

# SP&SA UPDATE

## April 2015

### JUST LOVE

By K Karpen

We've been going back and forth (and forth and back) about finding a vision statement that would sum up what this church is up to, and sum it up using the fewest possible words. The talk has focused on the desire to serve the people outside our walls, and at the same time to support each other in a community of faith. To do either (or both) requires a mixture of love and justice.



The resulting contenders for a vision statement ranged from, "Gathering the people of God for the work of love and justice" to "Caring for Each Other So We Can Care for the World" and "Building a Community of Hope for God's Work of Love and Justice".

Lots of love, lots of justice.

Finally at a recent meeting, a very wise soul blurted out, "'Just Love!' How about that?"

Everyone laughed and went on with the meeting. But you could do a lot worse in summing up the work of a church. You could do a lot worse in summing up the teaching of Jesus. And you could do a lot worse in summing up the message of Holy Week & Easter.

What could possibly have led Jesus to enter Jerusalem that Palm Sunday, knowing he was moving closer and closer to his death? Just love.

What moved Jesus to gather with his friends for a farewell feast, offering himself to them in the brokenness of the bread? Just love.

What drove Jesus to suffer and die on a cross, all the time begging his God to forgive the actions of his enemies? Just love.

What force could possibly overcome

death, raising Jesus from dark, cold non-existence into the light and life of the resurrection? Want to take a guess?

And what is the only way for people like us, for a church like ours, to live the gospel and to be good news? **Just love.**

### HOLY WEEK AT SP&SA

#### Sunday, March 29 PALM SUNDAY

10:40 am. Blessing of the Palms & Donkey!  
11:00 am. Palm Sunday Celebration  
6:00 pm. Palm Sunday Potluck

#### Thursday, April 2 HOLY THURSDAY

6:30 pm. Light meal and service, Sanctuary

#### Friday, April 3 GOOD FRIDAY

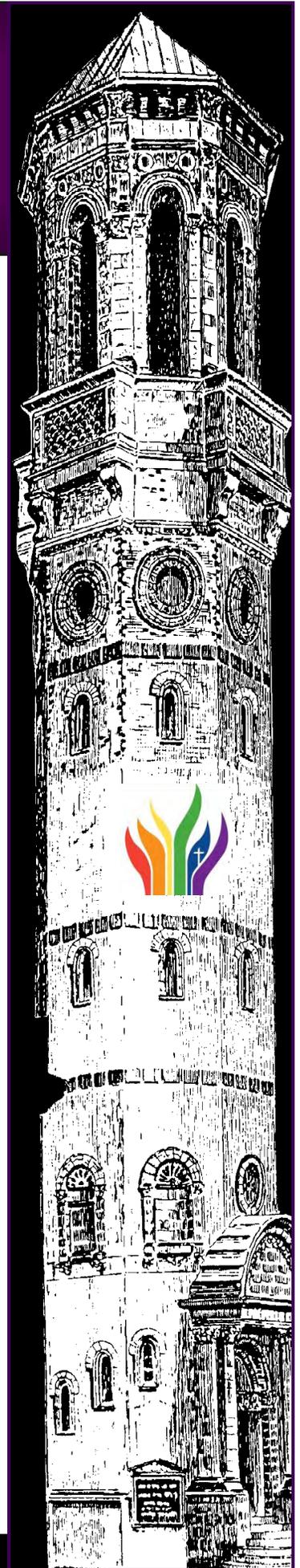
6:00 pm. CrossWalk, Meet at Times Sq (43rd)  
8:30 pm. Good Friday Service, sanctuary

#### Saturday, April 4

2:00 pm. Sanctuary clean-up & set up

#### Sunday, April 5 EASTER!

6:30 am. Sunrise Service in Central Park  
11:00 am. Celebration of the Resurrection





SPIRITUAL CORNER:

## Messy Spring

Well, we've made it. After a long, hard winter, it's finally spring! Now, reread that last sentence and insert "Lent" for winter and "Easter" for spring. We've made it through the long, somber, barren season of Lent. And the last three days? They are the worst. Betrayal, denial, torture, tears and death.

