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Pastor's Corner

A Dead Man Comes Back to Life! (No advertising gimmick.)

I like to learn about kind of "quirky" things shall we say! Like, "How is it that advertisers suck us in to the nuttiest of ideas?" In the *Wise-Crack Dictionary*, 1926, a gimmick is defined as "a device used for making a fair game crooked." Is Easter a gimmick?

"So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them . . ." (Matthew 28:8,9a, NIV)

Can you imagine burying a friend, doing the funeral, and then meeting him on your way to work the next week? It sounds like this headline should be on the Tabloid rack not the World News section of any respected newspaper.

We look at the world and we see the opposite of Jesus. In 2000 years, has anything really changed since Jesus was preaching on the hillsides? There's still greed, larceny, abuse, wayward spouses, extreme poverty, earthquakes, drug abuse, and pride. Has anything changed?

Let me be a bit personal: Have you changed? Do you do things differently now than you did ten years ago □ because of Jesus? Business dealing? Parenting? Desires? Love for your spouse? Caring about the world?

I'd like to suggest to you that Jesus didn't "advertise," He didn't "supersize," He didn't use gimmicks, He "life-ized." He came to change your life □ for real. Not gimmicks. Easter.

He came to Life-ize you with Easter: to radically purify your human nature so that it was infused with the life and love of Jesus. He came to give you a divine power to overcome wrong, destructive habits, sin, and darkness. He came to lead you into wholeness with Him.

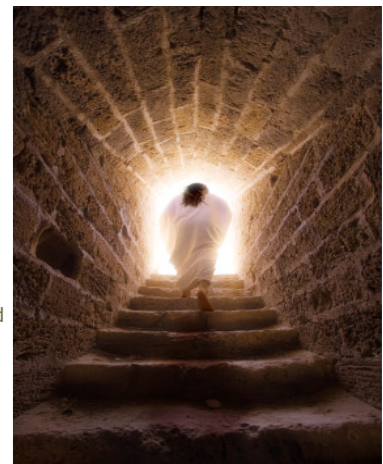
He came to change how you spend your time. He came to tell you there's a love larger than you could ever imagine. That's Life-sizing Easter! He came so that His desires for this world could actually become your desires. He came to help out your kids when they were in trouble. Life-sizing is his business for coming at all.

Get Life-ized this Easter! And invite others to a "life-ized" Easter! Come to Life!

Join us on the Hill outside church with friends on Good Friday, April 2nd for a Crucifixion Drama on the Hill at 5:30pm, and then again at 7:00pm as the start of our Good Friday service! Come to Life on Easter morning with 7 different life worship opportunities. Bring friends.

Get real with Easter and Jesus will really get real with you.

Pastor Sandy



Easter Events At Pender

- March 28, Palm Sunday - Choir Cantata, "Come Touch the Robe"
- April 1 @7:30 pm, Holy Thursday - "The Garden"
- April 2 @7:00 pm, Good Friday - "Come, See and Touch" We'll begin outside with "Crucifixion on the Hill" Please dress for weather
- April 3 @10:00 am, Kids' Easter Celebration with Egg Hunt (rain or shine)
- April 4

6:30 am Sunrise
8:15 am Traditional Easter Worship
9:30 am Traditional Easter Worship (with Communion)
9:30 am Modern Easter Worship **NEW!**
11:00 am Modern Easter Worship **NEW!**
11:00 am Traditional Easter Worship
7:00 pm Sing 'n Celebrate Easter

Come, Touch the Robe



Upcoming Sermons

March 14

Traditional:

The Cross and My Relationships Ephesians 2:11-22

The cross isn't just a symbol. It is a practical application that is needed in our relationships. You don't have to be involved with people long to realize there are so many divisions and conflicts that take place. Is there a way to reconcile? Is there a way to restore division or conflict? Jesus did just that with the cross. Let's see how to apply it to our relationships

Common Ground:

I'm too busy to . . . Scratched & Dented series

When is busyness a sin? How do I get help?

