

The Lantern

APRIL 2016

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Prayers of Comfort and Condolence

...to Claudia and Robin Lathem on Bob's death, Tuesday March 15. A Service of Resurrection and Celebration of Life was held at Mt. Lebanon on Saturday, March 26. We will always be so very grateful to God for the time that we had with Bob and the wonderful witness he offered to this congregation and the larger community. Please continue to keep Claudia and Robin in your prayers in the weeks and months ahead. Cards of care and sympathy may be sent to them at their home.

...to Larry Williams and family on the death of long-time Mt. Lebanon member Laura Williams who moved to Florida after her husband Wilmer died in 2007. Mrs. Williams died on March 12 and services were held at Hillcrest-Bellefonte UMC in Wilmington on March 17. Cards of care and concern may be sent to her son, Larry Williams, at 10 Red Maple Rd, Amelia Island, FL 32034.

All-Church Event: Prayer for All Ages!

April 23 - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Prayer Retreat, Movie & Dinner

The retreat and movie night begins at 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will begin with a practice session and video on "Breath and Prayer" and a hands-on session on "Praying in Color." After that, we will share in a time of potluck dinner and then watch the movie "War Room," which is suitable for all ages. We will end around 8:30 p.m.

"War Room" (2015) is a compelling drama with humor and heart that explores the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of our lives.

Please sign-up on the sheet on the Info Table in the Hall if you are interested!



Good News from Bishop Johnson!

Rev. Don Schuler has been approved for licensing as a retired local pastor here at Mt. Lebanon!

As many of you know, Pastor Don, who recently joined Mt. Lebanon, previously served as a licensed local pastor for over 15 years in our Annual Conference. He completed that time of service honorably and retired last summer. In accordance with our Book of Discipline, he was released from his status of Local Pastor.

With the reinstatement of his license to serve, Pastor Don will be authorized to consecrate the elements at communion and officiate at weddings here at Mt. Lebanon in consultation with and at the request of Pastor Jennifer. We are delighted to have such an experienced and well trained professional in our congregation. Thanks be to God for the continuing ministry of Pastor Don and his lovely wife Marty!

Confirmation Worship Service

Sunday, April 3

The big day for our youth is finally here! Danielle Birkett, Nikki-La David, Eric Lindsay, Emma Liss and Leah Schuibbeo will confirm their faith in Jesus, that was proclaimed at their Baptism, and become full members of the church. They and the other youth of the church will lead us in worship with special music offered by Krista Stoume. Please make every effort to attend and support our youth in their spiritual journey! We can never offer them enough prayer and love.

— *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

Our Choir at Methodist Country House

Sunday, April 17 at 6:15pm

All are invited to this special evening of worship with the residents of Methodist Country House as our choir and fearless Director of Music Ministries brings the good news in song and spirit.

New Custodial Service

After our devoted custodian Marilyn Jernoske notified us that she would be retiring after 10 years of service to our church, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) went into action to hire a new custodian to keep our church looking great from week to week. After reviewing proposals, interviewing, and considering a number of excellent candidates, the SPRC has hired American Cleaning Services, Inc. (ACS), a small, family-run cleaning service out of Wilmington.

At the time of publication, ACS has been to our church four times already to clean, restock paper products, etc. If you have any concerns or questions about the service we are receiving, please contact Chris Portante or Pastor Jennifer.

— *Chris Portante, SPRC Chair*

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!

— *Donna Winans, Missions Co-Chair*

Worship with Lunch Returns to Brandywine Community Church

As reported last month, our worship services with lunch were to have begun at Brandywine Community UMC on March 4. We have been challenged with weather and most recently a need to support one of our team members at the funeral of her mother. We are undaunted, however, and now hope to hold our first service with lunch on April 15 and continue thereafter on the first and third Friday of each month.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall inviting you to join us to prepare lunch items, hostess the lunch or help as financial sponsors of a lunch. Thank you in advance for any assistance that you can provide.

— *Iva Boardman, Missions Co-Chair*

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Eastertide Sermon Series: *Christ is Risen; now what?*

Sunday, April 3

Risen: New life through Confirmation

Celebrating the youth of our church family!

Holy Communion

Sunday, April 10

Risen: It's all about relationship

John 21:1-19

Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

Sunday, April 17

Risen: It's all about purpose

Matthew 28:16-20

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

Rev. Don Schuler preaching

Sunday, April 24

Risen: It's all about promises fulfilled

Luke 24:36-49

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

Hope Totes Results Are In!

Because of your amazing generosity, 75 Hope Totes plus lots of extra supplies have been sent to Sunday Breakfast Mission. This amount well exceeded our expectations and we could not be thrilled about the response we got from the church.

The choir wins the cheesecake prize for the first group to collect seven bags, and the congregation wins the second cheesecake for collecting the most bags. But, as we all know, it wasn't about cheesecakes or competition. It was about showing our love for God and neighbor by helping those who often get forgotten in our community. Thank you again for your generous contributions!

