

The Lantern

MARCH 2016

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Questions of Faith: An Introspective Look at Worship

Why do we worship? What is its purpose? How does it relate to the mission of the church? What do we expect from it and more importantly, what does God expect from us? The answers from these questions will inevitably vary from person to person, but what is fascinating is why they will vary.

For the past year, the Worship Team has been honored to learn and discuss what is worship, the purpose, and goal of worship and the primary and secondary elements of worship. We discovered that worship is largely contingent upon one's spiritual mindset or predisposition. If you've ever heard the expression, "we come from different worlds, then the following should make sense. In his book, *Worlds within a Congregation: Dealing with Theological Diversity*, spiritual author and theologian, W. Paul Jones suggests that there exists in every congregation, five separate and unique "worlds".

Each "world" (or sub-congregation) prioritizes aspects of worship differently and sets its focus in accordance with its spiritual perspective. We learned about these five theological presentations or worlds of worship and each of us completed a written theological world inventory. We found that among the ten of us, all worlds were represented, affirming a healthy diversity among team members.

Equipped with this new knowledge, we became more prepared to honor and uphold the six elements of worship that transcend all five "worlds": Scripture, Prayer, Music, Message, Communion and Baptism. Through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Worship Team aspires to present each core component in ways that relate to and celebrate each of the five worlds.

Our discussions have moved us from talking about themes of contemporary versus traditional and what we like or don't like to define worship as our opportunity to praise and adore God. Worship is our time to offer ourselves, our talents, time and treasures to God. This realization and commitment has led us to talk about how best to show our adoration of God in and during our worship services. In other words, we have moved from a self centered tone of "our way" to truly recognize God as our Creator and make it about Him, not

us. At the very least, we need to intentionally commit our services and all participants to prayer and recognize that each of us brings gifts while keeping the essential elements front and center.

The Worship Team has begun meeting twice a month in an effort to begin to learn how to work together to plan services. We will continue to use the Lectionary for guidance with Scripture readings, music and liturgical seasons. We welcome your feedback and questions and invite you to talk with team members Pastor Jennifer, Maxcy, Iva, Jeff, Harry, Marilyn, and Krista.

— Jeff Shoemaker and Iva Boardman, *Worship Team*

Worship with Lunch Returns to Brandywine Community UMC

The Brandywine Community and Mt. Lebanon Food Ministry Team is happy to announce that worship and lunch will return to Brandywine Community UMC on the first and third Fridays of each month beginning March 4. Worship will begin at 11 a.m. followed by lunch. There are several different ways in which your help is needed. You are invited to join us as guests, cooks and/or financial sponsors. Please look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall and let us know what works for you. We thank you in advance for your continued support with our food ministry.

— Iva Boardman, *Missions Co-Chair*

Our Souper Bowl Was Indeed Super!

The Missions Team invited the congregation to donate a total of 2016 pounds of food and dollars for this year's Souper Bowl collection. At the close of the collection, we had collected \$1465 and 343 pounds of food for a grand total of 1,808. The Missions Team thanked the congregation on February 14 for their generosity. This story was not over, though, because on that day a donation of \$208 was in the offering plate. To the glory of God, our food ministry with Brandywine Community United Methodist Church received the 2016 pounds and dollars this year.

— Iva Boardman, *Missions Co-Chair*



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!

Covenant Discipleship Groups

This is the final call for sign-ups if you are interested in participating in a Covenant Discipleship accountability group this year. Please see Pastor Jennifer or Iva Boardman if you have any questions.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

We continue with our Lenten preaching series highlighting the “Way of Jesus” based on the words of his Sermon on the Mount and thoughts from Jerry Mercer in his book “Jesus Christ; the Sermon on the Mount.” You are encouraged to continue reading and praying your way through these three chapters from the Gospel of Matthew throughout the month ahead.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Holy Communion

Matthew 6:19-34

“A Restful Way”

Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Matthew 7:1-12

“A Humble Way”

Mr. Don Schuler preaching

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Psalm/Passion Sunday

Matthew 17:13-28

“A Narrow Way”

Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31

Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 23:1-49

THURSDAY, MARCH 24 -- 7PM

Holy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

(location to be determined)

