



# The Messenger



Chalfont United Methodist Church \* 11 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914-2810  
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July/August 2016

## **CHALFONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH “CREATING SACRED SPACE”**

*In the last edition of our newsletter we took some time to reflect and celebrate our 120th anniversary. We shared with you the history of how and where we started. Today, I want to share with you our vision and mission for Chalfont’s future to become a place of healing in the form of a prayer and retreat center.*

**Matthew 11:28 is our foundation and the inspiration guiding us on this journey.** It reads: “*Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.*” (The Message)

**Did you notice in this passage that Jesus invited everyone to come to him?** Everyone who was tired and who needed rest was invited to come into his presence and Jesus promised them rest for their souls. In today’s society, many folks are running around trying to get so much done that they are tired and weary. (including many of us!) Their lives/our lives are filled with hurt, pain, sorrow and discouragement. People are carrying heavy burdens and they have not learned how to rest.

**Jesus has invited Chalfont UMC to become a place of healing where people can come and find rest for their souls.** We know that people have a hard time getting away for extended periods of time but how wonderful if we are able to provide a place for people to meet God that is close to home, where they can stop on their way to work in the morning or on their way home at night, or come during their lunch break in the middle of the afternoon - a place for a brief respite to restore their souls with the living water that only God can provide. What if we can offer people a way to interact with God in a new way, following the ancient practices of letting their bodies wander along a path or garden so that their minds and heart can focus on God?

**While God is present in the ordinary and the everyday,** Christians have long recognized that sometimes we need to step away from the daily routines and habits of life which have become dull, ordinary and repetitive. During these times, God has a difficult time breaking into our lives and we have a difficult time hearing from God. Stepping away, if only briefly, allows us to become intimately aware of God’s presence.

**Creation is overflowing with evidence of God’s hands.** This becomes even more apparent when we look for the “holy” in the outdoors. There we see God’s signature on everything. When we begin to pay attention, we begin to understand that God is present and speaking there. Cloaked in the natural beauty of nature Chalfont UMC can offer a place of stillness where the healing presence of God can be felt and the voice of love heard. Prayer and memorial gardens, a meditation trail, a labyrinth, Stations of the Cross, court yards, and other outdoor scapes, are just some of the things we will be creating and installing over the next couple of years. ***A community vegetable garden was started 4 years ago and continues to provide our local food pantries with fresh vegetables during the summer and fall seasons. Last year 845 pounds of fresh produce was distributed.***

**Ruth Haley Barton in her book Invitation to Solitude and Silence writes:**

*The invitation to solitude and silence is just that. It is an invitation to enter more deeply into the intimacy of relationship with the One who waits just outside the noise and busyness of our lives. It is an invitation to communication and communion with the One who is always present even when our awareness has been dulled by distraction. It is an invitation to the adventure of spiritual transformation in the deepest places of our being, an adventure that will result in greater freedom and authenticity and surrender to God than we have yet experienced.*

**What an awe- inspiring mission Chalfont UMC has been given.** Will you come alongside us and partner with us to make this possible? Will you give as you are able with your financial gifts, your time and your talents? Will you help us – help others- those who are “weary and carrying heavy burdens” to meet Jesus and find healing, peace and rest for their souls? *Pastor Barb*

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

**In Memory:** We mourn the passing of **Rev. Kenneth Beale** on May 14, 2016. He was a part of this congregation (*and the church at large*) for so many years. There were only two Sunday mornings that he was not present at the 9:30 service prior to his death.

**New number:** **Jeff** and **Laurie Warren**'s new telephone number is - (215) 688-6727.

**New Members:** **Kara** and **Kevin Johnson** of Chalfont and **Brenda Faison** of North Wales have recently become members of our congregation. Thru confirmation **Gavin Campbell** (*8th grade, Unami*) and **Peyton Campbell** (*10th grade, CB South*) - sons of **Preston** and **Sue Campbell**; **Evan Hamer** (*10th grade, CB South*) son of **Jason** and **Lauren Hamer** joined on May 15th at the 11:00 service.

