

CHALFONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
11 Meadowbrook Lane
Chalfont, Pennsylvania 18914-2810
(215) 822-2807

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
CRIS FRISCO Director of Music
PATRICIA L. KERR Administrative Assistant

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
DOYLESTOWN, PA
PERMIT no. 107

Address Service Requested

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL, DO NOT HOLD



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

September 2014

Can We Have an Honest Conversation? - Broken Together

*Maybe you and I were never meant to be complete
Could we just be broken together
If you can bring your shattered dreams and I'll bring mine
Could healing still be spoken and save us
The only way we'll last forever is broken together*

(© 2013 Sony/ATV Tree Publishing)

The above are the partial lyrics to a popular song **Broken Together** sung by **Casting Crowns**. This song is in my head right now because of my daughter's blog that I read on other day. I've included it below. The song is actually about a married couple going through some struggles. But, as I listen to the words and think about my daughter's words I can't help but think of the church. I am sure that almost every one of us knows someone (*might be us*) who is struggling.

But- talking about depression and other illnesses and conditions that affect the mind is not something we do well in our churches. Why? When did church become a place where people are expected to have it all together? Can we change that here at Chalfont? Every week we have many hurting people sitting in our pews and I can't help but wonder: What would it look like if we became a place that honored the brokenness in each of us? Let's begin the conversation.

Pastor Barb

I know everyone is writing about Robin Williams this week and normally I would avoid doing so for that reason, but I need to write this. I'm writing because my heart is broken, and I don't feel capable of doing anything today other than this. I really hate depression. Actually what I hate is darkness, hopelessness, and shame. All the havoc wreaked by what we refer to as "depression."

You know what else I hate? That there are no allowances made for those of us battling with this, day in and exhausting day out. I hate that we have to hide our struggle. I hate that the world expects us to function just the same as someone who does not have this heavy weight to carry around.

Well news flash- WE CAN'T. Those are unrealistic expectations that we cannot fulfill. But don't think we won't kill ourselves trying. We will try so hard, and we will exhaust ourselves, and we will fall into a broken pile of a million shattered pieces as we grieve our inability to be like "everyone else". Our skin color, and gender, and socioeconomic status mean nothing, because no amount of privilege can heal our suffering minds. Sure, you can say that some may have access to mental health care that others do not, but sometimes, no amount of doctors or medication can alleviate our suffering (Robin Williams is a prime example of this).

Depression is the great leveler; it does not discriminate based on our social status. But can I share with you what you probably don't see? We can't fit into the mold of the world's standards, because we weren't meant to. Not because we aren't good enough, but because we were meant for so much more than that. We are creative, and we are sensitive, and we are passionate. On our best day, we can accomplish greatness far surpassing what most people can only dream of. On our worst day, we are closest to the heart of God and to the immense suffering of the world. You see, we can't turn a blind eye to it, like you can. We can't just get by in our daily lives. We have no choice but to feel the intense ache of a world longing for release from its shackles.

The truth is that the world needs us, just as we are. We are the game-changers. We are the voices of truth in the wilderness. We are the healers, and the creators, and the life-givers. So how about instead of trying to "fix us" and forcing us to fit into your mold, you instead allow us to be most fully ourselves? If we need to hide in our beds for awhile, then bring us a blanket and a cup of tea and encourage us to stay there for as long as we need to... because when we do have the strength to get back up (and eventually we will)- we will have mountains to climb that you cannot even begin to understand. And, we will walk up those mountains with the weight of the entire world on our shoulders, and we will continue to climb, step by treacherous step, because the world is depending on us, and we have work to do that you are not capable of. The burden falls on us and believe it or not, we really don't want to let you down. So let us rest today, for tomorrow we will most certainly be too busy moving mountains.

by: Stacy Alise, August 16, 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, August 31
(last Sunday in FLC for 9:30 service)
Tuesday, September 2
(St. Jude's Red Cross Blood Drive; FLC; 2:00 - 7:00 pm)
Sunday, September 7
(first Sunday in the sanctuary for 9:30 am service)
Saturday, September 13
(Nora Polgar's memorial service - 11:00 am)
Sunday, September 14
(blessing of the backpacks for back to school kids)
Friday, October 10
(UMW Night Out and Silent Auction - 6:30 pm)
Sunday, October 19
(Laity Recognition Sunday)

LADIES NIGHT OUT
and
SILENT AUCTION
\$10.00
Friday, October 10th
6:30 pm

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

New e-mail: Joan Jensen has new contact information. Her new e-mail is Jensenjhl@verizon.net and her telephone number is 1 (518) 489-0783.

