

The Lantern

JUNE 2015

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Hands and Feet of Jesus

Whenever we do something special for someone else, we are responding to the teaching of Jesus to love our brothers and sisters.

Here are just a few examples that are being done by our church family members at present:

- delivering meals to people who are homebound;
- donating clothes for the clothes closet;
- tutoring students;
- visiting church family members who are homebound or in the hospital; and
- calling or sending notes and cards to church family members who are ill or unable to attend church.

You are invited to share what you are doing to show the love of Jesus for the glory of God. Please write your acts of love on the cards provided in Fellowship Hall and place them in the Acts of Love box on the sign-up table. The acts will be shared from time to time in the Lantern to show how we witness for Jesus and share His love in our lives.

Iva Boardman, Missions Team Co-Chair

Run, Walk or Give to Support Neighborhood House | June 6

Mt. Lebanon will be walking/running at the Walk for a Healthy Community event on June 6 at Bellevue State Park in Wilmington. Our sponsors' donations will benefit Neighborhood House, located on B Street in Wilmington (Southbridge) with a satellite office in Middletown. This agency is a multi-purpose community center founded by the Methodist Women's Home Mission Society in 1927. Family, youth development and housing services assist community residents of all ages.

We will be participating as a team. If you are able to sponsor, please make your checks payable to Mt. Lebanon UMC and write "Neighborhood House" on the memo line. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Bob Lathem at 798-3170 or Iva Boardman at 475-8744.

Iva Boardman, Missions Team Co-Chair

Get Ready for our "Dads and Grads" Celebration Service | June 21

Please start gathering your special graduate's information now so we can include them in our Celebration Service scheduled for June 21. All information needs to be in to the church office no later than Sunday, June 7. Thank you and God bless!

Cook-Out for Families at Ronald McDonald House | June 6

Mt Lebanon UMC will be providing dinner for the families at Ronald McDonald House (RMD) on Saturday, June 6. This is a time to provide a meal for the families with children being treated at A.I. Hospital. For this dinner we will be using the grills at RMD to cook hamburgers and hotdogs and have all the usual cook-out items. In previous years this has been a very popular dinner at RMD so please sign-up if you're interested in helping with the grilling or preparing food. There will be a sign-up sheet in Bambarly Hall with suggestions.

If you are unable to attend the dinner but would like to contribute please contact Barbara Ewing at 764-3572. If you are planning to join us at RMD, please plan to arrive between 3:30-4pm so that we are ready to begin serving dinner at 5:30.

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 the families a chance to relax and share time together. By providing a meal and fellowship we provide a bit of comfort, hope and peace to the families staying at RMD.

Barbara Ewing

Fellowship Helpers

If you like to eat, then help with the treats! "Keep it simple" is our motto. We are now in need of people to sign up for the weeks ahead. The sign-up sheet is on the snack table in Fellowship Hall. Thanks!

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the month of June, our worship theme focuses on the Power of Praise and Celebration. We celebrate our Christian Education ministries, our "Dads and Grads" and the connectional ministry of our United Methodist Church as we share highlights from this year's Annual Conference.

Richard Foster in his book on spiritual disciplines describes the practice and habit of celebration as "at the heart of the way of Christ. It was Jesus who entered the world on a high note of jubilation as the angel proclaiming his birth says, 'I bring you good news of a great joy which shall come to all people.' (Luke 2:10) And he closed his ministry with these words on the night before he was crucified, 'These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that you joy may be full.' (John 15:11). " In the midst of your struggles, doubts and grief, may you rediscover the joy of Christ as we celebrate together our many blessings in this community of believers known as Mt. Lebanon.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Holy Communion

The Power of Praise

Psalm 100; Acts 16:33-31

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

Christian Education Celebration Sunday

Psalm 119:9-16 and 33-40; Proverbs 1:1-7

Matthew 18:1-6

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

"Dads and Grads"

Special Guest Preacher and Wesley Theological Seminary graduate, Ms. Wendy Owen, Associate Pastor at Avenue UMC, Milford, Del.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Celebration of our UMC Connection

