

The Lantern

APRIL 2015

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Conversations on Intercultural Communication

Saturday, April 11 from 9a to 3p
Grace UMC, West and 9th, Wilmington

- Have you ever wanted to have an authentic conversation with a person of a different race or culture and got stuck?
- Have you ever wanted to have ways of talking about cultural and racial difference without being misunderstood?
- Have you ever wondered what changes might take place in your congregation if you have a pastor of a different cultural or racial identity?

A team of folks from Mt. Lebanon will be attending this one-day training event designed to expose participants to helpful information and engage them in conversations to create an awareness for developing intercultural competency. The training's objective is to introduce, influence, impact and instill new ways of thinking, speaking and relating in matters of race, culture, diversity and inclusion. Ultimately, this skill set will facilitate more effective appointment-making, including expanding the possibilities of cross-racial appointments, and improved relating within congregations as well as with the communities they serve.

Small Church Workshop

Saturday, April 19 from 9a to 3p
Union UMC, Bridgeville

This workshop is designed to help small member churches live into their BIG potential for living out God's great commission to make disciples for Jesus Christ and the transformation of the world. We are blessed to have Rev. Dr. Lewis Parks, professor at Wesley Seminary, lead us in practical considerations and powerful encouragement with our ministries. Registration is still open. Please see Pastor Jennifer to sign up.

Important Dates

- Apr. 2 — Holy Thursday Service (7pm)
- Apr. 3 — Good Friday Vigil (6am-3pm)
Service at Shipley Manor (2pm)
- Apr. 4 — All-Church Work Day (9am-noon)
- Apr. 5 — Easter Sunrise Service (6:30am)
Pancake Breakfast (7:30am)
Easter Service with Communion (10:30am)
Worship at Shipley Manor (2pm)
- Apr. 10 — Food Closet at Brandywine Church (9am-noon)
- Apr. 11 — Intercultural Communications Training (9am-3pm)
Food and Fun Night: Trivia (5:30pm)
- Apr. 17 — Prayer and Fasting (9am-2pm)
- Apr. 18 — Small Church Workshop (9am-3pm)
- Apr. 19 — Worship at Shipley Manor (2pm)
Prayer and Fasting (1pm-3pm)
- Apr. 24 — Food Closet at Brandywine Church (9am-noon)
- Apr. 25 — Pen-Del Merger Celebration Dinner (4:30pm)
- Apr. 26 — "Turn the Tide" Session (12:30pm)

"JESUS
R^{IS}
RISEN!"



CONAM Corner

Recently, our Bishop Peggy Johnson shared this blog entry:

“During our evening prayers each night my husband and I have been studying the lives of women saints. We use a resource that tells the story of a female saint for every day of the year (Women Saints: 365 Daily Readings, by Madonna Sophia Compton).

This book includes the lives of famous and not so famous women in history who have made a difference in this world. Recently, we read about Maria Solares, who was born in 1842 in southern California. Both of her parents were Native Americans from different tribes. She was raised in a Catholic mission school but always cherished the language and culture of her people. Maria assisted an anthropologist, John P. Harrington, in recording much of the language and customs of the Samala Chumash people. She was able to get training in the field of medicine, and she spent her life working tirelessly for her people, who were pushed off of their land and suffered from great poverty.

When she died in 1923 she was remembered as “Maria of the Refugees.” Thanks to the early language work she did with Dr. Harrington and other scholars, the language of the Chumash people is being taught once again to the descendants of this tribe. Maria’s legacy lives on linguistically and her language of love will endure forever.” (<http://bishoppeggyjohnson.blogspot.com/>)

Pastor Jennifer Kerby

Souper Bowl Results

What does 800 pounds of food look like? If you were in attendance at church during the last Sunday in January, you can now say that you know because you saw 800 pounds of food at Mt. Lebanon. All of the collected food was taken to the Food Ministry that we share with Brandywine Community United Methodist Church at 2200 Market Street in Wilmington. Thank you to all of you who were so generous during our 2015 Souper Bowl collection.

Iva Boardman, Missions Team Co-Chair

April Food & Fun Night — TRIVIA!

Saturday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Test your knowledge of Bible stories, Christian History, Methodist practices, hymns...and more!

There will be questions from easy to difficult and you won't be alone. We'll have teams compete against each other. There will be one game, then dinner, and then another game!

Don't miss this great evening of friendly competition, brain exercise, good food and wonderful fellowship!



Turn the Tide

Next Meeting: April 26

Mark your calendars now as we continue to educate ourselves and explore meaningful opportunities for growing our relationships and increasing ministry to address the economic and human devastation of the N. Market Street neighborhood. We'll meet at 12:30pm in the hall after worship and an abbreviated choir rehearsal.

Pen-Del Merger Celebration

Saturday, April 25 at 4pm
Whatcoat UMC, Dover

This gala celebration marks the 50th anniversary of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference merger ending racially segregated organizing of our Methodist churches. Our two Annual Conferences were the “First to Organize and First to Merge” distinguishing the leadership and vision of those leaders at the time. The celebration includes a banquet dinner with special guest, retired Bishop Woodie White from North Central Jurisdictional Conference as the Keynote speaker. Sadly, all tickets are sold out but we hope to bring a report back to our local congregation.

