



# The Messenger



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

## **DEFYING GRAVITY: BREAK FREE FROM THE CULTURE OF MORE** *(by Tom Berlin)*

*Thanksgiving will be here in just a few weeks and in just two months it will be Christmas!* This is the season of generosity and gratitude. Thanksgiving has been celebrated as a federal holiday every year since 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of “Thanksgiving and Praise” to thank God who dwells in the heavens. (*Wikipedia*). As Christians we give thanks at Christmas for the greatest gift the world has received, the birth of our Savior. Unfortunately, for many of us all of the celebrations, the commitments, and the giving of gifts make this a very stressful time of year.

**We all want to be generous, but most of us find this hard to accomplish.** Demands on our time and money make scarcity a real problem. Past decisions can leave us feeling imprisoned. Marketing creates a compulsion to buy things that are new or the latest version of the old. Instead of enjoying the freedom to bless others with the best of our lives, we feel trapped. We are held down and held back by forces that seem beyond our control.

**However, there is good news!** Jesus offers us a way to defy gravity and break free from the culture of more. When we follow Jesus, we develop a spirit of generosity that makes us eager to give. It’s not about should or ought to. It’s about want to. It’s about overflowing with love and the desire to bless others as Jesus blesses us.

**Defying Gravity is a three-week stewardship program exploring what the Bible says about how to experience a generous life.** Generosity doesn’t happen by accident. It requires focus, intentionality and learning to live simply. We will examine the generous life, what it is, and why it can be so hard to experience.

*Pastor Barb*

### **Here are the topics we’ll be discussing:**

**Week 1- November 6** *(also All Saints Sunday)*

“Discovering Gravity”

*(Matthew 19:16-26)*

**Week 2 – November 13**

“Tethered to God”

*(Matthew 6:19-21)*

**Week 3 – November 20** *(Commitment Sunday)*

“When We Get It Right”

*(Luke 16:10-13)*

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**\* Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,  
where moths and vermin destroy,  
and where thieves break in and steal.**

**\* But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,  
where moths and vermin do not destroy,  
and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

**\* For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

*(Matthew 6: 19-21 NIV)*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**New Address:** Cassel and Betty Williams moved to the Pine run Community in October. Their new address is: 20 Beech Cluster, Doylestown, PA 18901-2134; phone (215) 340-7020.

**In Memory:** Caraann Morris Jurasek died on July 4, 2016 and is missed by all who knew her. She was a member of CUMC prior to her marriage to **Joseph Jurasek**. She was the daughter of **Barbara Morris** and the sister of **Dawn Morris**.

### THANK YOU

**Thank you from the New Britain Food Larder for your donation of \$530.00, and the donation of 91 pounds of non-perishable items from the porch donation bins.**

**Thank you from Rev. Charles Green for the \$75.00 donation towards the mission work with children in Moldova.**

**Thank you (CUMC) for giving faithfully 100% of your apportionment covenant in 2015.** Bishop Peggy Johnson, Eastern PA Conference

**Thank you to Greg Ehrenzeller, Don Reese and Jeff Warren for being Head Ushers during the summer months..**This is a much appreciated job that benefits the congregation every Sunday morning (*and Christmas Eve*). If you wish to volunteer see Dawn Morris or Pat Kerr.

**Thank you to all of the volunteers who make the CUMC Community Garden the huge success that it is.** The total donation of fresh vegetables to the Food Larder amounted to 556.6 pounds. (*The garden is now cleaned out for the 2016 season.*)

**Thank you to The Way for inviting our congregation to a Korean BBQ on September 25** which was held in the pavilion. The food was plentiful, accompanied by conversation and fellowship.

*This summer Pastor Barb held a 6 week summer adventure program on Wednesday evenings during July/August.* **Thank you to all of the helpers with the craft projects & outdoor adventures.** Hero capes were created for sick children in our area; birdseed pinecones were made for our feathered friends and hung on the property; chia seed pets were created; and some of our pets received a blessing. The kids also got a chance to investigate what creatures live in our local creek. (*Thank you Pastor Barb from "the educators" of CUMC and the children.*)

## MEETINGS:

**Welcome back to all of our groups.**

**SCOUTS:** Girl Scouts are meeting on Thursdays in the lower level. Cub Scouts have expanded to meeting on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Boy Scouts are still meeting on Wednesdays.

**On Friday, October 14th in a joint effort by Cub & Girl Scouts a Trunk or Treat Event** was held in our parking lot. Over 100 scouts and families enjoyed the event. Thank you to CUMC for the use of the parking lot again this year.

