+16465588656,,674910335# US (New York)
+16699006833,,674910335# US (San Jose)
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 674 910 335
Find your local number: https://zoom.us/u/adZKsjaqvL

In addition, persons wanting to discuss the Constitution and Bylaws prior to the Spring Regular Meeting can contact Rev. Mike Durst, the Association Treasurer, at 240 832 0134 or treasurer@potomacucc.org An explanation of the proposed changes, and copies of both the proposed amended, and current, Constitution and Bylaws are attached for review. Use this link to bylaws and changes.
https://files.constantcontact.com/6a289007601/a7432a13-f94d-44c0-88d0-77a6dfe1c306.pdf
Our Mission of the Month for April is ChildSavers. This organization guides our community’s children through life’s critical moments with trauma-informed mental health and child development services. With 1 in 4 children experiencing trauma by the age of four, their services are critical to our community. Please consider giving toward this worthwhile ministry. For questions, please see Terri Weaver.

We are serving as the intake center for the CARITAS women’s group nightly through April 19. First English and the Church of the Good Shepherd will be taking Monday and Tuesday nights. Happily, we have people signed up for every day. We are hosting a lovely group of women and you are encouraged to come and join those who have already signed up in welcoming our guests. If you can’t join us but want to help, baked goods are greatly appreciated.

We are serving approximately 30 women each night. As they won’t have supper until somewhere between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. and lunch was many hours earlier, we are serving a “substantial snack” – something sweet (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc.), something savory/salty (chips with salsa or cheese and crackers), and something healthy (fruit, veggies, etc.). Any food donations can be placed in the kitchen with a note indicating it is for CARITAS. Paper sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please see Elisabeth Burnette.

We have collected and delivered over 50 blankets to Caritas for the women’s and family’s shelters. The need is ongoing. Please place new or clean, gently used blankets in the bin in the Parlor.
FILM SERIES – FREE
Sundays – Public Invited

Mar 10  The Occupation of the American Mind
1:30 pm Richmond Friends Meetinghouse
        4500 Kensington Ave., Richmond

Mar 24  Roadmap to Apartheid
2:00 pm Unitarian Universalist
        Community Church of Glen Allen
        11105 Cauthorne Rd, Glen Allen

Apr 14  The People and the Olive
2:30 pm Al Madina School of Richmond
        10700 Academy Dr., Midlothian

May 5   Life in Occupied Palestine
2:00 pm Shady Grove United Methodist
        Church in Short Pump
        4825 Pouncey Tract Rd, Glen Allen

June 9  On the Side of the Road
2:00 pm First Unitarian Universalist
        Church of Richmond
        1000 Blanton Avenue, Richmond

SUPPORTED BY: Richmonders for Peace in Israel-Palestine◆ Arab American Association of Central Virginia◆ Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Glen Allen◆ Al Madina School of Richmond◆ Muslim Community Center of Chesterfield◆ Shady Grove United Methodist Church in Short Pump◆ First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond◆ St. John’s Richmond United Church of Christ◆ First Mennonite Church of Richmond◆ Interfaith Community of Greater Richmond◆ First Congregational Christian United Church of Christ◆ Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace◆ Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace◆ Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Richmond Friends Meeting◆ Central Atlantic Conference Palestine-Israel Network of UCC
“The Fellowship” will meet for lunch on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. They will be meeting at the Mosaic Café located at 6229-A River Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229. All are welcome to come. For information, please contact Lynda Merry @ 804-756-0270 or Beth Stiegler @ 804-272-3792.

Dorothy Cook was given a beautiful farewell on Sunday, March 17th. For those who wish to stay in touch with Dorothy, her new mailing address is 196 Green Acres Road, Valley Stream, NY 11581, and her email address is the same, dsealey16@gmail.com. We wish her much happiness and joy. Please take the time to share your love.

2019 LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES: “BUSY”

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference”

We live in a clock-ticking world at a break neck pace trying to accomplish overwhelming tasks. Jesus calls us to more than unbridled consumption or production. Rather, the scripture calls us to honor our lives and bodies as gifts that should be nurtured. The Question….What does it cost us to be so busy? Join us for a Lenten fast from so much hurry and worry.

