



The Messenger



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

March/April 2015

Because He Lives

*Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
Because he lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know, he holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because he lives.*

(Gloria and William Gaither, © 1971)

“No moment in all history depicts a greater contrast between the Upper and Lower Story. The final week of Jesus’ life, in the Lower Story, was as dark as darkness gets. The Lord of Glory was betrayed and abandoned by his friends, rejected by the crowds, condemned by the religious community, scorned and mocked mercilessly. He experienced absolute relational and emotional darkness.

The one humbly born in a manger was strung up on a post and brutally beaten. He was forced to carry his own cross up the hill of the Skull. Then he was nailed to that Roman instrument of torture and suspended up in the air by his hands and feet – suffering one of the most intentionally painful deaths ever invented. He experienced physical darkness beyond description.

Finally, the sinless Lamb of God experienced the pitch-blackness of utter spiritual darkness. The one who knew no sin became sin; in our place he took the punishment, the last judgment, we deserved.

Strangely, this darkest of all moments was also the moment heavenly light broke through as never before. As Jesus suffered and died, our hope began, our redemption was won, and sin was crushed. The brilliant light of God’s love was shining from the glory of the Upper Story into the darkness of our Lower Story...*and it changed everything”*

(The above was written by Randy Frazee, The Story: Getting to the Heart of God’s Story, Adult Curriculum, Participant’s Guide © 2011, 167)

Jesus’ darkest hour led to our brightest and as Randy stated – *it changed everything!*

In just a couple of weeks (April 5th) it will be Easter. The most holy of days for followers of Christ. It is the official day in our church calendar when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. But celebrating the resurrection is not limited to one day on the calendar.

Because Jesus lives – He continues to be with us. Jesus’ death and resurrection hold for us the promise of God’s life available to us now, today, and forever, a promise that God hasn’t forgotten us or abandoned us.

What does tomorrow look like for you? – You can face it because he lives.

Is there fear that is paralyzing you? – Declare all fear gone because he lives.

Are you moving willingly into the future with excitement and anticipation – because you know that Jesus is holding the future?

There is no need to wait until April 5th to celebrate. Let the celebration begin today. Claim these words as you go through your day. Let them soak into your being and as you go through each day remind yourself that life is worth the living*because he lives!*

Pastor Barb

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations: to **Val** and **Ben Bancroft** on the baptism of their daughters **Addalyn** and **Quinnlyn Bancroft**. The twins were born September 1, 2014.

Address Change: **Dot** and **Richard Rosenberger** have a new address: 518 Dock Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446.

THANK YOU

Girl Scout troops 2285, 2302, and 25103 would like to thank Chalfont UMC for letting us sell cookies during coffee fellowship. We hope that everyone who bought cookies found them as yummy as we do! The profits earned by our troops are used to fund field trips and activities that we would not otherwise be able to afford. So, thank you!

Thank you from the New Britain Baptist Church Food Larder for the generous donation of \$100.00. We are deeply grateful to you for your support in serving the needy that depend on the food larder for assistance.

Thank You for your support of the ministries of Red Bird Mission and the Red Bird Clinic. Your donation of \$197.00 is making a difference in the lives of thousands in the Red Bird Valley.

Thank you from Heifer International for the church's donation of \$755.00. Your commitment is helping others give hope to families who have struggled with hunger and poverty.

POTLUCK DINNER AND A MOVIE

(sponsored by the United Methodist Women)

The families and friends of the Chalfont UMC are invited to attend our Spring Potluck on:

Saturday, March 28

Meal starting at 5:00 pm

Movie starting at 5:30 pm

Bring a dish to pass (*can be homemade or store bought*)
Coffee, ice tea, and lemonade will be provided.

We will be showing the family friendly movie "How to Train Your Dragon"! *Movie starts at 5:pm.*

Kids are welcome to bring a sleeping bag or pillow and sit up front to see the movie. Adults are welcome to watch the movie or sit in the back and talk!

We will be collecting donations for the Food Larder. Your extra cans make a big difference for those who are hungry right here in Bucks County. Please bring a donation if you are able.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women are happy to report that our Pot Pie fundraiser was a big success! We sold over 300 pies. The money raised allowed the UMW to fulfill our annual giving to local Methodist charities. Hopefully you are enjoying your tasty pies! We will be selling pies again in the Fall, just in time to refill your freezer.

We will meet on March 28 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. This is preparation time for the Potluck Dinner and a Movie event that begins at 5:00 pm. And we will meet on Saturday, April 18 from 8:30 to noon, and will also meet on Saturday, May 9 at 8:30 am (*the day of our flower sale*).

RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

7:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Drop off schedule:

After Church on April 5

Mon., April 6 & Tues., April 7 (*10:00 am to 12:00 pm; 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm*)

Wed. morning, April 8 (*no drop off*)

SET UP TABLES, Wed., April 8
(*12:00 pm; we need help to set up the room*)

Wed., April 8 (*12:00 pm to 3:00 pm; 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm*)

Thurs., April 9 (*10:00 am to 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm; 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm*)

Fri., April 10 (*10:00 am to 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm*)

NO DROP OFF FRIDAY EVENING

Final SET UP (*6:00 pm to 8:00 pm*)

Save your treasures for our Annual Rummage Sale. **Place items behind the partition on the left rear side of the Family Life Center.** Items are to be in good operating condition. Clothes need to be free of tears, stains and musty odors, no Encyclopedias, no major appliances. *Contact Gail Schnell at 215-855-0953 with questions or offers to help.*

Computer, Electronic and Metal scrap recycling will be held in the parking lot from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. (*computer monitors and printers more than 5 years old not accepted; \$10 fee for CRT monitors; no TV's*)

Bake Sale Items

Friday, April 10 drop off (*between 6:00 & 8:00 pm*)

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees are greatly pleased to be able to announce that the work to restore the parsonage after the Christmas Day fire is finally complete. The Trustees made an inspection on March 8 and can report that the kitchen is at least 100% improved in appearance and function. We have all new appliances and the kitchen now opens into the adjoining room, making a much improved space. We wish to thank *Doris Reece, Pat Kerr, Nath Dardee, and Pastor Barb* for their help in selecting appliances, flooring, counter tops, etc. We have been informed that the Army will be transferring the current tenants in the late fall time frame. After we clean and do some repairs, we will once again be looking to rent it. Hopefully, it will be easier with the new kitchen and fresh paint.

As we have reported earlier, the newly converted natural gas boilers are heating the church quite nicely (*some say it's more comfortable than before*). However, as luck would have it, one of the boilers has sprung a leak and will need an expensive repair. Two steps forward and one step back, as they say.

The trustees are also pleased to welcome **Debra Schaar** to our ranks this year.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Hoagie Sale

Saturday, April 18
10:00 A.M. to 12:pm.
\$6.00 each

Hoagies will be made fresh in our kitchen on the day of sale and available for pick-up in the Family Life Center.

All hoagies include meat, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes & seasonings on Corropolese rolls! (*onions, hot or sweet peppers available on the side*)

Selection: Turkey w/Cheese or Italian (*Provolone, Salami, Ham*) **Orders must be in by Monday, April 13.**

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday - 10:00 to 11:30 am
 Tuesday - 7:00 to 8:30 pm
 Wednesday - 6:30 to 8:00 pm

CALENDAR

- 3/28 - UMW Potluck Dinner and a Movie (5:00 pm)**
- 4/2 - Maundy Thursday Service (7:30 pm)**
- 4/3 - Good Friday Community Service (7:30 pm)**
- 4/5 - Easter Covered Dish Breakfast (8:30 am)**
- 4/11 - UMW Annual Rummage Sale (7:00 am -2:00)**
- 4/18 - UMM Hoagie Sale (10 am - 12:30)**
- 5/9 - UMW Flower Sale (8:30 am - 12:00)**
- 5/16 - UMW Annual Spring Tea (12:00 & 3:00)**

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

On Sunday, March 29, Chalfont will begin Holy Week with the 9:30 and 11:00 celebrations of Palm Sunday. *This is a time to remember the great joy that accompanied Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.*

On April 2nd the Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:30 pm in the Family Life Center. In addition to communion Pastor Barb will be including foot washing (*optional*) in the service. *The Bread and Wine (Communion) were first shared by Jesus' followers during their last Passover supper together, and Jesus washed their feet (a common event in their society).*

The Good Friday Community Service will be held on Friday, April 3rd at the New Britain Baptist Church - 7:30 pm.

April 5th, Easter Sunday schedule:

At 8:30 am you are all invited to share in the traditional covered dish breakfast in the Family Life Center. Juice, fruit, muffins, bagels, coffee and tea will be provided...covered dishes are provided by you!

Celebrate our Risen Lord at the 9:30 service in the Sanctuary. (*There is no Sunday School; nursery available*)

The children celebrate Easter between the 9:30 and 11:00 services with an Easter Egg Hunt.

The 11:00 service in the Family Life Center will conclude the days celebration of the Risen Christ. (*There is no Sunday School; nursery available*)

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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

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, March 22

(5th Sunday in Lent)

Sunday, March 29

(Palm Sunday)

Thursday, April 2

(Maundy Thursday Service - 7:30 pm, Family Life Center)

Friday, April 3

*(Good Friday Community Service;
New Britain Baptist Church - 7:30 pm)*

Sunday, April 5

(Easter Sunday breakfast at 8:30 am; 9:30 church in the sanctuary; Easter Egg Hunt between services; 11:00 service in the Family Life Center; no Sunday school)

Saturday, April 11

(UMW annual Rummage Sale and Metal Recycling; 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; refreshments and bake table)

EASTER FLOWERS

EASTER REMEMBRANCES

Easter flowers will be displayed for the Easter Services on April 5th. They may be in honor of or in memory of loved ones.

As an alternative to buying flowers a donation can be made to "Manna on Main Street" or the "Lauren House." *(agencies in Montgomery County)*

The order deadline is Sunday, March 29.
