



# First Word

April 2011



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## When Easter Means More Than it Meant Before

### Special points of interest:

- Women's Rally
- Youth News
- Church Calendar
- Easter Egg order form
- Easter flower order form
- Easter Services
- CCAP needs
- Vacation Bible School

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As I grow more mature (which is sometimes accompanied by the process of aging) Easter means more to me than it meant in the past. As a child, I must confess that Easter seemed a little spooky to me. I recall a few black and white movies depicting Jesus' resurrection on TV. His rising from the tomb was portrayed in horrific ways. From the movies, I recall a creepy stone tomb, flashes of bright light and red cloaked Roman soldiers running for their lives. I would not be truthful if I were to say that the story of resurrection did not make me fearful at first. Fear and awe were my initial emotions, much like the first witnesses described in the gospels. None the less, I wanted to know more. I was captivated by the resurrection.

As a teenager, I was fortunate to have a lot of friends who were Christians through my United Methodist youth group and through organizations like FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). I suppose that this was the first time that I came to understand that the resurrection of Jesus brings new beginnings. One has to live a certain amount of time before one can make enough mistakes to appreciate a second chance or a new beginning. In my teenage years, I came to notice that through faith and forgiveness new beginnings and second chances really were possible. They happened for my friends. They happened for me. I have been accompanied by this good news throughout my life.

Now that I am middle aged (and I hope more mature), there is yet another added meaning to the resurrection. When I was new to the pastorate, I would stand at the graveside for funerals secure in both my theology and the promises of God. After twenty four years of pastoral ministry, I still stand secure in my faith but I feel a lot more "inward pain" when performing funerals. I feel a greater sense of loss when friends and acquaintances die. I am also confronted with my own mortality in greater measure with each passing year. God's promise of eternal life is much more important to me than it was when I was younger.

As each year passes, the resurrection of Jesus means more and more to me. Some things really do get better with the passage of time. For me, the good news of Easter means more than it ever did before! *Alleluia.*

~Rev. White



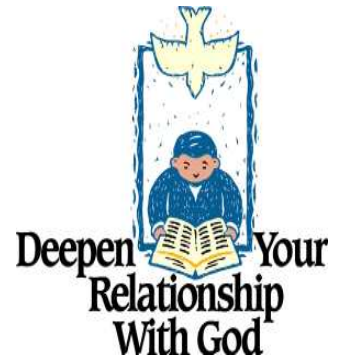
## Have a Meaningful Lent and Easter!

### **Pastor's Bible Study— Blessings of the Cross...**

Rev. White is teaching a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm based on the lectionary readings for Lent and Easter. Visitors and friends are always welcome. This class will continue through April 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Faith, Food, and Fellowship Dinners—Wednesdays at 5:15 pm...**

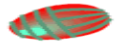
Join us on Wednesday evenings for dinner at the church! Prices are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. The last 3-F dinner is April 27<sup>th</sup>. Watch the newsletters and bulletins for the date 3-F dinners resume in the fall.



### **United Methodist Men's Work Day Planned—Christian Service...**

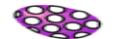


The United Methodist Men's group is planning a service day in lieu of their April meeting. On April 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am, all interested men (and women) are encouraged to meet at the Heart Havens Home at 3050 Saratoga Dr. in Winchester, VA. Heart Havens Inc. is an organization of the United Methodist Church. Its mission is to provide residential facilities for intellectually disabled persons. Our men will be tasked with lawn mowing, yard work, and light indoor work. This effort will bless the five male residents living there immensely. Please dress so that you will be able to work inside or outside. Bring a lawn mower if you can, but please join us for this time of important service for a



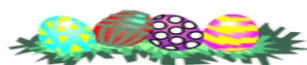
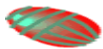
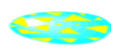
### **Easter Egg Hunt for Children—Bring a Friend...**

The Children's Ministry Coordinators (Lyda Kiser and Martha Inglis) have planned a great Easter Egg Hunt for members of the church, Discovery preschoolers, visitors and friends. Come see what happens when children are released to search for Easter eggs on the APR campus! Donated candy and plastic Easter eggs are needed. Please bring them to the hallway between the sanctuary and church and leave them in the big Easter basket. Join us on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. The rain date is Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm. We will gather at the church's APR campus which is directly across from Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School.



