

The Lantern

SEPTEMBER 2014

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



DISCIPLE Bible Study Begins

Have you ever wanted to read through the entire Bible but got stuck at the begats? --- Do you ever think the Old and New Testaments just don't seem to connect? --- Are you willing to commit to 34 weeks of an in-depth Bible study?

DISCIPLE Bible study is a fascinating opportunity to grow deeper in our understanding of God's revelation to the world through this holy book. The study engages and integrates the work of Biblical scholars presented in video format, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible. After the class, most folks say this study has been one of the most formative spiritual experiences of their life!

Now we have the opportunity to join in this life-changing study at Mt. Lebanon. The classes are 2.5 hours each session and will be offered on Wed. mornings from 10am-12:30pm and on Thurs. evenings from 6-8:30pm. Home study of approximately 3-4 hours each week is recommended. The use of a study Bible is required, preferably an NRSV (New Revised Standard Version) Bible to help keep the group conversation based in the same translation. Please purchase your study Bible from your favorite bookseller. Study manuals are also required and will be provided by the church; the cost is \$40/manual if you can afford it or free if you can't. *Please* sign up on the sheet on the Info Table ASAP so we can order enough manuals for those planning to attend. Orientation classes will begin on Wed., Sept. 10 at 10am and Thurs., Sept. 11 at 6pm. If you have any questions, please check with Pastor Jennifer.

Homecoming Sunday - Sept. 28

With special guest, Brother Simon Blessing

Don't miss this very special worship service as we welcome home former members and those who have moved away and celebrate our church's long-standing presence in the community with the historic presentation of a traditional Methodist worship service. Brother Simon Blessing is a character based on the circuit rider preachers of old, performed by Mr. Peyton Dixon, who shares a very moving message. Make sure to invite your friends and family to this wonderful celebration and the covered dish luncheon to follow!

Important Dates

(See more information throughout this issue.)

Sept. 6 — Nanticoke Pow Wow

Sept. 10, 11 — DISCIPLE Orientation Meetings

Sept. 13 — Walk for a Healthy Community

Sept. 14 — Music Dedication Sunday

Sept. 20 — All-Church Work Day

Sept. 21 — Day of Prayer and Fasting

Sept. 27 — Outreach Car Wash

Sept. 28 — Homecoming Sunday



First Annual Mt. Lebanon Car Wash Saturday, September 27

Well, actually it's not our first car wash, but the first one we are holding at the church! The Missions Team is partnering with our Outreach Team to reach out to our neighbors and the We Kids Rock families.

We will wash cars, serve light refreshments, share spiritual materials and enjoy conversation with each other. We need all hands on deck before the event as drivers and walkers in the neighborhood to deliver fliers and bakers to make cookies and snacks. On the 27th, we need greeters, car washers, refreshment hosts and folks who just like to talk.

We will gather at 8am to get ready for the 9 to noon event. There is no charge. We will accept clothing donations to be offered to our guests at the Food Closet. All monetary donations will be given to Family Promise of Northern New Castle County. You do not want to miss this event!

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CONAM Corner

Nanticoke Indian Pow-Wow

Saturday, Sept. 6 & Sunday, Sept. 7

Join with other members of the congregation who will travel to Milford, Delaware on Saturday, Sept. 6 to attend this wonderful festival celebrating Native American heritage and culture. Please sign up at the Info Table in Fellowship Hall so that we can carpool. We will leave at 8:30am from the church. No entrance fee charged, but lots of great food and special vendor tables abound! You can check out the website for more information, nanticokeindians.org.

Learn more about Native American culture and history!

Saturday, Nov. 1

Nanticoke Indian Association sponsors bus trip to the National Museum of the Native American in Washington, DC for only \$30/person. Enjoy a VIP tour of the museum which houses one of the world's largest and most diverse collections of its kind. Reservations are first come, first served and must be made by Oct. 1. Checks payable to NIA, Inc. and may be sent to 27073 John J. Williams Highway, Millsboro, DE 19966. Registration forms are available on the Missions bulletin board at the front of the church.

Prayers of Sympathy to...

