

Muse Watson to open Lenten Lunch series

Outstanding speakers ranging from a well-known dramatic actor to a best-selling author will address this year's Lenten Lunches at the Berea United Methodist Church.

The lunches, which are open to all Bereans, feature a speaker, music and a soup-and-sandwich lunch each Wednesday during Lent, March 8-April 12. There is no charge for the meal, which begins at Noon in the Parish House and ends by 12:45 P.M.

On March 8, the luncheon series is opened by rugged character actor Muse Watson. He is an established stage actor and veteran screen performer with a host of widely varying characters to his name, ranging from the hook-wielding killer in "I Know What You Did Last Summer" (1997), to the gentle, cat-loving con in the Fox television suspense drama "Prison Break" (2005). From the good ole boy, Hank, in the Julia Roberts drama "Something to Talk About" to the quick to shoot mentor Mike Franks in "NCIS". To date he has performed in 55 movie roles and over 55 episodes of TV, and Muse is going strong. His theater credits include Hamlet in "Hamlet", Stanley in "A Streetcar Named Desire", Pale in "Burn This", Cervantes in "Man of La Mancha", and directing "Ain't MisBehavin'". Muse also gave an unforgettable performance with Jennifer Love Hewitt as a special guest on Saturday Night Live. Muse and his wife and daughter now divide their time between their home in Berea, Ky. and their "hide-out" in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains.

Other speakers include:

March 15 -- Jonathan Tullos, who is originally from Mississippi and moved to the Commonwealth in 2015. He is currently a student at Asbury Theological Seminary and is under appointment to Shiloh United Methodist Church in Stanton, Ky. as Lead Pastor. His passions include evangelism, and encouraging disciples to engage in the Priesthood of All Believers. His wife, Jessica, is a science teacher at Powell County High School.

March 22 -- Joe White, a United Methodist clergyman and Rural Health Chaplain with the Veterans Administration. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and a former teacher at Berea Community High School.

March 29 -- Rev. Esther D. Jadhav, director of Intercultural Programs at Asbury University. Her call to ministry began at a very early age. This involvement took her across the country of India (South Asia) and the continents of Africa (Uganda), South-east Asia (Japan) and North America (United States of America). Through preaching and teaching she seeks to build bridges across cultures and to serve persons of diverse backgrounds. Esther's academic pursuits are in anthropology, sociology and theology. She grew up in Mumbai, India before she came to the United States, and she has been living in Kentucky for 15 years. She joined the student development team at Asbury University in 2004 as the coordinator for Intercultural Programs.

April 5 -- Bob Schaeffer, retired United Methodist clergyman who has served in the Red Bird Missionary Conference and Kentucky Annual Conference. He is also a former hospice chaplain.

April 12 -- Award-winning, bestselling author Laura Frantz is passionate about all things historical, particularly the 18th-century, and writes her manuscripts in longhand first. Her stories often incorporate Scottish themes that reflect her family heritage. She is a direct descendant of George Hume, Wedderburn Castle, Berwickshire, Scotland, who was exiled

to the American colonies for his role in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715, settled in Virginia, and is credited with teaching George Washington surveying in the years 1748-1750. Frantz lives and writes in a log cabin in the heart of Kentucky.

According to Publishers Weekly, "Frantz has done her historical homework." With her signature attention to historical detail and emotional depth, she is represented by Janet Kobobel Grant, Literary Agent & Founder, Books & Such Literary Agency of Santa Rosa, California.

Frantz will make three additional appearances in Kentucky this spring: Saturday, March 18, Berea Book Fest, Madison County Library, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 20, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Lexington, 6:00-9:00 P.M.; Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, Southern Kentucky Book Fest, Bowling Green, Ky.

Berea United Methodist Church is located on the corner of Fee and Chestnut Streets in Berea, KY. The Parish House is at 101 Fee Street. Doors for the luncheon will open at 11:45 A.M. For more information about the church, or the Lenten Lunch series, please call 859-986-3485.