### **Help With the Easter Egg Hunt—Candy and Eggs Needed**

In the hallway between the sanctuary and the chapel, there is an Easter basket with a sign on it inviting donations for the Easter Egg hunt. Please donate candy and plastic eggs and place them in the Easter basket.



## Have a Meaningful Lent and Easter cont.

### ***Palm Sunday Parade— Join in The Fun...***

During the Passover feast, Jesus rode into Jerusalem upon a donkey or colt depending on the gospel from which one reads. The crowd waved palm branches and some even threw their cloaks on the ground as a way of honoring Christ. You are invited to remember this event on Palm Sunday, April 17th, at 10:10am. Please gather in the church parking lot (near the playground). We'll join in a responsive litany and then sing the *Halle, Halle* as we walk to the courthouse. Children, youth and adults will be invited to make a joyful noise with rhythm instruments courtesy of Melinda Russell. Our regularly scheduled services at 8:30 and 11:00am will also address the "Liturgy of the Palms".



### ***Tenebrae and Easter Sunrise Rehearsals***

Members of our worship committee, acolytes, readers, and others participating in the services for Tenebrae and Sunrise will rehearse on Palm Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Tenebrae Service will rehearse at noon. The Sunrise Service will rehearse at 2pm.

### ***Tenebrae Worship Service— The Passion of Christ...***

Grace is given to us freely, but it cost Christ a great deal. The sacrament of Holy Communion reminds us of the great love Jesus showed us through His passion. On Maundy Thursday, you will learn about Jesus' passion and also how Jesus gave the disciples instruction to continue to perform the sacrament "in remembrance" of Him. Please join us on Maundy Thursday, April 21st, at 7pm in the sanctuary.

### ***Good Friday—Downtown Clergy Fellowship Services***

First United Methodist Church is a participant in the downtown clergy fellowship. Ecumenical services have been planned for April 22<sup>nd</sup>. At noon, there will be a Good Friday service at First Presbyterian Church. From 1-3pm, there will be a prayer labyrinth at Braddock Street UMC.

## **Easter Morning**

### ***Sunrise Service—Campfire and Communion***

Sometime after Jesus' death, the disciples were out fishing when "someone" on the shore called out to them. As the story unfolds in John 21, the disciples were strangely drawn to this man who offered to cook them a breakfast of fish and bread. Only later did the disciples come to recognize that the person on the shore was Jesus. In Matthew 28, we are reminded that Jesus will be with us "till the end of the age". During Holy Communion, Jesus is spiritually present with us. Join us for a service of communion that will remind us of this truth. Music will be provided by Jim and Melody Harmon. There will also be a dramatic reading involving members of the church. Please join us at the Apple Pie Ridge Campus (the property across from Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School) on Easter Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30am.

### ***Easter Breakfast***

Please bring a breakfast casserole to share. Juice, coffee, tea, and eggs will be provided by Tim Day and his team of volunteers. Participate in a First United Methodist Church tradition and join in this time of fellowship between the 8:30 and 11:00am worship services on Easter Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. A love offering will be received in order to cover the cost of the meal.

### ***Easter Morning Worship***

Pastor White's sermon will be, *Good News from the Graveyard*, based on John 20:1-18. Music will be provided by the Chancel Choir. Join us on Easter Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 and 11:00am. Most people who do not normally attend church are happy to receive an invitation to come on Easter Sunday. Please invite your friends.