The family of Edie Kaminski on her death Wednesday, July 16. Edie joined Mt. Lebanon with several other women after the closing of the Disciples of Christ Church some twenty years ago. She was a woman of great energy and devotion and will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Cards of care and sympathy may be sent to her grandson John Kelly at 1 Devon Avenue, Lawrence, NJ 08648-3907.

Don Brabson and family on the death of his older brother Jay Brabson on Saturday, July 26. Don and Jay attended Mt. Lebanon as children and have deep ties to the Brandywine Valley area. Cards of care and prayer-filled sympathy may be sent to Don and the family at 1602 Tudor Place, Wilmington, DE 19810.

Phoebe Chan and family on the death of her mother, Sun Bo Ng, on Saturday, Aug. 23 in New York state. Mrs. Ng had been ill for a long time and recently transferred to hospice care. On behalf of the church, a floral arrangement was sent to the funeral home for the funeral held on Thursday, Aug. 28. Cards may be sent to Phoebe at 102 Tuckaway Dr, Wilmington, DE 19803.

Bekah Hudson and family on the loss of her unborn child. We pray God's peace, comfort and strength to Bekah at this very difficult time. Cards may be sent to her in care of her mother, Denise, at 107 Florence Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19803.

The family of Dorothy Vandenbraak on her death on Monday, August 25 at the impressive age of 96 years. Dorothy was a long-time member of this church and a faithful participant in the women's society throughout the years. Cards may be sent to her daughters Joanne Passmore at 2004 Monroe Place, Wilmington, DE 19802 and Evelyn Novak at 41 Marsh Woods, The Hamptons, Wilmington, DE 19810.

Youth Group on the move!

This year, our youth are stepping out in new directions as they join with the youth group of Chester Bethel UMC for combined activities every Wednesday night from 6:30-8pm.

Our Fall Kick-Off on Saturday, September 20 will be an all-day trip to Camp Pecometh to take on the Challenge Course together where we'll learn more about ourselves and how God is building us together as the Body of Christ. Julia Tulloch has graciously volunteered to help lead our youth for the upcoming year. Please keep her and all our young people in your prayers!



Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. (Psalm 98:4)

Music Ministry Dedication Sunday is set for Sunday, September 14. Please join in this special worship service where we give thanks to God for our wonderful music ministry and pray God's blessings and protection on those who serve by sharing their love and gift of music.

Website Update!

mtlebanon-umc.org

Check out some of the new features on our website, including:

- Online prayer requests
- Downloadable copies of *The Lantern*
- Online volunteer boards
- Links to valuable faith-related resources

In addition, you will be able to keep track of the church's activities, projects and other announcements from in the News and Events section. There will be additional features and changes in the near future, so be sure to check in periodically to see what's new. God bless you and we look forward to seeing you online!

Calling All Walkers, Sponsors and Supporters...

for the ***Walk for a Healthy Community*** on Saturday, Sept. 13

The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community brings together 17 local nonprofit organizations that deliver vital health and human service programs in our community. Mt. Lebanon is walking for Family Promise, the ministry that we currently serve as a support church for families in transition with housing and employment.

When: Saturday, September 13, 2014 (times below)

Where: Bellevue State Park, Wilmington

Registration: 7:45am

5K Walk: 9am // One-Mile Fun Walk: 9:15am

Register at www.walkforahealthycommunity.org OR pick up registration form in Fellowship Hall.

Special Invitation for Special Offerings

The Missions Team is offering you a one-time invitation to give to the United Methodist Church's six designated churchwide Special Sunday offerings to emphasize 13 ministries of our church.

Your one-time contribution will be evenly divided among the six areas of ministry listed below. You will be receiving an invitation by mail with an enclosed envelope for return either by mail or in any Sunday offering between September 15 and October 31. Please let us know what you think about this change.

Human Relations Day to enable community workers to provide services such as food banks, job training and building rehabilitation and advocacy for the poor and oppressed;

One Great Hour of Sharing to underwrite the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which mobilizes a network of volunteers to address critical needs in times of disaster, responds to the needs of the hungry and resettles refugees;

Native American Ministries to help Native American members to establish new congregations, provide job training, childcare and cultural education, and make possible scholarships for Native American students pursuing church related vocations;

Peace with Justice to make possible educational opportunities that build awareness of world peace and social justice and fund work to intervene in cycles of spousal and child abuse and violence among youth;

World Communion Sunday to provide Crusade Scholarships for international and U.S. racial and ethnic minority students to pursue graduate studies in theology, medicine and education, fund scholarships for racial and ethnic minority persons seeking a second career in church-related vocations and support the Ethnic Scholarship Program for undergraduate students; and

United Methodist Student Day to provide graduate and undergraduate scholarships and student loans.