March 21:

Traditional:

The Pender Crosses: A Reminder Luke 23:32-43

Cross Training isn't always easy and it isn't always something we want to do. There were 3 crosses on Calvary on that Good Friday. In the front of Pender Church stands a modernized version of those 3 crosses. They look funny and even a bit strange but they remind us of 3 choices in life. Which do we choose to live in daily? Let's make a choice on Sunday.

Common Ground:

I want more. Scratched & Dented series

When does "I want more" empty your soul? Have you found what you're looking for?

March 28:

Traditional:

Palm Sunday: Choir Cantata "Come Touch The Robe"

Common Ground:

What's My Story? Scratched & Dented series

What's his story? Who does he think he is anyway? It's a slow whine to the bottom, but encouragement to the top.

Upcoming Sermons *Con't*

April 1: Holy Thursday

April 2: Good Friday

April 4:

Traditional:

EASTER DAY From Carrying a Cross to Wearing a Crown

Cross carrying makes us a disciple of Jesus. Easter ushers us into a new life unlike anything we have known. We are already wearing a crown, seated in heavenly places, made alive to live differently. Does Easter really transform the way we live from cross to crown? Yes it does! Let's discover what that means this Easter Sunday.

Common Ground

"Released: Come Alive! Scratched & Dented series

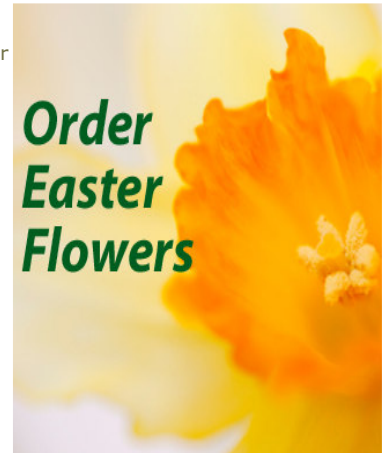
EASTER is a day of celebration at all of the services at Pender:

- 6:30 a.m. Sunrise
- *8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- *9:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Common Ground Contemporary Worship in Fellowship Hall "
- *11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. - Common Ground Contemporary Worship in Fellowship Hall (NEW!) "Released: Come Alive!"
- 7:00 p.m. Sing 'n Celebrate Worship in the Sanctuary

* denotes that the "Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel will be sung

Order Easter Plants By Mar 14

You may order Easter plants to be placed on the altar on Easter in memory or in honor of a loved one. Plants are yours to take after the last service on Easter Sunday. Deadline to order is Mar 14 and payment is requested with order. Order forms are available on the Welcome Table in the Narthex.



Confirmation Classes Starting Mar 21

Confirmation classes for youth in 7th grade and up are starting Mar 21. Confirmation Sunday is May 23, and will be during the 11:00 service. See [Youth Activities Page](#) for more information.



Missions Conference April 16 - 18

Come share in this exciting weekend! The Annual Missions Conference is an opportunity to meet visiting missionaries, hear their stories about what God is doing in the lives of people, and how lives are being changed throughout the world because of Pender's Faith Promise Missions outreach. Come and be blessed by sharing in the excitement and joy!

The conference keynote speaker will be Rev. Richard McClain, President of The Mission Society.

See the [Missions Conference](#) section for additional details and updates!

Flea Market April 29 And May 1

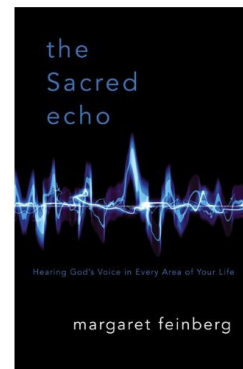
The yearly flea market will be held April 29 - May 1. Stay tuned for times and volunteer opportunities.

Sacred Echo Lenten Devotional Study

[The Sacred Echo](#) By Margaret Feinberg

When God seeks our attention, He doesn't just say something once, He echoes it. Maybe a Sunday sermon, a conversation with a friend, or a random e-mail will echo that idea, impression or theme so that we can recognize God at work. As God's voice echoes to us, we are invited to echo back to God through prayer.

Join in this week - Tuesday night or Thursday night. Contact Pastor Sandy.