- Sunday, April 7th “A Time for Every Matter”
- Sunday, April 14th “Give it a Rest”

MUSIC NOTES FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES APRIL 2019

April 7th “Turn Turn Turn” Words from the book of Ecclesiastes/Adaption and Music by Pete Seeger, Kady Bunting/Soloist, Rob Osborn/Guitarist; Communion, “Bread of Angels” (Panis Angelicus) Cesar Frank arr. By Van A Christy, Anita and Tony Sharpenstein, Duet

April 14th PALM SUNDAY Choir Anthem with soloist, Pamela Bradley assisted by Helena DeLigt; “The Palms by Faure (followed by the opening hymn); NCH 526 “We Are Marching in the Light of God; NCH 223 “What Wondrous Love is This”

April 21st EASTER SUNDAY (TBA)
SAVE THE DATE!

On **Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 4 p.m.**, St. John's United Church of Christ members Chris Wing and Scott Siefert will become husband and wife.

All members of St. John's UCC are invited to attend. The ceremony and reception will be held at St. John's beginning at 4 p.m. and the dinner reception will be held in the Fellowship hall immediately after the ceremony. Chris and Scott met and fell in love at St. John's and very much wish for all members to be a part of their celebration of faith, thanksgiving and commitment. Please reserve this date to be with them. Street parking will be available as well as parking at the VCU deck. There will be RSVP sign-up sheets after services in March. We hope you can join us!

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NEHEMIAH ACTION ASSEMBLY
RICHMONDERS INVOLVED TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

The culminating event of the entire year for RISC congregations! AND the largest interfaith public gathering in Central VA! Join 1,200 justice-seekers from dozens of congregations as we transcend racial, socioeconomic, and religious differences to take action for justice. We hear the stories of those affected by community problems and secure specific commitments from our local decision-makers to address the root causes of injustice.

This year we will address:
- Eviction and housing in our communities, the new RISC initiative!
- Elementary reading in Richmond Public Schools and Eastern Henrico County Public Schools
- Child trauma response in Chesterfield County Public Schools

Through the power of organized people and the strong voice we have as one assembly, we make our community a better place for everyone to live!

**Thursday, May 2, 2019**
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM EDT
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
1127 North 28th Street
Richmond, VA 23223

For more information and/or to Register:
Comfort Cases Packing Party

“A Day of Outreach”

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Last year 12 St John’s folks volunteered to help stuff duffel bags for Comfort Cases and we had a GREAT time. In case it’s slipped your mind, Comfort Cases is a nation-wide organization helping children entering the foster care system in the US. Nearly every child comes to foster care due to a domestic emergency without anything to call their own. Rather than the plastic trash bag most travel with, Comfort Cases provides nearly half a million kids with their own special pack, stocked full of age appropriate intimate apparel, blankets and toiletries. For most it is all they have when suddenly their world changes dramatically and they are traumatically removed from their homes for their protection.

Last year we here at St. John’s helped pack 1200 duffels/backpacks in about 4 hours, each with a personal note of encouragement for the recipient. Saturday, May 4, is this year’s packing ‘party’. Once again the St. John’s family will be partnering with Comfort Cases in their mission, to show these kids they still matter, that someone still cares about them. We will be joining with others at Second Baptist Church located at River Road and Gaskins beginning at 10 am. Like last year, a light lunch will be served.

Even if you can’t help pack, you can still help Comfort Cases in their mission. There will be a box in fellowship hall to collect needed items. Those items this year include:

- **Spring/Summer PJ’s– All Sizes**
- **Hygiene items – age appropriate full or travel size shampoo, body wash, etc.**
  - no hotel samples please
- **Books (age appropriate) New or Gently Used**

**Collection will start March 31 and go until April 28. Thank you for all you do.**
Comfort Cases will gladly accept the following NEW items throughout the year:

**BABY - Newborn to 23 months**
Backpack or Diaper/Tote Bag (must zip closed)
Pajamas
Baby Blanket
Baby-safe Stuffed Animal
Baby Shampoo, Baby Body Wash, Baby Lotion, Diaper Wipes, Diaper Ointment OR Baby Powder (put together in a zip-locking bag)  *travel-sized toiletries only please*
2 washcloths
1 baby bib
1 board book
Comfort XL (32.5 inch duffel bag folded to fit inside the Comfort Case)