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Easter Sunday

6:30 am - Outdoor Sunrise Service

Rev. Anna Cottom of Aldersgate UMC staff preaching

7:30 am - Hot Pancake Breakfast in the church hall

10:30 am – Worship Celebration with special music

Matthew 28:1-10

“The Way”

The Purple Bag Challenge

Our annual participation in the Sunday Breakfast Mission's annual Easter outreach "Hope Tote" will be launched on February 28 and continue through March 25. The goal of this event is to provide hundreds of men, women and teens with personal hygiene items. Last year, the Missions Team challenged the congregation to prepare 50 bags and we came close by delivering 42 completed bags to the the Mission. Let's try for 50 bags this year by working as teams! The Missions Team has committed to fill at least 7 bags and invites each of the following groups to do the same: Confirmation Class, Church Council, Choir Members, Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Sunday Morning Adult Class and Congregation members.

The Hope Tote packets will be distributed at our February 28 worship service and additional bags will be available in the collection bin in Fellowship Hall during March. The following items are needed for each of the bags:

<i>Toothbrush and Toothpaste</i>	<i>Soap</i>
<i>Brush & Comb</i>	<i>Tissues (small pack)</i>
<i>Shaving Cream & Disposable Razors</i>	<i>Socks</i>
<i>Shoelaces</i>	<i>Deodorant</i>
<i>Shampoo & Conditioner</i>	<i>Lip Balm</i>
<i>Hand or Body Lotion</i>	

P.S. The team that fills seven bags first will be treated to Helen Brown's cheesecake on March 26th!

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!

Giving Our Hearts Away

The Sunday Morning Adult Class will begin Thom White Wolf Fassett's book on Native American Survival on Sunday, March 6 at 9 a.m. in the parlor. This is a study that is long overdue for congregations that are interested in learning about Native Americans and pursuing reconciliation. Please join us!

— Iva Boardman

Youth Quest 2016 drawing near...

SAVE THE DATE NOW for a very special celebration on Sunday, April 3 when we will rejoice with those young people who are deciding to make a confirmation of their faith commitment. Please keep the class of Danielle Birkett, Nicki-La Davis, Georgia Hanby, Eric Lindsey, Emma Liss and Leah Schuibbeo in your continued prayers along with other youth group members Charlotte Hanby, Ford Quinn and Mike Apotheker.

CONAM Corner

During the month of March, our Sunday morning adult class will begin a study of Rev. Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett's book "Giving Our Hearts Away; Native American Survival." The study addresses the particular crossroads of current issues and the history of US government, societal and church relations with Native people. Rev. Thomas White Wolf Fassett is a citizen of the Seneca Nation and Emeritus General Secretary for the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. He has a rich and varied international as well as national background of experience in the field of faith, politics and issues of justice along with advanced degrees from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and The American University. He is scheduled to be the primary guest speaker and teacher at this year's upcoming Annual Conference of our own Peninsula-Delaware Conference. We are blessed to have this opportunity to continue on the journey of repentance and reconciliation with our Native brothers and sisters and hope you will join in the conversation at 9am on Sunday mornings in the church parlor.

— Pastor Jennifer Kerby

Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 19

Our annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 19 from 10 a.m. until noon. will be needed starting at 9am. Toddlers through sixth graders are invited to join in the fun of the hunt! There will be crafts, refreshments, and live music. A time of prayer and witnessing is always part of this event. Please help us share God's love with others. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please plan to arrive at 9 a.m. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Schuibbeo or Laurence Birkett.

Setting the Captives Free
by Rev. Constance Hastings, MSCC, NCC
Daybreak Counseling Services

Luke 4:18 (NLT)

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that **captives will be released,...the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come.***

While the confetti has all been swept up from Super Bowl 50, the pain, the bruises and the torment will last for a long time, not from the game played on the field, but from those who were forced into modern day slavery in what is known as the largest sex trafficking event in the world. Women and children were shipped into San Francisco to be available for those who pay high dollar for sexual acts that destroy the body, mind and soul of those who literally are sold for others sick pleasure. And when you consider that the average age a person performs their first sex act for money is between ten and eleven, you see what amounts to victimization by child sexual abuse. Though laws are passed and good organizations, including The United Methodist Women, fight hard to stop this evil, it continues because those who are willing to pay for sex create the demand that fuels this modern-day slavery.