Welcome To Pender Group

Welcome to Pender Group forming now! If you are new to Pender and would like to meet others new to Pender, as well as the pastors and some key leaders in our church, this group has your name on it! We'll be meeting on Sunday afternoons at 4:30pm soon. Contact the church office for information on dates, times and child care arrangements.

The Much Is A-Comin'!

Mulch delivery March 13 and March 20

The Pender Men's Mulch Sale Proceeds supplement the Faith Promise Funding - to extend our missions worldwide:

- International Missions to Peru, Poland, Paraguay, Africa, Guatemala, etc.
- Local Missions Support for Rebuilding Together, Voices of Youth, Outreach Center, etc.
- Fun, Fellowship - Sweetheart Banquet, Retreat

70 pound bag / 3 cubic feet

Still \$4.50 a bag

plus

Free Delivery in March



How to Order

1. Print out and [Complete Order Form](#) or [Order Online](#)
2. Total your order
3. Write check to **Pender United Methodist Men**
4. Volunteer to deliver - we need drivers with pickup trucks!

Drop off your order at the Men's Fellowship table by the steps leading to the Fellowship Hall

Order early / Pay early and help PUMM ! !

No Orders Taken after 16 Mar or until sold out

See David Cacner or send request via [Contact PUMM](#) for more info

Go Go Girls Fundraisers For Avon Walk For Breast Cancer

For the third year, a team of "Go Go Girls" will be walking in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Washington, DC. Please join us at the following fundraisers to raise money for the fight against breast cancer. If the vendor requires a specific flyer for the event, you can pick one up at the Pender Welcome Table in the Narthex. All proceeds from these fundraisers will benefit the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

For more information about the Avon Walk, please visit www.avonwalk.org

For information about the Go Go Girls, or to donate online, please visit www.avonwalk.org/goto/gogogirls

JASON'S DELI

March 18 and April 5 (4:00 to 10:00 pm)

12955 Fair Lakes Shopping Center

Bring the attached flyer and 10% of sales will be donated

BAJA FRESH

March 30 (4:00 to 10:00 pm)

12150 Fairfax Town Center

15% of ALL sales will be donated (no flyer needed)

TROPICAL SMOOTHIE CAFE

April 14 (4:00 to 8:00 pm)

14220 B Centerville Square

Bring the attached flyer and 25% of sales will be donated



Online Giving Is Coming...

Giving is one of the central themes in the Bible. Jesus talked more about this subject than heaven, hell or prayer. Pender is getting ready to introduce online giving as an option to our congregation. The Web has radically changed the way we shop, conduct our finances, get our news, participate in politics and it's EVEN changing the way we give. These days, most people appreciate the ability to make a financial contribution even when they're not able to give in person. Many people also appreciate the ability to plan their giving and set it up so that they don't have to think about it every Sunday as they are running out the door to attend worship service.

If you are one of these people, Online Giving will simplify your life!

Giving online is safe and secure. Whether you want to submit a single donation, would like to set up scheduled giving or view giving history, you will be able to do it all online. Online Giving will process donations directly from your bank account using the ACH (Automated Clearing House) payment method. Pender's program will be like the method many of you are now using to pay bills online and manage your bank accounts. You will be completely in control of your giving. The process will be easy to follow and the office staff will be available to give hands on assistance.

Online Giving will also help Pender by helping to ensure consistent donations throughout the year, particularly when winter storms, vacations or illness lowers attendance. Everyone benefits and the ministries we have in serving God will not be impaired by periods of shortfall giving.

We will have Online Giving up and running in March. You can start preparing by making sure the church office has your correct email address. This address will be your entry point into online giving. Your email address will enable the system to recognize you and link your online contributions to your overall contribution record. That way we'll have a single, comprehensive giving record for you in one place. If we don't have your correct email address, please send it to us in an email [Church Office](#).

As always we thank you for your contributions to the ministries at Pender, and urge you to consider Online Giving!

Ministry News

LENTEN CARE NOTES are available in a rack on the right wall near the Sanctuary entrance. These 8-page booklets offer spiritual encouragement and help. Three of the booklets focused on Lent are: *A Simple Family Prayer Plan for Lent*, *40 Days & 40 Ways to Make the Most of Lent This Year* and *Making a Family Way of the Cross*.

