

CHALFONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
11 Meadowbrook Lane
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Web Page: www.chalfontumc.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

REV. BARBARA SEEKFORD Pastor
REV. KENNETH L. BEALE, SR. Pastoral Care Minister
REV. ERIN MAURER Deacon, Worship Leader
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PATRICIA L. KERR Administrative Assistant

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The Messenger

Chalfont United Methodist Church * 11 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914-2810
Phone: (215) 822-2807 * e mail: office@chalfontumc.org

April/May 2014

GOD WITH US ALWAYS

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt. 28: 18-20 NRSV).

Easter is almost upon us, that most holiest of days when we commemorate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. It is the day that Jesus showed the world that not even death could defeat him. It is the good news we share and celebrate every week in our churches. But what does that really mean for us today?

The above scripture passage contains the last words spoken to Jesus’ disciples according to the Gospel of Matthew. They are remarkable words considering that Jesus is speaking to the very group of people and friends that had deserted and betrayed him just a few days earlier.

His words while given in the form of a command are words of reassurance, empowerment and vocation. Jesus has commissioned his disciples to continue the work that they have started together. Throughout Jesus’ life we have seen him gather the poor and the rich, the leaders and the outcasts and restore them to community. Jesus healed and set people free from bondage, he brought forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration. Now the disciples have been commissioned to continue the mission of Christ. The risen Jesus announces to his disciples that the reordering of the world has begun. God is dwelling among God’s people and the boundaries between heaven and earth continue to soften.

This passage ends with the promise that Jesus will be present with us until the end of the age. It is a reminder of the promise received at Christmas when Jesus – Emmanuel, “God with us,” was born. It recalls the promises that Jesus is present wherever two or three are gathered in his name, and he is present among the least of these and all who hunger and thirst, who are strangers, naked, sick or in prison. The promise of Easter is that we will never be abandoned, forgotten or alone. While we continue to live between worship and doubt, between betrayal, and brokenness, hope and faith help us rise above despair and live into the reality of the resurrection.

This year let us celebrate Easter and the resurrection by leaving behind the (false) certainties of our humanly constructed worlds and join with Jesus in the journey that leads through death to new life with God. In this way, in the presence of the risen Jesus, it is possible to see both God and the world differently, especially to discern that, despite the ways the world trains us to see otherwise, Jesus is already ruling over both earth and heaven. We need Jesus with us on the journey of discipleship through the whole world, for it is his power and presence that is remaking the world. But he also needs us, for only as we journey with him, naming his presence and power in the contested spaces, is God’s empire made known to others” (Stanley Saunders, *Preaching the Gospel of Matthew, 302*).

Have a blest Easter everyone, Pastor Barb

We, the members of Chalfont United Methodist Church, are committed to:

KNOW the love of God in Jesus Christ - GROW as disciples of Jesus Christ - GO share the love of God in Jesus Christ

The Vision of the people of Chalfont United Methodist Church is to nurture

FAITH, FAMILY and FELLOWSHIP

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, April 12

*(Community Roast Beef Dinner
Benefiting the music department of CUMC)*

Sunday, April 18

(Palm Sunday: Children’s Choir sings)

Thursday, April 17

*(Maundy Thursday Service
Family Life Center - 7:30 pm)*

Friday, April 18

*(Community Good Friday Service:
Pleasantville United Church of Christ - 7:30 pm)*

Sunday, April 20

*(Easter Sunday: Breakfast - 8:30 am; Worship - 9:30 am;
Easter Egg Hunt between services; Worship - 11:00)*

Saturday, May 10

(UMW Community Tea)

Saturday APRIL 12

ROAST BEEF DINNER

4:00 to 7:00

Adults - \$13.00

Seniors (65+) - \$12.00

Children 5 to 12 - \$7.00

Under 5 - free

Take Outs - \$13.00

Family style dinner

with great homemade desserts

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In Remembrance: It is with great sadness that we remember **Anna Beale**, wife of our Visitation Pastor, **Rev. Kenneth Beale**, who passed away on March 4th.

Invitation: YOU ARE INVITED- to celebrate a very special birthday for **Betty Williams** on **Saturday, April 26th 2:00-4:00pm** in the FLC, given by her family. Betty desires your presence, but not any presents. She would, however love to be showered with birthday cards.

Rosebud: on the altar is for the birth of **Nolan James Thomas** on March 20th to **Kimberly (Graziano)** and **Chad Thomas**, Grandson to **Jan Graziano**.