**Marcia Weikert's Watercolor class has started again on Monday evenings.**

**Memory Café Organizational Meetings have moved to the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am.**

### THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNITY SERVICE

**The annual Community Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at the Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church this year.** The date is Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:30 pm.

### CHARGE CONFERENCE CLUSTER GROUP

The Charge Conference Cluster Group has been rescheduled to Sunday, November 13. It will be held at St. Andrew UMC at 1:00 pm.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CUMC...

**"The Way" Korean congregation has signed a one year lease for the use of our Sanctuary on Sundays at 11:00** with use of the lower level in the afternoon, along with a Wednesday evening service in the Sanctuary.

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**We have been approached by a local caterer/personal chef on the possibility of renting our kitchen facility beginning in November.** Borough zoning was approved and we were granted a Commissary license by the Health Department last week with a few noted changes that need to be addressed in the next 6 months. (*We need to replace the ceiling tiles with tiles that have a washable surface.*)

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**The LED sign has been ordered and installation is expected to be in early November.** The sign committee has been to a demonstration of our message board display section and the logo section has recently been delivered to the company. Electric line needs to be installed in the front lawn and we should soon be up and running.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CUMC...(cont.)**

A local Girl Scout, working on her "Silver Award Project", requested permission to install an outdoor lending book library & bench. The library box will contain youth books that can be read to a child while visiting the property/ playground. More information will follow when the project is completed.

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We have changed our carrier in our attempt to lower overhead costs. Comcast has been installed for both phone & internet coverage. WIFI is now available throughout the building.

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In the next few weeks we will be scheduling a Saturday workday to clean gutters of leaves, clean the boiler room of old signage no longer needed with our new display board, and general cleanup. *Here is an opportunity to give a helping hand without it costing a dime, just a little time and energy. COME JOIN US!*

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENING!**

*The Hanging of the Greens  
A celebratory Pot Luck Supper  
followed by: Congregational Meeting*

Sunday, November 20 at 4:00 pm we will be gathering to decorate the Sanctuary and FLC for the Christmas Season.

At 5:00 we will share one of our superb "CUMC" potluck suppers. Everyone is asked to bring a casserole or dessert. The church will supply the meat, bread and beverages. *(There will be a sign-up so we don't have "too many desserts")*

This will be followed by a congregational meeting. At the Congregational meeting we will discuss the goals that the leadership board has set, how the congregation can help and also discuss the financial needs for the coming year.

We will definitely have holiday activities and a movie for the kids, so families are encouraged to attend. With help cleaning up... we should all be home soon after 7:00 pm.

**SEE YOU - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 4:00 PM**

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The United Methodist Women are currently sponsoring their successful Pot Pie fundraiser. By now a large following knows how good these pies are, but if you haven't tried one there is only a short while left to order... this time.

Sunday, November 6 is the last official day to order. Forms are available in the office. There is a large selection to choose from. Order forms and payment go to Judy Vandegrift between services. Delivery of Pot Pies will be on Thursday, November 10 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

*The profits from the UMW fund-raisers go to support the missions and programs of the United Methodist Women.*

Thru the UMW you can donate your old prescription eye glasses (*front porch box*), and they will go to the Lions Club International Recycle for Sight.

There will be a box in the narthex where you can donate mittens, hats, scarves and gloves for the UMW Mitten Tree.

**WHAT CANCER CAN'T DO**

*With so many people within (and outside) our congregation suffering from cancer, we thought these might be comforting thoughts. In fact, these words should be uplifting to anyone with family/self/or friends surviving long lasting illnesses.*

*It cannot cripple love.*

*It cannot shatter hope.*

*It cannot corrode faith.*

*It cannot eat away peace.*

*It cannot destroy confidence.*

*It cannot kill friendship.*

*It cannot shut out memories.*

*It cannot silence courage.*

*It cannot invade the soul.*

*It cannot reduce eternal life.*

*It cannot quench the spirit.*

*It cannot lesson the power of God.*

## *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

## IMPORTANT DATES

### **Sunday, November 6**

*(Last day to order Pot Pies from UMW)*

### **Tuesday, November 8**

*(National elections in the Family Life Center)*

### **Sunday, November 13**

*(Morning worship: 9:30 Sanctuary; 11:00 FLC)*

### **Sunday, November 20**

*(Hanging of the Greens - 4:00 pm; Pot Luck Supper - 5:00; Congregational Meeting - 6:00 FLC)*

### **Wednesday, November 23**

*(Community Thanksgiving Eve Service - Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church at 7:30 pm)*

### **Sunday, November 27**

*(1st Sunday in Advent)*