— *Iva Boardman, Missions Co-Chair*



CONAM Corner

"Repentance by itself makes the repentant feel good. We cannot just apologize. We need to focus on healing relationships. And then we need to realize that the learning is just beginning." Blenda Smith speaks from experience. The white laywoman from the Upper New York Annual (regional) Conference has served as a director of the United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns since 2004. Smith said she has moved from "cluelessness" to awareness, especially about the concerns of Native Americans and other indigenous people.

Eight years ago, Smith began working with another director - the Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin, whose heritage is Lakota, Yakima and Shawnee. Smith and Eastin, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Rantoul, Ill., were part of the team that planned the "Act of Repentance toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous Peoples" at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa, Fla. At the close of that service, delegates picked up symbolic stones from the "river of life" scattered in the worship area. They were encouraged to take the stones back to their communities "as a covenant to continue to listen and to walk the journey of healing with one another." That service was meant to be a beginning, Eastin said.

The journey to the 2012 Act of Repentance began at the 2000 General Conference. The first service of repentance stated the sins of racism for which the church was responsible and asked the African Methodist denominations for forgiveness. In 2004, A Service of Appreciation for Those Who Stayed was dedicated to the African-Americans who kept their membership within The United Methodist Church. Four years later, Truth and Wholeness: Understanding White Privilege called white United Methodists to acknowledge their unearned privilege and seek to move beyond it.

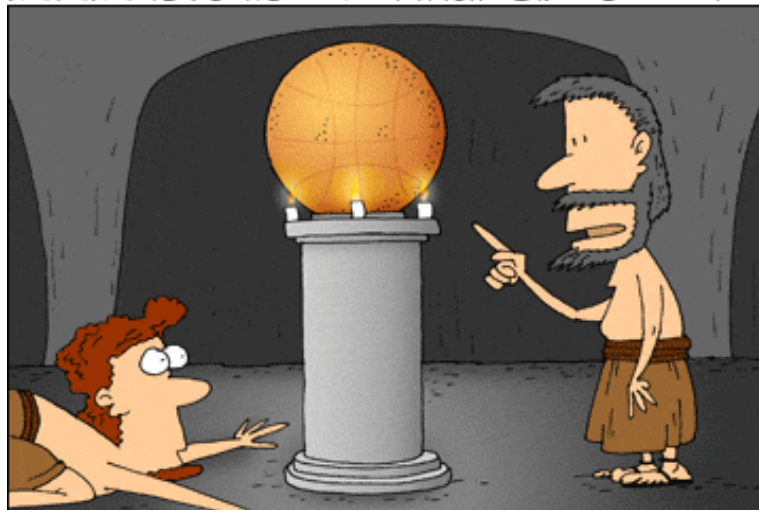
"The service of repentance and healing helped us begin to see a small part of our history and the beginning of repentance," Smith said. She credited Stephen J. Sidorak Jr., who heads the commission, with creating an advisory council, chaired by Rev. Thom White Wolf Fassett.

"Over our years together," Smith recalled, "we pulled together some incredible minds that told us, 'We can't just repent with words.'" She said the experience helped her to recognize white privilege and "the present-day trauma" with which indigenous people live. "It's part of who they are. They are never given the acknowledgment and honor they need."

(Excerpted from a longer article at: www.umc.org/news-and-media/acts-of-repentance-guide-stresses-healing)

— Pastor Jennifer Kerby

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Thanks to Blair Purkiss

04-25-2006

B-A-A-L ... IT'S SPELLED B-A-A-L

Reflections...

Johann Christoph Arnold in his blog "Why Easter Matters" writes this:

The Easter story is the most important story in the history of the world. And it does not belong only to Christians; it is for everyone. Easter celebrates Jesus' resurrection from the dead three days after he was executed. What was his crime? He healed the sick, raised the dead, and preached the coming of God's kingdom of justice, peace, and forgiveness.

After Jesus was crucified his body was taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb ... Jesus rose from the dead and appeared first to Mary Magdalene and then to his disciples. The disciples were afraid. They did not want to be associated with Jesus, because he had just been condemned and executed. They had experienced this personally, and were terrified. So even though they knew that Jesus had risen, they met secretly behind locked doors. But Jesus suddenly appeared among them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Like the disciples, many people today are afraid. Even though, in most countries, we now have the freedom to believe in Jesus, we hide our faith behind closed doors. Like the disciples, we also long for peace without knowing where to find it. Jesus offers this peace to us, a peace that will take away all our burdens and sins. May this peace excite us and fill us with hope and love. This peace is the answer to all our political and social problems. We live in a fractured society, where everybody is divided from everybody else, and simple joy in life is often squeezed out of us.

Jesus came to end all suffering and human need. He loved us so much that he was willing to die for us. As the apostle John writes, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear." This is the gift that Jesus offers us. When we celebrate Easter this year, let's remember that Jesus was victorious over death and over fear. We can claim this same victory and receive his gift of life and peace.

May you discover this Easter season, the joy and victory that is Jesus' gift to all at Easter.

Pastor Jennifer Kerby

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.