Memoriam: We were all sad to hear of the death of long time member **Nora Polgar**. It seems like only a week or so ago that she drove into the parking lot and walked into church. Her memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 13 (11:00 am) Chalfont UMC.

THANK YOU

Thank you from UMCOR for our \$20.00 donation supporting programs that fight hunger and poverty and respond to disasters.

Thank you from the Food Larder for the 8 bags of groceries received on July 14; also the generous donation of \$200.00 and 15 bags of groceries. "We are deeply grateful to you for your support in serving the needy that depend on the food larder for assistance." (The Food Larder will accept donations of school supplies with school starting this month)

Thank you for your donation of \$50.00 to support the building of "The House that Faith Built." Habitat for Humanity was founded on Christian principles and welcomes all people to help us bring safe, affordable housing to the needy in Bucks County.

Thank you from Girl Scout Troop 2285 for the use of the church for their meetings. "It was a great year. We have earned many badges and prepared bagged lunches for the homeless. Please accept this donation of \$100.00 as a token of our appreciation."

RECOGNITION SUNDAY

October 19, 2014

Did you know that here at Chalfont we currently have more than 30 folks that have been members of Chalfont for over 40 years? That's a long time and we want to say thank you.

So to honor them for their dedication and service we will be having a special time of recognition for them during our 9:30 service on Sunday October 19. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this celebration.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Imagine coming to church on Sunday and having no coffee! For years Coffee Fellowship has been a mainstay at CUMC; it's a time for fellowship and sharing when we are through (or before) we worship.

There is a need for new volunteers to help keep this going. Are you the one?

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The ladies of the United Methodist Women will be meeting of **September 20, 2014 to start off the fall season.** We Brunch will be begin at 9:00 followed by our meeting. We will be discussing and planning our upcoming ladies Night Out and Silent Auction. Please bring your favorite breakfast dish and come and join the fellowship.

The East District of the UMW are collecting health kits to be sent to Nigeria for the girls and young women of that area. They are being collected of Saturday, October 11, 2014 and the Annual Banquet and Meeting at Williamson's Restaurant. The theme is "The Kits 'R' Coming, presented by two young women who traveled to South Africa with Bishop Johnson.

The kits include,

- 1 hand towel 15x25 or 17x27 (kitchen, cleaning and micro fibre towels are not acceptable)**
- 1 comb, at least 8" long (no pocket combs or picks)**
- 1 bar soap, 3oz or larger (no Ivory soap due to moisture content do not remove packaging)**
- 1 adult-size toothbrush (do not remove packaging)**
- 6 bandages (¾ to 1" size)**
- 1 gallon size sealable bag**
- 1 metal file or nail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)**

If you are able to donate all these items, place them in the 1 gallon size sealable bag and give them to Gail Schnell and she will get them to the event.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

SILENT AUCTION

\$10.00

On Friday, October 10th 2014, we will be holding our "Ladies Night Out Dinner and Silent Auction".

We are already collecting items for the Silent Auction. We are looking for people to donate their talent, make a contribution for the auction, or if you know a business who would like to donate, please see *Gail Schnell, Judy Vandegrift, Dawn Morris, or Barbara Conly.*

See *Gail Schnell* for reservations.

HEAD USHERS

The Worship Committee is in need of Head Ushers for each month this fall. See Dawn Morris if you are willing to volunteer for this job.

JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY THROUGH THE STORY!

