



# The Messenger



Chalfont United Methodist Church \* 11 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914-2810  
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March/April 2013

## IT'S ALMOST HERE...

*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 (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) narratives 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 by Mary Magdalene, 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 still 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; a life in which we become life-givers and agents of resurrection in our families, communities and around the world.***

*Pastor Barb*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**Memoriam: Stuart Duff** passed away on January 31st at the age of 90. Stuart was born in Canada and served in the Canadian military during WWII and was a prisoner of war for over 2 years in Germany. He eventually moved to Chalfont, where he became very involved in local community life; the fire company, the community and the church. He will be missed by all.

**Memoriam: Bob Boyd** passed away on January 31st. Bob and his wife, Ruth, were CUMC attendees in recent years. Ruth has moved to Virginia to be with her daughter.

### THANK YOU

**Thank you for your prayers** from the Duff family.

**Thank you from Rev. Green** for the \$105.00 received for the mission to children in Moldova.

**Thank you from the Red Bird Mission** for our donation of \$199.00.

**Thank you from the New Britain Food Larder** for our donation of 10 bags of groceries on February 25; and also the 14 bags of food donated on January 23.

**Thank you from a Woman's Place** for our generous donation of \$228.00, for our support of AWP and for being a part of rebuilding the lives of those that seek help from AWP.

### WORSHIP

**The schedule for Holy Week:**

**Palm Sunday** - (March 24) Morning worship at 9:30 and 11:00

**Maundy Thursday** - (March 28) Evening worship in the Family Life Center will include holy week readings and communion; at 7:30 pm.

**Good Friday** - (March 29) Chalfont United Methodist Church will host the community churches for the service this year. It will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm.

**Easter Sunday**- (March 31) **Breakfast will be at 8:30 am** (please bring a casserole or food item to share; juice, coffee, muffins, bagels and fruit will be provided)

**Morning worship in the sanctuary at 9:30.**

**Easter Egg hunt** for all children will be at 10:30 on the lawn (or downstairs if rainy).

**Morning worship in the Family Life Center at 11:00**

**There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday**

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

**The United Methodist Men are having a Hoagie Sale on Saturday, April 20th.** There is a choice of either Italian or Turkey hoagies (this year the men will make them from scratch) and the cost will be \$6.00 a piece. Order ahead!

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

**The UMW monthly brunch** will be held on Saturday, March 16th at 9:00 am.

**The Ladies of the United Methodist Women would like to thank everyone who helped with the Chicken Soup sale.** The donations of money to purchase the chicken, the people who helped cut the veggies, cook the chicken, and assemble the soup, we say thank you. We hope that all who purchased the soup enjoyed it. *We made a profit of \$354.71*, which will go toward the missions that we support.

### **RUMMAGE SALE**

**Saturday, April 13, 2012**

**8:00 am to 2:00 pm**

The drop off schedule is as follows:

**Sunday, April 7**(after church)

**Monday - Thursday** (10 am to 12 noon; 6 pm to 8 pm)

**Friday, April 12** (10 am to 12 noon)

**NO drop off on Friday evening**

**Bake sale items** ( Friday, April 12th, 6 pm to 8 pm)

We need to mention some items that we **can't** accept due to disposal issues with the organization who will remove our unsold items:

Computer monitors and printers more than 5 years old

Any items not in excellent operating condition

Clothing with tears, stains, obvious wear & tear or musty odors

Encyclopedias

Major appliances including air conditioners.

Large furniture in good condition is welcome, *but if not sold must be removed by the donatee.*

**Returning this year...**

### **ELECTRONIC RECYCLE EVENT**

There will be a van in the church parking lot on Saturday, April 13th. Electronic and Computer scrap recycling will be collected from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. There will be a \$10.00 for CRT monitors (*the big, fat ones*) .

***Start to gather your unwanted items and bring them to the church starting after the late service on Sunday, April 7th. The sale will start at 8:00 a.m. on April 13th.***

### **COMMUNITY TEA:**

**The Community Tea will be on Saturday, May 11th, at 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m.** We are having a meeting to plan the tea on Sunday, April 7th, at 12:30. If you would like to help with the tea, please let Gail Schnell know if you would like to attend the meeting.

## CALENDER

- 3/23 - Music Department sponsored Roast Beef Dinner  
 3/24 - Palm Sunday  
 3/28 - Maundy Thursday Service - 7:30 pm  
 3/29 - Good Friday Community Service - 7:30 pm at Chalfont United Methodist Church  
 3/31 - Easter Sunday - Breakfast - 8:30 am; Easter services at 9:30 and 11:00. Easter egg hunt between services  
 4/13 - UMW Rummage Sale  
 4/23 - UMM Hoagie Sale  
 5/11 - UMW Tea

## NEW LOOK IN THE FLC

**Have you noticed that the 11:00 Sunday service has taken on a new look.** We are now sitting in a coffeehouse style setting. Thank you to the United Methodist Women, who have helped with the purchase of 8 new 60" round tables that will also be used for dinners, the annual Tea and the 11 o'clock service.

