

The Lantern

JANUARY 2017

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, January 1

Epiphany Sunday

Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service

2 Chronicles 34:29-33; Psalm 50

1 Peter 1:13-23; John 15:1-8

Holy Communion

Sunday, January 8

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Rev. Don Schuler preaching

Sunday, January 15

Servant Celebration Sunday

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40

1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 22

Youth Worship Sunday

“This Is Love” - 1 John 4:10

Sunday, January 29

“Souper Bowl” Sunday Kick-Off

Three-part preaching series begins:

“To Infinity and Beyond”

Healing Service

*Happy
New Year*

Youth Rally 2017

This year’s theme is “this is love” based on 1 John 4:10 which says “This is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” This year, twelve youth and three adults are headed to Ocean City, Md. to gather with some 4,000 others to worship God and celebrate what God is doing in the midst of our young people’s lives. Pray for these teenagers that they will hear God speak to them in a powerful way throughout this Rally and then come out to support them at the Youth Worship Service on Sunday, January 22; it’s sure to be an eye-opener!

Prayers of Comfort and Sympathy

...to friends and family of Gloria Brong who died on Christmas Day. Gloria was a long-time member of Mt. Lebanon and active in prayer and nurture ministries. She was a faithful member of the Dominoes and of the Wednesday morning Bible Study. A graveside service was held on Friday, December 30 at the Elverson United Methodist Cemetery in Gloria’s hometown of Elverson, Pa. Cards of care may be sent to her daughter-in-law, Beverly Brong, c/o Gloria’s home at 109 Prospect Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19803.

Vital Conversations on Race and Religion

Now more than ever we need to learn about the divisions that exist among us and affirm the unity of our humanity in Jesus Christ. Every other Monday night, we gather at 6:30pm to share in a fellowship meal followed by a video presentation and dialogue on a variety of themes and topics. In January, we’ll meet on Monday, January 9 and Monday, January 23. Please come as you are able, bring a dish to share and an open mind to what you might hear! Materials are provided by the United Methodist Church’s General Commission on Race and Religion.

New Wednesday Morning Bible Study: “Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White”

Beginning Wednesday, January 4 from 10am-12noon and continuing each Wednesday following. As much as we might like the complexities of the world to be simplified by our faith providing yes or no answers, scripture tends more often than not to take us deeper into the tensions of our lives. Rev. Adam Hamilton provides an in-depth look at how we understand and interpret the Bible and then how we apply those understandings to the social controversies of our day. A video lesson each week supplements the book chapter readings. Books are available for \$16/each.

Super "Souper" Bowl Challenge

The Missions Team invites you to start 2017 with a brand new challenge to help stock our Food Closet at Brandywine Community UMC. We serve an average of 80 families every second and fourth Friday and God blessed us with 120 families on November 16. Our challenge to you is to fill the trailer parked next to the shed on the south side of the church. During the collection, the trailer will be relocated next to the new sign on Mt. Lebanon Road and we will mark the level of food in the trailer at regular intervals. We will provide brown bags for you and our neighbors and hope that you will bring at least one full bag each of the three weeks of collection beginning January 29 and ending February 12.

You are invited to purchase the basic food items such as cereal, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, canned vegetables, fruits, tuna fish, soup, baked beans and pasta sauce. Please remember that at least one of our major supermarkets has an annual "can-can" sale in February! Get ready, get set and go shopping. — *Missions Team*

Fellowship Helpers needed now!

As was once said, "If you like to eat, help with the treats!" Please take a moment to sign up to serve as a Fellowship Time helper in the upcoming months. Our motto is: "keep is simple, salty and sweet!" Helpers are available to show you how to set up the coffee. Clean-up afterwards is part of the service.

Offering Envelopes available now

Please pick up your envelopes now in the church hall. If you have any questions or would like to begin using envelopes, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Phoebe Chan, at 652-8411.

Praying Our Way Forward

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference will help lead off a more than yearlong United Methodist prayer vigil in 2017 by being the second conference to gather daily, even hourly in many places for a full week of prayer together. Our urgent cause for prayer could be the very future of the denomination.

