

The Lantern

SEPTEMBER 2016

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Worship Highlights

Sunday, September 4

Holy Communion

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 131

Philemon 1-21; Luke 10:25-28

"Church Recipe for a Happy Life"

Sunday, September 11

15th Anniversary of 9/11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 46

1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

"Faith over Fear"

Rev. Don Schuler preaching

Sunday, September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 134

1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 13:22-30

"Church Makes a Difference"

Sunday, September 25

Guest Preacher: Mr. Bill Perkins, Director,

Friendship House Homeless Ministries

Jeremiah 32:1-16; Psalm 91

1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

"Faith Changing Lives"

9/11 Remembrance Walk

September 11, 5pm

Delcastle Park

Mt. Lebanon Car Wash

September 17, 10am-1pm

Mt. Lebanon UMC

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!

SAVE THE DATE!

Charge Conference: October 6

As we gather on Thursday, Oct. 6 with our new District Superintendent Rev. Joe Archie to share and celebrate all that God has poured out on our congregation over this last year: Ten new members, including 5 young people, confirmed in their faith; the joyful baptism of Rowan Edith Walls; our 8th year anniversary of the shared Food Closet ministry, a stabilized financial standing; and so much more! Worship and refreshments are always an integral part of the evening. We'll hope you'll be attending.

Vital Conversations on Race and Religion

Monday, September 19, 6:30-8:30pm

Join this monthly gathering of fellowship, food and dialogue as we seek to better understand and witness to God's love in the midst of this tremendous challenge of race in our society today. Potluck dinner at 6:30pm, bring a dish to share. Program including scripture, video, dialogue and prayer to follow. Please feel free to bring a friend! Future dates are Monday, October 17 and Monday, November 21.

Youth Kick-Off Sunday

Sunday, September 18

All young people, grades 6 and older are invited to join in the fun on Sunday, September 18! Meet at church at 9am for breakfast at Hollywood Grill. After church, get ready to head out for an afternoon of bowling at First State Bowling Center! Cost for the day's activities is \$10/child.

Youth group and Confirmation Class will begin on Sunday, October 2 and will meet every other Sunday at 9am, as well as at 12:30pm following lunch in the hall. Please see Julia Tulloch or Gale Ziegler for more info about Youth Group and Pastor Jennifer with any questions about Confirmation class.

Save the date now for Youth Rally 2017: Friday, Jan. 6 to Sunday, Jan. 8. More info to come!

We're Forming a Grounds Team! Join Us!

We are in the process of forming a new Grounds Team and need volunteers. The purpose of this team is to clean up and maintain the Prayer Garden, the Children's Garden, the walkway through the cemetery, and the greenery in front of the church. Our goal is to make the church more visible and inviting to the passing traffic. Please be interested! Call Marty Schuler (529-1726) or Marilyn Hetrick (656-1057). — *Marty Schuler and Marilyn Hetrick*

National Back-to-Church Sunday September 18

Why do you come to church? Maybe, because you've always come to church. Maybe, because you want to share the real presence and power of a loving God you've come to know. Maybe, because you've discovered you need an uplift at the beginning of your week. Maybe, because someone invited you!

This year and particularly this September, Mt. Lebanon is focusing efforts on how we share the joy and power of our faith with others. Somehow and some way, God spoke to your heart through this church family. Maybe now, God is trying to use you to speak to another's heart and mind to experience the same hope, healing and fellowship you have come to know in this congregation.

Here's what we know about people in general:

- People want and need caring, loving relationships.
- People want to connect with others in meaningful ways.
- People want to make a difference in their community and the world.
- People want to know how to find peace and purpose in their lives.

Here's what we know about why people are reluctant to come to church:

- Many people perceive or have experienced the church as being hypocritical, judgmental or clique-ish.

Here's what we know about the power of invitation:

- 41% of people who formerly attended church say they would most likely return if invited.
- 60% of those age 16-35 say they would attend church with a friend or acquaintance if invited.

WOW! Talk about great odds! Each Sunday of September, we'll be highlighting a different aspect of how faith and church connections make a difference in our lives. Won't you try each week to invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, family member or acquaintance to come with you to worship at Mt. Lebanon?

Calling All Empty Egg Cartons, Shopping Bags...!

We still need your food donations, but also need empty egg cartons and brown paper shopping bags (and plastic bags!) at the Food Ministry at Brandywine Community United Methodist Church. There will be a collection bin on the Missions table at the front of Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this ministry which is in its ninth year. Praise God!

— Iva Boardman and Donna Winans, Missions Co-Chairs

39th Annual Nanticoke Indian Powwow September 10-11, Millsboro, Del.

Join us for two wonderfully fun-filled days sharing, celebrating and learning about Native American culture and traditions. Events begin at approximately 10 a.m.

The Powwow will include:

- American drummers, singers, and dancers
- 40+ visiting tribes from across the US
- Native American foods
- Authentic Indian arts & crafts
- Nanticoke Indian Museum tours.



The Powwow is sponsored by the Nanticoke Indian Assoc. Grounds, 26800 John J. Williams Highway, Millsboro, Del. For more info, call 302-945-7022 or check out details at: www.wilmingtondistrict.org/2016Powwow.pdf.

