

The Lantern

JUNE 2016

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Worship Highlights

Sunday, June 5

Holy Communion

1 Kings 17:8-24; Psalm 146

Galatians 1:11-24

Luke 7:11-17

Rev. Don Schuler preaching

Sunday, June 12

Sunday School Celebration

Proverbs 8; Isaiah 11:1-9

Galatians 2:15-21

Luke 2:39-52

Sunday, June 19

Dads and Grads Celebration

1 Kings 19:1-15; Psalm 42

Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

Sunday, June 26

Methodist Heritage Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-14; Psalm 77

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

Report from Annual Conference



Saturday, July 16 Summer Barbecue & Flea Market

Sunday School Celebration | Sunday, June 12

Please join in this wonderful worship service of fun and inspiration as we recognize and give thanks for our Sunday School children and teachers!

Celebration of Our Graduates | Sunday, June 19

If you would like to honor anyone in your family celebrating a graduation this year (high school and up), please send in their name, school, degree received and future plans to the church office by Monday, June 13 so we can include them in our June 19 "Dads and Grads" Worship Service Celebration and in the bulletin. Thank you!

Prayers of Sympathy and Comfort

...to the family and many friends of Steve Furman who died May 8 with his family at his side. Services were held at Mt. Lebanon on Saturday, May 14 with an overwhelming outpouring of love and care. Cards may be sent to Amy at their home on 728 Westcliff Road, Wilmington, DE 19803.

Special Offerings in 2016

The annual invitation letters to support the six designated Special Sunday offerings emphasizing special ministries of the denomination and the Annual Conference were mailed in early May. We will be collecting for these ministries until the end of June. The invitation mailings include a return envelope which can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Please make checks payable to Mt. Lebanon UMC and indicate "Special Offerings" on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity to support God's work in our world!

Strengthening Our Faith & Action through Prayer

Monthly Days of Prayer and Fasting have been set for the next several months, to be held from 9am until 2pm in the sanctuary. You are invited to come for whatever part of the day you can to join in a time of drawing close to God and seeking God's will for our congregation. The upcoming dates are: Thursday, June 2; Thursday, June 30; Thursday July 28; and Thursday, August 25.

Thursday evenings from 7-8pm are also now being set aside for dedicated prayer especially as we lift up our outreach ministries seeking guidance and wisdom from God as we move forward.

Every second Sunday at 9am, we will meet in the sanctuary to pray for our "Turn the Tide" ministry and the gifts and needs of the N. Market Street neighborhood.

Remember that prayer is an invitation from God, not an obligation, by which God can shape, mold, fill and equip us for kingdom building work here in our local communities.

Kids Mission Events in June/July

Saturday, June 18 — Working at the Clothing Bank of Delaware, folding and organizing clothes. Please note: You must wear sneakers. (Friendship House, 9am - noon)

Saturday, July 16 — Cleaning the dining room area, walls and chairs at the Sunday Breakfast Mission. (10am - noon)

If you have any questions at all please email Cindy Wilson at cindywilson2121@gmail.com or call 388-6286.

Two New Bible Studies!

All are Welcome!

Sunday morning – "The Wesleyan Way" helps us take a deeper look into our Methodist heritage of beliefs and actions as we consider how to live out our faith in today's world.

Wednesday morning – The Apostle's Creed invites us to examine the Biblical foundations of this long-standing affirmation of faith and what it might mean for us as we try to share our faith with others.

June Servants

Reader

6/5 Maxcy Hanby

Fellowship Helpers

6/5 Tracy Hopkins

6/12 Missions Team

6/19 Iva Boardman, Harry West

Ushers

6/5 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick

6/12 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick

6/19 Denise Hudson, Kay Shoemaker

6/26 Denise Hudson, Kay Shoemaker

Altar Guild

6/5 Iva Boardman

6/12 Marilyn Hetrick

6/19 Harry West

6/26 Julia Tulloch

Challenge, Response & the Biggest Hope Tote Collection Ever!

The Missions Team challenged seven teams throughout the church to each fill at least 7 Hope Totes for the guests at Sunday Breakfast Mission as part of their Easter outreach. Our average number of completed bags in years past had been about 25 until last year when we did challenge the congregation to double that number to 50 and 42 bags were completed.

The Missions Team decided to keep the challenge at 50, but this time to offer a team approach. The established teams included the Choir, Congregation, Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group, Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Youth, Church Council and the Missions Team.

The prize for the team achieving completion of 7 bags first was a coveted cheesecake, and our choir won. A decision was also made to honor the team filling the most bags and our congregation with 21 bags was the winner.

The choir will have their cheesecake party at an undisclosed time and place...and rightly so! The Missions Team will honor the congregation by hosting Fellowship Hour on June 12 with a Cheesecake Extravaganza. Everyone is invited to this time of fellowship featuring cheesecake of various kinds and celebration that we filled 75 Hope Totes for our brothers and sisters at Sunday Breakfast Mission! —*Iva Boardman*

A Special Opportunity to Help Deaf Ministry in Delaware

Our Conference's one and only part-time Deaf Ministry staff person, Karen Miller, has the opportunity to travel to Israel for an immersive Bible Study tour. (You may remember Karen from her visit to Mt. Lebanon earlier this year with Carol Stevens, or from one of her previous visits to our church.)