## Confirmation News

**Confirmation Retreat, May 13-14<sup>th</sup>**

The Confirmation Class will participate in a Confirmation Retreat with students from Braddock Street UMM at Hunting Ridge Retreat Center. They will reflect on their confirmation experience, enjoy some time away, and prepare themselves to be received into membership. The confirmation parents will be contacted about departure and return times, retreat expenses and etc.

**Confirmation Sunday is May 15<sup>th</sup>!**

At the 8:30am worship service, confirmation students will be presented. At 11:00am, they will be confirmed and received into membership.

Immediately following the 11am service, a luncheon will be served in the fellowship hall in honor of the confirmation class of 2011.

Ham, Fried Chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, chips, cake and drinks will be provided.



## Kids for Christ (K-5th Grade Children)

**Kid's for Christ (K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Children)**

In April, the KFC will begin their "Children of the World" study through which they will learn about the Christian practices of children from other countries, sample some foods from around the world, and study the Bible. All KFC meetings are at 4pm on Sunday afternoons. Schedule:

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Northern and Southern China (leading: Seabright Family)

April 17<sup>th</sup>, India (leading: Kiser Family)

May 15<sup>th</sup>, Northern and Southern Italy (leading: White Family)

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, France (leading: Torian Family)

June 5<sup>th</sup>, Korea (leading: Virginia Stanley, Will White, Eunji Lim)



## Coffee with the Pastor (for newcomers)

If you are interested in learning more about the United Methodist Church or membership in First United Methodist Church then you are invited to attend Coffee with the Pastor on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am. Danishes, Coffee and Tea will be provided.



**April Calendar**

<b>April 1</b>		<b>April 13</b>		<b>April 29</b>	<b>Office Closed due to Apple Blossom</b>
6:30 pm	Food for the Soul Bible Study	5:15 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	3-F Meal Bible Study Hand Bell Choir Chancel Choir		
<b>April 2</b>		<b>April 15</b>			
	"Splash" Youth Mission Project	3:30 pm 6:30 pm	"Devo" Coffee Food for the Soul Bible Study		
<b>April 3</b>		<b>April 16</b>			
8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	Worship Service Sunday School Worship Service Kids for Christ <b>No Youth</b>	2:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt		
<b>April 4</b>		<b>April 17</b>			
7:00 pm	PPRC Meeting	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:10 am	Worship Service Palm Sunday Sunday School Palm Sunday Procession		
<b>April 6</b>		11:00 am 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Worship Service Kids for Christ Sunday Night Youth		
5:15 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	3-F Meal Bible Study Hand Bell Choir Chancel Choir	<b>April 18</b>			
<b>April 8</b>		6:45 pm	Worship Meeting		
3:30 pm 6:00 pm	"Devo" Coffee Preschool Spring Program	<b>April 20</b>			
6:30 pm	Food for the Soul Bible Study	10:30 am 5:15 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	J.O.Y.S 3-F Meal Hand Bell Choir Chancel Choir		
<b>April 9</b>		<b>April 21</b>			
8:00 am	Heart Havens Clean-up day UMM	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service		
	Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner	<b>April 22</b>			
<b>April 10</b>		12:00 pm	Good Friday Service at First Presbyterian		
8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service Sunday School Worship Service Youth making Easter Eggs	1:00 pm	Prayer Labyrinth at Braddock Street UMC		
<b>April 11</b>		<b>April 24</b>			
6:45 pm 7:00 pm	Trustee Meeting Finance Meeting	6:30 am 8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunrise Service Worship Service Easter Brunch Worship Service		
		<b>April 25</b>			<b>Office Closed for Easter Monday</b>



## Lenten Devotion

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary's definition of Lent is; "the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by the Roman Catholic, Eastern, and some Protestant churches as a period of penitence and fasting". The definition for penitence is; "regret for sin or wrongdoing. Penitence implies sad and humble realization of and regret for one's misdeeds (the attitude that no sin is beyond forgiveness if it is followed by true penitence)".

