

March 26, 2023
ANNOUNCEMENTS & PASTORAL OBSERVATIONS

1. Members' Meeting: On Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 7 pm, we will have a Members' Meeting. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the next phase of our COVID Resuming of In-Person Worship and Ministry Plan, as well as a new partnership between Lomax and a community group. If there are any other topics members desire to discuss, please submit those topics to Pastor Nelson through Chantel in the church office so that they may be added to the meeting agenda.

2. Easter Lilies: This year Lomax Church will resume the tradition of ordering Easter lily plants to honor and/or remember loved ones. Each plant costs \$20.00. Sis. Andrea Peterbark is overseeing the order process, and all orders should be submitted by Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

You may place requests by either speaking directly with Sis. Andrea Peterbark, or via an online request form. Sis. Andrea will call anyone who submits a request online to follow up.

To call Sis. Andrea Peterbark directly: Call (703) 541-1552 or (703) 568-8511

To submit an online request, use the following link: <https://forms.gle/Cd5ZVPy1csHWNir46>

Payment options: Check (Make your check payable to Lomax Church. Add "Floral Ministry" to the memo line. You may pay through your envelope or mail it to the church.) or Givelify.

3. Lent and Holy Week 2023:

Lomax's 2023 Lenten Preaching Series -- This Wednesday, March 29, 2023, we will conclude our 2023 Lenten Preaching Serie. Our theme continues to be "Devoting Ourselves to Worship and Community Service," based upon 2 Cors. 8:5-6 (MSG) ("They had first given themselves unreservedly to God and to us. The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives.") **We hope that ALL members will commit to be present for in-person worship this Wednesday, and we especially are asking the members of Classes No. 9 and 11 to be present. This Wednesday, Rev. Dr. Frances "Toni" Draper, the former pastor of Freedom Temple AME Zion Church and publisher of the AFRO newspaper, will be our guest preacher. Members of the GMU Gospel Choir have been invited to provide our music.**

Holy Week 2023 -- We are excited share the following opportunities to observe Holy Week this year:

- **Lomax Holy Wednesday** - Please save the date for a community service activity in conjunction with St. Michael's Episcopal Church. We will be looking for at least five to 10 volunteers from Lomax. Details will be provided during the week once finalized.
- **Lomax Maundy Thursday** - Join us for Holy Communion and a service of congregational singing and scripture readings by members of our Class Leaders Board. Bro. Ray Pincham will share a brief meditation as well. This service will take place at 7 pm.
- **Lomax Good Friday** - We are excited to announce the 7 Last Words: The Laity Edition. Seven Lomax lay leaders will reflect on Jesus' final sayings, including: Sis. Debra Byrd, Lay Council; Bro. Fred Peterbark, Trustee Board; Sis. Denise Pincham, Deaconess Board; Bro. Kelvin Parson, Evangelism Ministry; Sis. Veronica Riley, Christian Education Department; Bro. Stephen Roye, Media Ministry; and Sis. Wilma Newby, Steward Board. This service will take place at 7 pm. A flyer will be provided during the week.
- **Arlington Community Good Friday Service** - The Arlington Coalition of Black Clergy and affiliated churches will have a community Good Friday service at 12 noon, at Mount Olive Baptist Church. Volunteers are needed to serve as both greeters/ushers and sing in the community choir. The choir will rehearse at 11 am immediately prior to the service on Friday, April 7th. **Pastor Nelson is requesting that at least two people volunteer to usher and four people agree to sing in the community choir. Those ushering or singing are asked to wear black or black and white.** Lomax's volunteers are asked to provide your names to Chantel through the church office. A flyer is below.

- **Pastor Nelson Good Friday Preaching Engagement:** Pastor Nelson has been invited to preach one of the 7 Last Words for the "Rush Hour to Calvary 2023" service sponsored by Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church. The service begins at 9 am. In addition to Pastor Nelson preaching, Bishop W. Darin Moore will preach, as well as Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference pastors Rev. Milton Williams, Jr. (Penn. Ave.) , Dr. Brian Relford (Union Wesley), Rev. Scot Moore (Judah Temple), Rev. Mark Thomas (Contee), and Dr. Timothy Freeman (Trinity). **Pastor Nelson would love to have the support of some of the members of Lomax.**

4. Virtual Fitness "FUN" Workout: Join the Fitness class on Saturdays at 8:30 am for a "FUN" condensed workout. Bring your water, towel, mat, stretch bands, weights and "Smiles". The line will open at 8:15 am. See you on Saturday, Donna V. Gainey and the CREW!!! Zoom participation information is as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82471371758>

Meeting ID: 824 7137 1758.

5. March S.H.A.R.E.: March S.H.A.R.E. distribution day is this Saturday, March 25, 2023, during the hours of 11:15 am and 12:30 pm.

