



# The Messenger



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

December 2015

## FOR THOSE WHO WAIT

*We are in the season of Advent, waiting, and wondering, watching as the darkness lingers longer each day. For some this is not only the longest night of the year but also the longest season.*

*We are told to be rejoicing.*

*How do we rejoice when we are waiting;*

in a hospital room  
in a prison cell  
in a funeral home  
in a college dorm room  
on the battlefield

at home - unable to get out or around?

*When we are waiting;*

for news  
for the phone to ring  
for a job  
for money to pay our bills  
for a place to live  
for a diagnosis  
for a relationship to be restored  
for a loved one to come home,

for the pain to ease

*When we are waiting;*

alone  
forgotten  
scared?

*In these Advent days of darkness and waiting, it may indeed seem that God is hidden from us. But Christmas reminds us that God so loved the world that God sent his Son not to condemn the world but to save us, to be with us. During this Advent season, while we wait in the shadows, in the darkness, God's healing presence is with us covering us in grace, tending to our needs and nurturing our spirits. God is sitting with us until we are ready to face the light and a new day. Don't let the fear of the dark rush you... allow time for healing to happen. Sit, wait, and let God attend to you in the extravagant ways that you deserve.*

**Listen as God calls you beloved.**

Feel the arms of mercy envelope you as each tear is wiped from your eye.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Really, really good.

We sit in the darkness

and we wait

and we rest

and we grow

and we heal.

*May your spirit be renewed and refreshed this holiday season.*

*Merry Christmas Everyone, Pastor Barb*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**Congratulations:** to **Heather** and **Aaron Heinmeyer** on the birth of their daughter, **Peyton Alexandra**. She was born on Saturday November 14th. Heather is the daughter of **Alan** and **Pat Kerr**.

**Our prayers:** for our **Minister Emeritus, Rev. Kenneth Beale**, who has moved back into his apartment at Gwynddd Estates. *(for updates contact the office)*

**Best Wishes:** to our former pastor, **Rev. Charles Green**, who has stepped into Ken's place as Chaplain at Abington/Lansdale Hospital in Lansdale.

**Condolences:** to **Bill Kokemor** and his family on the death of Bill's father, **Harvey Kokemor**.

**Directory Update: Edna\* & Keith\* Miller (Ethan)** - 3 Clover Lane, Chalfont PA 18914 - (609)577-7517. \*members *(please add to your directory)*

**NEW DIRECTORIES are available in the office.**

**Nursery Worker needed:** If anyone is willing to temporarily help cover the nursery *(every other Sunday)* during Sunday Worship contact the office for information. Just a one Sunday commitment at 9:30 or 11:00 would help.

**Jensen Family Update:** Eric & I continue to get involved at Newtonville UMC. I was asked to be a trustee in January 2015 and was promptly given the task of being the contact person for outside groups who use the church. Eric has been asked to transition into the treasurer's position this fall. We don't have a regular choir here but we get together for special music about 4 times a year. There is a skeleton of a UMW with enough active members to get some important missions work done. We are adjusting... *Our good wishes for a blessed Advent season to all. Joan & Eric*

## WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

**Beginning in January a Women's Bible Study will be held at the home of Doris Reece.** The gathering will begin at 7:00 pm for coffee/tea and dessert. The class will begin at 7:30 and end at approximately 8:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.

**The first two sessions are scheduled for January 14 and 28.** We will be studying the book of Proverbs. A study guide is available for \$9.00. *(please see Doris or call at 215 822-1644 if you plan to attend and would like a study guide)*

## CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

As an alternative to buying gifts, a donation can be made to help others during the winter ahead. *If you want your information included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin it should be in the office by December 13.* The following organizations have been chosen:

\***Chalfont VFW Post 3258** *(provides assistance to veteran and local community projects)*

\***Keystone Opportunity Center** *(helps house the homeless, supports the food pantry and helps those in need locally)*

\***Heifer International** *(\$120 purchases a sheep, goat or pig; \$10.00 will purchase a share)*

\***ChalfontUMC "End of Year Christmas Gift"** *Consider an end of year Christmas gift to your church. We have accomplished much together this past year, but there is still much to be done.*

*We are preparing for an exciting year in 2016 (It is our church's 120th anniversary) by beginning the outdoor development of our property. Will you help? Please prayerfully consider an end of year financial gift to help us move forward.*

## FINANCIAL CORNER

**With the year-end rapidly approaching, here are some financial thoughts for you to consider:**

•**If you are intending to do any last minute giving**, please make sure your check is received by the office or in the plate by Dec. 31st. *(We will make a special deposit before the bank closes. Any gifts not received in time will have to be counted in 2016.)*

•**If you are new or just never asked, we have spare boxes of envelopes available.** We will be distributing the boxes on Sunday, December 20th. *(Please tell Jim Reece or Pat Kerr soon that you are interested and a box will be waiting for you).*

•**We are having a special Christmas event this month called "Alternative Giving".** *(This originally meant that it was an alternative to the Christmas Flowers, but even though we are not having flowers available this year, the name stuck.)* These are an ideal way to help those in need and be sure that the gift will be fully utilized for the cause.

•**If anyone would like to find out their giving status prior to receiving the 2015 statement in January**, you can contact *Jim Reece (215-822-1644 or "jim.reece@gmail.com")* and request a statement as of the end of November. This can be printed/mailed or emailed.