Lent is therefore a time for all of us to reflect on our sins and prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Savior Jesus Christ. We are all sinful creatures, but because of God's Grace and Love we are all forgiven. All we have to do is ask..... During the remaining weeks of Lent search your heart and soul to find the power of forgiveness and peace in your heart.

## Breathe on My Hardened Heart

*How to deal with bitterness*

Anne Peterson | posted 3/15/2011

Jenny was 92 years old when she died. For the 50 years I knew Jenny, she told the story over and over of a time her sister would not give her the dollar she needed for a pair of shoes. Her details made it seem like the offense had happened just days ago. She'd retold the story so many times she had memorized every tidbit. One message came through loud and clear. She would never forgive her sister for withholding that dollar from her. Like a magnet, this story pulled her back into all her hurt and injustice.

Bitterness starts out small. An offense burrows its way into our hearts. We replay it in our minds, creating deep ruts that will be hard to build back up. We retell our hurts to any available listener, including each sordid detail. We enlist support, pushing us further into our resentment. We hear the offending person's name and cringe.

We decipher the offense as intentional and our offender as full of spite. We look for other reasons, both real or imagined, to dislike our villain. With each new piece of information, we form another layer of bitterness.

We fool ourselves into thinking no one will know, but anger and resentment have a way of seeping into everything. Resentment is like a beach ball we try to submerge in the water. No matter how valiant our efforts, it pops up with all its vitality, splashing everyone around.

Romans 12:18 says, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." So how can we do that? How can we prevent bitterness from moving into our hearts? How can we deal with our feelings instead of letting them grow into bitterness?

### Know that God requires forgiveness.

God knew it would not always be possible to live at peace with some people. That's why Romans 12:18 says, "If it is possible ..." But God does require that we forgive others ([Ephesians 4:32](#)).

This is where the rubber meets the road. Our lack of forgiveness is why we choose to hold onto bitterness, letting it ripen into full grown resentment. While it looks like we are unable to forgive, sometimes we need to face that we are unwilling.

In the parable of the man who was forgiven a great debt ([Matthew 18:24-35](#)), we see the forgiven man immediately demands payment from someone who owes him a fraction of what he himself owed. Though he was shown mercy and grace, he was unwilling to extend it even in a small way.

### Understand that we are to forgive because we are forgiven.

You can discern a person is trapped when their first response is, "You don't understand what they did to me."



## Lenten Devotion cont.

We may not understand, but Jesus Christ does. He lived a perfect life, but was beaten, mocked, spit on, and hung on a wooden cross to die a cruel death. Yet, John 3:16 says that he loved the world enough to go through this. Sometimes we mistakenly think he died only for us, but when he died, he died for the world—including whoever offended you. We are told to forgive others just as Christ forgave us. Do they deserve it? No. Do we deserve it? Again, no. But still, he hung on that cursed tree because of his love for each of us.

When we have an unforgiving spirit, our eyes are not on him; they are fixed on ourselves. Once when I'd been hurt, I told God, "Someone should pay for this." And in his kind, loving, tender way he said to me, "I paid."

### Pray for those you can't forgive.

God already knows what's going on inside of you. He knows your thoughts and he knows how the other person hurt you. He was there.

We don't have the capability in ourselves to forgive others. But God can empower us to forgive those who have hurt us ([Philippians 4:13](#)).

With a blank piece of paper before you, ask God to bring to mind anyone you need to forgive. If he gives you a name or two or ten, start praying for those on your list. Pray every day until you feel God melt that resentment you've been holding onto.

I have found it is impossible to be unforgiving toward those I am praying for. It's not easy to start praying for them; it's one of the hardest things I've done. But when I make that person an object of prayer, I open the door of my heart a little wider so that God can come in and breathe on my hardened heart, melting the icy resentment that is there.