But once we're on the other side, we're praising God for the power of resurrection and new life. We see it in Christ, in nature, in ourselves.

The transition has its challenges. Change isn't easy. Many times it's messy. Maybe a tiny part of us enjoyed the hibernation of winter. Or we can feel comfortable in the penitent, thoughtful season of Lent – a reflective, disciplined time, but moving forward to a new thing? That's hard.

## SPSA Women's Retreat April 17-19

Held in Cornwall-on-Hudson in the shadow of Storm King Mountain, the retreat is a chance to get away to refresh spirit, mind and body. It is also a chance for easy "fellowship" with others over morning coffee chats, quiet walks, communal dinner preparation and joyful singing.



You can journal, paint, hike, run or visit nearby Dia Beacon or Storm King Art Center. Or you can plop yourself in a cozy warm corner or on a blanket in the sun and read, daydream or snooze. The choice is yours.

Many of the women at SPSA have attended previous retreats so if you have questions please just ask someone about their experience.

Or for more specific information don't hesitate to contact Siobhan Sargent ; Elizabeth Jensen, Peggy Griffin-Jackman ,Martha Patton, Robin Bahr-deStefano ,or Nancy Meyers.

**Please sign up for this wonderful event.**

So, I encourage you to embrace a messy spring. Start by touching some dirt or soil (please, be sure it's actually dirt!) Feel the messiness.



Remember those ashes on Ash Wednesday? The ones that remind us of our mortality – that we come from ashes and to ashes we shall return. Well, this is a little different. Soil is where new life begins, where blossoms spring forth.

Now think about the soil in your own life? Where is God planting a seed and waiting for it (you) to grow?

*If you'd like to contribute to the "Spiritual Corner" e-mail  
Barbara Wheeler*

MISSION, CHURCH & SOCIETY

## THANK YOU!

A big THANK YOU to all who signed the letter concerning Homelessness and Housing issues in NYC. The Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing brought our 77 letters to Albany along with the 400+ others signed by congregations across the city. This is not the end of the story... more action needs to take place. We'll let you know.

One more big THANK YOU for a very successful and happy Baby Shower for the mothers of Bedford Hills and their babies. So many lovely baby items were placed on the gift tables with big smiles on the faces of the givers. All gifts have been picked up and delivered!



PLEASE log on to Bread for the World ([bread.org](http://bread.org)) to keep up with the ongoing legislative issues concerning hunger and justice. This will be in preparation for a Letter Writing on Sunday April 12th. Being informed makes it easier to write a meaningful letter. Sample letters will be on each table.

The NYC CROP Walk is taking place on May 3rd. Ken Tulloch will be at his usual place in the Social Hall for sign-up. Start working out those muscles!!



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Racial Justice by Shirley Struchen

Our UMW unit met with SPSA's youth and young adults in March. Janis Rosheuvel led us in reviewing The Charter for Racial Justice, adopted by the UM General Conference in 1980.

Book Reading suggestion: "Fellowship of Love."

Racial Justice is such a large area to cover that our April 12 meeting will be a continuation, with Jo Goodson-Tiedeman as facilitator. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion and action!

On May 17 we invite all to the meeting, *Ministry with the Poor: What's WITH got to do with it?* by Mary Ellen Kris.

Our June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting program will be *The rich heritage of our missionary tradition*. How do we picture the "traditional" missionary? What informs our opinion--



since few of us have actually researched or studied very much about missionaries? We will look at a number of surprising and fascinating facts about Methodist missionaries, mavericks, and movers. Led by Christie House.



And some history-

On March 23, 1869, a group of women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society what would become United Methodist Women. The women raised money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation.

### TRUSTEES TOPICS:

#### Looking Up!

By Nancy Meyers

**Endowment:** Thank you! Because of your generosity on our anniversary Sunday we received approximately \$5,000 to be added to the SPSA Endowment. As the Trustees continue to focus on this important piece of our future we met in late March with our investment manager to review our portfolio to make sure the allocations best suit our needs. We have always followed the UMC socially responsible investment policies, but we now wish to take that a step further and divest of fossil fuel investments.

