

# The Lantern

FEBRUARY 2016

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST<sup>d</sup> 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*

## Upcoming Dinner for Ronald McDonald House Families February 27, 3:30pm - 6:30pm

Mt Lebanon UMC will be providing dinner for the families at Ronald McDonald House (RMD) on Saturday, February 27. This is a time to provide food for the families with children being treated at A.I. Hospital. We are planning to prepare baked ham, chicken, green beans, salad, sweet potatoes and mac & cheese. There will be a sign-up sheet in Bambarly Hall.

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.

This year we have scheduled four Saturday night dinners at RMD – our remaining dinners are on June 11 (cook-out), August 27 (cook-out) and November 12.

Please consider joining in to prepare food and serve the families staying at RMD. By providing a meal and fellowship we provide a bit of comfort, hope and peace to the families. Please contact Barbara Ewing at 764-3572 or another member of the Missions Team for information.

— *Barbara Ewing, Coordinator*

## 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.

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

## 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. Thank you so much for your generosity!

## District Leadership Training

Sponsored by the Wilmington District Board of Laity

**Saturday March 12, 9am-noon at Simpson UMC**  
907 Centerville Rd. Wilmington, DE 19804

**Saturday March 19, 9am-noon at Elkton UMC**  
219 E Main St. Elkton, MD 21921

**All new and/or returning committee chairs and committee members are encouraged to attend!**

\$5 per person – Includes Materials Distributed at Workshop, as well as light refreshments

Workshops Available: (Choose One)

*Staff-Parish Relations (SPRC)* — Rev. Derrick Porter, DS

*Finance* — William Westbrook

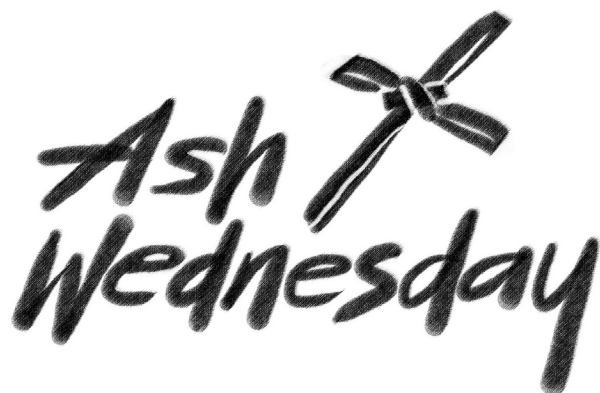
*Trustees* — Rev. Hubert F. Jicha III

*Evangelism* — Rev. John Dunnack

*Worship* — Rev. John Hornberger; Rev. Amy Peters

*UM Social Principles* — Rev. Mary Browne

If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Jennifer or one of our Lay Leaders for the registration form. These are very informative workshops and are especially helpful if you are new to a church committee or may be interested in being on a church committee in the future!



Ash  
Wednesday

The graphic features the words "Ash" and "Wednesday" in a large, black, handwritten-style font. A black silhouette of a wooden cross is positioned behind the letter "h" in "Ash".

## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, Feb. 10 begins the liturgical season of Lent, a time of preparation for the yearly remembrance of Holy Week and the crucifixion of Jesus. On Wednesday, we observe Ash Wednesday with a worship service of prayer, reflection, repentance and the Imposition of Ashes. This year our preaching series, entitled "The Way of Jesus," will delve deeply into the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew, chapters 5-7.

### SUNDAY, FEB. 7

*Transfiguration Sunday*

*Holy Communion*

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

"Shining in the Dark"

"Souper" Bowl Sunday

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10 – 7PM

*Ash Wednesday*

Imposition of Ashes

Joint service with Brandywine Community UMC  
@ Mt. Lebanon

Rev. Jonathan Whitney preaching

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*Offering to support the Food Closet Ministry*

### SUNDAY, FEB. 14

*First Sunday in Lent*

"A Joyful Way"

Matthew 5:1-16

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91

Romans 10:8b-13

### SUNDAY, FEB. 21

*Second Sunday in Lent*

"A Deeper Way"

Matthew 5:17-48

Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

*Mr. Don Schuler preaching*

### SUNDAY, FEB. 28

*Third Sunday in Lent*

"A Secret Way"

