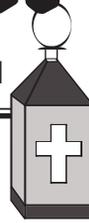


The Lantern

JANUARY 2013

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Food and Fun Night

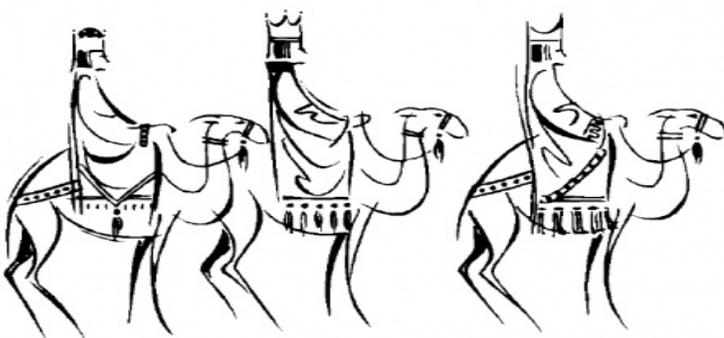
Dessert Bake-Off and New Member Welcome
Saturday, January 26, 5:30-7:30pm

Our church has a wonderful tradition of gathering on irregular occasions just to share in good food, good times and good fellowship. Our first Food and Fun Night for 2013 is Jan. 26 from 5:30-7:30pm. Supper is potluck; bring whatever dish you'd like to share with others. Beverages and paper products are provided by the church. This month we will celebrate the sweetness of life with a dessert competition; so dust off your favorite recipes and let the tastiness begin. A panel of judges, including Nancie Owens and others soon to be confirmed, will tally your votes and then add their own to proclaim the prize winners for the evening. All dessert and sweet categories are welcome!

Likewise, we will spend some special time welcoming our new members from the last year and helping them become even more a part of the family of God here at Mt. Lebanon. This is a wonderful time to invite friends to enjoy the fellowship and beauty of walking with God.

Angel Tree Ministry

We were blessed to receive six families with 16 children this year. Because of your generosity, each of these children received both a gift of clothing and play. Members of three families were able to attend our Children's Christmas Party on December 8. It was truly a time of sharing the Joy of Jesus, card making for our military personnel, lively music and delicious food. Praise God.



Souper Bowl of Caring

January 20 - February 3

When you sit down to watch the Super Bowl with all the tasty food that usually accompanies watching the game, please keep in mind the homeless and the less fortunate who don't know where they will be getting their next meal. The Souper Bowl Collection began in 1990 in South Carolina, but is now a nationwide effort.

Last year, Mt. Lebanon collected 400 pounds of food and enough donations for another 600 pounds from the Food Bank of Delaware. The Mission Team would like to challenge our congregation to collect 500 pounds this year and enough money for 700 more pounds.

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

Human Relations Sunday Offering

As Methodists, we are called to recognize the right of all God's children to realize their potential. The special church-wide offering on January 20 supports the United Methodist Church's Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs. Our support of these programs engages us in our communities as supporters and not just spectators.

There are many ways this Human Relations Month offering will assist others. It will enable the General Commission on United Methodist Men to continue its effort to recruit adults to serve as mentors of children of incarcerated parents through the Amachi program of Big Brothers-Big Sisters. Financial assistance to drug treatment programs such as the Hoover Treatment Center in Little Rock, Ark. have also resulted from this offering. Please share what you can and visit www.umcgiving.org for more information and special stories.

Youth Rally & Youth Sunday

From January 4 to 6, nine youths and four adult leaders from Mt. Lebanon UMC will be attending the 2013 Youth Rally in Ocean City, Maryland. The rally is sponsored by the Young People's Ministries of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. The theme of this year's rally is "Undignified" (from 2 Samuel).

Our young people and their leaders will participate in worship and group devotions, but will also enjoy performances by Christian musicians and other Christian entertainers. It is a Christ-centered weekend that speaks directly to our youth and to growing their faith in, and love for, our Lord.

A major emphasis of the Rally is on service projects. The group from Mt. Lebanon will again be working at Diakonia, an organization in West Ocean City that provides emergency and transitional housing, emergency food services and counseling and assistance for its guests.

On January 13, the youth will be leading worship at our annual Youth Sunday service and will share with us their experiences from the Youth Rally.

Please pray for the youth and their leaders — Ben Oliva, Becky Byrd, Pastor Jennifer and Chris Portante — both before and during the Youth Rally. Thank you!



Photo: Mt. Lebanon youth, adult leaders and staff of Diakonia during the 2011 Youth Rally.