### **THANK YOU**

**Thank you from Habitat for Humanity.** Your generous gift of \$203.00 will be put to work immediately as we continue our mission of building simple, decent homes for the families in need.

**Thank you from UMCOR for the \$100.00 donation.** It helps programs fight hunger, poverty, assist displaced, respond to disaster.

**Thank you for your gift of \$137.00 to Doylestown FISH.** We will be able to respond to the next caller seeking emergency assistance, like the mother whose food stamps are gone, or a family being evicted.

**There's a spring in our step, thanks to your generosity (\$150.00).** Your gift to A Woman's Place makes possible futures for our clients.

**Andy Seekford has been busy at the parsonage.** He has cleared and created 2 additional parking areas to their driveway. Weeds, poison ivy, & bushes have been cleared/removed/trimmed from the landscape around the house. The parsonage basement has become a great workspace for future projects, like the creation/installation of a new countertop/sink in the church's lower level kitchen. Our thanks...

**Bill V., Jeff, Jim R., John P., Alan, Pat, Emily, & Barb** have been busy decluttering the lower level, creating a new office for the Korean Pastor in the lower level, spraying for bugs, repairing coffee pots, and cleaning out the attic space over the Toddler nursery. Our thanks...

**We unknowingly take for granted all of the work that is done by our unsung heroes who take on projects without a blink of the eye. SO...** Thank you to those who refill the kitchen pantry of trash bags, paper towels, coffee supplies, bake and buy goodies for Sunday coffee fellowship, clean-up, wash the kitchen towels. Thank you to those who buy toner for the printers, supply tech support to the offices, replace light bulbs, and do general repairs. Thank you to the workers in our community garden; planting, watering, weeding, harvesting & transporting. Thank you to those who collect, sort and transport the items donated to The Larder, Manna, A Women's Place & Red Bird Mission. Thank you to those who teach, count, usher, play music, read,

are communion stewards, Sunday tech supporters, and vocalists. Thank you to those who call people, send cards and visit. Thank you to **Sue Gadaleta** for the seasonal plants in our gardens/planters, and to **Sue Walla & Jim Reece** for their financial skills.

*Lastly... thank you all for all of your prayers.*

### **WE'RE HALF WAY THERE! (Financial Update)**

**In our last newsletter we shared with you the financial deficit that Chalfont UMC has been dealing with.** I am happy to report that many of you have stepped up and have increased your giving. Thank you. It's only been a month and already because of your generosity we are ½ way towards overcoming our deficit.

**All we need is 40 more individuals who are willing to increase their giving by 15/week or 20 more families who are willing to increase their giving by \$30.00/week and we'll have this deficit beat!** If you can do more that would be wonderful. If you need to do less, that's okay too. Every contribution moves us closer to our goal of becoming debt free. I know we can do it. In order to know how close we are to our goal we've enclosed a pledge card which you can complete anonymously. (*They are also available in the narthex.*) We are looking for the amount you are able to give over and above your current giving. The old wooden church bank that was used to raise funds for our current building in 1960 is in the narthex! Place your pledge in the bank or in the offering plates/baskets or mail to the church office (*11 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914*) if you are unable to get to church. Thank you in advance for your support.

**In May one of our members extended a financial challenge to us-** If our monthly total was more than our average income the challenger was willing to match the extra amount up to \$1000.00. Our monthly income is \$9,000. I'm happy to report that you rose to the challenge and our income for May exceeded \$16,000! Therefore we received an extra \$1000 bringing the total to over \$17,000! Thank you!

**June 1st we began renting the sanctuary and the lower level fellowship hall to "The Way" a Korean congregation.** That has also helped us close the gap between our expenses and income. They are meeting in the sanctuary at the same time our 11:00 service is meeting in the Family Life Center! We are looking forward to the relationships that will be built between our two congregations.