Matthew 6:1-18

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63

1 Corinthians 10:1-13



## CONAM Corner

### “The Doctrine of Discovery”

During the 15th century, edicts made by the Roman Catholic Church gave Christian explorers the right to claim lands they "discovered" and lay claim to those lands for their Christian Monarchs. Any land that was not inhabited by Christians was available to be "discovered", claimed, and used as they saw fit. If the "pagan" inhabitants could be converted, they might be spared. If not, they could be enslaved or killed. Perhaps you've heard of this declaration from your high school history classes; at the least you've seen the result of its application in North, Central and South America as well as throughout Africa.

The Discovery Doctrine became the underlying concept of public international law in centuries following the so-called "Age of Discovery." It was expounded by the United States Supreme Court in a series of decisions and was used by Chief Justice John Marshall as the legal explanation of the way in which colonial powers laid claim to newly discovered lands. Under it, title to newly discovered lands lay with the government whose subjects discovered new territory. The doctrine has been primarily used to support decisions invalidating or ignoring aboriginal possession of land in favor of colonial or post-colonial governments.

As much as it might seem odd to us today, the Doctrine of Discovery is still the cornerstone of much legal decisions today in the 21st century. In our nation, it has consistently been used to support US federal and/or local governments the right to deny or disregard suits brought by Native American people laying claim to their original stewardship of the land.

The United Methodist Church, along with many other religious denominations and organizations, have already repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery. Since 2013, there has been a petition circulated by the Romero Institute asking Pope Francis to revoke the Doctrine of Discovery. Francis has already recognized the Church's crimes committed against the Indigenous peoples and affirmed the sacred nature of Indigenous lands, while asserting Indigenous tribes should be the principle dialogue partners for projects affecting those lands. Revoking the doctrine could allow future discussions and negotiations to address outdated and unjust policies toward sacred tribal lands and provide a means forward to right relations between Native and non-native people. To learn more or to sign the petition, check out [www.romeroinstitute.org](http://www.romeroinstitute.org).

— *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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### Altar Guild:

Feb. 7	Julia Tulloch
Feb. 14	Laurence Birkett
Feb. 21	Kay Frick
Feb. 28	Iva Boardman

### Ushers:

Feb. 7	Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson
Feb. 14	Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
Feb. 21	Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
Feb. 28	Becky Byrd, Chris Portante