February 5-11, 2017, is Pen-Del's week to participate in the Council of Bishops' Praying Our Way Forward Initiative. We are asked to pray for "the church's effectiveness in fulfilling our mission of making disciples and for the outcome of the work of the Commission on a Way Forward."

The council organized that global commission of lay and clergy church members to examine fully the church's laws and teachings on homosexuality and determine whether to recommend requested changes to General Conference. The denomination's unity hangs in the balance, as some groups anticipate division along ideological lines, depending on what the Council of Bishops recommends and General Conference decides.

Delaware State Police is Recruiting

Mt. Lebanon has received the following letter from Colonel Nathaniel McQueen, Superintendent, Delaware State Police.

Dear Madam/Sir:

On behalf of the women and men of the Delaware State Police, I extend to you our holiday greetings. During this season, while the Division of State Police are keeping in mind the needs of your family and co-workers, we hope you will also remember one way you can help us keep our state safer: by identifying and referring women and men for career opportunities within the Delaware State Police.

A priority of our agency has been, and continues to be, recruiting and selecting a highly qualified and diverse workforce reflecting the communities we are proud to serve. With this in mind, we hope you will continue to recommend applicants of character for sworn and civilian career opportunities within the Delaware State Police.

We are currently accepting applications for a class of recruits tentatively expected to begin their training in September 2017. Descriptions of the job elements, benefits and qualifications are listed on our website at www.becomeatrooper.com. The recruiting page also includes a free candidate preparation guide and updates on our free preparation seminars.

[...]

If you have any questions, please contact Sergeant Jaime Dorsey-Sterner at 302-672-5479 or by email at jaime.sterner@state.de.us.

We are currently accepting applications for the position of 911 dispatcher. The application can be found on our website at www.dsp.delaware.gov. We also post other civilian positions that become available.

Thank you for your continued support of the Delaware State Police and have a blessed holiday season.

Sincerely,

*Colonel Nathaniel McQueen
Superintendent*

MORE INFO REGARDING HIRING REQUIREMENTS, SALARY, BENEFITS, ETC. CAN BE FOUND ON THE CHURCH'S BULLETIN BOARD.

Altar Guild

1/1 - Poinsettias 1/8 - Iva Boardman
1/15- Marilyn Hetrick 1/22 - Harry West
1/29 - Julia Tulloch

Ushers

1/1, 1/8 - Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick
1/15, 1/22 - Marty Schuler, Harry West
1/29 - Donna Peterson, Cathie Duffy

Reflections...

This year, Sunday, January 1 marks the beginning of the season of Epiphany; that time in the life of the church where we consider and look for the ways that God is revealing God's very self to each of us and to the world. For many folks, winter's dim and dreary days are intensified by the let-down of the bright lights of Christmas celebrations. This year, our nation is additionally struggling with the deep divisions among us made manifest through our most recent presidential election. Where do we find God's truth, beauty and compassion in the midst of such circumstances as these? How do we speak God's word of hope, justice and grace in times such as these?

I read recently that Epiphany can be thought of as the manifestation of God's meaning and mystery. The dictionary says that "manifestation" is the act of showing or demonstrating something; a sign that something is present or real. When we think of God's 'meaning and mystery' being revealed through the birth of Jesus Christ or through the long journey of the magi, what comes to your mind? The idea of Emmanuel or God with us is surely part of that answer; the good Lord knows we need to remember that God is with us more than ever in these insecure and changing times. But there is also great comfort in acknowledging God's mystery in the midst of what we might believe we see in front of us; perhaps that mystery reminds us that our lives of faith are always journeys with unexpected twists and turns and that the destinations we thought we had sought are in truth suggestions of further horizons.

Our church family at Mt. Lebanon has traveled a long road these last many years together. We have seen the vital meaning of God's call to ministry beyond our church walls and lived through the mystery of the death and resurrection of so many of our beloved brothers and sisters. We have seen God's love and healing grace at work in our lives and we struggle with challenges that still confront us. Let me encourage you in these days of Epiphany to look for and witness to those moments of God's revelation that you are experiencing so as to strengthen one another for the journey ahead. Let me affirm with the Apostle Paul the words of Philippians 1:6 ... And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Pastor Jennifer Kerby

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.