

The United Methodist Church of Wappingers

9 South Mesier Avenue, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Scharlise Dorsey, Pastor

Linda Finnerty, Organist / Music Director

Office (845) 297-3208

umcofw@hotmail.com

www.wappingersfallsumc.com

2018: A Year of Moving Forward

Yes, GOD, your God, dried up the Jordan's waters for you until you had crossed, just as GOD, your God, did at the Red Sea, which had dried up before us until we had crossed. This was so that everybody on earth would recognize how strong GOD's rescuing hand is and so that you would hold GOD in solemn reverence always.

Joshua 4:23-24

Third Sunday of Easter

April 15, 2018

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

LEADER: Come with your doubts and fears.

PEOPLE: **This is scary.**

LEADER: Call on God, who will answer you.

PEOPLE: **God is hard to hear these days.**

LEADER: Come to the One who will give your souls peace. It is so hard to believe. Come, claim your identity as beloved children of God.

PEOPLE: **We come, uncertain, but longing to hear God speak to us this morning.**

OPENING PRAYER: Come to us, God, for we are waiting – waiting and hoping that your word of peace will soothe our fearful and doubting souls. Open our hearts to the message you would share with us today through song, prayer and meditation, that our souls might reach out, touch you, and believe. Help us claim our identity as your beloved children. Help us live into this identity, today and always, that we might radiate your love to others. Come, beloved One, we are here to listen and be transformed. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God of our heart and lives, too many times have we doubted and turned away, failing to recognize you or your voice; denying our true identity. We despair of the way things are in the world and can find no true peace. We search for answers in places where truth cannot be found. We long to return to you, O God, that we may hear your voice in the maelstrom and in the cacophony of voices that overwhelm our senses and cloud our minds. Strengthen our wondering unbelief, and fulfill our longing to truly know you. Open our minds to understand the scriptures, and transform our lives into a powerful witness of your radical love for all. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: Like the disciples on the beach, may our minds be opened, and may our hearts burn with understanding as the scriptures are read this day. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Acts 3: 12-19

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE LESSON:

1 John 3:1-7

ANTHEM

* GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 24: 36b-48

SERMON

Pastor Dorsey

RESPONSE HYMN:

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

UMH

462

FWS # 2196

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

FAMILY PRAYER TIME

You are invited to come forward to the prayer rail for a time of personal prayer for healing, intercession on behalf of others in need, or to rededicate your life to Christ. You may then return to your seat or stay at the prayer rail throughout the time of prayer. Also anyone looking for a church home is welcome to come forward.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF OUR TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

**Doxology*

UMH # 95

***OFFERTORY PRAYER: Beloved and Beloving One, how can we adequately thank you for all that you have given us? We respond by offering you our very selves and the gifts of our resources—tokens of our love for you. May they touch the lives of others, as we have been touched, that all may know your radical, forgiving, transforming love. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN:

"God of the Ages"

UMH # 698

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

****Go forth to love and serve God and your neighbor in all that you do!**