

For Week of January 29, 2017

Stop Hunger Now

February 12-14

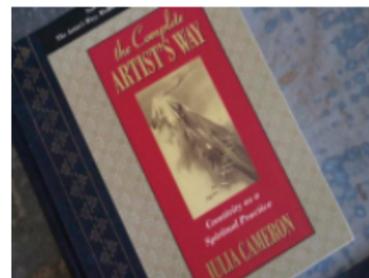
1 Container + 2 Churches + 3 Days
=300,000 Children Fed

Over the past seven years, more than 2,625,000 meals have been packed in Canterbury Hall for Stop Hunger Now. Canterbury has introduced this important ministry to many other churches across the city -- including Vestavia UMC, St. Stephens Episcopal, and Trinity UMC -- that now host their own packing events. We hope you will come be a part of this year's fun as we team up with our partner church St. Luke's Episcopal to fill an entire shipping container to feed 300,000 children. Check out [Canterbury's Website](#) and emails this week for your chance to sign up for this year's big event, or [register](#) today.



"The Artist's Way" New Morning Book Study

Thursdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m.
February 2 - April 27



Ann Cohen leads this enjoyable small group study of author Julia Cameron's popular book, "The Artist's Way." It's a study for "artists and non-artists, painters, filmmakers and homemakers and lawyers - anyone interested in living more creatively through practicing an art; even more broadly, anyone interested in practicing the art of creative living." Please join us in classroom M202 beginning next Thursday morning for a weekly gathering of people seeking creativity as a spiritual practice. For information, contact Brian Ward at brian.ward@canterburyumc.org.

Special Announcements

Thanksgiving for the Life of

Carolyn Ann Preston Goodwin.....January 15, 2017
Dr. Robert (Bob) McLaughlin.....January 19, 2017

In the Hospital / Rehab (as of January 26)

Teri Lavette.....St. Vincent's
W. T. (Goodloe) Rutland.....University



Traditional Worship

JANUARY 29, 2017

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

PREACHING — REV. DALE COHEN

LITURGIST — REV. TORI HASTINGS

CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST — DR. LESTER SEIGEL

COURAGE TO WAIT ON THE PROMISE

"[God] took [Abram] outside and said, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:5-6, NIV)

Promises are a beautiful thing. Usually, a promise is extended from one person to another in a relationship where trust already exists, where trust is developing, or where there is hope of a trusting relationship. The fulfillment of the promise causes the relationship to flourish, and trust grows. Unfortunately, promises are not always kept. We refer to these as broken promises. In failing to fulfill the promise, the one making the promise loses the trust of the other. The relationship suffers.

The Bible is a book full of promises. Interestingly, the majority of the promises we read in the Bible are the promises of God to his people. Time and time again, God, seeking to develop our trust in him, offers a promise to us. Here is a promise that is familiar to many of us:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

Abram, who would later be renamed Abraham, received the promise from God that, although he was advanced in years (another way of saying he was beyond the age of being able to father a child), he would be the father of many offspring. These offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and form a great nation known as the people of God. If God came through on this promise, it would be a miracle of epic proportions. Abram faced a critical choice: Either he could trust God in spite of the evidence given his advanced years, or he could remain in despair and potentially miss out on God's blessing. Abraham chose the former, and God did what he promised—resulting in the twelve tribes of Israel.

I said Abram chose to believe which is ultimately right; however, there was a slight detour to his faithfulness. In Genesis 16, you see Sarai, Abraham's wife, usurp waiting on God and offering up her servant, Hagar, to Abram as another wife and as a surrogate to bear a child. Ishmael is born of this union, but it only leads to jealousy. Waiting on God is always the preferred option to forcing our solutions. It's not until Genesis 21 that Abram and Sarai see the fulfillment of God's promise. It takes faith to wait. It takes courage to continue believing when the evidence suggests God is not coming through with what he promised. How often does our impatience delay the fulfillment of what God intends? What promise are you awaiting God to fulfill? Wait on the promise!

Dale R. Cohen
Dale Cohen, Senior Pastor

WELCOME CHILDREN! —Parents, make sure your children get a worship activity pack in the Narthex entrance area. The Children's Comfort Room is also adjacent to the Narthex.

Hearing assist devices and large print hymnals available — ask an usher for help.



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

