

# The Lantern

MAY 2017

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

### Sunday, May 7

*Holy Communion*

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

*Pastor Don preaching*

### Sunday, May 14

*Mother's Day*

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

*Int'l UrbanPromise*

*Intern preaching*

### Sunday, May 21

*Four-week Sermon Series*

*begins on the Holy Trinity*

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

### Sunday, May 28

*Ascension Sunday*

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68

1 Peter 4:12-14 & 5:5-11

John 17:1-11



## Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference in Wilmington!

This year the annual gathering of our regional churches — lay members and clergy — will meet at the Chase Riverfront Center Monday, May 22-Wednesday, May 24. Visitors are always welcome to attend the worship services and business sessions as our denomination gathers to celebrate the many ways God works through our Methodist churches. This year's theme is "Down to the river to pray" and we look forward to see how God will call us into the future of sharing Jesus Christ with the world!

## Good News for Mt. Lebanon!

In a letter dated April 5, 2017, our District Superintendent Rev. Joseph Archie III confirmed that the Bishop and Cabinet have reappointed Rev. Donald Schuler as Associate Pastor Retired to continue serving the Mt. Lebanon charge. We are so grateful to God for Pastor Don and Miss Marty's presence and work among us and thankful to the Bishop for his re-appointment.

## Our Young People Confirmed in the Faith

We give thanks to God for our four young people who confirmed their faith on Easter morning and all their contributions to that wonderful celebration worship service: Amber Birkett, Onyi Kenine, Jonathan Liss and Evan Schuibbeo. Each of them have been actively involved in the confirmation class that began last October and successfully completed an in-depth Bible study project in addition to their own personal "Faith Poster." These four young people and their families have also been the ones responsible for putting together the Blessing Bags available each week in the hall to share with homeless men and women on our local streets. God is truly alive and at work in this small congregation to raise up four such dedicated and loving followers of Jesus!

## Vital Conversations to Continue!

After completing review and discussion of the video materials on race, culture and justice prepared by the United Methodist General Commission on Race and Religion, the group has decided to continue meeting monthly to continue these conversations. Our May meeting is set for Monday, May 15 with potluck dinner from 6:30-7pm followed by a time of discussion of our chosen material. This month we are set to read and discuss "Same Kind of Different as Me" by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. Our June meeting on Monday, June 19 will tackle the book "Small, Great Things" by Jodi Picoult. All are welcome!

## UrbanPromise Intern Chikondi Mbewe to Speak May 14

Chikondi Mbewe, from UrbanPromise, will be coming to speak to us on Sunday, May 14. Chikondi is from Malawi and is the second of seven children. He came to know the Lord when he was in high school. After attending Bible College, he was chosen among a few other graduates to come to Wilmington to work with UrbanPromise and learn their model of working with urban youth. Chiko will share with us his personal testimony, as well as problems that children and teens face in Malawi. When he returns at the end of May, he will be serving in an UrbanPromise program called Rise Malawi with high school drop outs and young adults addicted to drugs and alcohol. Come and hear Chiko's fascinating and inspiring story!

# Update from the Commission on a Way Forward

*The 32-member Commission on a Way Forward was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in their charge from the 2016 General Conference to lead the church forward amid the present impasse related to human sexuality and resulting questions about the unity of the church.*

The Commission last met during a three-day meeting, April 6-8, at the United Methodist Building in Washington, D.C. There, the members began discussing possible outcomes and timelines on accomplishing their task of examining paragraphs in the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

Since the work is global, the Commission members discussed ways of informing annual conferences around the globe about their work through videos, listening sessions, and collaborating with groups and organizations with vested interest in the participation of LGBTQ persons in the UMC. The members agreed to decentralize the listening sessions regarding groups from Africa, Europe and Asia since human sexuality is understood differently in various parts of the world.

The closing Bible Study was conducted by Bishop Rosemarie Wenner on Galatians 6, noting that if we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit and that there was a difference between being led by the Spirit and being guided by the Spirit. "Carrying one another's burden means we live together for restoration. Restoration is different than punishment or separation. Restoration does not mean you don't take seriously who we are and what we are doing. It means you journey together, engage with one another in the Christian spirit of faithfulness and trust, reminding one another what we learn from God. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of gentleness, is meant to restore relationship."

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for July 17-21 in Chicago. Please continue to be in prayer for these faithful servants of God and for our church as we continue to seek God's leading in these matters.