**Theatre:** The WET is not only a wonderful creative asset for us but is also the source of a large percentage of the space-use income that helps sustain us. Like much of our building it is subject to a lot of wear and tear and needs some TLC. We had two volunteer work days in the theatre last month that made some good headway on cleaning it out and sprucing it up. We hope this is the first of several improvements. If you would like to be a part of helping to support this vital space, please contact Jon Mikel Zeigler, WET Managing Director .).



**Save Our Steps:** After repeated winter weather delays we are hoping that the sun will come out and our steps will be installed by the end of April. While this is indeed wonderful news we still need to finish paying for them. If you have not contributed yet, and are in a financial position to help, please consider helping us to close our funding gap by giving what you can to "Save Our Steps." Can you help? Contact K Karpen.





Our 2015 Peace Feast brought together 140 Jews, Muslims and Methodists for good food & great conversation. Chris Grabenstein MC-ed



Men's bake sale for the Women's Retreat; Paul C. shares an auctioned cake; Rosie Pohlmann tells the trustees about fossil fuel divestment.

## YOUNG ADULTS: A Heartfelt Goodbye

By Lea Mathews

It is an unfortunate, but understandable, truth that young adults are a particularly transient group of folks. So much happens in one's 20s and 30s. College completion, graduate school, job movement and improvement, engagement, marriage and babies can all feature in this particular time slot of life. And almost all of that can affect where you live.

It's the reason that those of us in this age group are so hungry for community, for dependable companionship through all the change. At SPSA over the past year, I have watched a group of individuals



form a meaningful community, where they have become invested in each other's lives and where support is offered in faith and growth. It has been my great pleasure to work with the Young Adults and feel at home in this fellowship of faithful friends.

One person who has been a pillar in our community is leaving us. Mary Alice

Korth will soon leave New York City, to return to Michigan, to start a program in Music Education. Mary Alice will move this May, to get re-established and begin to take in students for vocal training. She approaches this move with excitement and anticipation, and we join her in celebration of this next

adventure. I cannot imagine anyone better suited to teaching kids the worth and love of music.

But I must say, it is with sadness that we let her go. Mary Alice has been the first to come and the last to go at our events. She has offered us testimony and insight in Bible and Brew. She has led reflections at our brunches. And she has blessed us richly by the offering of her voice. Some of the most God-filled moments I have experienced at SPSA have been while listening to her sing. But she is so much more than that tremendous voice. We will miss you, Mary Alice. All of you. May God bless you on this next journey. And may you know that our prayers and pride go with you.

From all of us, with love.

Lea

Children & Families:

## Circle Time

By Elizabeth Clark Carpenton



With three separate children's Sunday school classes, it is easy for each class to feel a bit disconnected. In an effort to try and bring everyone together, we are starting something new. Each week after the children's message, before the children split up into their separate classrooms, we will be having Circle Time. This is a time where we come together, share with one another about whatever the main topic of class will be, and sing some songs together.



This week, we had our first Circle Time, and it was wonderful. So that everyone could get acquainted, we played a name game with our names and our favorite foods. Ice cream and chocolate were among the favorites. In Sunday school, we were focusing on Jesus in the Garden at Gethsemane, and so we talked about prayer. We talked about times in our lives when we pray and we each shared one thing we were going to pray about this week, including our friends in Circle Time. We also learned a new song together, called *Hosanna*

*Rock*. We sang and danced, and plan to share our song with the congregation on Palm Sunday. Circle Time is allowing us an opportunity to get to know one another on a deeper level, share our joys and concerns with each other and to have fun!

### Dates:

Palm Sunday March 29 (aka Donkey Day) -- 9:30 am Parent Breakfast; 10:40 am, Blessing of the Donkey; Children present the children's message at the 11 am service. And Palm Sunday Parsonage Potluck with egg decorating at 6:00 pm!

For more information contact Elizabeth Clark Carpenton.

