

# The Lantern

FEBRUARY 2017

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST<sup>d</sup> 1812

## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

### Sunday, Feb. 5

*Holy Communion*

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112

1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

“To Infinity and Beyond, Part II:

Our Purpose in Christ”

### Sunday, Feb. 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

“To Infinity and Beyond, Part III:

Growing Up in Christ”

### Sunday, Feb. 19

Leviticus 19:1-18; Psalm 119:33-40

1 Corinthians 3:10-23; Matthew 5:38-48

*Rev. Don Schuler preaching*

### Sunday, Feb. 26

**Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

### Wednesday, March 1

**Ash Wednesday Service - 7pm**

Joel 2:1-17; Psalm 51

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*Joint Service with Brandywine CUMC*



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**



## Chili Cook Off



+ DJ

## & Line Dancing!

**Saturday, February 11, 5-8pm, Mt. Lebanon UMC**

Dig out your best chili recipe and put on your dancing shoes! The fee to enter a crock pot full of chili is \$15. Admission at the door is FREE so bring friends! Judges will give prizes to the top 3 contestants! Desserts and salads are welcome as donations if you want to pitch in. The DJ starts at 5:30, so come on out and have some fun! — *Maxcy and Doug Hanby*

## Covenant Discipleship Groups

Our 2017 Covenant Discipleship (C.D.) groups will be forming during February, and you are invited to consider joining one. Each group consists of three to six members who identify behaviors in the areas of worship, devotion, compassion, justice, spiritual promptings and making disciples that they are committed to practicing and then sharing their progress each week. Members find that the accountability that they have to each other greatly increases their progress with behaviors that they had previously had good intentions for, but were unable to accomplish. Please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you are interested.

## 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*

## 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.

## We Have a New Lead Music Minister! Christian Johnson

*Welcome Christian!*

We are overjoyed to announce that Mt. Lebanon's new Lead Music Minister, Christian Johnson, has already begun work, providing music for services and leadership for our choir.

Christian is a lifelong United Methodist and has been a member of Union United Methodist Church in Bear since he was a child. His most recent position was leading the music ministry at Union, which he had done since 2014.

Christian is currently a junior at the University of Delaware, where he is majoring in Music Composition and Piano Performance. He is well-versed in traditional church music, classical music and contemporary Christian music...and he likes them all and performs them all with the same zeal and capability.

When interviewing candidates for the position of Lead Music Minister, the SPRC was very impressed with Christian's musical skills, but also his dedication of service to our God through the gift of music. Christian has a strong faith, and we are certain that his presence and his gifts will be a blessing to our congregation. If you have not done so already, please introduce yourself and welcome Christian to Mt. Lebanon!

## 40 DAYS OF PRAYER A Lenten Prayer Challenge

At our last Admin Council meeting, Pastor Jennifer shared the idea of a 40-day prayer challenge suggested by Bishop Peggy Johnson. The purpose of a dedicated stretch of prayer for the whole church is to first, draw us closer to God and second, to become more clear about how God is calling us to be Christ's body in the world. As we discussed the idea and whether our congregation was "ready" to take on a challenge of this magnitude, Pastor Jennifer pulled out the Bible to reference a scripture and it opened to this verse from 2 Chronicles 7:14 - "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." We decided then and there that we should give it a try.

At worship on Feb. 19 and 26, we will be distributing a devotional book by Sarah Young, author of "Jesus Calling", written specifically as a 40-day Lenten invitation to grow closer to God. We are challenging each and every member and friend of this church family to join in prayer every day beginning Wednesday, March 1, the first day of Lent, to read the daily devotions and join in prayer at 7:14am and 7:14pm throughout the 40 days of Lent. We hope and pray that God will use this sacrifice of prayer as the means to make clear our church's calling in our community.