Next Dinner for Ronald McDonald House Families

Saturday, January 12

Mt. Lebanon will be providing dinner for the families at Ronald McDonald House (RMD) on Saturday, January 12. There have recently been new procedures established at RMD, and we are now required to prepare all food on-site in their commercial kitchen (with the exception of desserts). Dinner is served at 5:30.

We are planning the following menu (to be prepared at RMD): baked ham; chicken tenders; sweet potatoes; Stouffers' Mac & Cheese; tossed salad; green beans and potatoes; and dessert. A sign-up sheet with items to bring will be placed in Bambarly Hall, and more details for meeting at RMD will be announced. Please bear with us in this new format and, if you have suggestions, please let us know.

In 2013, we have three additional Saturday night dinners planned: April 13, August 10 and December 7. If you would like to organize a team to prepare one of the meals or have suggestions for enriching this mission's activity for both the families at RMD as well as for the Mt. Lebanon family, please contact Barbara Ewing at 764-3572 or another member of the Missions Team.

The Ronald McDonald House of Delaware provides a safe, affordable "home away from home" to families of seriously or chronically ill or injured children who are being treated at area hospitals. Many of the families staying at RMD return during the evening for a break after a long day at the hospital. Home cooked meals give them a chance to relax and share time together. By providing a meal and fellowship we also provide a bit of comfort, hope and peace to the families.

UMW News

Our United Methodist Women (UMW) group had a very nice Christmas luncheon for our December meeting, with over 20 women in attendance. We were honored to have Pastor Jennifer join us for the luncheon. We had our Christmas song sing and we played our famous Mr. and Mrs. Right game where everyone ends up with a gift in the end. We also discussed some fundraisers for 2013.

Trustees Update

Saturday, January 12, 9am-12pm

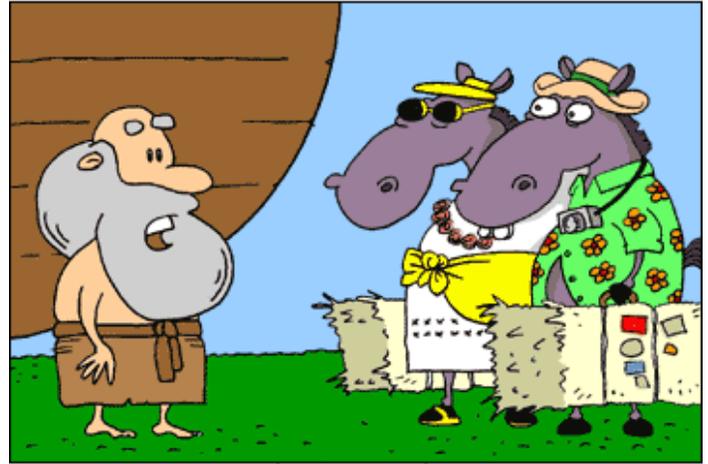
Join us for our first Trustee Work Day of 2013 on Saturday, January 12 from 9am to 12pm when we will be taking down decorations and getting started on the church's 2013 'honey-do list'! There will be both indoor and outdoor projects (weather permitting). Refreshments will be provided.

If there are projects or small maintenance items that you have noticed and would like the Trustees to address, please let us know and we'll add them to the list. You can contact Barbara Ewing at 764-3572 or ewingbj@verizon.net. Or you can leave a note with Phoebe in the church office. The Trustees meet on the first Tuesday of every month followed by a Church Work Day on Saturdays. All are welcome and encouraged to join during the Church Work Day where we give our time and talents to serve God by maintaining our beautiful church.

Volunteers!



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Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Genesis 6-8)

01-15-2001

I THINK YOU GUYS HAVE THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT THE ARK

Nursery Helpers

1/6 Gale Ziegler
1/13 Cindy Wilson
1/20 Gale Ziegler
1/27 Cindy Wilson

Readers

1/6 Ann Brechtel
1/13 TBD
1/20 TBD
1/27 Chris Portante

Sunday School Teachers

1/6 Cindy Wilson, Joanne West, Laurence Birkett
1/13 Amy Furman, Gale Ziegler, Maxcy Page
1/20 Debbie Oliva, Cindy Wilson, Dawn Jarrell
1/27 Gale Ziegler, Amanda Lynch, Melissa Schuibbeo

THE PRACTICE OF EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

Generosity describes the Christian's unselfish willingness to give in order to make a positive difference for the purpose of Christ. **Extravagant Generosity** describes practices of sharing and giving that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures.

