

The Lantern

JANUARY 2016

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Change the Game!

Souper Bowl of Caring: Jan. 10 - Feb. 7

Most everyone in our nation is familiar with Super Bowl Sunday, when the two top football competitors meet in a gigantic game to vie for the title of best team of the season. Many people celebrate game day with parties, cheering for their favorite team, and an extravaganza of food and beverages.

At the same time, we know that literally thousands of people in our own state as well as hundreds of thousands throughout our country and millions of people worldwide go hungry each day.

The idea of spending so much money on food for a football game seems harshly out of touch with these realities. So in 1990, 22 churches in Columbia, S.C. collected \$5,700 to help address hunger needs in their city. Now the Souper Bowl campaign is literally changing the game of hunger in America with its yearly invitation to make a difference. In 2015, 6,684 participating groups collected over \$8 million worth of cash and food items, of which 100% was distributed to food related programs and ministries throughout our nation.

Mt. Lebanon has participated in this wonderful outreach each year, most recently using the food and money collected to provide primary support for the Food Closet ministry we share with Brandywine Community UMC. This last year, we saw a 50% increase in the number of people requesting food from the Food Closet; at the beginning of 2015, we averaged 60-75 guests and by the latter part of the year, we were consistently serving 120 guests.

Our collection of boxed and canned goods will commence on Jan. 10 and conclude on Feb. 7. The Missions Team challenges you to collect pounds of food and dollars that add up to 2016 to start off this New Year with the generosity that Jesus taught us to practice.

Please consider increasing your support to this very important offering this year that we might better respond to the increasing need in our city. Thank you!

— *Pastor Jennifer Kerby, Iva Boardman and Bob Lathem*

New Year, New Study, New Life ...through FORGIVENESS

Has your heart...

been hardened by unresolved hurt or resentment?

Have you ever wondered if...

your darkest shame could be cleansed?

Do you wonder why...

some people seem more at peace than you?

Beginning Jan. 6, the Wednesday-morning Bible study class will begin a study on **Forgiveness**. Using Bible stories and teachings, as well as material from Rev. Adam Hamilton and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, we will delve into the heart of Jesus' life and teaching as we explore the great gift and truth of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

The group meets each Wednesday morning at 10am in the Bambarly Fellowship Hall; please invite your friends and neighbors; all are welcome!

Pen-Del Youth Rally 2016

"WORD"

...as in Jesus Christ, the Word of God, is this year's rally theme. Nine students and three adult chaperones are scheduled to leave Friday afternoon, Jan. 8 for a deep encounter with Jesus and one another through the weekend filled with inspirational preachers, Christian bands and musicians, and much more. Please keep our young people (and their chaperones!) in your prayers through the weekend and then come out to support them at the Youth Rally worship service on Sunday, Jan. 24.

A Heartfelt Word of Thanks

...for all your wonderful cards, prayers and gifts of love during my medical leave this last month. I was so very grateful to have this dedicated time to focus on my recovery. As some of you know, it's sometimes hard for me to slow down to care for myself. In all probability, I will be moving less than full speed throughout January and I will be grateful for your patience with my continued healing.

— *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

More thanks...

I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the congregation to all those who stepped up during Pastor Jennifer's absence to tend to the many affairs of the church. Our loving, supportive congregation was there to make sure that everything went smoothly. We especially thank our graceful and grace-filled Lay Leaders: Harry West, Maxcy Hanby and Kay Shoemaker.

We were blessed to have Ragghi Rain Calentine and boe harris preach at the beginning of December; it is always a pleasure to welcome them and to hear from them.

We were also blessed to have Pastor Don Shuler at the pulpit and his wife Marty preaching to the congregation's youth. Julia Tulloch demonstrated her gifts at sharing the Word in leading our Dec. 27 service.

Our Christmas Eve service was beautiful and moving, as always, and we welcomed many visitors and long-time friends of the church. The service was led by Rev. Karen Covey Moore, a great friend of our congregation. We thank her for sharing her gifts with us and for blessing us with her presence.

I won't list more names for fear of leaving people out. Suffice it to say, for a congregation to function well, it takes many dedicated people, much work and much prayer. Thank you to all for your work during our Pastor's absence and throughout the year!

— *Christopher Portante, Staff-Parish Relations Committee*

Remember that Prayer Works!

Please share your prayer joys and concerns by using the board at the front of the sanctuary or fill out the pew prayer cards and then place them in the offering plates. Our Prayer Chain members are available for daily prayer. If you are unable to attend service, prayer joys and concerns may be called in to our Prayer Chain Coordinator, Ron Foust, at 478-5021 or 563-1105.

Clothing & Food Donations Welcome

The cold of winter is upon us! Warm clothing, blankets, coats and winter gear in good condition are gratefully received for our Food Closet guests.

Also, your food donations of non-perishable goods continue to be needed to keep the shelves of our shared Food Closet stocked. Always needed are cereal, canned meat, soup, canned fruit and peanut butter.