## CONAM Corner

Here is a Native version of the Lord's Prayer that you might try praying some day:

*Great Spirit, whose teepee is the sky  
And whose hunting ground is the earth;  
Mighty and fearful are you called.  
Ruler over storms, over men and birds and beasts:  
Have your way over all —  
Over earthways as over skyways,  
Find us this day our meat and corn,  
That we may be strong and brave.  
And put aside from us our wicked ways as  
We put aside the bad works of them  
Who do us wrong.  
And let us not have such troubles  
As lead us into crooked roads.  
But keep us from all evil,  
For yours is all that is —  
The earth and the sky:  
The streams, the hills,  
And the valleys, the stars,  
The moon, and the sun, and  
All that live and breathe.  
Wonderful, shining mighty Spirit!  
Amen.*

## May Readers

5/7 Peter Pratley  
5/14 Becky Byrd  
5/21 TBD  
5/28 TBD

## May Fellowship Hall Helpers

5/7 TBD  
5/14 Missions Team  
5/21 Kay Frick, Barbara Videtto and Sheri Videtto  
5/28 TBD

## May Ushers

5/7 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson  
5/14 Barbara Ewing, Kathy Neilson  
5/21 TBD  
5/28 TBD

## May Altar Guild

5/7 Julia Tulloch  
5/14 Kay Frick  
5/21 Gale Ziegler  
5/28 Iva Boardman

## Ziegler Going "Over the Edge"

On Thursday, May 11, 2017, Annemarie Harrison and Gale Ziegler will be going "Over the Edge" to benefit the athletes of Special Olympics, Delaware. As official "Edgers," we will be repelling down the north face of 300 Delaware Avenue, a 17-story building in downtown Wilmington. In order to participate, our team needs to raise \$2,200. We are halfway to our goal and asking for your help.

Special Olympics Delaware is a nonprofit organization serving athletes with disabilities in the Delaware area by sponsoring training, events, and competitions. It is so vital that every citizen feels connected to their community. Special Olympics makes it possible for all children and adults to take part in the joy of sports, being part of a team, and achieving a goal.

We are asking for your support by sponsoring our team (Team Flamingo). All checks payable to Special Olympics Delaware, 619 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE 19716. The Federal Tax ID number is 23-7162877. The memo on the check needs to read: OVER THE EDGE Harrison and Ziegler. Our online donation site is: <http://www.classy.org/fundraise?fid=903615>.

A donation of any amount will allow Special Olympics to make an even bigger impact on the communities where Delaware Special Olympic athletes live. Thank you!

— Gale Ziegler

## Special Sunday Offerings

Because of the overwhelming response in the past three years, the Missions Team for the fourth year is offering the invitation to send a one-time donation for the six Special Sunday offerings plus the three Annual Conference collections. During the first week of May, you will receive a letter of invitation with an enclosed envelop for you to place in the offering plate or return by mail.

Our collection will begin on May 15 and run through June 30. We were blessed to receive \$5,200 in 2016 which resulted in a contribution of \$577 to each of the 9 ministries within the United Methodist Church. An increase of 15% over your generous donation from last year would result in close to an additional \$100 to each of the ministries. Sincere gratitude is extended for your past and future generosity.

— Iva Boardman, Missions Chair

## Cook-Out for RMD House Families Saturday, June 3

Mt Lebanon UMC will be cooking-out for the families at Ronald McDonald House (RMD) on Saturday, June 3rd. 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 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.

Mark your calendar for 2 additional opportunities to serve the families at RMD his year on Aug. 5 (cook-out), and Dec. 7.

— Barbara Ewing

## 2017 Hope Tote Collection And the Winners are...

The Missions Team again this year invited 7 teams each as a Lenten offering to fill 12 or more of the purple bags of personal hygiene items that the Sunday Breakfast Mission gives out to their overnight guests. The winners are **the congregation** with 12 bags, the confirmation class/youth with 11 and the adult Sunday School class with 8. The Missions Team will honor the congregation with a special dessert fellowship hour on May 14 and a surprise for our youth on that Sunday. Thank you to all who responded to this challenge to fill no less than 55 bags to share with our brothers and sisters at the mission.

— Iva Boardman, Missions Chair

# Soul Injury

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

*“Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love...Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my shameful deeds—They haunt me day and night.” Psalm 51:1-3 (NLT)*

He lies wasting away, an embarrassment to his family and friends after a fall from such a promising future. Bravely, he had accepted his call to serve, enlisted and trained, certain that he was able to handle the physical and mental demands of battle in defense of country. But now, waving flags only send his mind back to that day when he committed the unforgivable sin. The realization of what taking another’s life meant, regardless of the reason for it, was too much for him to bear.

Likewise, she also knows what it’s like when you have to do what you have to do to survive. Sex trafficking was the bottom of the hole she landed in, lured by those who would use her body for their own personal gain. Though rescued from that life, she could only hate herself for what it had made her be. She couldn’t blame anyone who would loath her as much as she did herself.