COMMUNION SERVERS needed the 1st Sunday of the month at both 8:15 & 11:00. Contact [Jenna](#).

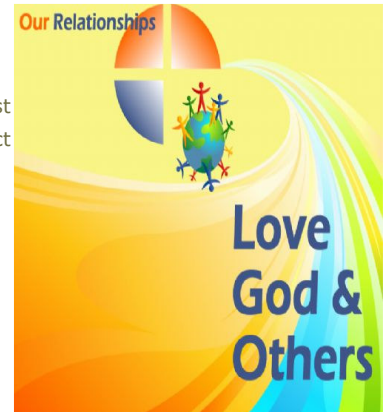
CREATIVE COMPUTER TYPES NEEDED The "Know God" cluster needs volunteers to assist during the 8:15 and 11:00 services by operating the Power Point/Easy Worship programs, or the audio sound board. Power point/Easy Worship are used to display the praise songs and slides used by the pastors. The time you volunteer will help all those in worship have a more fulfilling and rewarding time. No experience necessary, and on-the-job training will be provided. If you can serve God in this ministry area, please contact David Cahoon, 202-631-4894 (cell) or [Contact David](#).

PENDER OUTREACH CENTER - Every 2nd & 4th Saturday from 9:30 12 noon as we minister to those struggling to make ends meet. We could also use your help each Saturday morning (also from 9:30 12 noon) packing up boxes and moving items from the storage pod inside the Outreach Center as well as organizing and moving furniture. This is an excellent opportunity for students looking to fulfill their community service hours as well as fellowshiping with others. Contact the church office for more information.

Love God And Others

Volunteers

Only have a few minutes to give but you would like to help! Can you make a phone call or send out an e-mail? We're looking for friendly people who are willing to give a call to our first time guests at Pender! How friendly are you? To find out more about this opportunity contact Laura Shuping at 703-222-6418 or [Contact Laura](#)



Gifts In Action

It's never too late to make a New Year's Resolution. . .

You can truly make a difference by sharing your time, talents, and spiritual gifts so that God's kingdom will continue to move forward in 2010. There are many opportunities available at Pender where you can find your niche if you have not already done so.

To share your gifts, you can:

- Check out the Servant's Guide for a listing of those opportunities. Copies of the Servant's Guide are available from the church office, in the narthex of the church, or from Doc Rock.
- Contact any of the Serve God Cluster team members and let them know which area you are most interested in serving
- Talk to one of the pastors about your interests and gifts.

We hope you will find a ministry program that will empower you to recognize and use your special spiritual gifts. Not sure what your spiritual gift or gifts are? Join a class to learn more by contacting Doc Rock.

Job or Ministry?

Is serving the Lord a "job" or a "ministry"? Some people do things at the church and treat it as a job, while others get involved at the church and treat it as a ministry.

- If you are doing something just because no one else will, it is a job. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it is a ministry.
- If you are doing it as long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it is a job. If you are committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it is a ministry.
- If you do it because someone else said it needs to be done, it is a job. If you do it because you think it needs to be done, it is a ministry.

An average church is filled with people doing a job. A great and growing church is filled with people who are involved in a ministry!

Gift Opportunities

Worship and prayer are activities where we invite God to talk to us. We listen and respond. But I am sure you know that it takes many volunteers to help us prepare to worship God and respond to His call. How are these volunteers found? How are they chosen? Many volunteers have discovered an act or ministry where they can use their spiritual gifts and ask for the opportunity to serve. Your spiritual gifts are "special abilities given by the Holy Spirit and distributed to every believer according to God's design and grace for the common good of the body of Christ." (Network, Bruce Bugbee and Don Cousins, p.33) Consider the following areas where volunteers are currently needed:

Gifts In Action (Con't)

- Ushers
- Communion service preparers
- Counters
- Greeters
- Caregivers for small children whose parents are in worship
- Sunday School teachers
- Sunday School substitute teachers
- Sunday School Coordinator and assistants
- Reporters and web site editors who share the good news
- Special event organizers
- Actors for drama skits
- New Member visitors

Contacts

Serve God Cluster members who are available to help you identify your spiritual gifts:

Kay Matthias
Sarah Hocker
Mary Ann Hinkle
Beth Dougherty

Church leaders who are available to assist you in ministry placement:

KT Tarro Dave Shuping
Janet McConaghie Dale Rice
Meredith Kinerney Andy Murphy
Rich Taddeo Karen Cross
Mary Wetzler Joey Kelly
Laura Shuping Doug Gaskell
Staci Tyrrell Ben Nantz

Send an e-mail message to [Contact Serve God cluster](#) to contact any of these individuals.

