



The Messenger



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

March 2016

DEATH DEFEATED!

It's almost here-the most important day of the Christian year. Easter – the day of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. It's the day that Jesus defeated death and God said enough of this old religion. I am doing a new thing! But, the resurrection is not just a wonderfully fascinating event that happened 2000 years ago. It is also more than an "end of time" event. *It is the promise of God's life available to us both now and forever, a promise that our relationship with God can be more than we ever dreamed or imagined.*

Each of the Gospel narratives (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) begins the Easter story with a similar account. ... it's Sunday morning, the first day of the week, and there is a visit to Jesus' tomb; Mary Magdalene is there, the stone is removed from the tomb, and there is an appearance of an angel or angels.... but after this initial encounter each of the writers goes his own way in recounting the resurrection story. Each of the resurrection stories provides the reader with a different angle on what it means to meet the risen Christ. *Do you remember where you met the risen Christ?*

In John's Gospel Mary is at the tomb weeping for what is gone (John 20: 1-18). Many of us can relate to her tears. We have many reasons to weep. Many of us are facing times of trial or loss and it is hard and it hurts. Jesus calls to Mary and asks her why she weeps? In that moment she could give him a whole list of reasons why she is crying but instead her weeping immediately stops and she realizes that she is once again in the presence of her Lord and it is enough. Take some time to look around. Yes there are hardships and difficulties but there are also signs of God presence, love and mercy with us in the midst of our troubles. We have not been abandoned nor forgotten. *Resurrection is something that continues to happen for us today.*

In John's Gospel Mary was told that she could not hold on to Jesus. It seems that Jesus is saying "don't keep trying to hold onto me." Many believe it is because Jesus wanted Mary to understand that her faith was not to be anchored in the past. There is more taking place in this story than just a reunion. Instead, it is ultimately about Jesus' destiny, Mary's destiny and yes even ours. Jesus tells her: "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God" (20:17). The story is not finished. This was a day of new beginnings for her and for all of us that have come since. The relationship that Jesus has with God is one that we can now have. No longer does Jesus refer to God as his Father but as our Father, no longer does he refer to God as his but also as ours. *The intimacy of Jesus' relationship to God now marks our relationship with God and this opens up for us new possibilities and beginnings as children of God.*

God's new world continues to break into ours. When we enter into the story something wonderful happens. It becomes our story and as long as we have breath our story continues to unfold. The same choices are also offered to us that were offered to Mary. The Savior who called Mary by name is here today and continues to call each of us by name. It is a new day. *Are we willing to let go of the past and allow the possibilities of the new day to fill our souls and guide our thoughts and actions as we become the people that God is calling us to be?*

This year, may the empty tomb be more than just an annual worship event or tradition we celebrate. May it continue to change us and call us to new life in Christ in which we become life-givers and agents of resurrection in our families, communities and around the world. *(written previously: 2013)*

Pastor Barb

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Celebration: On February 21st Chalfont United Methodist Church held a special service honoring **Rev. Kenneth Beale**, who has been with our congregation for nearly 20 years (*since his "retirement" from Jarrettown UMC*). Rev. Gerald Ihle (*former pastor of CUMC*) and his wife Janet were in attendance, and he spoke about the years that he shared with Ken. Members from the congregation also added praise about Ken's years of devoted service to our church.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the generous donation of \$70.00 to the New Britain Food Larder. With your help we will continue to provide service for those in need.

On behalf of Chalfont VFW Post 3258, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the generous contribution from members of CUMC as part of the Christmas Alternate Giving. Please be assured that your donation will be used for the continued benefit of Veterans, their families, youth leadership development, and the well being of our community. With deep appreciation, Woody Hoppel

Thank you for the donation of \$50.00 received by UMCOR.

Thank you for your generosity and gift of \$780.00 to Heifer International. The end of extreme poverty is within our grasp, and your help matters.

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flowers will be on display at the Easter Services on March 27. They may be placed in honor or memory of loved ones. The price is **\$4.00** each, and payment must accompany the orders. The last date for ordering is **Sunday, MARCH 20th.**

Checks are payable to **Chalfont United Methodist Church.** Contact Dawn Morris if you have any questions (215) 822-0622.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 20 - Palm Sunday Services

Thursday, March 24 - Maundy Thursday Service
(7:30; Sanctuary)

Friday, March 25 - Good Friday Community Service
(7:30; Sanctuary of Chalfont UMC)

Sunday, March 27 - Easter Sunday Services

(Easter egg hunt for children will be held between services; volunteers are needed to fill the eggs)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women are always busy and you are invited to help! Check out our board in the Family Life Center for dates of upcoming meetings. Please join us! All women in the church are welcome!

POT PIE SALE

Place order between services: March 13, 20

Pickup: Thursday March 31 (5:00-6:30 pm)

Chicken or Beef (\$5.50 each)

Roast Turkey or Cranberry Chicken Breast (\$6.00 each)

(new) Macaroni au Gratin (\$3.50 each)

Apple Deep Dish Dessert (\$3.50 each)

Turn in orders (*with payment*) to Judy Vandegrift between services or call the office. Make checks payable to Chalfont UMW.

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

UNITED METHODIST MEN

HOAGIE SALE (*Turkey or Italian*)

Saturday, April 2

10:00 am - 12:30 pm

\$6.00 each

Hoagies will be made fresh in our kitchen on the date of the sale. They will be available for pick-up in the Family Life Center. All hoagies include: meat, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and seasonings on Corropolese rolls! (*Italian hoagies include provolone, salami and ham; onions, hot or sweet peppers are available on the side.*) **The deadline for orders is Monday, March 28.** All orders must be pre-paid at church, or mail your check to Chalfont UMC, 11 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914; (215) 822-2807.



I thank all of you for the kind words of appreciation and cards expressing your thanks for my pastoral ministry over the years at Chalfont United Methodist Church. Your friendship means a great deal to me. The Lord Bless You.

Rev. Ken Beale



The United Methodist Men are pleased to announce that they served 125 people at their Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser. And because of the successful turnout (*thanks to all of you who attended/and worked*) they raised \$700.00.

**SCHOLARSHIP for New Britain Township Students
planning to attend College or Technical School**

The New Britain Township Republican Club is proud to offer two (2) \$1,000 scholarships to two (2) deserving New Britain Township graduating seniors each year. The scholarship will be awarded based upon both academic Success and Community involvement.

Please see the church office for application packets.

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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, March 13

*(Morning worship at 9:30 and 11:00
5th Sunday in Lent)*

Sunday, March 20

(Palm Sunday)

Thursday, March 24

(Maundy Thursday Service - sanctuary; 7:30 pm)

Friday, March 25

(Good Friday Service - sanctuary; 7:30 pm)

Sunday, March 27

*(Easter Sunday - morning worship at 9:30 am; children's
Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30; morning worship at 11:00 am)*

Saturday, April 30

*(United Methodist Women's Annual Community Tea -
seatings at 12:00 noon & 3:00 pm)*

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Friday, March 25, 2016

7:30 pm

Chalfont United Methodist Church

The community service will be held this year at Chalfont United Methodist Church. The pastors and choirs from other community churches (*St. Judes Roman Catholic Church, Montgomery Square United Methodist Church, Pleasantville United Church of Christ, and the New Britain Baptist Church*) will participate in the service.