



The Messenger



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

September 2015

WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING

Have you ever noticed the walking paths in public places? Some of them are hardscaped and you know right where you are “supposed” to walk. Have you also noticed that along with these pre-determined paths or roads there are often dirt paths where the grass has died because people have chosen to go a different way. Someone made the decision to go a different way, to forge a new path, to take the road less traveled and “that has made all the difference.” Because someone was willing to try something new and go a different way a new path or road became available providing an alternative.

Chalfont UMC is in the process of creating a new path, a new road, a new way of being church. We are exploring new possibilities and seeking to develop our unfilled potential as we live into our calling to be a prayer/healing and retreat center. We want to provide a different and meaningful way for people to experience God and find rest and healing for their souls.

Not only are we continuing to make new physical roads/paths and spaces together but we are also committed to growing spiritually, making our relationship with God and each other even stronger. “We Make the Road by Walking” will be our 2015/2016 theme with our new sermon series starting on September 13. It is based on the book by the same title by Brian McLaren. Like The Story last year we’ll start with Genesis and work our way through the Bible. McLaren brings a refreshing and inspiring perspective to the biblical narrative. Each week will be an invitation to consider familiar biblical texts in a new light. I hope you will find this study challenging and engaging.

McLaren’s belief is that “faith was never intended to be a destination, a status, a holding tank, or a warehouse. Instead, it was to be a road, a path, a way out of old and destructive patterns into new and creative ones. As a road or way, it is always being extended into the future. If a spiritual community only points back to where it has been or if it only digs in its heels where it is now, it is a dead end or a parking lot, not a way. To be a living tradition, a living way, it must forever open itself forward and forever remain unfinished – even as it forever cherishes and learns from the growing treasury of its past” (*We Make the Road by Walking, Jericho Books, © 2014, xii*).

Our new road is just getting started. Autumn is a beautiful time to be outdoors and enjoying God’s creation. There is a beautiful world waiting to be explored. Actually, you don’t have to leave the neighborhood – we’ve got seven acres of beautiful property and community trails connected to the property right here at Chalfont UMC that are waiting to be explored. Put on your walking shoes and come over. Come be part of the trail blazing adventure and together “we will make the road by walking.”

Pastor Barb

We are a circle of learners and seekers.

Alive in God’s story of creation.

We are disciples who follow our leader

Alive in the adventure of Jesus.

We are uprising in a new way of living!

Transformed by the Spirit of God.

Let us go forth in joy and peace.

To love and serve God and our neighbors. Amen

(We Make the Road by Walking, 277)

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations: to **John and Laura Romano** on the birth of their daughter, **Veronica**.

Congratulations: To **Tiffany Kerr** and **Jeff Monaco** on their marriage - August 7, 2015. Tiffany works for Vanguard and Jeff owns "King Cut Landscaping;" they reside in Chadds Ford. Tiffany is the daughter of **Alan** and **Pat Kerr**.

Congratulations: to **Stacy** and **AJ Gonzalez** on the birth of their daughter **Elena Grace** on June 4th. Stacy is the daughter of **Pastor Barb** and **Andy Seekford**.

Congratulations: to **Kevin Davidheiser** and **Caitlyn Gilvary** who were married on July 12th. Kevin is the son of **Pastor Barb** and **Andy Seekford**.

New address: **Pastor Barb** and **Andy Seekford** are now living at 51 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914.

New address: **Sue Hause** will be living at the Peter Becker Community, 815 Maplewood Drive, Apt. 353, Harleysville, PA 19438. (215) 703-4156

THANK YOU

Thank you from Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County for the generous gift of \$186.00 which will be put to work immediately...building decent homes for families in need.

Thank you from Americans for Native Americans for the generous donation of \$200.00.

Thank you from the New Britain Baptist Food Larder for you donation of \$50.00

Thank you for your donations of \$50.00 and \$230.00 to the Gideons. This will help provide Bibles for here and around the world.

Thank you from the Doylestown area FISH for your gift of \$235.00. This will help ensure that FISH will be able to respond to the next caller seeking emergency assistance.

Thank you from Rev. Green for the \$70.00 and \$100.00 donations for the Mission to Moldova.

Thank you from Laurel House for your recent donation of \$145.00. It will help provide services to victims of domestic violence in Montgomery County.

Thank you from Manna on Main Street for the recent donation of \$155.00.

Thank you from the Red Cross for the use of our facilities. Blood donations help save the lives of many.

Chalfont United Methodist Church wants to thank Susan Gadaleta for donating the mulch for the spring cleanup of the church grounds, and generally for the great care she takes of our property.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW's first meeting of the fall will be on Saturday, September 19 from 8:30 am to noon.

After a very busy spring, the United Methodist Women have been taking a well-deserved summer break. With fall now rapidly approaching we are gearing up for some wonderful programs and activities coming up!

We will be hosting a presentation by former United Nations Peacekeeping Mission member Carl Markussen, discussing conditions in Africa and the role of the church.