Please use the bins at the front of the hall under the tables to deposit your donations.

Worship Highlights

Sunday, Jan. 3

Epiphany Sunday

Holy Communion

Isaiah 60:1-16; Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Jeff Shoemaker preaching

Sunday, Jan. 10

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29

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

Tim Page preaching

Sunday, Jan. 17

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Mr. Don Schuler preaching

Sunday, Jan. 24

Youth Rally Worship

John 1:1-14

Sunday, Jan. 31

Healing Service

Nehemiah 8:1-10; Psalm 71

1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:14-21

Worship Team Update

Hello Friends and Family of Mt Lebanon,

Nine months ago, the Worship Team embarked on a discovery mission. We have held meetings once a month to dive deep into questions like "what is worship?"; "why do we worship?"; and "what are our hopes for the fruits of worship?"—just to name a few.

Have you ever asked yourself these questions or thought about what "theological world" you come from? This, as you can imagine, has been an enlightening and fascinating process, focusing on the meaning of worship and how we see ourselves and others, while keeping Christ as the center in our hearts and minds.

Over the next few months we hope you will eagerly await your monthly "Lantern" to hear more about this process from the Worship Team. We also encourage you to seek out a member of the team if you'd like to hear more about this exciting time in the life of our dear church. Thank you!

— *Marilyn Hetrick and Maxcy Hanby*



CONAM Corner

While many of our Mt. Lebanon family have had some contact with the Nanticoke people of southern Delaware, we may not know as much about the Native people who originally inhabited the woodland and river areas of New Castle County. What follows is information to help each of us learn more about the first people of this land; excerpted from the tribe's website (nanticoke-lenapetribalnation.org):

"The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation is the northernmost of three interrelated tribes of the area of the Delaware Bay. We are made up of the American Indian families from southern New Jersey and the Delmarva Peninsula who remained in our ancestral homeland after many of our relations were removed to the west and to the north as far as Oklahoma and Canada.

The Lenni-Lenape (or simply "Lenape") are the ancient root of many other American Indian nations. The Lenape homeland included all of New Jersey, northern Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania, and southeastern New York. The Nanticoke are the people of the Delmarva between the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. Our tribal nation of Nanticoke and Lenape people are the result of the coalescing of these two interrelated tribes, beginning as far back as the 1600s.

Our ancestors never surrendered their tribal identity or inherent sovereignty. From the mid 1600s through to the establishment of the United States, we shared our homeland with the Swedes and Finns, Dutch and British...but, always kept our tribal community alive and well. Throughout much of the 1800s and 1900s, our tribal governance continued as a self-isolating family-clan style leadership operating in conjunction with our tribal churches. By the 1970s, a new generation of leaders began to advocate for our people in a more open manner among the non-native public and government agencies, reorganizing the tribe with an elected chief and council which no longer functioned solely within the traditional tribal church."

Today, the tribe is governed by a constitutional government, which provides for executive, legislative, and judicial branches with main headquarters in Bridgeton, New Jersey, where a tribal store, the "Turtle Trading Post" is also located. Local tribal and other American Indian arts and crafts are on sale in the store, as well as interesting souvenirs and unique gifts, books and music. You may want to consider taking a trip to Bridgeton to learn more about our Native neighbors and predecessors, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape.

— *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

Invitation to Join a... Covenant Disciple Group in 2016

For the past seven years, we have been blessed to have had Covenant Disciple Groups at Mt. Lebanon and to have had at least 30 members participate at least once. If you have not been able to participate in the past, I strongly urge you to make 2016 the year!

A Covenant Disciple Group, aka C.D. Group, is about a group of five to eight people committing to meet once a week for an hour from the end of February into mid December to report on their previously agreed upon commitments in the areas of compassion, justice, devotion, worship, spiritual promptings and making disciples for Jesus. In other words, the group members are accountable to each other to celebrate successes and support failures.

The concept was very new to me when I decided to participate in the initial group, but I soon determined that this decision was an important one for my spiritual growth and strengthening my relationship with God. My prayer for my church family members is that you will consider participating this year.

— *Iva Boardman*

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01-02-2015

IT'S NOT MOURNING WHEN YOUR SACKCLOTH HAS A FLUFFY COTTON LINER, MESH SIDES FOR BREATHABILITY, AND A SNACK POUCH

COMMENTS? CONCERNS? SUGGESTIONS?

Please contact our Editor, Chris Portante, at:
cportante@gmail.com or 302.750.7353

2016 Usher Schedule

If you are unable to usher the Sunday you are scheduled, please make arrangements to trade with someone else on this list or use the sub list below. Please call the church office before Thursday at 652-8411 with the name of your substitute.