The source of this demand begins young in our culture. Girls learn early the message, "You are nothing without a man," and sexual power is prized. The internet is trolled by predators, and media report how runaways, foster children, and those in unloving homes are easy prey for those who would trap them into a life of sexual slavery. But it doesn't end there. The first online exposure to pornography is around age eleven, and 35% of boys age thirteen to fourteen view porn more often than they can count. Like any other addiction, when the mind becomes attached to a habit, and the younger the brain, the greater the need to experience it in more intense forms with violence and humiliation driving the deviant content. It may begin on a computer screen, but it degenerates into becoming the gateway to being willing to pay for sex. Thus, there is more demand generated for slavery.

To combat this, every home, no matter what the age range, must have a safety block installed on all devices with internet capability to protect everyone from what can be an innocent search that lands in a place that lures and traps. These programs can slow searches down, but these porn sites are designed to pop up in the most unsuspected places. And no one is immune to this exposure. All denominations have its stories of even pastors being trapped into this behavior.

Secondly, contact Yolanda Schlabach of Zoe Ministries, zoe-delaware.org to learn more about this form of human trafficking in Delaware and ways our churches can be involved. Yolanda brings a passion to this call that God has laid on her life, and Zoe Ministries has a mission to offer physical, emotional and spiritual healing to victims of sex trafficking.

Should you see something, say something. With enough calls on suspected activity, massage parlors or other places that "just don't look right", the Polaris Project can build a case so an investigation can be made. Call 1-888-373-7888 to make an anonymous and confidential call.

Finally, read The United Methodist Women recommended book, *Refuse to Do Nothing* by Shayne Moore and Kimberly McOwen Yim. It details how the average person can affect this "industry" that world-wide takes in nearly three times what Apple makes in a year. Let us be action for those who pray for delivery.

"I cry out to the Lord; I plead for the Lord's mercy...I look for someone to come and help me....Rescue me from my persecutors...Bring me out of prison, so I can thank you."
Psalms 142 (NLT)

Daybreak Counseling Services is a nonprofit clinical pastoral counseling agency that not only addresses the presenting issue or problem but also allows for the inclusion of spirituality within sessions. It is supported through payments determined on a sliding scale basis, private grants, and individual donations. Rev. Constance Hastings, a nationally certified counselor and United Methodist deacon, sees clients at

St. Paul's and Atonement United Methodist Churches with both day and evening hours.

Call 302-745-1042 for information or to make an appointment.

(This article may be reprinted, but notification would be appreciated by emailing cmhncc@yahoo.com.)

Reflections...

Having just come through a week of rather severe illness, I find myself grateful for the simple luxury of being able to compose a coherent sentence. I am awed by the bright sunshine after days of rain and invigorated by the cool breeze blowing through my windows. Today is like a gift of new life. Hopefully the fresh air will help clear out all those unhappy germs that recently invaded our home. Hopefully my mind will clear enough for the sermon to be written for Sunday! But the past week has reminded me yet again of how God can use these times of “not what I would have chosen for myself.”

Few of us planned or hoped for occasions of pain or suffering when we set out our new calendars for the year. Rarely do we plot and scheme as children or young adults just how we will prepare ourselves for circumstances of grief and sorrow, betrayal or abandonment – those losses that come inevitably with life. Yet when those days come, we struggle to fight our way through the confusion, the anger, the feelings of being overwhelmed – all because it’s not what we wanted, not what we would have chosen. For me, these stretches of being laid low have become significant lessons in surrender. Each time that I am able to release what I would have chosen for myself to what has actually come, I find myself drawing closer to God, trusting that God is already in the midst of what I’d rather not have had to experience!

As we enter into this second half of the Lenten season and continue our journey of faith to the cross with Christ, I am convicted by how urgent these lessons in surrender are for all of us. How many opportunities did Jesus have to walk away from his journey to that cross? And how grateful are we that he faithfully showed us the way of continued surrendering one’s will to God’s? “Not my will be done, but Thine, O Lord.” May we be blessed with many occasions of practicing surrender that we might walk more closely with God into the gift of new life each day.

Pastor Jennifer Kerby

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

850 Mt. Lebanon Road
Wilmington, DE 19803

Phone: (302) 652-8411

E-mail: office.mtlebanonumc@verizon.net

Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.