### Reader:

Feb. 7	Barbara Videtto
Feb. 14	Harry West
Feb. 21	Maxcy Hanby
Feb. 28	TBD

### Fellowship Helpers:

Feb. 7	Tracy Hopkins
Feb. 14, 21, 28	TBD

## Finance Committee

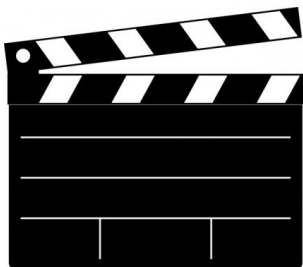
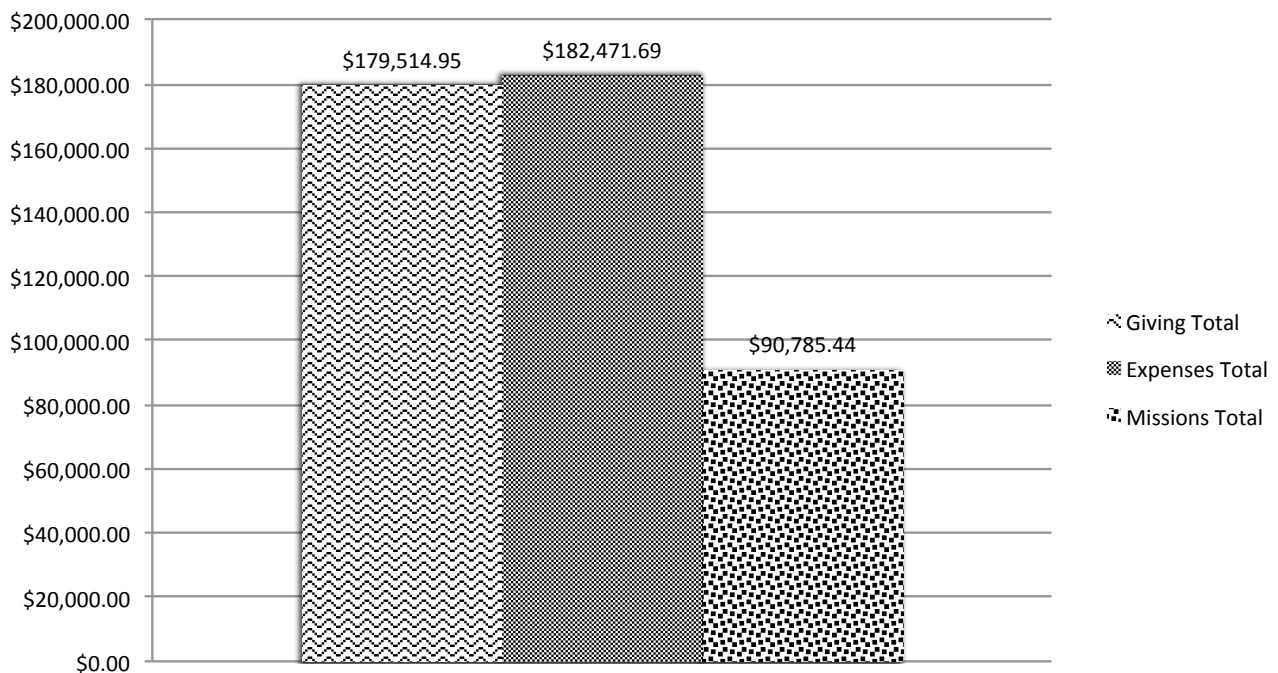
Praise the Lord!

As most of you know, going into the last six weeks of 2015, our church was running a deficit of around \$18,000. Thanks to the Lord, our amazing congregation, and our friends, we were able to close the year with only a \$3,000 deficit, which we could manage with our regular endowment distribution.

The graph below shows not only our impressive giving for church operations but also our enormous giving for missions. Our giving in January has been strong too, when snow doesn't interfere with our church services! I encourage you to return your pledge cards and continue your strong giving throughout the year.

Praise God for the gifts he has given us and the generosity of our congregation!

— Finance Committee Co-Chair Rebecca Byrd



## Movie Night!

February 20, 6:30-8:30pm

On Saturday, February 20, we will be having a potluck dinner followed by movies and popcorn! We will be starting around 6:30. We will be running two screens, each showing a different film (one in Fellowship Hall and one in the Sanctuary). Please bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy one of these wonderful films!

**"Old Fashioned" (2014)** - Clay Walsh, a former frat boy, runs an antique shop in a small Midwestern college town. There, he has become notorious for his lofty and outdated theories on love and romance, as well as for his devout belief in God. When Amber Hewson, a free-spirited young woman rents the apartment above his shop, she finds herself surprisingly drawn to his strong faith and noble ideas, which are new and intriguing to her. And Clay, though he tries to fight and deny it, simply cannot resist being attracted to her spontaneous and passionate embrace of life.

**"Amazing Grace" (2006)** - A drama about the campaign against slave trade in the British Empire, led by William Wilberforce, who was responsible for steering anti-slave trade legislation through the British parliament. The title is a reference to the famous hymn, of course. The film also recounts the experiences of John Newton as a crewman on a slave ship and his subsequent religious conversion, which inspired his writing of the poem later used in the hymn.





## Welcome to our new members!

We rejoice to welcome Cathie Duffy, Marty Schuler and Don Schuler as the newest members of the Mt. Lebanon church family as they made their membership vows on Sunday, Jan. 31.

Cathie moved to Wilmington from Texas, and a whole lot of other locations, after being born and raised in Brooklyn N.Y. She is retired from careers in printing, computer programming and control engineering. Cathie is passionate about missions, evangelism and has become a regular participant at the Wednesday morning Bible study. Cathie's address and contact info are: 1405 N. Adams Street, Wilmington DE 19806, 302-656-1268, sparkmom@aol.com.