## MIND: **HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MIND** (MEMBERSHIP)?

By Charlotte Patton

The Methodists In New Directions (MIND) Membership Drive is coming up this Easter Sunday. Please renew to help us do this necessary inclusiveness work. Membership is \$15 (more if you can, less if you need). We didn't ask you to renew last year so if you can make an extra contribution, it will be much appreciated! You can renew (or join for the first time) online at [www.midny.org/join-mind](http://www.midny.org/join-mind) or see me after church and I'll be happy to take your money. And join us for the Spring Organizing Meeting in White Plains on May 3rd, 2:30-4:30 pm. Again, thanks for all you do!



## Spring Retreat

May 1-3  
Shelter Island



Information:  
Charlene Floyd

### Every Member Commitment

## “I Support SPSA”

What we do depends on you!

If you have made a 2015 pledge, thank you!

If not, pledge cards are in the back of the Sanctuary.

## YOUTH:

# The Love of Easter

By Siobhan Sargent

*"Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant, or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."* 1

Corinthians 13:4-6

Embracing the Good News of Easter in my mind is working to live by these words Paul wrote to the Corinthians. How do we help make love real and alive in our hearts and minds? How can we bear witness to love resurrected in all our actions and thoughts? For the month of April we'll be exploring these questions during our weekly time together. Although Lent is over, taking on the daily meditation of what it means to journey with the risen Christ is still in the forefront of our efforts.

Practicing patience, kindness, bearing all things, believing all things, hoping all things and enduring all things is not some mental exercise but a surrender to love's call on our lives. Memorizing and praying over these words will be just one way that we invoke the spirit of God and Christ's presence in the life of our growing community.

Among other things, mark your calendars for Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>. After church Jessie and Cameron, this year's Youth Ambassadors to Antigua, will be offering a short presentation. It's a chance to see how their love sprung forth during this amazing trip in the relationships that they built but also in the construction work they sweated over!



Looking ahead! Calling all acts for the Youth Annual Coffee House Fundraiser, May 9! Come one, come all and support our youth ministry with your poetry, song and dance! Don't be shy, share instead! We'd love to hear from you. With your help this year's coffee house can be even better than last! We look forward to getting in touch with you and building our line-up of offerings!

We are continually grateful for the ongoing prayers of the congregation. We encourage any who feel they are being called to offer their gifts to this ministry to contact, Our youth ministry is certainly fun, sometimes a little crazy and always full of God's Spirit.

Many Blessings,  
*Siobhan*

## Upcoming Events

Holy Week! (see next page)

Palm Sunday Potluck at the Parsonage (Jessie & Harry's!)  
6:00 pm.

Flag Rehearsal, Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm  
& Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30am

Mentor Dinner, Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

Parent's Gathering, Fri. April 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm-8pm (location TBD)

Quinipet All-Church Retreat May 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>

Youth Coffee House, Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> 7pm

## CAMPUS MINISTRY:

# In the Home Stretch

By Joshua Foster

Hello everyone and Happy Easter! With spring break now over we are officially entering the home stretch for this school year and also for the Gathering. Although the end is near we are still going strong and meeting on Mondays at 8 pm in Broadway Residence Hall's 14th floor Sky Lounge. So please check out the Facebook page or reach out through email to be added to the weekly email list as we continue to create a comfortable space for prayer, discussions, snacks and fellowship.

Thank you all for your continued prayer and support. For weekly reminders and upcoming events please check out our Facebook page "CU Methodist Campus Ministries" or email Joshua Foster to be added to the weekly Gathering email reminder group.

Thank you very much and God bless.



Our new SPSA Directory is ready—get yours at Coffee Hour!