Romans 16:1-16; John 17:13-23

June Servants

Readers

June 7 Tracy Hopkins

June 28 Donna Winans

Altar Guild

June 7 Julia Tulloch

June 14 Marilyn Hetrick

June 21 Iva Boardman

June 28 Laurence Birkett

Ushers

June 7, 14 Harry West, Tracy Hopkins

June 21, 28 Denise Hudson, Kay Shoemaker

Important Dates

See the calendar in this publication for times

June 4-6 — Pen-Del Annual Conference

June 6 — Neighborhood House Run/Walk

June 6 — RMH Dinner

June 7 — Shipley Worship

June 12 — Food Closet @ BCC

June 13 — Youth Group Fun Day @ Pecometh

June 14 — Christian Ed Sunday

June 19 — Prayer and Fasting

June 21 — "Dads & Grads"

June 26 — Food Closet @ BCC

June 27 — Summer BBQ and Line Dancing

June 28 — "Turn the Tide" forum

Church Mice

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CONAM CORNER

Excerpts from “Selling Off Apache Land”
by Lydia Millet

From the *New York Times* Opinion Pages, 5/29/15

About an hour east of Phoenix, near a mining town called Superior, men, women and children of the San Carlos Apache tribe have been camped out at a place called Oak Flat for more than three months, protesting the latest assault on their culture. The campground lies at the core of an ancient Apache holy place, where coming-of-age ceremonies, especially for girls, have been performed for many generations, along with traditional acorn gathering. It belongs to the public, under the multiple-use mandate of the Forest Service, and has had special protections since 1955, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower decreed the area closed to mining...Despite these protections, in December 2014, Congress promised to hand the title for Oak Flat over to a private, Australian-British mining concern. A fine-print rider trading away the Indian holy land was added at the last minute to the must-pass military spending bill, the National Defense Authorization Act. By doing this, Congress has handed over a sacred Native American site to a foreign-owned company for what may be the first time in our nation's history.

The Apache are occupying Oak Flat to protest this action — to them, a sacrilegious and craven sell-off of a place “where Apaches go to pray,” in the words of the San Carlos Apache tribal chairman, Terry Rambler. The site will doubtless be destroyed for any purpose other than mining; Resolution Copper Mining will hollow out a vast chamber that, when it caves in, will leave a two-mile-wide, 1,000-foot-deep pit. The company itself has likened the result of its planned mining at Oak Flat to that of a nearby meteor crater.

“Why is this place sacred?” said Wendsler Nosie Sr., a former chairman of the San Carlos Apache, in a recent interview with Cronkite News. “No difference to Mount Sinai. How the holy spirit came to be.” If you don't want to take his word for it, the archaeological record at Oak Flat contains abundant evidence that the Apache have been here “since well before recorded history,” according to congressional testimony by the Society for American Archaeology. If Oak Flat were a Christian holy site, or for that matter Jewish or Muslim, no senator who wished to remain in office would dare to sneak a backdoor deal for its destruction into a spending bill — no matter what mining-company profits or jobs might result. But this is Indian religion. Clearly the Arizona congressional delegation isn't afraid of a couple of million conquered natives.

Still today, as in all the centuries since white men first came to this land, Native American people are subjected to broken promises from the US government. When will we stand with our Native brothers and sisters to say “no more”? You can write to our state congressional representatives asking them to work to repeal this rider now in the name of justice, compassion and solidarity through Jesus.

Rev. Jennifer Kerby:

What exactly is Annual Conference and what happens there?

Each year an equal number of clergy members and lay members attend each conference's Annual Conference session for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the conference.

During these sessions, members of the conference hear reports of past and ongoing work; adopt future goals, programs and budgets; ordain clergy members as deacons and elders; and elect delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences (every 4 years). The bishop presides over these meetings.

Our Peninsula-Delaware Conference will hold its 2015 annual conference at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Md. from June 4-6. This year's theme will be “Equipping A New Generation.” Representing Mount Lebanon UMC will be Pastor Jennifer Kerby and Ann Brechtel. For more information, including a live video link to the proceedings, please visit: pen-del.org/2015annualconference

Prayers of Sympathy and God's Comfort...

...to Jim Brittingham, family and friends on the sudden death of our dear Sister in Christ, Jo Brittingham on Wednesday, May 27. Jo was struck with a debilitating stroke on Saturday, May 23.

Services will be held on Friday, June 5 at 11am in the Mt. Lebanon sanctuary with a luncheon to follow at Café Riviera in the Concord Mall, one of Jo's favorite restaurants. A time of visitation will be held on Thursday, June 4 at McCrery and Harra's Funeral Home on Concord Pike from 6-8pm.