**We are also looking for your suggestions.** Do you have some ideas for us on how to increase our income? Send us a note, email ([office@chalfontumc.org](mailto:office@chalfontumc.org)) or give us a call (215/822.2807). We'd love to hear from you. This is our year people!

*With your help this will be the year we break the shackles of this financial deficit once and for all. This year is our 120th anniversary. Let's celebrate by ending the year with a surplus and beginning our 121st year in the black!*



*This year we are celebrating the 120 years that Chalfont United Methodist church has had a presence in the community of Chalfont.* For all these years our members have had a positive influence on numerous people, both within and outside our congregation. On May 15th we honored those current members who have been an important part of CUMC for over 40 years. An arbor was purchased in their honor. The arbor will be used in one of our new gardens. *The following have been members for at least 40+ years:*

## **SIX WEEK CHILDREN'S SUMMER ADVENTURE**

**Wednesdays July 13 thru August 17**

**7:00 – 8: 30 pm**

**Our Sunday school teachers work really hard during the school year.** We want to give them a much deserved break for the summer. Also, Pastor Barb doesn't get to spend much time with our kids because they are in Sunday school during worship.

**In order to give our teachers a break and to give Pastor Barb a chance to hang out with the kids we are going to change-up our kids program for the summer.** We will be offering a 6-week summer adventure program led by Pastor Barb on Wednesday evenings. We will not be having Sunday school on Sunday mornings during July and August. We'd like the children to join us in worship for July and August. We will have activities for them during the services.

### **OUR THEME IS GOD'S EARTH**

- We'll be learning about sowing seeds in good soil, and we'll make our own chia pets.
- We'll talk about how Jesus fed 5000 people with just a few fish and bread and we'll pack kids snack bags for Manna on Main to help feed the children in our area.
- We'll discover how God sent manna & quail to the Israelites in the desert. We'll check out our community garden and explore the ecosystem at the creek. (*Dress to get wet!*)
- We'll learn how important it is for the earth to sometimes rest. We'll talk about how important rest is to all of us. We'll help decorate hero capes for sick children in our area to help them rest and heal.
- We'll laugh when we read the story of how God used a donkey to be God's messenger. Then discover how God uses all of us. We'll learn different ways that God uses to help us hear God.
- Our last week together we'll see how every single person is important to God when we study the parable of the lost sheep. At the end of our gathering we'll have our parents (*and anyone else interested*) bring our pets & we'll do a special blessing for them.

We hope you'll join us for this special summer adventure. (***Come all 6 weeks, come 1 week!!***) **To register your children please contact Pastor Barb** (*bjseekford@gmail.com* or 610.310.8349). **Adults we also need your help.** Let Pastor Barb know if you are available. Thank You.

*Betty Gendall  
Barbara Morris  
Sue Hause  
Florence VanDyke  
Pat Dowling  
Audrey Michener  
Vivian & Walter Miller  
Bill & Gerry Campbell  
Betty & Cassel Williams  
Barbara & Jack Speer  
Joanne Lupino (Montgomery Square)  
Nath Darde  
Janet & Neil Boylan  
Verne & Willie Keats  
Louise Peardon  
Jim & Marcia Weikert  
Betty & Larry Sellers  
Bob Page Sr.  
Jeff Warren  
Helen Austerlade  
Adele Garin*

## *The Messenger*

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### STAFF DIRECTORY

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

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### **Sunday, July 3**

*(Morning worship at 9:30 and 11:00; both services will be in the air-conditioned Family Life Center)*

### **Wednesday, July 13**

*(Children's Summer Adventure - 7:00 to 8:30 pm)*

### **Wednesday, July 20**

*(Children's Summer Adventure)*

### **Wednesday, July 27**

*(Children's Summer Adventure)*

### **Wednesday, August 3**

*(Children's Summer Adventure)*

### **Wednesday, August 10**

*(Children's Summer Adventure)*

### **Wednesday, August 17**

*(Children's Summer Adventure)*