You can make a difference. One act at a time. . . just one!

Jelly Beans For Jesus April 3

Jelly Beans for Jesus Easter Event. Join us for an Egg Hunt and Activities. Saturday, April 3rd 10:00am

There will be lots of fun for all, including: a puppet show, egg hunts (organized by age groups), craft tables, movie corner, cookie decorating and even photos with the Easter Bunny!

Come rain or shine; no RSVP necessary.

United Methodist Women

Wednesday Evening 7:30 PM Bible Study:

- Feb. 24 - Apr 7 -- The Sacred Echo by Margaret Feinberg, a congregational study for Lent
- April 14 - June 16 -- 1 & 2 Thessalonians

United Methodist Men

- March 24 7pm - Monthly Dinner Meeting
- April 21 7pm - Monthly Dinner Meeting

Signup online on the [Pender United Methodist Men](#) section to help Ruth and her Kitchen Angels properly estimate the amount of food to prepare

Pender's History Book Rooted, Grounded And Growing

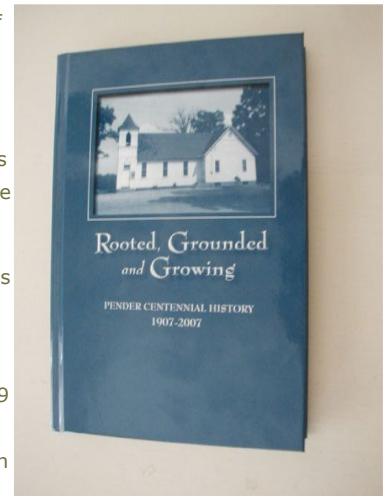
At a loss for a gift for someone who has everything? Consider giving them fond memories of various events that have taken place over the years at Pender.

Where can you find these memories?

Check out Pender's own history book, **Rooted, Grounded and Growing**. There are pictures from the many mission conferences held at Pender; stories of how Pender Hill School and the handbell choirs were started; and even a recipe for baking Mrs. Wood's dinner rolls.

Feel free to browse through a copy of the book available at the welcome table in the church's narthex.

You can get the book in a number of ways, whatever is most convenient for you. Purchase a book at the welcome table on Sunday morning, contact either Kay Matthias at 703-968-6689 or [Contact Kay](#) or Mary Ann Hinkle at 703-631-8614 or [Contact Mary Ann Hinkle](#), or order through Pender's web site, www.penderumc.org. The cost is \$20 and a check may be written to Pender United Methodist Church.



About The Pender Post

May I submit something for next month's Pender Post?

YES! Send submissions to [Contact Pender Post](#). Remember to include the following when submitting: Who (person or group) is sponsoring the event(s), When (or how often) is the event occurring, What any cost would be, Where it will be held, Contact information for additional questions about the event. Keep in mind that this will be published on the web, so only include contact information that you are comfortable publishing to everyone on the planet. Also, please let us know which month(s) you would like the submission to appear (i.e., May; or June through August; or "as long as possible"). Note that specific formatting of the submission may need to be changed to fit within the Post online format. We will work with the submitter if major changes need to be made.

What are the deadlines for making a submission or correction?

Please submit items by the 1st of the month to be included in that month's Post. The current publication schedule is the second Friday of each month.

What isn't published in the Post?

As this format is no longer just available to the general Pender UMC community, and in adherence to the Pender UMC website policy, for privacy and safety concerns, we are not including birth and new member announcements, nor information regarding missionaries.

Can I print just a portion of the Post?

Due to the way the sections are presented, unless you highlight just the text you want, even if you are only viewing a specific section, you will print the entire issue. To just print a specific section, you will need to highlight only the text you want to print.