**CHILD - Ages 2-9**
Backpack or duffel bag (must zip closed)
Pajamas (Sizes 2T-9)
Blanket (up to 50 x 60 inches)
Stuffed Animal (if age 2 or 3, stuffed animal must be toddler safe!)
Toothbrush and Toothpaste (put together in one zip-locking bag)
Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Lotion, and Soap or Body Wash (put together in another zip locking bag)  *travel-sized toiletries only please*
Book - books should be new or like new and age appropriate
Coloring Book
Crayons
Comfort XL (32.5 inch duffel bag folded to fit inside the Comfort Case)
Sunday parking is available at the VCU deck located at Broad and Harrison Streets. You will receive a ticket to access parking. Shuttle service is available one hour before service to transport members and guests from the parking lot to church and at the church following service and coffee hour. The bar code to use as you exit the parking lot, so you do not pay for parking, is on the weekly bulletin cover. Parking is also available on Sundays from 7 am to 2 pm on the island side of Monument Avenue. For more information, call the office at 358-9291.

St. Johns Church Shuttle
The vans will pick up at the parking structure at 534 N. Harrison Street and transport to the alley behind the church. Shuttle service from parking structure to church begins at 9:00 am and will run until 10:15 am.

After the church services are complete the shuttle will begin transporting the congregation from the alley behind the church back to the parking structure at 534 N. Harrison Street. The return shuttle will begin at 11:30 am and run until 12:15.
St. John’s UCC  Validation

Expiration Date: 06/30/2019 11:59:59 PM
Validation Number: WB-603
Description: 100.00% off.

Steps to Using a QR Code:

1. When coming into the deck press the button on the machine to receive an entry ticket.

2. Obtain a copy of the QR Code while at the church.

3. When exiting the deck reinsert the entry ticket into the machine so it can calculate time spent and the associated fee.

4. Scan your QR Code on the scanner just left of the machine.

5. If you are experiencing problems and there is no attendant nearby, please hit the “I” button and someone from our 24/7 Command Center will be with you shortly.
### Volunteer Ministries

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>April 7</th>
<th>April 14</th>
<th>April 21</th>
<th>April 28</th>
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<td>Team 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome Team Leader</strong></td>
<td>Helen Bunch</td>
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<td><strong>Sound System</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tellers</strong></td>
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<td>Scott Siefert</td>
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<td><strong>Liturgist</strong></td>
<td>Dreama Terrill</td>
<td>Sarah Allen</td>
<td>EASTER</td>
<td>Beverly Lindsey</td>
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<td><strong>Facilities</strong></td>
<td>Bud Higgins</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Altar Guild</strong></td>
<td>Erin Burnette</td>
<td>Lynda Merry</td>
<td>Johanna Gilbert</td>
<td>Helen Bunch</td>
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<td>Georgianne Stinnette</td>
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<td>Charlotte Quick</td>
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<td><strong>Fellowship Hosts</strong></td>
<td>Richard &amp; Betsy</td>
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<td>Andrea and Rick</td>
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<td><strong>Altar Flowers</strong></td>
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Please find a substitute if you are unable to perform your ministry and contact your Team Coordinator AND the office to let them know who will be filling in for you. Thank you for making our church ministries run smoothly!
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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 am Worship</td>
<td>6:30 pm Church Council Meeting</td>
<td>The Fellowship Luncheon @ Mosaic Café 6229-A River Road</td>
<td>1 pm Equality Virginia Dinner</td>
<td>6 pm Good Friday Monument Heights Baptist Caritas Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am Palm Parade Meet @ First English Church</td>
<td>6:30 pm The Fellowship Luncheon @ Mosaic Café 6229-A River Road</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday Worship @ First Congregational</td>
<td>12 pm Good Friday Monument Heights Baptist Caritas Ends</td>
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<td>EASTER</td>
<td>6:30 am Sunrise Service @ First Congregational</td>
<td>10 am Festive Worship with Communion &amp; Welcoming of New Members</td>
<td>6 pm ACTS Fundraiser @ Jefferson Lakeside Country Club</td>
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If you are celebrating a birthday in the month of April, join us in the Fellowship Hall on April 7th for a special reception to honor you!

2 Dale Totty
20 Charlotte Ford
23 Huldah Anderson
30 Betsy Bighinatti