— Pastor Jennifer Kerby

59th Annual Pen-Del UM Men's Retreat September 8, 8am-5pm, at Pecometh

The theme of this year's United Methodist Men's retreat is "Making Room For Men's Ministry" with retreat facilitator, Tracy Radosevic, a dynamic, energetic, internationally-acclaimed storyteller and educator. This year we will be sharing in worship, fellowship, and music as we make room for men in ministry. The event is open to men of all ages, and we welcome pastors to join us. Cost is \$60/person (includes 2 meals).

Registration and your check are due by August 29. Make checks payable to "Peninsula-Delaware Conference United Methodist Men" and mail to: Charles Adams, 12 North Nace Lane, Dover, Delaware 19901. For questions, call: 302-697-2447 or email cdadams904@aol.com. Registrations on Retreat day (if available) will be \$70. The retreat will be held at Pecometh Camp & Retreat Center, 401 Jack Elliott Way, Centreville, Md. 21617.

Covenant Discipleship Group to Form Every other Sunday, 8:45-9:45am

If you've been feeling alone in your faith life or thinking your walk with Jesus has become less vibrant or strong than it once was, then it may be time to join with others who seek to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. The group will focus on supporting one another and holding each other accountable while focusing on various spiritual disciplines that are determined by the members of the group at the first few gatherings. We'll begin the first session on Sunday, Sept. 11. Please meet in the Pastor's study at 8:45am. All are welcome. Questions? Please speak with Sheri Videtto or Pastor Jennifer.

CAMP PECOMETH!

CAMPERS ROLL CALL: We were totally blessed to have three youth campers attend Pecometh camps this summer: Emma Liss, Leah Schuibbeo and Evan Schuibbeo all spent a week experiencing God through fun and the outdoors. We also had the joy of seeing Amy and Keimaya Hendrickson attend the Single Parent Family Weekend camp which turned out to be just perfect for them both. Make sure to ask them soon about their time at camp.

THE IMPACT OF ATTENDING CAMP: Last year, Pecometh Director Rev. Jack Shitama shared national survey results that showed kids who attend Christian camp are 3 times more likely to stay connected with church when they become adults! This year the Mt. Lebanon's Mission Team dedicated \$1,000 (plus more that came in as donations) to support camp scholarships. Next year we'll be hoping to see even more of our young people attending!

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS: Camp Pecometh is our church's local camp and retreat ministry and has a wonderful variety of programs throughout the year. Many of our Men of the Mount have enjoyed attending the Conference's annual Men's Retreat there. Those who have taken their "Walk to Emmaus" have also come to love and cherish Pecometh. Now, Pecometh is kicking off its "On Earth as it is in Heaven" capital campaign to help finishing paying off costs for the new retreat center and laying a strong foundation for future ministries. Your donations will be put to Godly use for eternal purposes! Please make checks out to "Mt. Lebanon" and note "Pecometh" in the memo line; we'll make sure they get to camp to help keep all these wonderful ministries going and growing.

Prayer for the Broader Community

Heavenly and all-powerful Father, let us remember and raise up each individual who was present at the World Trade Center in New York City, at the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and the individuals on United Airlines Flight #93 that crashed near Shanksville, Pa. on September 11, 2001. Let us not forget the lives that were lost and the impact those events had on their families. Let us not forget our brothers and sisters who were injured and the effects on them and their families. Let us remember to not discriminate against an entire group because of actions taken by a few. Let us work to turn hate into love, seek justice for each of your children, and walk humbly with you each day. This we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus, our Lord and Savior and with the Power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. — *Thursday Morning Covenant Discipleship Group*

9/11 Remembrance Walk

September 11, 5pm, Delcastle Park

Please join us on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 5pm at Delcastle Park on McKennan's Church Road in Wilmington for the Annual First State F.O.O.L.S. 9/11 Remembrance Walk. This event is put on by a group of firefighters known as the First State F.O.O.L.S. (Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with the goal of promoting firefighter safety, training and tradition.

A Bell of Remembrance will be rung before and after the one-mile walk/run. The ringing of the bell during the ceremony dates back to a time long before modern communications. Four sets of five bells were sent when a firefighter had died. Following that same tradition, event attendees will honor the fallen 343 FDNY firefighters, 23 NYPD police officers, 37 Port Authority police officers and all the victims of September 11th.

Event organizers are supporting the National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation (NFFF) and the Delaware Burn Camp for Children. As in the previous years, fire companies and departments, police departments, military units, Boy Scout troops, civic organizations, churches and other organizations are encouraged to walk or run as a group. You are encouraged to carry an American flag. For additional information please contact Bob Merring at 690-3382 / tillerman17@msn.com; or Kevin Keating at 998-4264 / kevinkeating221@verizon.net. The organization's website is www.1ststatefools.org. If you are interested in participating with other members of Mt. Lebanon, please contact Chris Portante or Pastor Jennifer. Thank you.