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### Readers

2/5 Maxcy Hanby  
2/12 Chris Portante  
2/19 Iva Boardman  
2/26 TBD

### Fellowship Hall Helpers

2/5 Iva Boardman, Marilyn Hetrick  
2/12 Sheri Videtto, Cathie Duffy  
2/19 TBD  
2/26 TBD

### Ushers

2/5 Cathie Duffy, Donna Peterson  
2/12 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson  
2/19 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson  
2/26 Becky Byrd, Chris Portante

### Altar Guild

2/5 Kay Frick  
2/12 Gale Ziegler  
2/19 Iva Boardman  
2/26 Marilyn Hetrick

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Thanks to Nick Hengeveld

03-11-1999

SEDGEWICK THE ANT DID NOT REALLY  
APPRECIATE THE ALPHABETICAL SLEEPING  
ARRANGEMENTS ON THE ARK

## Survey Says...

The Nominations and Leadership Committee of the church has developed a tool to help establish the direction of Mt. Lebanon's ministry programs and activities so that our church can meet both the spiritual needs of our members as well as our responsibilities to the local and world communities. To assist us in meeting this challenge, a survey has been created to identify Mt. Lebanon's strengths and weaknesses, as perceived by you, its members and constituents. We want to learn where you think the church should be, what we should be doing in the future, and what we should be doing now.

Each of you will receive a survey questionnaire to discern your perceptions of our church. The questionnaire covers a wide variety of topics, issues and concerns, and we ask for your very honest and candid responses to the survey questions. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers. All that is needed is your frank opinion, based on your experience during your time at Mt. Lebanon. The surveys are confidential with no signature required.

We are hoping to have the surveys in your hands by February 15, and we ask that they be completed and returned by March 1. Your participation is vital if the church is to plan for the near term as well as the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Don at 529-1726. Blessings.

— *Rev. Don Schuler*

## Hope Tote Challenge

Dear Mt. Lebanon mighty teams: Get your shopping carts and forks ready for the Hope Tote Bag Challenge for the Sunday Breakfast Mission. We have increased the booty for the winning team to a bounty of desserts including cheesecake, candy and pound cake...oh my!! Teams are: Youth, Choir, Wednesday Bible Study, Adult Sunday School, Missions, Church Council and Congregation. Word on the street is that the Missions Team are the ones to beat...but of course this team will be competing for the glory only. The official start date is March 5, which is when the bags will be distributed, but you can get your shopping for hygiene items on early :) "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you." -unknown

— *Gale Ziegler*

## A Word of Thanks from Carol Nile

To All my Mt. Leb UMC Friends,

Yes! You did surprise me – with the generous gift certificate that I will definitely use next summer at Chautauqua; the lovely flower bouquet; and the poinsettia that I got last Saturday is still blooming beautifully. And there's nothing like fruit covered in chocolate. What a treat! Also thank you for your everlasting welcome and friendship. It's been a great 3+ years. You're the best!

With love to all, ever faithfully,  
Carol

## Dinner for RMD House Families

### Saturday, February 4

Mt Lebanon UMC will be making dinner for the families at Ronald McDonald House (RMD) on Saturday, February 4. We gather between 3:30-4:00pm to prepare the meal in the RMD kitchen and begin serving dinner to the families at 5:30pm. 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. 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 the difficult situation of having children being treated at A.I. duPont Hospital.

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.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We have three more Saturday night dinners scheduled at RMD in 2017: June 3, August 5, and December 2.

— *Barbara Ewing*

## Leadership Gathering 2017

Wow! Some 25 members of our church's ministry committee and teams joined for a morning of fun, learning, fellowship and sharing on Sat., Jan. 14. We spent time dreaming and discussing different aspects of our congregation's ministry including coming up with lists of responses to questions like 'What do you love best about Mt. Lebanon' and 'What are the top three priorities for our church?' There was a wonderful spirit of God's joy and grace with us throughout the day and we look forward to sharing the fruits of our time together with you in the days to come.

## 2017 Church Member Directories

Please pick up your copy of the new directory at church when you can. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call Phoebe at the church office, 652-8411.

## Fellowship Helpers Needed!

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.

## Monthly Day of Prayer and Fasting

...is set for Friday, February 17 from 8am-8pm in the sanctuary. We want to live out our commitment to being a praying church family and so invite you to spend whatever time you can in prayer for our church family, our church's ministries and our community throughout that day.

Fasting is optional; we simply remember the scriptural record... *Anna "worshipped night and day, fasting and praying" at the Temple (Luke 2:37). John the Baptist taught his disciples to fast (Mark 2:18). Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights before His temptation by Satan (Matthew 4:2). The church of Antioch fasted (Acts 13:2) and sent Paul and Barnabas off on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:3). Paul and Barnabas spent time in prayer and fasting for the appointment of elders in the churches (Acts 14:23).*

## Praying Our Way Forward

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.