Deborah Grassman writes of soul injury, “Not only can the body and brain become injured during trauma, the mind and the heart can be injured as well. PTSD programs are responding well to these wounds. Beyond the mind and the heart, however, is the soul. The soul is the repository of a person’s truth – and it often carries the PAIN of truth. No matter what we do to try to run away or numb it from our minds and hearts, the SOUL holds the pain – holds the truth of what was experienced. The primary source of Soul Injury is unmourned grief and unforgiven guilt. These Soul Injuries can become neglected, generating symptoms of their own.” (OpusPeace.org)

Whether a combat veteran, first responder, victim of sexual assault, crime, accidents, natural disasters, abuse, or neglect, the pain can harbor itself in one’s soul exasperating in long-term and complicated grief. Death of loved ones, loss of one’s health, betrayal by a significant other, and other life altering events can destroy one’s ability to realize forgiveness and hope. Still, in the grace of God, healing is possible once the injury is acknowledged and the journey with professional and pastoral support heads into reconciliation with one’s self and our Creator. Seeking out guidance and counseling for this pain is not an admittance of weakness, but a reaching for strength that is available and offered to those who would be made whole.

*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.*

*(This article may be reprinted, but notification would be appreciated by emailing [cmhncc11@gmail.com](mailto:cmhncc11@gmail.com).)*

# May

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<b>1</b> Painting Class 1pm Country Line Dance 6:30-10:30pm	<b>2</b> Worship Team 7pm	<b>3</b> Bible Study 10am CD Group 4pm Worship Team 7pm N.A. Group 8pm	<b>4</b> CD Group 4pm	<b>5</b> Emmaus Group 7:30p	<b>6</b> Admin Council 9:30am-1:00pm
<b>7</b> N.A. Group 7pm	<b>8</b> Painting Class 1pm Finance 7pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Bible Study 10am CD Group 4pm Worship Team 7pm N.A. Group 8pm	<b>11</b> CD Group 4pm	<b>12</b> Food Closet @ BCC 9am - noon	<b>13</b> All Church Work Day 9am-noon
<b>14</b> Urban Promise Service Guest Preacher N.A. Group 7pm	<b>15</b> Painting Class 1pm Vital Conversations 6:30pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Bible Study 10am CD Group 4pm Worship Team 7pm N.A. Group 8pm	<b>18</b> CD Group 4pm	<b>19</b> Day of Prayer and Fasting 8am-8pm	<b>20</b> Kids Rock birthday party 3-5:00pm
<b>21</b> N.A. Group 7pm	<b>22</b> Annual Conference Painting Class 1pm	<b>23</b> Annual Conference	<b>24</b> Annual Conference Bible Study 10am CD Group 4pm N.A. Group 8pm	<b>25</b> CD Group 4pm	<b>26</b> Food Closet @ BCC 9am-noon	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Cadia Worship 2:30p N.A. Group 7pm	<b>29</b> Memorial Day – Office Closed	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Bible Study 10am CD Group 4pm N.A. Group 8pm			

2017

# Reflections...

What a glory-filled Holy Week we experienced here at Mt. Lebanon! We began with a very special Palm/Passion Sunday worship, moved on to our Holy Thursday service with Rev. Jonathan Whitney preaching followed by the Good Friday Prayer Vigil and then on to our two very different, but very inspiring Easter morning worship services. I hope and pray that each of you have been filled to good measure and pressed down to overflowing from these uplifting observances of these most holy days of our faith.

But how long does it take for that resurrection high to be brought down low? Are you able in the middle of the work week able to shout in your spirit "Christ is risen!" and know the power of that claim? I surely hope so; but if not then let me encourage you to follow the example of the first disciples. Keep gathering with one another as much as you can; don't give up meeting together at worship or service events. Keep offering up praises to God for God's goodness and faithfulness no matter how darkened your days may become. Keep nurturing the wonderment of the resurrection in your heart and speak of it as often you can. And then wait. Wait on Jesus' promise to send power in your life. If you experienced the truth of the resurrection, then you know his word can be trusted.

It may be that you don't feel that Holy Spirit presence and power in your life in this day, but remember Jesus is your truth and his promises are sure. It may be that you're overwhelmed with the troubles and anxieties of your life, but remember Jesus is your way and his power is complete. It may be that events in this world don't look very hopeful, but remember that Jesus is your life - abundant now and eternal with God in the heavens. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." I pray that every day you will know the fullness of Christ, live the beauty of Christ and grow in the compassion and power of Christ.

*- 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.