



The Messenger



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

ENTERING THE SEASON OF LENT

Time is moving quickly this year. It seems like only a couple of months ago that we celebrated the birth of Christ and now in just a week we will enter the season of Lent.

Lent is that 40 day period before Easter. Historically, it has been a time for personal reflection, introspection and spiritual renewal as we join Christ on his walk to the cross. (*Sundays are not included since each Sunday is a celebration and remembrance of Christ's resurrection.*) During Lent we are challenged to think about our own walk with Christ. We are encouraged to think about who we are today and who we want to be.

This year we are continuing our study by Brian McLaren, *We Make the Road by Walking* © 2014. Specifically for Lent we are going to focus on what it means for us to be followers of Christ in the 21st century. We will be wrestling with some of Jesus' difficult teachings (*known as "The Sermon on the Mount"*) found in chapters 5-7 in Matthew's Gospel.

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up to the mountain and he began to speak, and he taught them saying.... "You have heard it said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." Am I really supposed to cut my eye out or later it suggests I am supposed to cut off my hand, am I? He continues: "You have heard it said... But I say to you, if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also." Am I really supposed to be a doormat? And then he has the nerve to tell us "not to worry about our lives, what we will eat, or drink or wear." Doesn't he know how hard life is? All of this might lead us to conclude that Jesus was out of touch with reality. That he just didn't (*doesn't*) understand.

But, what if he was (is) on to something! What if his teachings actually translate into a new way of living and being alive? What if his way of living allows us to lives that are more fulfilling, compassionate, generous and draws us closer to God?

McLaren states: "Jesus is looking for followers to "stand apart from the status quo, to stand up for what matters, and to stand out as part of the solution rather than part of the problem. He means for our lives to overcome the blandness and darkness of evil with the salt and light of good works. Instead of drawing attention to ourselves, those good works will point to God" (*Brian McLaren, We Make the Road by Walking* © 2014, pg. 129). What do you say? Are you willing to give it a try? By walking this new road together we can bring out the best in each other. Together we can be difference makers.

This year just might be the start of a new lifetime adventure with Jesus of learning, reflection and actions! Join us Sunday mornings beginning Feb.. 14th at 9:30 or 11:00. *Blessings, Pastor Barb*

Week #1 Feb.. 14 - "A New Identity" (*Matthew 5: 1-16*)

Week #2 Feb.. 21 - **At our 9:30 service we will be honoring Rev. Ken Beale for his 25+ years of dedicated service at Chalfont.**

11:00 service - "Why We Worry, Why We Judge" (*Matthew 6: 19-7:12*)

Week #3 Feb.. 28 - "Your Secret Life" (*Matthew 6: 1-18*)

Week #4 Mar. 6 - "A New Path to Aliveness" (*Matthew 5: 17-48*)

Week #5 Mar. 13 - "The Choice is Yours" (*Matthew 7:13-29*)

Week #6 Mar. 20- "From a Peace March to the Cross" (*Luke 19: 29-46 & Luke 22: 39-23:56; excerpts*)
(*Palm/Passion Sunday*)

Our Lenten journey begins on Wednesday, Feb.. 10th (*known as Ash Wednesday*).

The sanctuary will be open for prayer from 6:30 – 7:30pm.

Worship will being at 7:30pm.

Worship will include communion and the imposition of ashes.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Condolences: to the family of **Mary Bishop**, who died on December 8, 2015.

Condolences: to the **Lupino** and **Wheitsel** families on the death of **Anna MacLaughlin** on January 2, 2016.

Congratulations: to **Matt Cody**, son of **Dave** and **Sue Cody**, on his graduation from Penn State.

Condolences: to **Ginny Muldoon** on the death of her husband, **Joe Muldoon**.

Welcome back: to **Rev. Kenneth Beale**, who has returned to the 9:30 Worship Service.

THANK YOU

The staff of CUMC would like to thank the congregation for the generous gifts they received during the Christmas Eve Services. We are now looking forward to another successful year.

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

Thank you from **One House at a Time** (*Beds for Keds Program*) for your generous donation of \$253.00. This will help us provide beds, bedding and bedtime essentials to children in the program.

Thank you for the donation of \$25.00 received by UMCOR.

Thank you from **Brownie Troop 2302** for letting us sell cookies between services. Money raised from cookie sales helps our troop to be able to do fun activities, like see a play and go roller skating. Thanks!

WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study is being held at the home of **Doris Reece**. It begins at 7:00 pm for coffee/tea and dessert. The class begins at 7:30 and ends at approximately 8:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. *See Doris or call at 215 822-1644 if you would like information)*

FINANCIAL CORNER

If you are new we have spare boxes of envelopes available. It's never too late to receive a box.

Electronic giving is also available. It is a safe/secure way of automatically giving to the church. (*Go to chalfontumc.org and click on "Online Giving" from the side bar or "giving" pull-down menu... or contact Jim Reece.*)

The 2015 statements are available in the Family Life Center.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women have been busy planning 2016. We are going to have a great year and you are invited to help! All women are welcome. Our next meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 13th at 9 am.

Looking ahead, the UMW will be supporting the Men at the Applebee's Breakfast on Feb. 20th. Be sure to get your tickets for that.

We will be selling pot pies in March again, with some new meal options! So watch for that coming up.

Additionally we are already working on planning the Spring Tea - "A Country Fair", which will be on April 30th this year. Mark your calendars!