The Trustees have moved several of our long brown tables to the lower level fellowship hall. This will allow our scouts and 4H, who meet in the lower level regularly, to have more surface area to work with.

Our new table tops are light colored and will show stains easily, so please cover them when using for food or projects that could stain. There are still long tables in the closet that can be brought out if you would prefer to use them for your activity. Just let the office know in advance.

## ROAST BEEF DINNER

***Saturday, March 23***  
***4:00 to 7:00 pm***  
*(or until sold out)*  
 Adults: \$13.00  
 65+: \$12.00  
 Children (5-12): \$7.00  
*(under 5 free )*

Providing desserts (*cakes, pies, brownies*) is much appreciated by the dinner committee. Profits from this dinner will go to the music programs at both services.

## EASTER FLOWERS

**The Worship Committee is again ordering flowers for the Easter altar.** You have the choice of a 6" tulip or a 6" daffodil pot. They each cost \$5.00. They can be given in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend.

If you prefer, you can remember someone by donating to the New Britain Food Larder, the Doylestown FISH or the Habit for Humanity.

Your order must be given by March 24th and payment must accompany the order. (*order forms are available at the church, or for questions call Dawn Morris at (215) 822-0622*) You can pick up your plant(s) after the 9:30 or 11:00 services.

## THE CHURCH MOUSE

*For the past few weeks I have been hearing people talk about a community garden that is going to be built on the church property.*



This garden is going to be built by one of our Boy Scouts for his Eagle Award. He is going to build 6 big boxes filled with dirt that we can grow vegetables in. The vegetables that are grown will be picked & taken to the Food Larder. Have you ever planted a seed and watched a sprout come up from the ground and turn into a plant? Mom said that there is a big paper drawing of the church property. On the drawing are 6 little green boxes that show where the garden is going to be built. Mom said that when the weather turns warmer she will take me outside to see the garden. I can't wait. ***Do you know where the garden is going to be? Can you find the big drawing in the church?*** I'm going to go and see where the garden is going to be planted. ***Can you find me on the drawing?*** If you see the office lady, she will give you a pack of seeds to plant in your garden or in paper cups that you can put on your windowsill.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

**In the coming weeks, you will be seeing construction activity on some of the open ground adjoining the Family Life Center.** One of the Boy Scouts from our own Troop #133, **Alec L'Amoreaux**, has selected as his Eagle Scout Project, the construction of six raised 4 X 8 foot beds to be used for raising vegetables, which will ultimately be donated to the New Britain Food Larder. At this point, the planning for the gardens is being addressed by **Greg Ehrenzeller** and **Bob Jack**.

Both Greg and Bob are relatively new to Chalfont UMC, so you may not recognize them by name. However, they will be needing help, come spring and summer for the planting, cultivating, weeding, watering, harvesting and other tasks related to the gardens. *So, if you feel you could help with any of the aspects of this outreach endeavor, give the Church Office a call, or Greg @215-852-9351 or Bob @215-340-7280.*

**They're going to need a lot of hands, so, don't sit on yours!**

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STAFF DIRECTORY

REV. BARBARA SEEKFORD	Pastor
REV. KENNETH L. BEALE, SR.	Pastoral Care Minister
CRIS FRISCO	Director of Music
ERIN MAURER	Worship Leader
PATRICIA L. KERR	Administrative Assistant

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IMPORTANT DATES

**Sunday, March 16**

*(5th Sunday in Lent)*

**Saturday, March 23**

*(Roast Beef Dinner - Family Life Center; 4:00 to 7:00)*

**Sunday, March 24**

*(Palm Sunday)*

**Thursday, March 28**

*(Maundy Thursday service and communion in the Family Life Center; 7:30)*

**Friday, March 29**

*(Community Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary; 7:30)*

**Sunday, March 31**

*(Easter Breakfast; 8:30 am - Worship in Sanctuary; 9:30 - Easter Egg Hunt; 10:30 - Worship FLC; 11:00)*

**Please join us at Chalfont during the week of March 24, 2013.** This is the week that is traditionally known as Holy Week on the Christian calendar. It represents Jesus' last week on earth.

**It begins with Palm/Passion Sunday on March 24** where we celebrate and remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem at both the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services. Palms will be distributed.

**On Thursday March 28 (known as Maundy Thursday)** we join Jesus as he meets with his disciples in the Upper Room to celebrate Passover. It is from this meal, Jesus' last supper that the sacrament of Holy Communion was first experienced. Join us at 7:30 pm, Thursday *(in the Family Life Center)* as we hear from 7 people who will speak of their experiences with Jesus during the last week of his life. We will also share together in Holy Communion.

**Friday March 29th we will gather as a community (with other churches in the area)** here at Chalfont at 7:30 pm *(in the Sanctuary)* to remember once again Jesus' last night on earth and reflect on his death on the cross. Along with the reading of the Passion we will also have music presented by a special ensemble and the community choir *(if you'd like to sing please come at 7:00 for practice)*.