



# The Messenger



Chalfont United Methodist Church \* 11 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914-2810  
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November 2015

## “PARDON OUR DUST...continues”

**Last year as I was thinking about the current state of Chalfont the words “under construction” kept coming to mind.** We’ve spent the past few years digging the footers as we’ve prayed about becoming the prayer/retreat center God is calling us to be. That continues to be the case this year as we move into 2016.

**One of the main items our Church Council worked on this year was to revise our Administrative/Leadership structure.** It took longer to put together than we anticipated. It is now finished and being presented for approval at our 2015 Charge Conference. This new system will allow us to have a structure that will support our mission rather than trying to make the mission work within the current structure. The current system has become a burden. We have had many positions vacant and many of our folks serving in multiple roles. *(The proposal was passed at Charge Conference to go to one leadership board – a copy of the proposal was provided in a previous issue of the newsletter. Copies are available from the church office.)* A copy of the proposal is included in the Charge Conference forms. We also took a year and did a church-wide Bible study called The Story. It provided a comprehensive study of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. This fall we have embarked on a new study of the Bible. We Make the Road by Walking will again take us from Genesis to Revelation but with a different perspective. Author Brian McLaren describes his approach as being - “free to ask any questions about the Bible - to ‘kick its tires,’ so to speak, applying critical thinking to the Biblical texts as we would any other documents.... Many of us have walked the road of our tradition to where it currently ends, and we’ve come to believe that the road isn’t finished yet” ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/.../why-i-wrote-we-make-the-r\\_b...](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/.../why-i-wrote-we-make-the-r_b...)). I believe these studies are an important part of our construction process and encourage us to grow deeper in our relationship with God. We want to make sure that God is the foundation for all that we are doing.

**As we move into another year we believe we are still being called to embody the words of Jesus** in *John 14: 12*, “The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father” (NRSV) and also *Matthew 11:28 -29*, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (NRSV). Continuing our discussions on the best way for us to move forward we have identified three keys areas we want to address before our 2016 Charge Conference.

**1. We are putting together an “Outdoor Spaces” team and hoping to get at least one outside project started.** In order for this to happen, we need to review the two design landscape proposals we received earlier in the year and put together a comprehensive design plan for the property. We also need to meet and work with Chalfont Borough officials for approval of these plans.

**2. We will begin to train our congregation and leadership in prayer and healing ministries.** This will be done through small group studies, workshops and seminars. We will contact Washington Crossing UMC to see if they would be able to support and perhaps mentor us in these areas of ministries. They are a large United Methodist Church that operates in the physical gifts of the Spirit. They have numerous prayer and healing ministries as well as numerous prayer/healing rooms in their facility.

**3. One goal we were unable to complete last year was to identify our three core values.** Therefore, it will be one of our goals again this year.

*So once again, we ask, please - “pardon our dust.”...*

*Pastor Barb Seekford*

*(Pastor’s State of the Church Report; presented on September 26, 2015)*

**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

**Congratulations:** to Emma Morgan who celebrated her 100th birthday on November 1st.

**Our prayers:** to our Visitation Pastor, Rev. Kenneth Beale, who is currently in the skilled nursing facility in Fort Washington Estates. *(for updates contact the church office)*

**Congratulations:** to new members Keith and Edna Miller and their son, Ethan Miller.

**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.

**THANK YOU**

**Thank you from Rev. Charles Green for the \$363.00 received for the Moldova Children's School.** This gift will enable us to provide much needed warm clothing for the neediest children.

**Thank you for the generous donations of \$100.00 and \$25.00 to the New Britain Food Larder.**

**Thank you from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for the donation of \$175.00** supporting programs that fight hunger, poverty, assist the displaced and respond to disasters.

*(A good word for UMCOR - Glenn Williams, who grew up in this church, and his wife Lori had the opportunity to work on rebuilding a home in Weed, California. It was one of many homes in that small town that were destroyed by on of California's wild fires.*

*Most of the rebuilding work there is being done under the supervision of UMCOR , which has been working there for years. Glenn had much praise for UMCOR'S organization, method of selection of houses and guiding the various groups lending a hand. Glenn and Lori were with a group from a Presbyterian church who had come to help.*

***Our donations at work!!!***

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**

**On Wednesday, November 25th at 7:30 pm - the churches of the Chal/Brit area will join together for their yearly Thanksgiving Eve Service.** It will be at the Pleasantville United Church of Christ on Limekiln Pike.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**Thank you to all who donated items to the clothing drive for the Rescue Mission of Trenton!** Stay tuned to see if they are able to break the world record for most items collected in a drive. We will know this after everything is counted in mid-November.

**Also, thanks to all who bought pot pies during our recent fundraiser!** Hope you are enjoying some tasty meals.

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**Saturday, November 21  
9:00 am  
Family Life Center**

**We will be welcoming Carl Markussen to speak about his experiences working with the United Nations in Western Africa, and about what Methodism looks like there.** Did you know that there is a United Methodist Conference in Liberia?

**Anyone from the church, and friends and family, are welcome to attend.** There is no fee to attend - EVERYONE is welcome!

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**Coming up, we will be having our annual Christmas Cookie Sale.** So watch the Sunday bulletin for a flyer as we get closer to the end of November. *(Orders will be due December 6, with pick up on December 12.)*

**And, if you like to bake,** please consider donating a few batches to UMW in support of the sale! Thanks.

**Finally, a reminder that UMW collects Campbell Soup labels and Box tops for Education.** A collection box is located in the church vestibule, by the outside door next to the sanctuary.