Jo was a long time member of Mt. Lebanon church and was an active member in the choir and a regular participant in the Wednesday morning Bible study. She greatly enjoyed her outreach ministry of distributing Upper Rooms and Daily Bread devotional books; Bibles; and unceasing words of encouragement and witness to the many employees of stores at the Concord Mall. Jo was also faithful member of the Dominos Group which raises money for local missions every week.

Cards of care and concern may be sent to Jim at their home address: 30 Murphy Road, Wilmington DE 19803.

June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Painting Class 1pm	2 Domino Group 10am Trustees Mtg. 7pm	3 Bible Study 10am C.D. Group 5:45pm N.A. Group 8pm	4 Annual Conference in Princess Anne, MD Disciple 6:30pm	5 Annual Conference in Princess Anne, MD	6 Neighborhood House Run/Walk 9am RMH Dinner 5:30pm
7 Shiplely Worship 2pm Youth @ CB 4:30pm N.A. Group 7pm	8 Painting Class 1pm Admin Council 7pm	9 Domino Group 10am	10 Bible Study 10am C.D. Group 5:45pm N.A. Group 8pm	11 Disciple 6:30pm	12 Food Closet 9am- noon @ BCC	13 Youth Group Fun Day @ Pecometh 2:30-9:30pm
14 Christian Ed Sunday Emmaus Group 1pm Youth @ CB 4:30pm N.A. Group 7pm	15 Painting Class 1pm	16 Domino Group 10am	17 Bible Study 10am C.D. Group 5:45pm N.A. Group 8pm	18 Disciple 6:30pm	19 Prayer & Fasting 9am-2pm	20
21 "Dads & Grads" N.A. Group 7pm	22 Painting Class 1pm	23 Domino Group 10am	24 Bible Study 10am C.D. Group 5:45pm N.A. Group 8pm	25	26 Food Closet 9am- noon @ BCC	27 Summer Barbecue & Line Dancing 2-8pm
28 12:30-2pm "Turn the Tide" Forum N.A. Group 7pm	29 Painting Class 1pm Mission Team 7pm	30 Domino Group 10am				
2015						

Reflections...

Since Pentecost, I've been thinking a lot about the fruit of the Spirit that Galatians 6:22-23 describes; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity (also listed as goodness), faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I'm working on memorizing the nine attributes in order to help keep them fresh in my mind. But more than that, I find myself hungry for a continuing growth in knowing and living these virtues of God myself. I keep recalling persons I have known who have exhibited these characteristics: my 11th grade World Civilizations teacher; a theology professor at Boston University School of Theology who was fired for her sexual orientation back in the 1980's; and the wife of a retired clergy person who continues to witness graciously and powerfully to God's works of mercy and justice.

Some seem much easier (at least on the surface) than others to live; of course, love and kindness should be the core of my daily interactions. But then my self-centeredness flares up, either internally or externally, and I become aware that I have yet to surrender some additional aspect of my attitude, belief or will. Others like generosity and faithfulness are characteristics with which I enjoy challenging myself; just how much more of our income can I contribute to ministries I love and how often in any week can I repeat the mantra "faith over fear, faith over fear" to live into a greater experience of faithfulness? Gentleness and self-control on a consistent basis continue to elude me as I keep trying to yield my sharp tongue and quick temper.

The crux of this scripture is that these fruit come about through the work of the Holy Spirit, not by our efforts. They develop on God's time frame and are based within God's agenda, not ours. They are the inevitable result of the Holy Spirit's work of recreating us into the image of Christ as continue to yield our lives to Him. Certainly, we can cooperate with the Holy Spirit (or not!) to pray for an openness and willingness to be led into this Spirit filled life; and that work requires a kind of growing in daily mindfulness that 1) the Holy Spirit is available to us each and every moment of each and every day and 2) that we need to be on the lookout, watching and listening carefully, for those promptings of the Spirit to speak or not to speak and to serve when we can. As we grow in the ability to discern and trust these promptings of the Holy Spirit, we are better able to respond obediently; and in doing so, we increase both the likelihood that the Spirit's promptings will come more frequently and our willingness to respond more eagerly. There's really nothing like the experience of hearing from God on a daily basis in the small things of our lives to help us grow in faith that the Holy Spirit will also be there to guide us in the big things of our lives. May you be blessed during this season of Pentecost to come to know and yearn to know the Holy Spirit and all of its work within you.

—*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.