



# The Messenger



Chalfont United Methodist Church \* 11 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914-2810  
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April 2016

## **CHALFONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO CELEBRATE ITS 120TH YEAR**

**Who are you kidding? Chalfont United Methodist Church can't possibly be 120 years old!** We don't look like an historical church - and with our contemporary service, we don't act like one. But, believe it or not, this year we will have been a Methodist Church in the borough of Chalfont for 120 years. Those of us who have been around for a while still remember the excitement of our 100th Anniversary, but many current members are not aware of the history that has brought us to this moment.

**The year was 1896. The place was a very rural community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The people were local farmers, doctors, housewives, business men. The intent was to form a new congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The person responsible for this was a man named Rev. Purdy B. Moyer.** The gathered people were fortunate to have someone as motivated and spiritual as Rev. Moyer for their pastor. *"In the year 1896 after two years of careful consideration and prayer, I was led by the promptings of the Spirit to take hold and organize a body of Christians under the name of Methodist in Chalfont on the first Sabbath in November,"* is how he put it.

**There is a small church on the corner of Church and Main Streets in Chalfont.** It was originally built in 1877 by a German Reformed Church, and was then purchased by a New Mennonite Church. The building was sitting empty in 1896. **On January 2, 1897 the new congregation, known as the Union Methodist Episcopal Church, purchased this building for \$1000.00.** On Sunday, January 30, 1897 twenty six charter members formally organized their new church. At the first service eleven people were baptized, thirteen joined the church by professed conversion and two joined by letters of transfer. It was a beginning. *(During these early years, the pastor's salary was whatever was collected in the weekly offerings. In some cases the bills were paid first. Sometimes the Ladies Aid Society - now UMWomen - would donate money whenever the treasury was out of money. Sometimes those who were not attending services regularly were asked to withdraw their membership - or start showing up for services. A parsonage was eventually purchased and improvements made to the building - including hand digging out the basement under the sanctuary. In 1939 the church's name was officially changed to Chalfont Methodist Church.)*

**For a number of years one pastor was shared by Chalfont Methodist Church and Montgomery Square Methodist Church.** The pastor traveled to the Montgomery Square Church each Sunday morning *(starting at 9:30)*, and then returned to Chalfont for morning worship at 11:00. Often these two congregations attended each others evening services and combined their choirs.

**In the early 1950's Chalfont realized that they needed a larger church.** Their first effort was to buy a nearby house on Main Street and use it to hold Sunday School classes. As the congregation grew they decided that they could support a full time pastor. **In 1956 each congregation finally had their own pastor.** *(Rev. Robert L. Linthicum was appointed to Chalfont and Rev. Hans Schroeder was appointed to Montgomery Square.)* The congregation continued to grow, so another church service was added. Finally, with the encouragement of Rev. Linthicum, they decided to build a new church. *(Familiar names were on the building committee: Forrest Warren, Theodore Deisenroth, Stuart Duff, Gilbert Gendall, William George, Lee Warren among several others.)* The new church *(at the corner of Butler Avenue and Meadowbrook Lane)* opened in September of 1962. By 1963 the membership was recorded as 395 people.

*continued inside...*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

*On Sunday, May 15 we will be having a special worship service at 9:30 am. (1st) We will be celebrating CUMC's 120th birthday (2nd) We will be honoring all living members of CUMC who have been a part of the church for 40 years+ (3rd) We will have confirmation for our youth at the 11:00 service.*

*In the afternoon there will be an opportunity to spend some time walking the church property and moving on the Chalfont Borough trails that begin next to our parsonage.*

*At 5:00 pm we will gather in the Family Life Center for a Potluck Supper (meat and beverage provided).*

**Hopefully this will be a day to remember!**

### THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous gift of \$300.00 to A Woman's Place. Your gift brought joy and hope back into a client's life. It also brought AWP's "Peace Works" to a fourth grader's classroom, and helped her realize what being a good friend is all about. We thank you for allowing her to see the benefits of kindness.

The UMMen thank everyone who supported our hoagie sale. We sold over 250 hoagies with an approximate profit of over \$900.00. A special thank you to the following men who came out and helped make our annual hoagie sale a big success. It was our best sale yet. Special thanks to: **Bill Kokemor, Jim Reece, John Paynter, Roger Lafferty, Jason Hamer, Evan Hamer, Bill Vandegrift, Keith Miller, Ed Schnell, Elwood Hippel, Harry McGinnis, Jeff Warren, Jerry Lomas, Alan Kerr**

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

## 15TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY TEA

**"Country Fair"**

**Saturday, April 30**

**Seatings at Noon and 3:00 pm**

**\$20.00 per ticket**

This is a lovely event! It's a great chance to enjoy some time with your mother, grandmother, daughter, best friend, etc. Bring a group! (*Reservations required*)

Call Gail Schnell at (215) 855-9053 or [gailliz@veizon.net](mailto:gailliz@veizon.net)

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**Moving up to more recent history** (*when several current members were involved*), **space again became an issue; Rev. Rodney Longmire was the pastor at this time.** The church's 2-week Bible School had over 100 children (*from the church and the community*); there were several adult Sunday School classes (*including one taught by now Pastor Max Jaouen*). Many of the Sunday School classes were meeting in very cramped spaces.