For more information, visit www.thestory.com. © 2013 - Zondervan - is the world's leading Christian publisher of books whose authors are noted for their excellence in the craft of writing as well as their worthy contribution to the ongoing global evangelical conversation. Headquartered in Grand Rapids, Mich., Zondervan publishes bestselling books, audio, video, curriculum, software, and digital products in such categories as biblical languages and studies, biography, business, contemporary issues, counseling, cultural, devotional, evangelism, family, fiction, history, inspiration, leadership, ministry, pastoral, personal development, prayer, philosophy, reference, relationships, textbooks, theology, youth and more. Zondervan resources are sold worldwide through retail stores, online, and by Zondervan ChurchSource, and are translated into nearly 200 languages in more than 60 countries. Visit Zondervan Books on the Internet at www.zondervan.com/books.

CALENDAR

- 9/2 - St. Jude Red Cross Blood Drive (2:00 to 7:00 pm)**
- 9/7 - Sunday - return to sanctuary for 9:30 service**
- 9/13 - Saturday - Nora Polgar's Memorial Service (11:00)**
- 9/20 - Saturday - UMW Women's brunch (9:00 to noon)**
- 10/10 - Friday - UMW Women's Ladies Night Out Dinner and Silent Auction (6:30 pm)**
- 10/19 - Sunday - Laity Recognition Sunday (9:30 am)**

CONFIRMATION CLASSES IN FALL

Attention all students in grades 7-12- confirmation classes will be held this fall at Chalfont UMC. Confirmation Sunday is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 23, 2014. If you are interested in being part of the class (or want to know what confirmation is (!) - please contact *Pastor Barb (bjseekford@gmail.com, 610.310.8349) for more information!*

COMMUNITY GARDEN

You may have noticed that our vegetable garden has literally grown in size since last year (about 50%), enabling us to produce more Produce !

The action starts in April with scallions, lettuce and radishes and now is going full-tilt with peppers, eggplant, tomatoes and squash. Last week (*August 11*) for instance, well over 200 tomatoes were supplied together with other items to the New Britain Food Larder. Following is a list of the major items donated for distribution to the needy so far this year:

As of August 11th:

- 177 Onions, 35 Radishes, 5 Broccoli heads
- 7 Green peppers, 20 Yellow squash
- Spaghetti Squash, 2 Eggplants, 497 Tomatoes
- 11 Cucumbers, 34 Zucchini, 17 Summer Squash

THE STORY

Finding Your Story in God's Story

In the last edition of our newsletter we told you about an exciting new study venture that we are embarking on this fall called the Story. The Story is a book of selections from the Bible, arranged chronologically, that reads like a novel. During this unique 31 week experience, every member of the family will read their own version of The Story. **Come discover together with us how our story is found in God's story!**

The Story begins at Chalfont on Sunday September 7.

The Story Church Campaign provides curriculum for all ages – toddler, children, teen and adult Sunday school; small group studies and 31 weeks of corresponding sermons (*accompanied by reading through the five age-related books The Story: The Story: Teen Edition, The Story for Kids, The Story for Children, and The Story for Little Ones*).

Each of our Sunday morning Christian Ed classes will be using this curriculum.

To supplement the study small group studies are being formed. The first set of small groups will begin the week of Sept. 7 and continue through the week of Nov. 23rd. (*We will be taking a break to celebrate Advent and Christmas. The series will pick up on Sunday Dec. 28th*)

Currently the small group studies to be held at the church will be held on Sunday evenings 6:30-8:00 PM (in the library or downstairs in fellowship hall depending on the size of the group). Tuesday mornings from 10:00 am – 11:30 am and also Tuesday evenings in the Family Life Center from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. One or two more small groups will be hosted in people's homes. We don't have the location, time or day for them as of this writing.

A display table of the resources we will be using has been set up in the Family Life Center and we encourage you to check it out. We are encouraging each family to purchase (*through us for a large discount!*) a copy of the Story. The cost is \$7.00. We are asking participants in the small group studies to also purchase a copy of the Participant Small Group Study Guide (*one per person*). The cost is \$3.85. (*Anyone with financial difficulties may make other arrangements through the church office*)

There is no need to purchase any materials for the children, but if parents or grandparents would like to have age appropriate copies of The Story for at home use they are available. Please see the display table for prices.

Order forms for resources are on the display table as well as a sign up sheet for the small group studies.