Don and Marty Schuler were born and raised in Kentucky. After spending time in Northern Virginia, and Hermitage, Tennessee, they moved to North Wilmington in 1981. Marty has devoted her time to being a homemaker, and Don held various positions in the insurance industry until 2000 when he yielded to God's call and became a Local Licensed Pastor for the United Methodist Church. Don and Marty have been married for 58 years and have two children who live in the area, as well as a married granddaughter and a teenage grandson. Their passions revolve around the local church where they have served as leaders and volunteers in many different ministries and outreach programs. Don and Marty's address and contact info are: 237 Hoyer Court, Wilmington DE 19803, 302-529-1726, pstr1@verizon.net.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Pastor Jennifer are delighted to announce that Don Schuler has agreed to preach monthly from the Mt. Lebanon pulpit; those who have already heard him are looking forward to his future proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

— *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

## Church Custodian Needed

After a decade of faithful service to our church, our custodian Marilyn Jernoske has decided to resign from her position as she moves towards retirement. We wish her the best and thank her for her dedication to Mount Lebanon. This also means that we are in need of a new custodian to clean the sanctuary, fellowship hall, parlor, kitchen, bathrooms and upstairs rooms on a weekly basis. If you know a person or company that is well-suited for this work, please contact Maxcy Hanby (690-4639) or Krista Stoume (897-8917) and we can discuss the church's needs in more detail. Thank you! We will need the new custodian or custodial service to start before the end of February.

— *Staff-Parish Relations Committee*

## Daily Lenten Practice

Test your Lenten knowledge with the **Daily Lent Quiz** at [www.umc.org/lentquiz](http://www.umc.org/lentquiz) — a wonderful way to be reminded that we are in the season of Lent and learn more about the practices of this ancient Christian liturgical season. Every day you have an opportunity to answer a challenging question and then check out some other resources about the topic of the day. Use social media to share the questions and invite others to join you on your Lenten journey.

## Worship Team Update

As you read in last month's issue of *The Lantern*, the Worship Team has been meeting, praying and learning for the past year...Our goal: To explore and discern how best to plan and provide worship at our church. The task was twofold: (1) Gain a full understanding of what worship is, and; (2) Determine what we want worship to look like at Mt. Lebanon Church. To be honest, some of us initially thought that our objective was to determine the best way of integrating contemporary styles of worship into our primarily traditional worship service. What we have come to understand, however, is that worship is so much more than simply how a congregation worships God.

To start, we believe there are six elements of worship that are essential for our services: (1) Scripture; (2) Prayer; (3) Music; (4) Message; (5) Communion, and; (6) Baptism. We give all credit and glory to God for this revelation and are so very thankful that the Holy Spirit has been present at each and every one of these meetings and has guided our thoughts, words, and learning. More to come next month...Again, we encourage you to seek out a member of the team for more information.

— *Krista Stoume and Harry West*

# Beyond fasting: 10 tips for a more meaningful Lent

by Joe Iovino

Lent is a time for self-reflection and deepening one's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. For many this season leading up to Easter will be weeks of giving up something they enjoy as a sign of contrition for mistakes they have made. Others will spend extra time in devotions and prayer, while a few more will carry a cross or nail in their pocket as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for them and the whole world.

If those practices work for you, wonderful! Others may want to find different ways of observing this holy season. Consider adopting one or more of the following creative uses of the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

## 1. Apologize to someone

Lent is a season of repentance. Most often we think of asking God for forgiveness from our sin, but that is only half of the story. Most sins include hurting others, which mattered to Jesus. He taught that if during worship if you "remember that your brother or sister has something against you... First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24 CEB). Lent is a great time to seek forgiveness from those we have harmed.

## 2. Perform random acts of kindness

Express your love for Jesus by loving others. Pay for the order of the person behind you in the drive-through. Give an extravagant tip. Carry gift cards to give away. Ask others how they are doing, then stop and listen to their responses. Share the love of Jesus in any way you can think of each day during Lent.

## 3. Delve into a book of the Bible

Enhance your devotions by getting to know a book of the Bible well. Read it repeatedly, at least once in a single sitting. Find articles about it. Meditate on it with a commentary. Memorize portions of it. Pray through it. Google sermons about it. Find hymns based upon it. In the six weeks of Lent, you could develop a deep understanding of a book of the Bible about which you have always been curious.