Jan. 3 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
Jan. 10 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
Jan. 17 Harry West, T. Hopkins/Donna Peterson
Jan. 24 Harry West, T. Hopkins/Donna Peterson
Jan. 31 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson
Feb. 7 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson
Feb. 14 Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
Feb. 21 Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
Feb. 28 Becky Byrd, Chris Portante
Mar. 6 Becky Byrd, Chris Portante
Mar. 13 Kia Brabson, Donna Peterson
Mar. 20 Kia Brabson, Donna Peterson
Mar. 27 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
Apr. 3 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
Apr. 10 Harry West, T. Hopkins/Donna Peterson
Apr. 17 Harry West, T. Hopkins/Donna Peterson
Apr. 24 Becky Byrd, Chris Portante
May 1 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson
May 8 Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
May 15 Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
May 22 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson
May 29 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson
June 5 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
June 12 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
June 19 Denise Hudson, Kay Shoemaker
June 26 Denise Hudson, Kay Shoemaker
July 3 Helen Brown, Kay Frick
July 10 Helen Brown, Kay Frick
July 17 Harry West, T. Hopkins/Donna Peterson
July 24 Harry West, T. Hopkins/Donna Peterson
July 31 Ron Foust, Harry West
Aug. 7 Becky Byrd, Chris Portante
Aug. 14 Helen Brown, Kay Frick
Aug. 21 Helen Brown, Kay Frick
Aug. 28 Denise Hudson, Kay Shoemaker
Sept. 4 Denise Hudson, Kay Shoemaker
Sept. 11 Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
Sept. 18 Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
Sept. 25 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson
Oct. 2 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson
Oct. 9 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
Oct. 16 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
Oct. 23 Kia Brabson, Donna Peterson
Oct. 30 Kia Brabson, Donna Peterson
Nov. 6 Harry West, T. Hopkins/Donna Peterson
Nov. 13 Harry West, T. Hopkins/Donna Peterson
Nov. 20 Becky Byrd, Chris Portante
Nov. 27 Becky Byrd, Chris Portante

Dec. 4 Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
Dec. 11 Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
Dec. 18 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson
Dec. 24 TBD
Dec. 25 TBD

Substitutes:

Karin Kirkland, 302-478-1058
Tim Page (summer only), 302-478-9599

Office contact:

Phoebe Chan 302-652-8411

All-Church Study on Faith & Current Events

Sundays at 9am in the parlor

All are welcome to join in these lively discussions

1/10 — God's Creation: Caring for Our Common Home

Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* is getting much attention in and beyond the faith community. What does it say, and why is it important? How is the Pope's encyclical similar to the United Methodist bishops' *God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action*? To what hope and action are we called as people of faith?

1/17 — The Religious Freedom Restoration Act

Indiana's new Religious Freedom Restoration Act was met with a nationwide backlash. Why has this law generated such controversy? What questions and concerns emerge from this law? How does our faith guide us as we sort through these issues?

1/24 — Christian Witness and Daily Life

As Christians, we are called to witness to others in our daily lives. What does it mean to witness? What can we learn from the Bible about the ways we witness? How can we as churches and individuals enhance our Christian witness?

1/31 — End-of-Life Medical Treatment

The tragic case of Jahi McMath has renewed public attention to complicated questions about the end of life. What defines death? What measures should medical science take to sustain life? How does Christian faith guide us as we face these issues?

Reflections... **New Year, New Leadership**

Each January 1 begins a new year of service commitments on the part of our church leadership. It is incredibly important that we recognize and celebrate so many people's willingness to serve God through our church's ministries. Our District Superintendent, as well as many of my colleagues, are regularly impressed with the amount and quality of ministry here at our little Mt. Lebanon church. God has blessed us with an abundance of material resources but equally significantly with an abundance of hearts willing and hungry to serve the world in Jesus' name.

Please join in prayer for those who are continuing to serve or serving in new capacities in our church's many ministries. Lay Leaders Kay Shoemaker and Maxcy Hanby continue and we say a heartfelt thank you to Harry West who rotates out of that position after faithfully serving for three years. We welcome Maxcy Hanby and Barbara Ewing as our new Admin Council Chairs and thank Chris Portante for his years of service in that position. Chris continues to serve as our Lay Member to Annual Conference and now, in addition, begins a term as Chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. We also thank Becky Byrd for continuing as Chair of the Finance Committee and Doug Hanby for continuing as President of Trustees. Iva Boardman and Bob Lathem will be joined by Donna Winans in leading the Missions Team. We are grateful for Kathy Neilson's continued excellent service as our church's Treasurer, as well as for Iva Boardman and Maxcy Hanby's continued leadership on the Worship Team. Laurence Birkett and Melissa Schuibbeo continue as our Children's Education Co-Chairs, Julia Tulloch continues as our Youth Leader, Tim Page continues as our Evangelism Coordinator and Jeff Shoemaker continues as our Webmaster and Communications Coordinator.

In the United Methodist denomination, we commit our churches to be led by the Holy Spirit through active discernment and implementation by the pastor and active lay leadership. The stronger the lay leadership, the more effective ministry we can do in and for the name of Jesus. Please keep all our lay leaders, as well as your pastor, in your daily prayers that we might be a faithful witness to God's love and saving grace.

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.