In order to be able to focus our efforts on the Tea this year, we will not be holding a church rummage sale. If you have items you have been saving to donate, please take them to a local charity.

UMW METHODIST MEN

The Chalfont's Men's Group is sponsoring an "All You Can Eat" breakfast. You can still purchase tickets and convince your family, friends, and neighbor's to come along too. "Get away from it all at this snowy and cold time of year."

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

PROPERTY PRAYER WALKING

We are walking on Monday mornings at 10:00 am. Join us for walking and prayers when you are available. See you in the parking lot! (*If it's raining or snowing we will not walk.*)
Pastor Barb

BOY SCOUT SPAGHETTI DINNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

(please come and support our troop)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will be starting soon for all students in grades 7 -12. We will meet on Sundays beginning Feb. 21st from 4:00 – 5:30.

Although confirmation is not a sacrament in The United Methodist Church, it is an important marker in our spiritual journeys. At baptism, we are initiated into the new covenant in Jesus Christ and into membership in the Church, Christ's body in the world. For many, this happens when they are very young. Baptized infants are members of the Church—the family of faith—but are not yet capable of sharing everything involved in membership.

When persons who were baptized as infants are ready to profess their Christian faith, they participate in the service, which United Methodism now calls Confirmation. Confirmation is a person's first public affirmation of the faith of the church as being his or her own faith. In other words, the confirmand is taking responsibility for living as a member of the body of Christ and for fulfilling God's purposes. ...Confirmation preparation aims at leading youth and others to embrace their vocation, the calling of God to live and witness to the reign of God announced in Jesus Christ.

Parents, please encourage your teen to attend. Attending class does not mean they need to say "yes" and be confirmed at the end of the classes. However, this time together will give them a place to come and be with kids their own age who are probably asking many of the same questions and struggling with the same issues as your teen.

Tentative Schedule

Feb. 21 (4:00 pm- 5:00 pm)

(orientation, introduction with parents)

Mar. 6 (4:00 pm -5:30 pm)

Mar 13

Mar 20

Attendance is expected at Holy Thursday Service (March 24 - 7:30) or Good Friday (March 25 - 7:30)

April 3

Apr. 10

Apr. 24

May 1

May 8

May 15 (9:30 am and 11:00 am)

Confirmation will take place during worship.

Please contact Pastor Barb
(bjseekford@gmail.com, 610.310.8349) to register.

COMMUNITY DAY?

We are thinking of hosting a Community Day on Saturday May 14th. (We have our 120th anniversary celebration scheduled for Sunday May 15th.) What do you think of us doing a community event on Saturday that would center around - "Change the World Weekend - One Healthy Habit at a Time" (*mind, body, spirit*) and include various items such as - blood pressure screenings, fingerprinting for kids, face painting, fitness demonstrations, bike inspections/safety seminar, skateboarding seminar.

It could include green living ideas like making rain barrels, composting, organic gardening, bird houses/feeders, maybe farm to table demonstrations. Maybe it could include a wildlife demonstration from AARK, or a local K-9 unit. The electronic/metal recycling truck could be here, local fire company and other businesses.

The sanctuary could be open for those wanting prayer. We could sell hot dogs, drinks, etc. (*or something healthy to go with the theme!!*).

What do you think? Is there interest? Hosting it on May 14 doesn't give us much time to put it together but maybe we could do an abbreviated one for this first year and then expand if interest next year.

Is there anyone willing to explore the possibility? Is there anyone that would be willing to head up this project? Anyone willing to help put it together?

Please let Pastor Barb know ASAP (610.310.8349. bjseekford@gmail.com)

That Sunday there will be a special service at 9:30 honoring our long-time members, and confirmation will be held. (Not sure which service, maybe both). A picnic/pot-luck is planned for 5:00 pm with a walk on the trail. (And maybe a visit to the old church) tentatively scheduled for around 3:00 pm. So it will be a full weekend! What do you think?

BOY SCOUT TROOP 133 NEWS

Our troop has been very active this fall and winter. We continue to camp every month. In November we visited the Coast Guard Academy in New London Conn. We had a great tour with several midshipmen and saw an academy football game. We also went to Mystic, Conn. for a day of touring the museum and sights,

This past weekend we participated in the annual Klondike Derby held at Camp Ockinickon The snow made it seem like the real thing, easy to move the sleds and not a problem camping. We competed with 49 other sleds (*we visited 8 venues where we had to demonstrate various scouting skills; such as cooking, orienteering, building a survival shelter, first aide, knots and fire building.*) Last year we were second. Final scores are not in yet for this year.

And, we thank the church for being our sponsor. We've had a great relationship for 3 decades. We couldn't do it without you.

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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.	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, February 7

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

Wednesday, February 10

(Ash Wednesday Service - 7:30 pm)

Sunday, February 14

(1st Sunday in Lent)

Sunday, February 21

(2nd Sunday in Lent; service honoring Rev. Kenneth Beale at the 9:30)

Sunday, February 28

(3rd Sunday in Lent)

Sunday, March 6

(4th Sunday in Lent)

Saturday, March 12

(Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner - 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm)

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Thursday, February 10

7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

(worship will include ashes and communion)

*The sanctuary will be open for prayer from
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.*

*(Remember, you can set aside 15 minutes for prayer
during this day of prayer - at home, at school or at
work.)*