## 4. Serve people in need

Identify an organization with which you would like to participate. Sign up and get trained. Then volunteer to serve throughout the season of Lent. When Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, he taught that we are called not to be served, but to serve (John 13:1-17).

## 5. Visit the lonely

Jesus also taught his disciples to treat others as we would treat him. This included visiting those who are sick and in prison (Matthew 25:31-36). Talk to a local nursing home about washing wheelchairs, or a children's hospital about visiting with parents of patients. Volunteer with a prison ministry, senior center, or any other place where people need some human contact. Play games, tell stories, look at photo albums, and enjoy those about whom Jesus said, "when you have done it for [them], you have done it for me."

## 6. Read Wesley's sermons about the Sermon on the Mount

These 13 sermons (available online) are central to the message of John Wesley. They make up a little more than one-quarter of the fifty "Standard Sermons" he gave to his Methodist lay preachers to teach them "the essentials of true religion" and will give you a good sense of what it means to be a United Methodist in the tradition of John Wesley.

## 7. Tell others you love them

Some of us struggle to say those three little words. Maybe we assume others already know how we feel. Maybe we think we show our love and don't need to say it. Or maybe we are concerned it won't be reciprocated. Fight the fear and say "I love you" to friends, family members, and everyone else you love at least once during the season.

## 8. Throw a party for everyone

Jesus often used the image of a party to describe the Kingdom of God. He talked about wedding receptions and banquet feasts, and participated in several large group celebrations. Host your own Kingdom party by cooking for the neighborhood, or buying lunch for the entire office or your church. Feed everyone you can and give people an opportunity to be together.

## 9. Serve in worship

Your church needs you. Sing in the choir, usher, serve as a reader, work with the tech team, help a young family with their baby, or find some other way to serve your church and church family. Don't wait for someone to ask you to use your God-given gifts. Offer yourself in service to your church for the season.

## 10. Say "thank you"

Parents, family members, mentors, coaches, teachers, authors, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and others have shaped you into the person you are. Send a note of gratitude to one of them each week during Lent. Tell them how much they meant to you and how they inspired you. Consider including a small gift. Even if you do not know that author or speaker personally, draft an email of thanks.

*There are many ways to be observant during Lent.*

*Be original. Find yours.*

# Reflections...

I write these words after the “Great Blizzard” of 2016 looking out over piles of snow reaching six feet and more in the parking lot next door. For some, weather events like this bring a welcome relief from overly scheduled lives. For others, being restricted in their movements or quite literally homebound can result in a range of responses from frustration to extreme anxiety. For those without adequate heat or housing, weather like this can mean severe deprivation and even death. We had calls and texts from family on the west coast concerned about our welfare and safety; and we in turn spent time during the storm checking on family and friends impacted by the storm up and down the east coast. I was also privileged to see the care and concern that guests at our Food Closet demonstrated for those who live on the street; including the insistence by one man that he would drive another to the Sunday Breakfast Mission Friday afternoon so that he would be out of harm’s way by the time the storm hit.

There is so much in the world that we cannot control; unexpected accidents and the weather, outbursts of violence and economic downturns, consequences catching up with us from prior decisions made by ourselves or others. It’s no wonder that so many feel powerless and helpless in these days. And yet, in each of these circumstances, we are given the choice of how we will respond. We can fight and rail against that which comes into our lives. We can pout and harden our hearts. We can quietly withdraw and find ourselves slowly but surely more and more disconnected from others as well as God.

I am so very grateful for this God who knew how hard it can be to hold onto the good in the world. God knew we would need to be able to see the truth of divine love and righteousness in the flesh and so Jesus came and walked among us; a visible and tangible reminder that there is another way, a higher way, a way of joy and peace, of rest and renewal, of hope and humility, of justice and truth – the Way of Jesus. For the next two months, I encourage you to read and study and pray over the words of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, Matthew chapters 5-7; and as you do so, I pray that you will find yourself once again on the way to being perfected in receiving and sharing God’s love.

*Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

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## **MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Wilmington, DE 19803

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.