6. Senior Ministry: PRECIOUS MEMORIES, HOW THEY LINGER!!! Please join the Lomax Senior Ministry on Saturday, March 25th, at 9:00 am as we highlight the contributions of some of the women in Lomax 's history that laid the strong foundation on which we are continuing to build today. Looking forward to sharing with you!!!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85106069738>

Meeting ID: 851 0606 9738

Dial-In Information: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 851 0606 9738

7. Sunday School: Please note that Sunday School will continue to be held via Zoom each Sunday. As a trial period, on 1st and 3rd Sunday, Sunday School will be hybrid, taking place both virtually and in-person from the Boardroom. You may participate in Sunday School, beginning at 9:30 am, by Zoom as follows:

Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89311232668>
Meeting ID: 893 1123 2668

Dial-In Information: 301-715-8592 or 1-646-931-3860
Meeting ID: 893 1123 2268

8. Sunday Worship: We will have in-person and virtual worship this Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 11 am. Sunday's bulletin is attached. Virtual worship may be accessed as follows: Lomax's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lomaxamezionchurch/> or website using the Lomax Live tab at <https://www.lomaxchurchva.com/lomax-live/>.

9. 2023 Deaconess Day: Please join the Lomax Deaconess Board Ministry as they observe Deaconess Day this Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 3 pm. The theme for this service is "More Than White," based upon Acts 9:36. Presiding Elder Scot C. Moore, the pastor of Judah Temple AME Zion Church will be the guest preacher. Please invite others. A flyer is attached.

10. Intercessory Prayer: Intercessory Prayer will continue on Tuesday at 6:30 am. Here is the Zoom information to Participate:

Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86028580752>
Meeting ID: 860 2858 0752

Dial-In Information: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 860 2858 0752

11. Bible Study: We will not have Bible Study due to our weekly Wednesday Lenten Preaching Series. Please join us in-person or online each Wednesday at 7 pm.

12. Racial Reconciliation Pilgrimage to Cambridge, Maryland: St. Michael's is continuing in earnest their journey of studying the racial history of the United States. As an expansion of their understanding of community, they have been learning about the history of lynchings close to home, as well as tremendous liberation borne out of Maryland's Eastern Shore, especially in the examples of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass.

Members of Lomax are warmly invited to take part in a pilgrimage to some of these sacred sites on June 3. Led by the director of the Harriet Tubman Museum, we will experience code songs containing hidden messages for freedom seekers; visit Long Wharf, where kidnapped African Americans were shipped and sold; and significant points of the Underground Railroad, including Pleasant Cemetery, a night-time rendezvous point used by Tubman to start treks to freedom, far from the eyes of plantation owners and overseers.

Transportation to and from Cambridge and during the tour will be by charter bus. We will leave St. Michael's at 8 AM on Saturday morning and return by 5 PM. Participants will need to bring their own bagged lunch. The cost for the day is \$60, but scholarships are available. Please sign up at <https://www.stmichaelsarlington.org/cambridge/> if you are interested in taking part in the pilgrimage, so we can make preliminary reservations. (Lomax members are also asked to provide your name to Chantel, in the office, so that we can know who has registered to participate.)

13. Washington District Conference: Presiding Elder Alvin T. Durant will convene the Washington District Conference April 13-15, 2023. A virtual Prayer and Praise service sponsored by the Washington District Men's and Women's Ministries will take place on Thursday, April 13. On Friday, April 14, all persons amenable to the District Conference as asked to be present, in-person, for Lay Council elections, the opening Business session, dinner, and the opening Holy Communion service. Friday activities will be held at Trinity AME Zion Church. Virtual participation options for Friday will be shared for those who are not amenable to the District Conference and have registered. The closing Business session, Town Hall Meeting, and closing worship service will take place on Saturday, April 15, via Zoom. Detailed information is attached, and a flyer is below. Information on how Lomax will register will be provided during the week.

14. Washing District Women's Ministry Bible Study: Lomax's own Rev. Tina Nelson will be teaching on Mary of Magdala as a part of the Washington District's Women's Ministry Bible Study. It will take place on Friday, April 21, at 7 pm. Virtual participation information will be provided once received. Let's support Rev. Tina.

15. Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society (WH&OMS) Corner!!!: As we prepare for the 194th Philadelphia Baltimore Annual Conference May 25-28, 2023, we ask you to consider Leveling Up to purchase a Life Member Stole as a Matron or Patron. Please pay for your Stole by April 9, 2023, by using the church envelope and indicate

Life Members Council Stole. The cost for the Stole is: **Red Stole \$40** and **Purple Stole \$100**. Our goal is to Stole at least 14 during the Missionary Candlelight Service, generally on Friday night. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Wilma Newby, Life Members Council Chairman. Thank you so much.

16. 2022-2023 Conference Year Assessments: As we approach the May 31, 2023, end of the FY 2022/2023 conference, we are still encouraging members who haven't paid your annual assessment dues of \$350.00 (General Claims of \$265.00 and Quarterly Conference Dues of \$85.00) to please do so. You may submit your assessments through your church envelope, Givelify, or you may see your Class Leader or Sis. Ruthy Brown. Thank you in Advance!

17. During these difficult times, please remember that Lomax has resources to assist those in need, including: the Ministry of Kindness, the Food Pantry, our class Leaders, and our Pastor. Please reach out if you are in need. Please note the confidential phone number for the Food Pantry is: 703-979-8408.

18. Continued thanks to Lomax's Financial Team, Media Ministry, Class Leaders, Trustee Board, and Steward Board for continuing to serve faithfully during this time.

19. Thank you to each of you for continuing to send in your tithes and offerings. The congregation continues to be very generous, and for that we thank you. All offerings should be given using Givelify or by sending them to the church using the U.S. mail. (Please do not send cash.)