By: *Anne Peterson*

“Instead, be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”  
Ephesians 4:32

## Easter Offering



The Finance Committee has decided the Easter Offering will be split between UMCOR-Japan and the local mission fund. If you have any questions please see a member of the Finance Committee.

## CCAP News

CCAP is gearing up for the spring. Some of the items they need for their clients are; quilts, curtains, men's socks, men's pants, deodorant and laundry deter-

gent. If you would like to provide or need more information please contact CCAP at 662-4318.

With Easter around the corner CCAP is also asking for donations of

Easter baskets. Typically CCAP provides 650 Easter baskets to area children. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



## April Youth News

Mission Statement  
*"We are servants of Christ witnessing to His people through our words and actions as we grow in discipleship."*

April 1st-2nd – "SPLASH" - "Spiritual Life at Shenandoah University" and local youth ministries are partnering their efforts to help those less fortunate in our area . We will meet at Shenandoah University Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. and meet up with the other local youth groups and do our service work . We will close the day with an youth worship service at Shenandoah's Chapel. "Stereoreel" will be the praise and worship band. Please be picked up by 3:30 pm at the SU Chapel. Hope you can come!

April 3rd- No Regular youth due to the "SLASH" weekend.



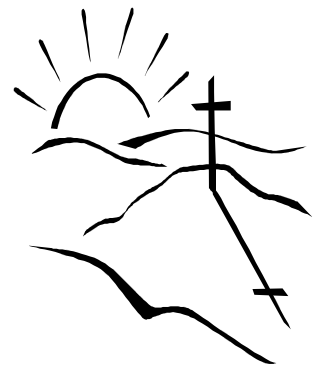
April 8th- Deadline for getting your Easter egg orders in.

April 10th- Making Easter eggs fundraiser. Please come to the kitchen after the 11:00 service or after Sunday school if you do not go to the late service. Please sign up on the youth board if you are able to help out. Parent's are needed as well.

April 17th- Regular Sunday evening youth time from 4:00-5:30.

April 21st- Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.

April 24th- Easter Sunday, no regular evening youth .



Senior High "Devo-Coffee Hour" Every Friday afternoon from 3:30-4:30 pm. We will meet at the church and walk downtown for a time of devotion and a cup of your favorite beverage. Hope you can make it! It has been a wonderful time of sharing and caring together.

## Prayer Concerns

### **Please remember the following members in your prayers:**

Bonnie Keplinger, Rose Patton, Hilda Patton, Velma Ritenour, Edith Anderson, Kathy Dunn, Richard Swisher, Madge Fries & Helen Abshire, Susan Horton-Pannell, Faye & George Weidig, Betty Dunn, Bobby Vorous, Brandon Laughrey, Jane Carson, Hazel Fries, Jean Loy, Thelma Rockwell, Mary Everline, Amy Barnes, Evelyn Warner, Robert Grose, Courtney Lowe, Erin Robinson, Roger McGaffick, Devon Stein and Connie Patton.

### **Please remember to add the following friends and family in your prayers:**

Don Smallwood, Janice Dickerson, Our Military, Alexandra Combs, Fran Ricketts, our servicemen and women, the homeless in our community, Sharon Earhart, Joy Costello.

## Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner



The boy scouts will be cooking a delicious spaghetti dinner on Saturday, April 9th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. here at First Church. Proceeds of the dinner will help them go to High Adventure Camp in Philmont, New Mexico this summer. Adult tickets purchased in advance are \$8.00 or \$10.00 at the door. Children 12 and under purchased in advance are \$5.00 or \$6.00 at the door.

Come out and enjoy a great meal for a wonderful cause! If you have any questions or to purchase tickets please contact Robbin Wilfong at 662-2348.

**Robin Harnist  
will be here  
on Saturday,  
June 18th for  
our Women's  
Rally!**

## Robin's Coming!

"Robin Harnist's fun, engaging style keeps her audiences wanting more. She transparently shares her heart, passions and faith, relating incidents from her own struggles that will cause both laughter and tears." Campus Crusade for Christ, VA Tech

University.

