

The Lantern

January 2018

MOUNT LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DEL. | EST^d 1812



Worship Highlights

Sunday, January 7

Holy Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Epiphany Sunday

Pastor Don preaching

Sunday, January 14

1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 21

Youth Rally Worship Service

"Marathon"

Hebrews 12:1

Sunday, January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Cadia Rehab at Silverside

Worship at 2:30pm



**Ashley Passwater, our new
Child Care Worker!**

Ashley came recommended to us by our long time faithful worker Cindy Wilson and is already well settled in. Prayers are requested for Ashley's mom Dana who had a heart attack over the Christmas holidays. Please welcome Ashley warmly when you see her next.

A New Year's Prayer and Resolution

TODAY – Mend a quarrel. Search out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in word or a deed.

TODAY – Keep a promise. Find the time. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate, be kind, be gentle. Laugh a little more.

TODAY – Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express your gratitude. Worship your God. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak hope again. Speak hope yet again. Speak hope still once again.

~Anonymous

YOUTH RALLY 2018

"Marathon" – Hebrews 12:1

A faithful group of youth and chaperones head off on Friday, Jan. 5 to Ocean City, MD for the 31st Annual Youth Rally! Leah and Evan Schuibbeo, Emma and Jonathan Liss and Eli Johnson will travel with chaperones Jeff Shoemaker, Christian Johnson, Julia Tulloch and Gale Ziegler to attend exuberant worship, hear inspirational speakers and spend an afternoon serving at Diakonia Ministries, a shelter for homeless men, women and families in West Ocean City.

Don't forget to save the date of Sunday, January 21 to attend worship and hear all about their experiences and testimonies from the event!



All Church Action Planning Day – Jan. 27

All are welcome and encouraged to attend as we continue living into our two primary goals for 2018 of creating outstanding Sunday worship experiences and assessing what needs to be let go to make room for other ministries. The repeated refrain of "Don't Make Us Tired!" is one we will keep lifting up as we look to the exciting possibilities before us. Lunch will be provided. Saturday, January 27 from 9:30am – 3:30pm.

A Little Humor

Submitted by Barbara Kraus

Squirrels vs. Church

The Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels overrunning their property. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's will.

At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Methodist church decided that they weren't in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later they were back when the Baptists took down the water slide.

But at the Catholic church, the Bishop and priests came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

Not much was ever heard from the Jewish synagogue; they took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since!



Angel Tree Appreciation...

Many thanks to all those who sponsored children and helped with the Angel Tree Christmas Party in December. 20+ children received gifts and some ten families from Angel Tree, We Kids Rock and the church attended to enjoy Christmas crafts, carols, worship and snacks!

“Souper” Bowl Sunday coming up Sunday, Feb. 4

We will again this year challenge the congregation to gather in non-perishable food items to stock the shelves of our Food Closet Ministry with Brandywine Community UMC. Start packing in those canned goods at the local stores' winter sales and get ready to break some old records. Details to come; donations of cash or check also welcome.



Prayers of sympathy and condolence to:

Eugene Amobi and family on the sudden and unexpected death of his oldest son, Chux, who grew up in the church here at Mt. Lebanon, serving as an acolyte and attending Sunday school. Chux died on Wednesday, Dec. 13 and services were held here on Thursday, Dec. 21. Cards can be sent to Eugene at PO Box 417, Wilmington DE 19899 or to his home in Virginia, 4401 Sedgehurst Dr, Apt 301, Fairfax, VA 22033.

Pastor Jennifer and family on the death of her mother, Donna Kerby on Sunday, Dec. 17. She had lived with the family for the last 3 1/2 years. Interment will take place in the summer in Maine at a family gathering.

Ed Jegerski and family on the death of his sister Beth who lived in Florida. Beth had battled ovarian cancer for several years. Cards can be sent to Ed at 30 Anglin Dr, Newark DE 19713.

Joyce Dorman and family on the death of her daughter Holly, who is the niece of Claudia Lathem and cousin to Robin Lathem. Holly had been suffering from a number of health challenges but her death on Christmas Eve was unexpected and especially hard since she has been Joyce's primary caregiver these last several years. Cards of care and prayers can be sent to Joyce at 1135 Clayton Rd, Wilmington DE 19805.

A Word of Thanks...

to all the church family who have so kindly expressed their sympathy through cards and calls, emails and offers of food and assistance. Many thanks to Pastor Don for taking care of pastoral emergencies after Mom's death and while Brent and I take some much needed time away the first week of January. With gratitude, Pastor Jennifer and family

Reflections...

I can't remember where or when I first heard the phrase "God will go before you" but I have come to rely deeply on this promise. Certainly the example and the image is strongly portrayed in the pillar of fire and the cloud of smoke that manifested God's presence as the Hebrew people traveled through the wilderness. And surely, we have the life and death of Jesus as the One who went before us, opening the doors of heaven to eternal life and beckoning us to follow.

The month of December has been a hard one for our personal family with the sudden onset of my mother's illness and her death just ten days after we had started hospice. While we give thanks to God for receiving her home, we also now have a major adjustment to make since so much of our lives centered on her presence and our care-giving for her. Likewise, our church family has been hit hard with two deaths, multiple significant health crises and challenges that continue to test our faith and resolve. It's enough to make one wonder what further troubles await in the New Year.

It's exactly at times like these that this promise of God going before us is so powerful. We are never entering any new circumstance or season without our God by our side. But the even better news is that God has already gone before us! And that means we're never entering into any situation without God already being there waiting for us to strengthen us along the way or comfort us in the midst of the trial.

So the next time you find yourself worrying about what disaster is waiting around the corner for you or what new hardship might be coming at us, hold onto this wonderful promise from Deuteronomy 31:8 – "The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." May we be so bold to pray for God's greatest blessings in this New Year of 2018.

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.