Thank you!

— *Missions Team Co-Chairs, Iva Boardman and Bob Lathem*

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, Sept. 7

Holy Communion

Exodus 12:1-4; Psalm 149

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

"Time to wake up!"

Sunday, Sept. 14

Music Ministry Dedication

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

"Forgiven and forgiving"

Sunday, Sept. 21

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:10-16

"Remaining faithful to the Gospel"

Sunday, Sept. 28

Homecoming Sunday

Special Worship led by "Brother Simon Blessing"

Covered Dish Luncheon to follow

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04-28-2014

TOM YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT I GOT FRONT
ROW SEATING AGAIN OH MY GOODNESS RUN
UP HERE NOW I'LL SAVE IT WHILE I CAN

Spiritual Discipline of the Month: Worship

It may seem odd to think of worship as a spiritual discipline but anyone who knows the tug of the warm bed or the long list of chores still waiting on a Sunday morning understands that being faithful in worship is a true commitment and requires diligent practice both in preparing for worship (spiritually as well as physically) and for being present in worship (spiritually as well as physically.)

Richard Foster defines worship as the experience of Reality and the touching of Life. "It is to know, to feel, to experience the resurrected Christ in the midst of the gathered community...it is both a breaking into the glory of God and a being invaded by the glory of God."

Often times we confuse the form or style of worship with the actuality of worship. The object of our worship is first, last and everywhere inbetween, the God whose love has sought us, bought us and set us free for a life of truth, joy and service. The purpose of our worship is never simply to "feel better" when we emerge from the time of holy assembling. Worship is both a commandment from God and the means by which we keep God as the first priority of our lives. We worship God not only because of who God is but also because of what God has done throughout history as well as our own lives. Worship reorients our lives and fills us with the means by which to carry on in that reorientation.

Foster writes "worship involves our whole being and that the body, mind, spirit and emotions should all be laid on the altar of worship." In Hebrew, the root word for worship is to prostrate and the word "bless" literally means to kneel. Whether we stand or sit, raise a hand or kneel at the chancel rail, sing or maintain silence, all of our experience of worship should be directed to honoring, praising and submitting to the One True God who rules heaven and earth. Foster advises us to come to worship each week with a "holy expectancy," a surrender of what we think we need to an openness to what God is doing. Likewise, John Wesley observes that regular and consistent worship is one of the cornerstones of growing in God's grace and being perfected in God's love. — *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

Reflections...

In the non-stop whirlwind of packing and moving my mother from Texas, I have to say that what stands out above all else is the absolute, awesome and amazing experience of God's continuing presence through the prayers of this faithful congregation. The three weeks were like being enveloped in a warm embrace each and every day and an overwhelming reassurance that God had a hand in every detail, every decision and every step along the way. I will never forget how what I thought would be a non-stop series of disasters turned out to be a non-stop experience of blessedness. God is so good and your prayers were powerful. You were love to us in a profound way and we found God's love multiplied.

As a church family, we have committed this year to the theme of BeLove x 3 as we focus on the scripture from Matthew 22:37-39 to love God with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind and to love our neighbor as ourselves; loving God, loving neighbor and loving self. It's a simple and yet life-changing commitment that reminds us when we put God first, trusting God to lead and guide us, then our other relationships come into proper perspective and care as well.

Let me encourage you this month of September to step out in faith and commit to some small step of growing in your love of God, your love of others and your love of yourself. Might you make the decision for this one month to love God by attending worship each week? Can you find a way to contribute to some ministry that cares for others; perhaps contributing to the food closet or writing notes to homebound members or those who are ill? Would you love yourself to attend one prayer and fasting session or by practicing forgiveness in your life each day? As we come together to grow in this commitment to Be Love x 3, we will discover God's very real presence at work in and through our lives so that God's light radiates out from us to draw others to Christ's transformative work of healing and holiness. May it be so!

Pastor Jennifer Kerby

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.