As you might imagine, trips like this led by a seminary-trained and educated deaf clergyperson willing and able to lead a tour for other deaf people do not occur very often.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Karen and all offers of support will be gratefully accepted. The total cost of the trip for Karen to attend is \$3,525. Please contact Karen directly with any questions at watunya@verizon.net or Denise Flores at dlfores@llum.org to make payments directly. Blessings in your generosity.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding this newsletter, please contact our editor, Christopher Portante, at cportante@gmail.com or 750-8353. Thank you!



CONAM Corner

Our Sunday morning study group has just finished reading “Giving Our Hearts Away” by Rev. Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett, a retired pastor of the New York Annual Conference and emeritus General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society.

Rev. Fassett will be the guest preacher at our upcoming Annual Conference of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and help with our conference’s ongoing work of Repentance and Reconciliation with Native American and indigenous people worldwide. Rev. Fassett hopes to bring some clarity to the continuing role of Native Americans in the United States’ society, the realities of their conditions, their relationship to the Church, and the historical dilemma produced by the Church’s treatment of Native Americans from the beginning of colonial times.

“I think as an Act of Repentance people will need to understand what they’re repenting from and what treatment the Church accorded Native Americans, which needs to be acknowledged,” he said. This work “raises the question about the kind of priority Native Americans will have in the future life of the Church,” he said. “What resources the Church is willing to invest in a relationship, in terms of developing new ministries, supporting native people in theological training, and ultimately understanding its detrimental role in the disappearance and the assimilation of Native people throughout the past two centuries.” Rev. Fassett said people must develop a new way of living with each other and Native American people in the United States.

To do this, we non-Native people must continue to work on learning the full history of native and non-native relations in our country, as well as open our eyes and ears to the continuing neglect, abuse and disrespect that Native people experience on an ongoing basis. Our Sunday morning group has made a commitment to do just that. We’ll be planning on attending the Nanticoke Pow-Wow held in Millsboro, Delaware the second weekend in September and also a trip to the Carlisle Indian School in nearby Pennsylvania sometime later in the year. We’ll keep you posted on details as they are arranged. In the meantime, we ask for your continued prayers and diligence in reconsidering how we can build mutually respectful and supportive relationships between Native and non-native communities right here in our communities. —*Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

Cook-out for Ronald McDonald House Families | Saturday, June 11

Mt Lebanon UMC will be barbecuing for the families at Ronald McDonald House (RMD) on Saturday, June 11. This is a time to provide food for the families with children being treated at A.I. duPont Hospital. There will be a sign-up sheet in Bambarly Hall with menu items for our planned dinner. If you are unable to attend the dinner but would like to contribute please contact Barbara Ewing at 302-764-3572. If you are planning to join us at RMD, please plan to arrive by 4:00 pm so that we can prepare the meal together and are ready to serve dinner at 5:30. We typically serve about 60-80 people. If you haven't had an opportunity to join us at RMD in the past this is a rewarding time of fellowship and service to those dealing with a difficult situation.

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

Do You Know Chuck?

"Chuck Knows Church" is an online video series created by Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church to help you and me interpret complex church subjects and issues in a fun, yet informative, way. There are currently more than 100 episodes available on a variety of topics with more being produced all the time. Each episode is approximately 2-5 minutes long. Here are just some of the topics Chuck addresses:

- Elijah vs. Elisha
- Wesleyan Quadrilateral
- Apocrypha
- Foot Washing
- Apportionments
- Paschal Candle
- Clerical Collar
- Pulpit vs. Lectern
- Liturgical Colors
- Pharisees & Sadducees
- Tower of Babel
- From Saul to Paul
- Itinerancy
- District Superintendent
- Doxology
- Crossing the Red Sea
- UMC logo
- Chrismon Tree
- I-H-S
- Sign of the Fish

Find "Chuck" at chuckknowchurch.com or on YouTube, Twitter, Instagram or Facebook! Get to know Chuck and your church!

Reflections...

What a whirlwind these last several weeks have been! Our family seems to be bursting at the seams with celebrations this spring and we are grateful for all those opportunities of gathering together. Graduations, promotions, formal dances, birthdays – it seems every week there has been some big occasion to prepare for and then enjoy. There have been days when I have wondered if there really is such a thing as too much fun and feasting. Then I reflect on the larger gathering of our church family at Steve Furman's funeral in mid-May and I find myself answering NO! There is never enough time to celebrate and appreciate the ways our lives intersect with one another; there can never be too many occasions to express our love and caring for any of our relations.

As we move deeper into this season of Pentecost, that celebration of the movement and power of the Holy Spirit in our day to day lives, I would invite you to consider and act on two certainties of our Christian life. First, is the reality that every day is an opportunity to give thanks and praise to this God of heaven and earth who has given us life and breath to meet the day. Whether you are of good health or struggling with health challenges, whether you are blessed with many family members and friends or only a few, whether you are content in your life or dissatisfied, let me encourage you to seek God's presence and love in each day both as you offer God to others and as you experience God in yourself through prayer, song, study or service.

Secondly, I would invite you to widen your understanding of just who your relations might include. If science and scripture can both claim that we are all descended from one original mother, the Mitochondrial Eve, then perhaps we are more closely related to the "strangers" all around us than we know! If that's the case, wouldn't we want to be doing everything we can to ensure their care and well-being? There's a wonderful song called "Draw the Circle Wide" by Methodist Mark Miller that always stirs my heart and soul (www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpK1zwwKN0Is) ... Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side, draw the circle wide, draw the circle wider still... May you know the power and joy of being a beloved and precious part of God's circle encompassing all of creation.

Pastor Jennifer Kerby

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.