Back to School Rally at SBM

Thank you all for your generous supply of backpacks and school supplies! Our collection filled a good-sized trunk two-and-a-half-times and was delivered and shared with children at the August 20 event at Sunday Breakfast Mission in downtown Wilmington. While the school supplies are important, the witness of God and Jesus is what the rally is about. Praise God and special blessings for each of the children and parents who committed their lives to Christ at the rally!

— *Iva Boardman and Donna Winans, Missions Co-Chairs*

New Bible Study on Book of James

All are welcome to join in a new six-week study on the Book of James to be held on Wednesday mornings at 10am., beginning Sept. 7. Our time together for Bible Study is always filled with in-depth conversation and learning. Please join us! Study books will be available for \$10 each.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

The power of prayer should not be underestimated. James 5:16-18 declares "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops."

God listens to prayers, answers prayers, and moves in response to prayers. The Rev. Margaret Gunness states that "The power of prayer is real and palpable. You can feel it and know it and depend on it. It comes as a gift, but we need to do our part as well. God calls us to pray and through our prayer, God empowers us and gives us strength."

Prayer is also a time of obedience, for Jesus instructs us to pray. Prayer is our opportunity to lift up the needs of others to the Father, especially those for whom life is so complex that it is difficult to pray. It is important for all of us to take time to quiet our minds and communicate with God. The more hectic our lives, the more we need time to connect with Him. Sometimes it helps to have a special place where you can be still and pray without interruptions. Prayer changes us as we communicate with God—gradually transforming us into the ones He designed us to be. Also, as we pray, we are reminded that God is in control. Corrie Ten Boom said " Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord AND KEEP IT."

Each month, one day (usually a Friday) is set aside for our church family to be in prayer together. The sanctuary is open from 8am-2pm; while you need not spend the entire time, any time with God is time well spent. We would like to extend the prayer day until 8pm to welcome any who might be passing by on the way home from work.

If you would be willing to commit to any period of time to help us keep the church open from 8am-8pm, please contact Harry West for more information. Making prayer a priority will bless your life as well as the life of our church and community.

— *Submitted by Harry West*

"Check Out" the Church Library!

Please take some time and check out the library in the parlor. The books have all been reviewed and put in their respective categories, making it easy to make a selection. There is a "smorgasbord" of good reading material just waiting to be enjoyed by you. And no dues or late fees...!

— *Marilyn Hetrick, Church Librarian*

3rd Annual Mt. Lebanon Car Wash

Saturday, September 17, 10am

Yes, it is that time of year again to have a special day with families in the surrounding neighborhoods and the We Kids Rock families who spend time here at the church during their music lessons and sessions. The Missions Team with our youth and the Outreach Team plan to have even more fun than we did last year. We will do a mailing to our neighbors in an effort to reach as many as possible.

We will wash cars, serve light refreshments, share spiritual materials and enjoy conversations with each other. There is an opportunity for all. We need healthy snacks, greeters, car washers, refreshment hosts and folks who just like to talk.

We will gather at 9am to get ready for the 10am to 1pm event. While there is no charge for car washing, we will gratefully accept food and clothing donations for our guests at Brandywine Community United Methodist Church. All monetary donations will be given to Urban Promise School and Academy in Wilmington whose mission is to equip children and young adults through Christ with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, personal growth and servant leadership.

September Servants

Reader

Sept. 11 Donna Winans
Other dates TBD

Fellowship Helpers

Sept. 4 Denise Hudson, Kay Shoemaker
Sept. 11 Barbara Ewing & Kathy Neilson
Sept. 18 & 25 TBD

Ushers

Sept. 4 Marty Schuler, Donna Winans
Sept. 11 & 18 Donna Peterson, Donna Winans
Sept. 25 Barbara Ewing & Kathy Neilson

Altar Guild

Sept. 4 Marilyn Hetrick
Sept. 11 Harry West
Sept. 18 Julia Tulloch
Sept. 25 Laurence Birkett

Reflections...

Recently, someone sent me a story I'd read before and greatly enjoyed. I've included it here for you:

A church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. 'I've gone for 30 years now,' he wrote, 'and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, and the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.'

This started a real controversy in the Letters to the Editor column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: 'I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!'

This month of September, our church leadership team is focusing on reaching out to current and former members, friends, family and acquaintances to encourage them to come to church. Marilyn Hetrick and Marty Schuler are starting an Outreach Team and working to help each of us connect with others so that we might help them connect with God's great love, strength and promises. Our Free Car Wash on Saturday, Sept 17 is a wonderful way of sharing the Good News of Jesus' love that leads us through all the hurt and suffering of our lives into NEW life – I hope you'll make time to stop by and encourage your neighbors to come by as well! You'll start seeing banners flying every week from our new sign out front inviting folks who pass by to join in days of prayer as well as in gatherings like the upcoming "Vital Conversations on Race and Religion."

God is so very present and alive in the midst of our many ministries here at Mt. Lebanon. If you've spent any time in this church family, you will have a story to tell of how church has made a difference in your life. I hope and pray this September that you will recommit your Sundays to worship, fellowship, resting and service in the Lord. Remember Hebrews 10:24-25: "Let's also think about how to motivate each other to show love and do good works. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near." Peace and power in Jesus!

Pastor Jennifer Kerby

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.