We will also be participating in the Rescue Mission of Trenton's fall clothing drive. They are working hard to break the World Record for the largest number of clothing items collected! This will take place October 15th through November 15th, and we will have a collection box located at the church. *For more information go to - <http://www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org/100/>*

The UMW will also be running a fall pot pie sale. We will have chicken, beef, and hot apple pies as last time, with a turkey pot pie as a new flavor for fall! *More information on that soon.*

TRUSTEES

The parsonage hardwood floors had sand-less refinishing done during the last week of June before Pastor Barb moved in. The Family Life Center carpet had a green cleaning (*low moisture*) on June 24th.

The Trustees are trying to locate a problem causing no power at the pavilion. We have also become aware of neighborhood children using the pavilion/picnic tables and front walk/steps/railings for skateboarding.

The Trustees have scheduled a workday on Saturday, October 17th starting at 8:00 am. Congregational help would be greatly appreciated. Please check with Jeff Warren to see if it would be helpful to bring your own equipment to help with the chores to be done.

PASTOR'S PARSONAGE UPDATE

Did you know?! It's been a crazy spring/summer around the Seekford house and I want to say thanks for all the love, support (*and patience!!*) you have shown Andy and me during these last few months. On April 24th my mom died after being sick for the past 1½ years. Our daughter Stacy had our first grandchild. On June 4th I was able to be in Nashville to welcome Elena Grace into the world. What a blessing. On July 12th our son Kevin was married. I told you it's been crazy!

Some of you know that for the past year Andy and I have been trying to sub-divide my mother's property with the intent of building a house on the property. On May 1st, one week after my mother's death, we were notified that the sub-division had been rejected by the D.E.P. because of possible sink-holes. After some tears and prayer Andy and I both sensed God telling us to come to Chalfont instead of buying another house in the Boyertown area.

After conversation with the Trustees and everyone thinking this was a good idea we notified the tenants that we would not be renewing their lease. They were able to find a new home and on July 6 Andy and I moved into the parsonage.

We want to say thank you to all the folks who worked to get the parsonage ready. The hardwood floors have been refinished and the walls were touched up. The house looks great. Things have now calmed down. Most of the boxes have finally been unpacked and it is starting to feel like home. Andy and I are looking forward to becoming part of the neighborhood and enjoying many more years of ministry with you. Thanks again for being wonderful.

Pastor Barb

LEADERSHIP PROPOSAL

One of Chalfont's Charge Conference goals for 2015 was to put a new administrative structure in place to help in the development and implementation of our prayer/retreat center. We've included an insert of the proposal that will be presented for a vote at this year's Charge Conference (*September 26*).

Two congregational meetings have been scheduled to provide you with more information. Members of Church Council will be on hand to answer any questions you might have concerning the Leadership proposal. *Please join us in the Family Life Center on Wednesday, August 26 at 7:30 PM or on Saturday, August 29 at 9:30 AM.*

CHURCH MOUSE



Have you been wondering what happened to me? Well I've been on a big adventure the past few months. Now that the big dogs are gone at the parsonage and the pastor is back at home, I've been allowed to go venturing to the great beyond. The parsonage property is getting cleaned up with dead/old bushes being pulled, overgrown gardens being leveled and a new parking space being created. The garden guys are trying to catch a big ground hog that is eating their melons, so Mom is keeping a close eye on me to make sure I don't get caught in their trap. I also like the new soothing sound of water in the Family Life Center. *Have you heard the water running and do you think you can find me?*

OUTSIDE SPACES MINISTRY TEAM

If you love gardening, walking trails, are a nature lover... we would love to have you become a member of the Outside Spaces Ministry Team. We will be planning how we see the property being used in the future (*walking trails, gardens, a restfully/peaceful place to come to*) reviewing landscape drawings, garden concepts, trail concepts, and planting selections. If you would like to be involved in the beginning concept and more, contact Tessa Mooney on Sunday (*coffee fellowship or 11:00 service*), email (*Tessa.Mooney@gmail.com*) or cell # 267-374-0969

FALL SCHEDULE

The 9:30 service will return to the sanctuary on Sunday, September 6. This is Labor Day weekend. Sunday school will still be the summer program.

Starting on Sunday, September 13 both the 9:30 and the 11:00 Sunday schools will first attend church, and then be dismissed during the service for Sunday school. (*It will occur after the praise songs at the 9:30 service.*) The Sunday school will be starting their fall program at this time.

Also on September 13 both services will include the Blessing of the Backpacks as the children begin their new school year.

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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

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IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, August 30

(last day for 9:30 service in the Family Life Center)

Sunday, September 6

(first day in sanctuary at 9:30; Labor Day weekend)

Tuesday, September 8

(St. Jude's Blood Drive in Family Life Center)

Sunday, September 13

(Blessing of the Backpacks, new members and baptism)

Saturday, September 26

(Charge Conference at 9:00 am in Family Life Center)

Sunday, October 4

(World Wide Communion Sunday; Cub's popcorn sale)

Sunday, October 11

(Children's Sabbath; Bibles for children 3rd grade & up)

Congregational Meetings:

Wednesday, August 26

7:30 pm

Saturday, August 29

9:30 am