

SAVE THE DATE – MAY 19-20, 2017

Save the Date. On May 19 and 20, 2017, the Capital Area Baptist Association will present the program, *Healthy Congregations*. The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center will lead this program which is for clergy and congregants specifically designed to improve people's capacity to calmly articulate what they think and value, and to act on that basis, while staying in active relationship with those who may disagree.

This is another important growth opportunity for our church. In our church's profile, we acknowledged that we have a history of being uncomfortable in dealing with conflicts. This workshop helps congregations develop approaches to discussing differing views while preserving the fellowship within the church. The program consists of two segments. The Friday segment runs from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Saturday segment starts at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:30 p.m. The cost will be for the workbook, \$20, and a small hospitality fee for snacks, meals, and beverages. There will be more details coming – but for now – save the date!

CARE CORNER

Please pray for continued opportunities to invite people to faith and new people to fellowship in the church.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

In the last few months, our congregation went through a season of change with the passing of Marie Bonner, Janet Wilkinson, and Carol Wilsey. Each person was a special blessing to our congregation and individually their passing is a loss. In the collective, their passing creates a significant change in our church. It is a time to weep, to mourn, and experience the sense of loss. This is natural and part of the human experience. What distinguishes Christians is our belief that those who died have victory enjoying eternal life with Jesus. Therefore, it is a time to dance, to embrace one another, a time to love one another, and a time to heal. In short, it is a time to turn to God who walks with us through the darkest times into renewed hope.

Please continue to talk to one another about Marie, Janet, and Carol. It is important to share their memories and celebrate their lives. Please continue to encourage one another. This is our present season and God will see us through it.

Peace,

Pastor George

SCHEDULE OF MAJOR EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

	<p>Monday, February 6 - We will serve a community meal and distribute personal care items at TAUM in Troy at 6:00 pm.</p>
	<p>Wednesday, February 15 – The LCBC small group will meet with dinner and bible study. Dinner at 6:00 pm and study at 7:00 pm. Please join.</p>
	<p>Saturday, February 18 at 9:00 a.m. – Join us for our second meeting of the missional leadership program.</p>
	<p>Wednesday, March 1 – The LCBC small group will meet with dinner and bible study. Dinner at 6:00 pm and study at 7:00 pm. Please join.</p>

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed to preparing food for the recent memorial service for Janet Wilkinson and funeral service for Carol Wilsey.

BRIDGES FOR CHURCHES

In 2016, we completed our church profile and concluded the statement, “Centered in Christ; Serving the Community” best described our church and its current mission. We have an opportunity to understand how we can better put that statement into practice.

On Saturday, March 11, the Capital Area Baptist Association will present Bridges for Churches, led by Mike Saccocio, Executive Director, Schenectady City Mission. Bridges for Churches will help you gain a better understanding of poverty, and from that understanding develop more effective outreaches to people in poverty. We will also receive a Biblical framework for applying the principles and constructs contained in the Bridges Out of Poverty trainings.

Our church will host the event, Saturday, March 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost will be \$20 for the workbook and a \$6 hospitality fee for lunch, snacks, and beverages.

This is an important event for our church as we continue to understand how best to reach out in Christ’s love to the local community. Please make every effort to attend. If cost is a concern, please let Pastor George know.

INTEGRAL MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

On January 21, we held the first meeting of Mission Team Building program. Twenty-six people from Capital area churches attended. We learned about the power of in the story of God, ourselves, and in others. This was our first step in learning about the avenues to move the message of Christ’s love and hope from the church building to the neighborhood. Please join us for our next meeting on Saturday, February 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.