Fruitful congregations thrive because of extraordinary sharing, willing sacrifice, and joyous giving out of love for God and neighbor. Such churches focus on the abundance of God's grace and emphasize the Christian's need to give rather than the church's need for money. In the spirit and manner of Christ, congregations that practice Extravagant Generosity explicitly talk about money in the Christian's walk of faith. They are driven to be generous by a high sense of mission and a keen desire to please God by making a positive difference in the world.

(From "Cultivating Fruitfulness" by Bishop Robert Schnase)

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 = Epiphany Sunday

Holy Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 127

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

Youth Rally Sunday

2 Samuel 6:21-22

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-22

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

Human Relations Sunday & Special Offering

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Nehemiah 8:1-10; Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

The question applies to our church life, as well. This month, the lectionary guides us through 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, a passage of scripture that emphasizes how we live and serve God together as a body with many members. Our church leadership will begin an in-depth examination of our church's priorities in light of how we can best discern God's calling in this time and place. We will be examining the question of how we can best organize ourselves to streamline our ministries and workloads, making them as effective as possible. And we'll be considering where we may need to make the necessary changes to best serve that vision and mission that God has placed before us. Everyone is invited to join in the conversation; special gatherings will be held to encourage as many people to participate as possible. God has seen this church through 200 years of Christian ministry, worship and service to this community. Now it's time for us to focus on the ministry ahead!

Know that God has given you a vital part in this process. 1 Corinthians 12:7 says this: "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good," and later in 12:26 says this: "If one member suffers, all suffers together with [them]; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with [them]." God has brought each of us to this church family for this time and for a variety of purposes, many of which are beyond our ability to discern or even appreciate at this time. I pray that we will walk forward into this new year, this new century of ministry together always seeking God's guidance and strength through the Holy Spirit as we commit to making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

~ *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

Reflections...

I always love getting a new calendar for the new year. All those open spaces just reek of the hopes and dreams and the many possibilities of the year to come. January is a well-positioned month for reflections. The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is wrapping up. We're already aware (sometimes painfully) of how we may have over-spent or overeaten through the end of the year prior. Now we have the opportunity to consider the year ahead. What changes might we need to make in our personal lives or family lives to redirect and redefine our hopes and dreams?

New church officers begin service this month

Thanks be to God for the willingness of those ready to serve God and this church. United Methodist churches are guided by the Holy Spirit and a pastor appointed to serve the church by the Bishop. The day-to-day work of managing and implementing the many ministries of the church are led by regular members just like you (we call anyone who isn't a clergy person a lay member). Please take a moment to review our church's officers for 2013 and then keep them in your prayers throughout the year. If you have a thought or suggestion to share, please contact them! Names and contact phone numbers are listed on the back of our weekly program and the back of the church directory. We give thanks to God for their service to our church!

LAY LEADERS

Iva Boardman and Harry West

Provides lay leadership to the congregation and to the pastor on a regular basis

CHAIRPERSON, ADMIN. COUNCIL

Chris Portante

Facilitates and guides the overall decision making body of the church

LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Chris Portante

Represents our church and votes on any needed items at Annual Conference each year

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Amy Furman

Oversees the financial ministries of the church — both money coming in and money going out

LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

chaired by the Pastor

Works to develop Christian disciples and leaders within the congregation

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS CMTE. (SPRC)

Ed Jegerski

Seeks to maintain orderly and healthy staffing in the church and support the pastor and pastor's family with the work of ministry

TRUSTEE PRESIDENT

Barbara Ewing

Responsible for the oversight and maintenance of the church facility and grounds to welcome and enable ministry safely

ADMIN. COUNCIL SECRETARY

Becky Byrd and Rick Selfridge

CHURCH TREASURER

Kathy Neilson (with Helen Brown as back-up)

FINANCE SECRETARY

Maxcy Page and Denise Hudson

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Laurence Birkett and Joanne West

HEALTH & WELLNESS TEAM

Ed Jegerski

MISSIONS TEAM

Iva Boardman and Bob Lathem

NURTURE COMMITTEE

Sylvia Eubanks and Ann Brechtel

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Norma Talley

YOUTH LEADERS

Ben Oliva and Becky Byrd

FELLOWSHIP COORDINATORS

Amanda Lynch and Jennifer Cortilezzo

USHER COORDINATOR

Dawn Jarrell

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PRESIDENT

Kay Frick

UNITED METHODIST MEN PRESIDENT

Jerry Eubanks

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Barbara Kraus

CHURCH HISTORIAN

Rebecca Jegerski

Let God Transform You

by Rev. Constance Hastings, MSCC, NCC — Daybreak Counseling Services, Inc.