•**Thank you for your continued support of Chalfont United Methodist Church.** We support many worthy organizations just by "being there" *(boy scouts, girl scouts, Red Cross, AA, etc.)*. Your budget contributions enable us to pay salaries, utilities, maintenance, taxes and many other smaller expenses which enables us to serve our members and the community.

## PROPERTY PRAYER WALKING

As we look into developing our outdoor space we are going to be spending some time in prayer walking around the property. Like Joshua circling the city of Jericho before the battle (*see Joshua 6: 1-16*), we will join with each other praising God for all that God is doing in this sacred space.

Pastor David Yongi Cho said: *"Show me your vision, and I'll show you your future."* Vision is a mental picture of what can be. We will be sharing the vision that God has given us.

We will walk on Monday mornings beginning, January 4th at 10:00 am and again on Friday mornings at 7:15. (*Friday's we will be done before 8:00 am*) Join us for one or both mornings as you are able. Don't worry about having to pray out loud, I'll do that until others are comfortable. See you in the parking lot! Pastor Barb

*(If it's raining or snowing we will not walk.)*

## UMW METHODIST MEN

The Chalfont's Men's Group is sponsoring an "All You Can Eat" breakfast. We need you to purchase tickets and convince family, friends, and neighbor's to come along too. Tickets are on sale. Volunteers will be needed to help serve, bus tables and greet people. The tickets make great stocking stuffers!

## APPLEBEE'S FLAPJACK'S, SAUSAGE, JUICE, COFFEE/TEA

\$7.00

Kids (9 & under) \$4.50

Saturday, February, 20, 2016

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

*Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar*  
2333 Welsh Road  
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

## CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS AND GREETERS

Ushers and greeters are needed at both of our Christmas Eve services. Please consider volunteering at the 4:00 pm or 8:00 pm service.

People are needed to greet our guests with a warm and friendly welcome. We also need help collecting the offering, assisting in lighting the candles and handing out bulletins.

A sign-up sheet is on the refreshment table in the Family Life Center or call the church office 215.822.2807. Thank you.

## CHURCH MOUSE



It is that time of the year when green trees suddenly appear inside the building. Mom tells me that the Evergreen trees are a symbol of life during the bleak time of the year when trees have lost their leaves and plants have gone dormant (*to sleep*) for the winter. Originally the trees were decorated with apples, for the tree in the Garden of Eden, but over the years the trees have been decorated with ornaments made out of items common to their country such as straw, shells, wood, metal, cotton (*snow*), and strings of fruit/berries. When electricity was invented, lights were added; glass ornaments and tinsel became popular. I also noticed that at this time of the year the Nativity scene (*the birth of Jesus*) appear around the church. *Can you count the number of Baby Jesus's in our church building? I'm visiting with Baby Jesus, can you find me?* Tell Pat the number and you can open the gold chest for a small gift.

## THANK YOU

Thank you for the generous donations of \$50.00 to the New Britain Food Larder.

Thank you from UMCOR for your donation of \$155.00 to the Red Bird Mission; and your donation of \$25.00 to the UMCOR Global Fund.

## THE KOFFEE KLATCH: A MEMORY CAFE

It's been two years since Chalfont UMC launched its program for people with memory problems and their caregivers. Named the The Koffee Klatch: A Memory Café, Chalfont's monthly "come as you are" program is based on the Alzheimer Café model developed by Dr. Jytte Lotvig. Staffed by a cohort of volunteers, the Cafe offers participants two hours of socialization and emotional support (*along with music, relaxation exercises, and a combination of games, crafts, reminiscing, and trivia*) all shared in an environment of Christ-like love and acceptance. *Oh, and did I mention we have homemade baked goods that rival the county's best bakeries??*

At its beginning in October 2013, the Café opened its doors to two couples. Today you'll find our Family Life Center filled bustling with an average of over thirty participants and volunteers every second Wednesday of the month. People from all faiths come to enjoy the fellowship and theme-related festivities, all planned especially for them by devoted volunteers.

Maybe you have a heart for older adult ministries and are looking for way to share your gifts and graces in the coming year. Maybe you could use the support of a loving community as you seek to manage the challenges of caring for a loved one with memory difficulties. *Whatever the case, please feel free to contact Judy Vandegrift [jmvand@comcast.net](mailto:jmvand@comcast.net) /215-368-2763 or Pastor Erin - [erinamaurer@aol.com](mailto:erinamaurer@aol.com) /267-265-3515 for more information.*

## *The Messenger*

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11 Meadowbrook Lane  
Chalfont, Pennsylvania 18914-2810  
(215) 822-2807  
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

### **Saturday, December 12**

*(UMW Cookie Sale)*

### **Sunday, December 13**

*(third Sunday in Advent)*

### **Sunday, December 20**

*(fourth Sunday in Advent)*

### **Thursday, December 24**

*(Christmas Eve Services - 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm;  
parsonage open house - 5:00 to 8:00 pm)*

### **Friday, December 25**

*(Christmas Day)*

### **Sunday, December 27**

*(Morning worship - the Third Day of Christmas)*

### **Friday, January 1**

*(New Years Day)*

## **CHRISTMAS TREES**

**Boy Scout Troop 133 along with the Chalfont Lions** are selling Christmas Trees next to Spatola's on Butler Avenue.

**The Lions have been doing this since the early sixties and are giving the scouts an option to take over.** We are going to do it. This is a shared transition year.

**Trees are all \$40.00, the same price as the last three years.** Fraser firs and Douglas firs-all fresh from Lehighton, Pennsylvania. Profits will go to charity.

*See you there!*