*This prayer vigil serves as a response to the Council of Bishops initiative for Praying Our Way Forward (the charge given to the Bishops by our General Conference of 2016 to discern how the denomination can unite across the differences held concerning human sexuality.) Together, let's be in a posture of prayer for the church. I invite You - clergy, laity, congregations, and small groups across the Peninsula-Delaware Conference to pray for God's guidance. Our prayer focus is twofold: We are praying that God will help us to more effectively fulfill the mission of the church and we are praying to be one in Christ. During this time, I also recommend reading Dr. Elaine Heath's new book, God Unbound: Wisdom for the Anxious Church.*

—Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

You can sign up for an hour or more of prayer time throughout the week of Feb. 5-11 to join in this prayer ministry by going to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0548aeea29a4fd0-prayer> or to the conference website and click on the prayer vigil link ([www.pen-del.org](http://www.pen-del.org)).

## Wherever You Go

by Rev. Constance Hastings, MSCC, NCC  
Daybreak Counseling Services

*"I command you--Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*  
—Joshua 1:6 (NLT)

These words sound so encouraging. But for the person who struggles with depression and anxiety, a command to be strong in itself may not be the best approach in alleviating mental distress. Statistics indicate that 1 in 5 Americans experience a mental disorder in a given year, and half of all Americans will have a mental disorder at some time in their lives. If just telling a person to feel better works, there shouldn't be this high a level emotional and mental pain. The connection here is relying on one's faith that even through these feelings of fear and hopelessness, God is present.

There is a growing recognition in the treatment of mental health that spirituality and religion should be included in - not excluded from - services that strive to be holistic and culturally competent. Research indicates protective factors are found in faith practices which give persons resiliency when dealing with life's losses and health challenges. This is also found to be true specifically for people with mental health conditions and how they achieve wellness and recovery. Given that as many as 80% of Americans describe themselves as religious, considerable consideration should be given when seeking professionals for mental health treatment who are also willing to discuss spiritual concerns with them upon request.

Likewise, Jesus' healing ministry also reached beyond physical needs of hunger and bodily disease to heal those whose emotional needs were not understood by first century culture. In doing so, a balance of physical, spiritual and emotional healing and wholeness was brought by the care of God.

*"And whatever their illness and pain, of if they were possessed by demons, or were epileptics, or were paralyzed, he healed them all."*  
—Matthew 4:24b (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 United Methodist Church with both day and evening hours. Call 302-745-1042 for information or to make an appointment.*

# Reflections...

Sometimes it seems like for every step forward, we take two steps back! Two years ago, we embarked on what many of us believed to be a Spirit-led and anointed ministry to dedicate time, resources and energy in ministry to and with the North Market St. neighborhood to help “turn the tide” of violence and poverty. And while no one in their right mind would ever imagine that two years of good intentioned effort would ever be able to overcome and reverse trends and long standing, deep rooted issues of societal injustice and individual sinfulness on multiple fronts, we find ourselves at a point of questioning exactly what was this call we heard on that first Sunday in January 2015?

Despite two years of meeting and hearing speakers from a wonderfully wide variety of ministries in the city; continued ministry with Brandywine Community UMC; a business loan and support the Market St. Pharmacy owner Sheila Tucker who decided she had to close the business; and the beginning of some folks volunteering in new ways in the city, we're hard pressed to be able to say “Here's what we've accomplished!” It may be that you, like some others I've heard from, are discouraged or disappointed or have come to the decision that we must have misheard God's calling or that you just disagree with this focus. But if you've come to any of those places because you're not seeing any kind of “progress” then I would urge you to reconsider what God's calling to faithfulness means for the long-haul. Success by the world's standards rarely looks anything like how God measures accomplishments. As I reflect on these last two years, I am amazed at the deep learnings and yearnings we have uncovered. In the “When Helping Hurts” class, we were all challenged by the truth of the God-complex we employ when we believe we materially wealthy people have the answers to the problems of those who are materially poor. As I've watched people interact with our guest speakers and been exposed to new realities that were previously unknown, I've been inspired to see the deep compassion and new levels of questioning our previously held beliefs that suggest “well, that's just how things are.”

In such times as these, I am comforted and encouraged by the prophet Habakkuk who cried out to God saying, “How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, ‘Violence!’ but you do not save. Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.” (Hab 1:2-4). Now God answers the prophet in a number of different ways, but the piece I always return to are these words: “For the revelation awaits its appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.” (Hab 2:3). I pray that each of us will continue to wait on the Lord as we keep our hands and feet busy with whatever work we know already to do. — *Pastor Jennifer Kerby*

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## **MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.