# April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 29 Palm Sunday!</b> 9:30 Bible Study; Family Breakfast 10 Choir 10:40 Blessing of Palms 11 Worship Siobhan Preaching 1 Youth Group 6 Palm Sunday Potluck	<b>March 30</b> 8 Gathering	<b>March 31</b> 6:30 Pilates 7:30 Knitting	<b>April 1</b> GEMS Delivery each Wed 3:30 Open Youth Room 6 Tutoring 7 Shelter	<b>2</b> 6:30 Maundy Thursday 7 Shelter	<b>3</b> 6 Crosswalk 8:30 Good Friday	<b>4</b> 2 Sanctuary cleanup 4 Choir Rehearsal Flag Rehearsal
<b>5 EASTER!</b> 6:30 Easter Sunrise, Central Park 9:30 Choir 11 Worship K Preaching 12:15 Coffee hour	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 4 GEMS Cooking 6:30 Pilates 7:30 Knitting 7:30 Mentor Dinner	<b>8</b> (no tutoring) 7 Shelter	<b>9</b> 7 Shelter	<b>10</b> GEMS Delivery each Friday	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30 Bible Study; 10 Choir 11 Worship 1 Youth Group 1 United Methodist Women	<b>13</b> 6:30 Church Council 8 Gathering	<b>14</b> 6:30 Pilates 7:30 Knitting 7:30 SPR	<b>15</b> 3:30 Open Youth Room 6 Tutoring 7 Shelter 7:15 Trustees	<b>16</b> 7 Shelter	<b>17</b> Women's Retreat	<b>18</b> Women's Retreat
<b>19 (Women's Retreat)</b> 9:30 Bible Study 10 Choir 11 Worship K Preaching 1 Youth Group	<b>20</b> 8 Gathering	<b>21</b> 6:30 Pilates 7:30 Knitting	<b>22</b> 3:30 Open Youth Room 6 Tutoring 7 Shelter	<b>23</b> 7 Shelter	<b>24</b> 6 Parents Night	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30 Bible Study; Parents Breakfast 10 Choir 11 Worship 1 Presentation of Antigua Work Trip	<b>27</b> 8 Gathering	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 3:30 Open Youth Room 6 Tutoring 7 Shelter	<b>30</b>	<b>May 1</b> Spring Getaway Retreat	<b>May 2</b> Spring Retreat

Shelter: Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00; AA Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00; Food Pantry, Monday 8:00 to 6:30, Wednesday to Friday 8:00 to 3:00.



**Palm Sunday! March 29**  
 10:40 Blessing of the Palms & the Donkey (West End Avenue)  
 11:00 Palm Sunday Celebration



**Palm Sunday Potluck**  
 6:00 Upstairs Parsonage (550 West End Ave, gate)  
 Bring something to share. We'll eat, sing, & dye eggs!



**Holy Thursday (4/2)**  
**Commemoration of the Last Supper**  
 6:30 in the Sanctuary  
 Light Meal and Service



**Good Friday (4/3)**  
**Walk with the Cross**  
 Times Square to SPSA  
 6:00 meet at 43rd St  
 We'll pause for prayer and song along the way



**Stations of the Cross**  
 8:30pm in the sanctuary  
 Prayer, song, reflections



**Easter Sunday (4/5)**  
**Sunrise Service**  
 6:30am Belvedere Castle  
 Central Park (79th St)  
 Easter Communion  
 Bring a poem, prayer, song



**Celebration of the Resurrection!**  
 11:00am  
 Music by Vicki Clark and our wonderful choir & musicians



## HOLY WEEK

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10:40 am. Blessing of the Palms & Donkey!

11:00 am. Palm Sunday Celebration

6:00 pm. Palm Sunday Potluck

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6:30 pm. Light meal and service, Sanctuary

### Friday, April 3 GOOD FRIDAY

6:00 pm. CrossWalk, Meet at Times Sq (43rd)

8:30 pm. Good Friday Service, sanctuary

### Saturday, April 4

2:00 pm. Sanctuary clean-up & set up

### Sunday, April 5 EASTER!

6:30 am. Sunrise Service in Central Park

11:00 am. Celebration of the Resurrection

The Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew  
United Methodist  
263 West 86th Street  
New York, NY 10024  
(212) 362-3179



Happy Birthday SPSA! We gathered in the Social Hall to celebrate 180 years!  
The West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH) Chefs made the gorgeous cake.