Alleluia

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Holy Thursday Worship at 7pm

A joint service with Brandywine Community UMC
in the Mt. Lebanon sanctuary

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Good Friday Vigil from 6am to 3pm

Mt. Lebanon sanctuary

Good Friday Worship at 2pm

ShIPLEY Manor Nursing Home

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Easter Sunday – Holy Communion

Sunrise Service at 6:30am

Mt. Lebanon parking lot (weather permitting)

Pancake Breakfast at 7:30am

Mt. Lebanon fellowship hall (love offering welcome)

Traditional Worship at 10:30am

Mt. Lebanon sanctuary with special music offerings

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Holy Humor Sunday

Bring your best “sacred” jokes to share
as we celebrate Christ’s resurrection
and the ultimate joke on Satan whose
worldly power has been broken!

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Native American Ministries Sunday

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-48

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Good Shepherd Sunday

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Save the Date: Lay Servant Academy

Each year, the Board of the Wilmington District Lay Servant Academy offers a wonderful array of five-week courses to help deepen your faith and understanding of the United Methodist Church. This spring, classes are being held at Aldersgate UMC on Tuesdays (beginning April 14) and at Elkton UMC on Thursdays (beginning April 16).

You do not have to be a Lay Servant, or even wish to be certified in order to take any of these courses. All classes are open to anyone who wishes to enlarge their understanding of any of the subjects offered.

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington

Tuesday, April 14 to Tuesday, May 12, 7pm - 9:30pm

Advanced Courses:

Lord When Did We - How We Care

Lay Servants Lead Prayer

Lay Servers Preach

Living Our Beliefs - The UM Way (John Wesley - Part 2)

ELKTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

219 E. Main Street, Elkton

Thursday, April 16 to Thursday, May 14, 7pm - 9:30pm

Basic Course - Lay Servant

Advanced Courses:

The Sacraments

The Gifts of the Spirit

John Wesley: The Man, Theology, Movement, & Legacy

(John Wesley - Part 1)

You will find course descriptions at:

www.wilmingtondistrict.org/2015LayAcadCourses.pdf

Registration forms are available in Fellowship Hall.

Please see Pastor Jennifer with any questions and/or to express interest in participating.

What's Happening Worship Team?

Our congregation is blessed to have young, older and some in-between folks coming together each Sunday with various worship service experiences before arriving at Mt. Lebanon. Once here we have become accustomed to pastor planned and led worship with modest input from the Worship Committee.

As the demographics of our congregation have changed, Pastor Jennifer has prayed about and asked that a new Worship Team be formed to explore and discern how best to plan and provide worship at Mt. Lebanon. The team consists of ladies and men, young and older, newer and longtime members in an attempt to represent our current membership. The team has met monthly since January to learn about what worship is and what makes for worship by developing a common historical understanding and language to use.

By June, we should be ready to move into exploring and discerning values and priorities in our congregational life together. The educational and exploration phases will then prepare us to learn how to plan and implement services together and then do it. While a completion date has not been established, the team is working diligently at their charge.

Primary questions that will be tackled include the following:

- What is the Good News of Jesus Christ ?
- What is worship?
- What is the essence of worship? The purpose of worship? The goal of worship?
- What are the primary and secondary elements of worship?

Factors that will influence our thoughts, responses and discussion include the following:

- Theological orientations
- Personality types and corresponding preferences
- Denominational traditions and influences
- Regional/national/ethnic practices and issues
- Overarching cultural and societal trends; including technology, globalization, etc.

Please feel free to talk with Pastor Jennifer or team members Maxcy Hanby, Iva Boardman, Jeff Shoemaker, Marilyn Hetrick, Chris Portante, Joan Anderson, Krista Stoume, Harry West, Kay Shoemaker and Doug Hanby.

Submitted by Iva Boardman and Maxcy Hanby, Co-Chairs

Reader:	Apr. 5	Harry West	Altar Guild:	Apr.5	Easter Sunday
	Apr. 12	Barbara Videtto		Apr. 12	Harry West
	Apr. 19	Maxcy Hanby		Apr. 19	Tracy Hopkins
	Apr. 26	Donna Winans		Apr. 26	Julia Tulloch

Fellowship Helpers: (no sign ups yet)	Ushers:	Apr. 5	Claudia & Bob Lathem
		Apr. 12	Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
		Apr. 19	Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
		Apr. 26	Jeff Shoemaker

Reflections...

Have you ever wondered how the tradition of April Fool's Day started? Wikipedia tells us: "Popular since the 19th century, the day is not a national holiday in any country, but it is well known in Canada, Europe, Australia, Brazil and the United States. The custom of setting aside a day for the playing of harmless pranks upon one's neighbor is recognized everywhere. Some precursors of April Fools' Day include the Roman festival of Hilaria, the Holi festival of India, and the Medieval Feast of Fools. The positive view of the day is that it can be good for one's health because it encourages "jokes, hoaxes...pranks, and belly laughs", and brings all the benefits of laughter including stress relief and reducing strain on the heart. The negative view describes April Fools' hoaxes as "creepy and manipulative", "rude" and "a little bit nasty", as well as based on deceit."

There is another tradition, though less well known, called Holy Humor Sunday. History informs us that churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as Risus Paschalis ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang and danced. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead. The observance of Risus Paschalis was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun. In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions—to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gift of laughter and joy. (<http://mountainviewumc.org/the-history-behind-holy-laughter-sunday/>)

After the long winter we have endured and as we enter into this season of Eastertide, let me encourage you to dedicate the month of April as a month to share in the joy of our salvation in Jesus Christ. See how many funny bones you can tickle with a good, clean joke or how many people you can delight by sharing your joy in Jesus during the weeks ahead. John 15:9-11 records some of Jesus' parting words to his disciples, *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."* In the days ahead, may each of us be renewed by the cleansing power of Jesus' joy.

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.