"We didn't want you to stop! You had us on the edge of our chairs with tears of laughter, eagerly anticipating each word. Everyone could relate to some part of your talk!" Staunton VA Women's Connection.

**Robin Harnist will be here at our Women's Rally on Saturday, June 18th!** Mark your calendar and spend the day with your sisters in Christ. Keep your eyes open for more information closer to the date!

Can you believe Easter will be here soon? If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of a loved one complete the form below. Please note the deadline for flower orders. No orders will be accepted after the 17th of April. Please make your check payable to FUMC with a notation in the memo "FLOWERS". If you have any questions please contact the church office. **The deadline for flower orders is Sunday, April 17th.**



Flower Type	Fee	How Many
Tulips	\$8.25	
Hyacinths	\$8.25	
Lilies	\$8.50	
Peace Lilies	\$7.50	

In Memory of

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In Honor of

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Given by

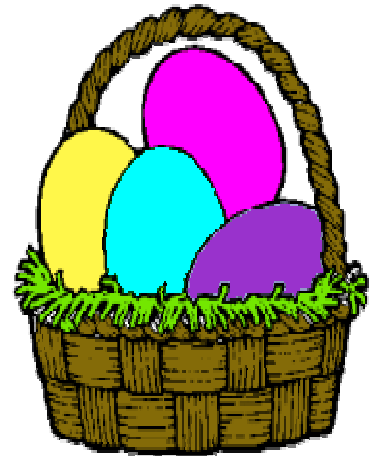
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## Youth Fundraiser!



The Youth will be making Candy Easter Eggs! Solid Coconut, Peanut Butter & Chocolate all covered with Milk Chocolate. Eggs will be ready for pick up any time after April 11th.

The proceeds from the fundraiser will help offset the cost of our youth mission trip. Please make checks payable to FUMC Youth. Order forms and payments due Friday, April 8th. Thank you for your support!



<b>Coconut Egg</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>	
<b>Peanut Butter Egg</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>	
<b>Chocolate Egg</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>	

**Name &**  
**phone #**



### The More the Merrier!

If you would like to come and help the youth make their delicious Easter Eggs let Mary Vorous know.

The eggs will be made on Sunday, April 10th starting at noon in the Social Hall. We will continue until all the orders are filled. There are many different jobs to do so why not join the FUN!!!!



First United  
Methodist Church  
308 North Braddock  
Street  
Winchester, VA 22601  
& Apple Pie Ridge  
Campus directly  
across from the  
Apple Pie Ridge  
Elementary School

Web site:  
[www.fumcwinchester.org](http://www.fumcwinchester.org)  
Church: 540-662-3151  
Fax: 540-662-1462

### Staff

Rev. William M. White  
Pastor

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Director of Youth  
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Debbie MacKnight  
Preschool Director

Susan Brown  
Lay Leader

Jennifer White  
Treasurer

Ellen Cavanagh, RN  
Faith Community Nurse

Queenie Dockenev  
Custodian

Wayne Corbett  
Organist and Music  
Director

Gary Fisher  
Choir Director

Melinda Russell  
Hand Bell  
Director

Wayne Corbett &  
Melinda Russell  
Children's Choir Directors



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Winchester, VA

## Sonsurf Beach Blast VBS is June 26th-30th

The Children's Coordinators (Martha Ingliss and Lyda Kiser) have selected a beach theme for this year's VBS. Members of the church, Discovery preschoolers, and any friends you wish to invite are welcome. In order to reach more children, it is the dream of the Children's Coordinators to offer VBS during the day this year. To make this dream a reality, we will need adults and youth to volunteer. Speak to Martha, Lyda, or call the church office if you can help. Come "hang ten" in the fellowship hall June 26<sup>th</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ages 3 through 12 are invited to participate!