**OUTSIDE SPACES MINISTRY TEAM**

**If you love gardening, walking trails and/or are a nature lover... we would love to have you become a member of the Outside Spaces Ministry Team.** We are planning how we envision seeing our property's use in the future *(trails, gardens - in other words a restful, peaceful place to be).* We are reviewing landscape drawings, garden concepts, trail concepts and planting selections. *If you would like to be involved contact Tessa Mooney on Sunday during Coffee Fellowship, (Tessa.Mooney@gmail.com) or (267)374-0969.*

**INTERESTED?**

Semi-electric twin size hospital bed (NEW) located at the Pine Run Community. *{Cost- \$100.00 donation to church}*  
*For information contact Bette & Bob Jack (215) 340-7280.*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On Sunday, November 22 CUMC will be preparing for Advent with the Hanging of the Greens. The children at the 9:30 service will have Sunday School as usual. *At 11:00 the children from the 9:30 service are invited to join the children from the 11:00 service for a joint project in the basement.*

We hope all of the children from both services will be able to get involved with this event - while their parents help to decorate the sanctuary or attend the 11:00 service.

also: The Sunday School teachers and students are planning to paint a mural in the lower level of the church. We need your ideas and painting ability! If you are artistic, or just want to help, please contact Sue Cody for more information.

The following children (3rd grade and older) received their Bibles: Zachary Alizzi, Leyna Andrews, Lena Karcher, Becca Organeck, Logan Spillane and Zachariah Wheitsel.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Chalfont's Men's Group is sponsoring an All You Can Eat: FLAPJACK'S, SAUSAGE, JUICE, COFFEE/TEA breakfast. We need you to purchase tickets and convince family, friends, and neighbor's to come along too. Tickets will soon be 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 Person

Kids 9 & under \$4.50

Saturday, February, 22, 2016

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

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

## CALENDAR

11/20 - Cub Pack Fundraiser

11/21 - UMW Meeting with guest speaker

11/22 - Hanging of the Greens (10:30 in the Sanctuary)

11/25 - Chal-Brit Community Thanksgiving Eve Service  
(7:30 pm Pleasantville UCC)

12/12 - UMW Cookie Sale

12/24 - 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

12/24 - 5-8:00 pm Parsonage Open House

12/24 - 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

## CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE

Andy and I are hosting a Christmas Eve open house at the parsonage (51 Meadowbrook Lane - Dec. 24 - 5 pm to 8 pm) and we could use some help.

We are looking for people to help us plan the event, prepare some refreshments and to act as host/hostesses until we are able to arrive (approximately 5:30). If you would be interested please contact me at (610) 310-8349 or [bjseekford@gmail.com](mailto:bjseekford@gmail.com) (or put a note on the back of your communication card on Sunday morning). I'll be in touch.  
Thanks, Pastor Barb

## HELPING HANDS

Do you have a talent/skill that you would be willing to share with church? Many times during the year we are looking for help in one manner or another. A family calls asking if we could provide a meal while someone is recovering from an illness, operation, or loss. We have a flood in the basement and need all hands to help with the clean-up. Occasionally we are looking for help with folding/ mailing, sometimes a little painting touch up would be appreciated, or we have a small plumbing project.

Since we do not have a janitor, a lot of these projects get put aside until a church workday or they just get passed over. We don't realize how it can affect our appearance to new comers. If you would be interested in helping and can be reached during the day, please let Pat/ Office know and you will be added to our "Helping Hands" contact list. *Many thanks to those who have already been working behind the scenes painting railings, working on freezers, cleaning vents, getting pianos tuned, washing kitchen towels, toting groceries to the Larder, supplying flowers for the FLC altar, supplying kitchen groceries, repairing broken chairs.*

## TECH CLUB NEWS

The tech club resumed it's monthly meetings on Oct. 5. We have discussed upgrading from Windows 7 to Windows 10 plus odds and ends (including tablet and e-mail issues which some attendees were having). The meetings, led by Jim Weikert and Jim Reece, are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. The topics are mostly driven by the people in attendance.

In order to be better prepared, we ask that people send their topic suggestions ahead of time to "[tech@chalfontumc.org](mailto:tech@chalfontumc.org)" or talk to one of us in person. We are also in the process of dedicating a computer for club use and which can be used by members if requested. For the December 7 meeting, we are tentatively planning one or more of the following: demo of a Macintosh computer; demo of a Linux computer; discussion of Online Digital Security and Privacy

Someone has said "There is no teaching, only learning." The club is not about trying to lecture on technical topics - it's all about sharing questions, information, and helping people cope with today's technology in all it's forms. Join us and we will learn together--no restrictions--bring a friend!  
Jim and Jim

## *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.	Pastoral Care Minister
REV. ERIN MAURER	Deacon, Worship Leader
CRIS FRISCO	Director of Music
PATRICIA L. KERR	Administrative Assistant

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### **Sunday, November 22**

*(Hanging of the Greens after 9:30 service)*

### **Wednesday, November 25**

*(Chal/Brit churches celebrate Thanksgiving at the United Church of Christ - 7:30 pm)*

### **Sunday, November 29**

*(first Sunday in Advent)*

### **Sunday, December 6**

*(second Sunday in Advent)*

### **Saturday, December 12**

*(UMW Cookie Sale)*

### **Sunday, December 13**

*(third Sunday in Advent)*

### **Sunday, December 20**

*(fourth Sunday in Advent)*

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE**

We are planning to print an updated church directory address listing in anticipation of your holiday card writing. A copy of the current listing will be posted on the grey room divider in front of the library in the Family Life Center for you to note any corrections. Please place your initials by your name if everything is correct. We would like to include a birthday listing, if you would please note your month & day.

**Updated printouts will be available November 29.**