Congratulations: to **Sue Gadaleta** with the birth of her new grandson, **Mason David**, on March 10th to daughter **Loni**.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated, sorted, priced, worked the sale and helped pack the leftover items at the UMW Rummage sale in early March.

Thank you from A Women's Place for the generous donation of \$384.00.

Thank you from Heifer International for the CUMC donation of \$180.00.

Thank you from UMCOR for the CUMC donation of \$195.00 to Disaster Response.

Thank you from Rev. Charles Green for our donation of \$325.00 for the orphanage children in the Republic of Moldova.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the prayers, thoughts and cards for the recent death of our brother, Fred. This meant so much during a very trying time. Ed and Gail Schnell

CALENDAR

- 4/12 - Music Department Roast Beef Dinner (4:00 to 7:00)
- 4/13 - Palm Sunday Services (Children's choir sings)
- 4/17 - Maundy Thursday Service in the FLC (7:30 pm)
- 4/18 - Good Friday Community Service (7:30 pm)
- 4/20 - Easter Sunday Breakfast (8:30 am) 9:30 Easter Service.
- Easter Egg hunt for children between services 11:00 Easter Service.
- 5/10 - CUMW's Annual Community Tea
- 5/11 - Mother's Day

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Rummage Sale update: The UMW made a profit of \$1,719.82 despite the early March date and snow fatigue. The Rescue Mission of Trenton, NJ was happy to take our clothing donation and the remaining items were donated to the Purple Heart, the Salvation Army and other local organizations.

UMW COMMUNITY TEA

SATURDAY, MAY 10

12:00 and 3:00 seatings

\$17.00

(Reservation only)

All women of the church are invited to join us as we continue to do the Lord's work in mission.

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY GARDEN

It is never too late to support the community garden at CUMC. People are now growing seedlings and it may not be too late for you to volunteer for this task. There are many other opportunities for "volunteerism" when it is time to plant, weed and pick the produce.

And...there is also a Garden Fund, and you can donate \$1.00 to help cover the expenses of the garden.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

During the month of January the Sunday School, with the help of their families and the congregation, raised \$465.00 towards their mission project through the Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (*A Mother and Child Survival Program*). This program provides care to mothers and their children; it teaches them about eating healthy, drinking clean water, and other basic things we take for granted. *"When we love our neighbors, we work with them to help them improve their lives."*

MID-YEAR COMMITTEE OPENINGS

It is with regret that we have accepted the resignations of Joan and Eric Jensen from their various volunteer and elected positions within our congregation. Joan and Eric are moving to New York to be closer to Joan's mom.

Their leaving means that we have many leadership positions to fill. We are just listing the positions in this notice. If you would like to know the responsibilities of each position please contact Pastor Barb (610.310.8349) and she'll be happy to share the information with you.

If you would like to serve on any of these committees or fill one of these vacant spots please contact Pastor Barb or the office (215.822.2807).

The following elected positions that need to be filled include:

- Church Council Chair
- Church Council Secretary
- Finance Committee Chair
- Annual Conference Representative (*thus attending the Staff Parish Relations Committee*)
- Endowment Fund Committee Chair
- Member of Trustees

The following volunteer positions that need to be addressed include:

- Selling of Giant Gift Cards between the worship services
- Collecting the offering after the 11:00 service
- Visiting our homebound members and serving them communion (*coordinated with Rev. Beale*)

EASTER FLOWERS/REMEMBRANCES

Easter Flowers will be displayed for the Easter Services, April 20th. The flowers may be placed in honor or memory of Loved Ones and they are \$5.00 each.

As an alternative to buying flowers, a donation may be made to the New Britain Food Larder, A Women's Place, or Habitat for Humanity

Your flower payment/donation should be returned by Sunday, April 13 (*Palm Sunday*) for the name to be included in the Easter Bulletin. (*Payment must accompany orders and checks made payable to Chalfont United Methodist Church*). Please contact Dawn Morris if you have any questions (215-822-0622).

THE CHURCH MOUSE

Spring symbolizes new life and rebirth; Easter eggs represent Jesus' resurrection.



The first Easter Bunny legend was documented in the 1500s. By 1680, the first story about a rabbit laying eggs and hiding them in a garden was published. These legends were brought to the United States in the 1700s, when German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania Dutch country, according to the Center for Children's Literature and Culture.

The tradition of making nests for the rabbit to lay its eggs in soon followed. Eventually, nests became decorated baskets and colorful eggs were swapped for candy, treats and other small gifts.

Can you find the display of small baby animals that are decorating the church for Spring? I should be there among my friends.