**Rev. Gerald Ihle became our next pastor, and in 1986 he motivated the congregation to celebrate the church's 90th birthday;** this motivation spread on to the construction of the current Family Life Center, renovations in the sanctuary and the addition of offices/nurseries in the hallway. **The dedication of this new part of the church was held in May 1990.**

**In 1996 CUMC celebrated - with a bang - its 100th Birthday.** (*Rev. Kenneth Beale had become our visitation pastor by this time.*) In addition to an historical communion service (*with choir, congregation wearing "Victorian" attire*), we had a large dinner; we invited many guests to preach during our Sunday services that spring.

**Over the years several people who were associated with Chalfont went into the ministry.** (*Most recent being Pastor Rodney Longmire's sons, Rev. Robbie Robinson, Rev. Daniel Roth, Rev. John Althouse, Rev. Raymond Brinson...*) We invited several of them back to preach; former pastors also returned: Rev. Rodney Longmire, Rev. Robert L. Linthicum. (*At this time retired Rev. Homer Huey and retired Rev. Jim Haney attended our church and also participated.*) Rev. Ihle (*probably exhausted*) retired that summer and Rev. Rick Andrews became our pastor for the next few years.

**In a relatively calm way we celebrated our 110th Anniversary in 2006.** Rev. Charles Green was the pastor at that time. The youth put on a historical skit during the church service; as usual we had a potluck dinner to celebrate.

Now it is 2016, and Rev. Barbara Seekford is our pastor... and... that means another milestone in the history of CUMC. **YES! IT REALLY IS OUR 120TH ANNIVERSARY. YES! WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A POTLUCK SUPPER ON SUNDAY, MAY 15. YES! WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO JOIN IN OUR CELEBRATION, AND ADD TO OUR HISTORY.**

*Marcia J. Weikert*



The church above is the original building that housed Chalfont United Methodist Church. It is located on North Main Street in Chalfont. It has occupied by many different congregations over the years. It belonged to the Mennonites before it became Methodist. After it was Methodist it became Presbyterian (*Lenape Valley's before building*). For many years it belonged to the Assembly of God. Now, interestingly, it is a thriving church that speaks only Spanish - "Iglesia Linaje Esogido."



The photograph to the left was taken in 1996 in the newly existing Family Life Center. It was obviously taken during the 100th Anniversary of CUMC. Rev. Gerald Ihle (*left*) was our pastor at this time. Rev. Kenneth Beale had been our Visitation Pastor for a couple of years - and of course - is still a significant person in our congregation.

Even though 120 is not quite as significant as the round number 100 - we anticipate you will all want to celebrate this milestone.



The theme for the March meeting of the United Methodist Women was "Share a Word of Encouragement." These greeting cards were made to enhance the UMW's card ministry.

Of course their next large endeavor will be the 15th Annual Community Tea on Saturday, April 30th.

## *The Messenger*

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Chalfont, Pennsylvania 18914-2810  
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Web Page: [www.chalfontumc.org](http://www.chalfontumc.org)

### STAFF DIRECTORY

REV. BARBARA SEEKFORD	Pastor
REV. KENNETH L. BEALE, SR.	Minister Emeritus
REV. ERIN MAURER	Deacon, Worship Leader
CRIS FRISCO	Director of Music
PATRICIA L. KERR	Church Administrator

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### **Sunday, April 17**

*(Morning worship at 9:30 and 11:00)*

### **Sunday, April 24**

*(Morning worship at 9:30 and 11:00)*

### **Saturday, April 30**

*(United Methodist Women's Community Tea -  
noon and 3:00 seatings)*

### **Sunday, May 1**

*(Morning worship at 9:30 and 11:00)*

### **Sunday, May 8**

*(Mother's Day; morning worship at 9:30 and 11:00)*

### **Sunday, May 15**

*(120th Anniversary celebration; honoring of 40 years+  
members - 9:30 service; Confirmation - 11:00 service;  
afternoon activities at the church, followed by Potluck  
Supper at 5:00 pm for the entire congregation.)*

