



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HARRISBURG AREA – SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE
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*“Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.”*
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” (Hymn 269)

Dear Pastors and Congregations,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the One whom God sent into the world to restore our broken humanity and bring us salvation!

As Claudia F. Hernaman reminded us in the words above, Lent is a very sacred time for God’s people. In Lent we are reminded how God faithfully led God’s people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promise Land. During Lent God guides the Church through the wilderness of this world to the glory of the world to come (*The Lutheran Book of Worship*). For me Lent has always held a holy place in my relationship with God. We retrace the steps of our Lord and Savior; and we are once again brought to the cross where God’s gift of unconditional love for humanity was visibly shown. The mood of Lent is usually penitential; however, as people of faith, we know that the story does not conclude in darkness and despair. Rather, on that first Easter morning God revealed first to Mary and then to the other disciples that death was conquered and Christ was alive!!! I would like to invite the churches and parishioners to consider a gift this Lenten/Easter season to help alleviate Malaria and support the work of Mission Central. We don’t generally associate gift-giving with Easter as much as we do with Christmas. However, Easter is an appropriate time to offer our gratitude for God’s saving gift. I would like to extend to the congregations and pastors of the Susquehanna Annual Conference the opportunity to consider a Lenten/Easter Gift for the Bishop’s Partners in Mission. The contributions will be evenly divided between Imagine No Malaria and the debt reduction for Mission Central, unless the donor requests otherwise.

Attached is a new brochure of Bishop’s Partners in Mission. Please print it to share with your congregation. Or you may contact my office for as many brochures as you need. Please plan to bring the offerings to the Ordination Service on Saturday, May 6th for a time of offering when all are invited to come forward to bring the gifts to Bishop’s Partners in Mission.

For all that you do on behalf of the needs of others, I offer my gratitude. Truly, we are an Easter People!

With You in Christ’s Mission,

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Jeremiah J. Park