While the New Year offers a clean calendar and talk of New Year's Resolutions, it is well known that by the end of January many of these good intentions have been given up. Change is so very hard, and the cliché "Just say No" seems ridiculous. However, by understanding the full process of change, it may be easier to stick with the process and realize that within our created beings, the ability to be different people is very possible.

Psychologist Kurt Lewin noted that there are three stages in change: Unfreeze, Change and ReFreeze. The first, Unfreezing, is the most important in that the person is getting ready to change. While this may not be evident to those around her or him, it is internal in that it deals with one's motivation. The reasons for change have to be evaluated against the reasons not to change, pro's versus con's. Therefore, in one's thinking, thoughts move from, "No way I'm going to quit smoking. I enjoy it and I don't care what anyone else says about it." to "I really like smoking, but I can feel it is affecting my health." to "Well, maybe I should at least cut back some." No visible changes in behavior have happened, but the old ways of thinking are beginning to "unfreeze" and become less rigid. This process takes a while, so if it is March and your resolution is not accomplished, that still does not mean failure.

Change itself, again, is not instantaneous. The fear factor is likely to present itself in a major way. However, as persons in recovery learn, "When the pain is greater than the fear...", the first steps are taken. It means learning new ways of living and taking the time to understand and work with them. Losing weight first may require learning about exercise, nutrition and life style issues surrounding food. Support groups or counseling requiring accountability could be necessary to measure success. Having a role model to call is another help. Yet, in learning change, one must have the grace to accept mistakes will happen but are not a reason to give up altogether. It may be late summer now, but the resolution is still being worked.

Finally, the ReFreezing step is when new norms of behavior and living are being established or solidified. Caution still must be exercised at this time because relapse is always possible, especially if the change requires a major lifestyle renovation and new relationships in one's life. Ultimately, change requires the perception that this is the journey of life, that is, if one does not change and grow throughout life, life loses its purpose and meaning. Thus, by this time next year, it would be appropriate to evaluate the steps in this journey and consider again a New Year's Resolution, one that would realize and practice this sanctifying work of Christ in one's life.

"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
— Romans 12:2b (NKJV)

Daybreak Counseling Services is a nonprofit clinical pastoral counseling agency that not only addresses the presenting issue or problem but also allows for the inclusion of spirituality within sessions. It is supported through payments determined on a sliding scale basis, private grants, and individual donations. Rev. Constance Hastings, a nationally certified counselor and United Methodist deacon, sees clients at St. Paul's UMC and Atonement UMC with both day and evening hours. Call 302-745-1042 for information or to make an appointment.

UPDATE: Native American Reconciliation Project

Ann Brechtel and Becky Byrd will be distributing to the congregation a survey on two Sundays in January. The survey will ask how we as a church would like to learn more about Native American history and culture, and what specific topics are of interest to us. We will then use that information to plan a variety of activities to further Native American reconciliation. If you would like to participate in the survey, but cannot attend church, please contact Ann (ann.brechtel@yahoo.com) or Becky (rebecca.byrd@gmail.com). Likewise, if you are interested in working with Ann and Becky on this project, please send them an email or call them at 276-5719 (Ann) or 690-4992 (Becky).



Covenant Discipleship Groups

Info sessions: January 20 and 27

Are you...

- Hoping to grow stronger in your faith this year?
- Looking for a way to connect with others at church?
- Hungry to get to know God in your life better?

If so, then Covenant Discipleship Groups may be just what you're looking for!

CD groups are made of regular folks who love God and want to keep nurturing their faith on this road of salvation. Groups of 4-7 people meet once a week for one hour from February to mid-December. Together they create a covenant to help them focus on spiritual acts of compassion, devotion, justice, worship, listening for the promptings of the Holy Spirit and making disciples for Christ. The group commits to support one another in growing in faith while encouraging each one to faithfully live into the covenant.

Information sessions will be held on Sunday, January 20 and January 27 from 12:30-1:30pm for those interested in more information.

If you are interested, please submit your name and times available (specifying days of the week and times of day that work for your schedule) to Pastor Jennifer by Wednesday, January 30 so that groups may begin the first week of February.

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Wilmington, DE 19803

Phone: (302) 652-8411

E-mail: office.mtlebanonumc@verizon.net

Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.