



The Messenger



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

Spring 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As many of you know the 2019 Special Session of General Conference has completed its work. Eight hundred and sixty-four United Methodist delegates from across the United States, Africa, Europe and Philippines met in St. Louis from Feb. 24-26 to consider paragraphs of The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and ministry to LGBTQI persons.

The General Conference voted against the One Church Plan recommended by the majority of our church's bishops. The General Conference instead passed the Traditional Plan, which maintains the denomination's ban on same-sex marriage and prohibition on the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals with additional accountability for enforcing those policies. The constitutionality of key points within the Traditional Plan has been called into question and will be reviewed by the Judicial Council in April.

I am grateful for the prayers of all of you for our church and our delegates. Some of you may be pleased or relieved by the decisions made by the conference while others are in deep pain and anguish. I particularly want to acknowledge the pain this has caused our LGBTQI brothers and sisters along with their families and loved ones. Please know that you are a beloved child of God and member of our church community. You are both invited and welcomed to participate in our ministries.

United Methodists are members of a global and diverse denomination and are clearly not of one mind on questions around human sexuality. In spite of our differences, we are all children of God. At a time in which our society is becoming increasingly polarized, my hope is still that the church can be a place where people of different backgrounds, cultures and opinions will come together.

The effects of the General Conference's decisions on the denomination are still being determined. None of the legislation will become church law until January 1, 2020. I encourage each of you to give yourselves time to process and heal and continue to offer love to each other. We will continue our vital ministry and seek to be a community that welcomes and loves all people. As we learn more, we will discuss next steps together. Check out the Eastern PA website for more in-depth information: www.epaumc.org

I encourage everyone to be in prayer over the next few months for our church, our denomination and for all those who are scared or hurting. My door is always open if you need to talk or pray with someone. Let us continue to process this together. May we all continue to love one another as Christ loves us.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Barb

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

New Telephone Number: Alan and Pat Kerr's new number is (610) 702-2146. Their cell phone numbers remain the same.

In Memory: On the 16th of December Conrad Elerton Evelyn, Jr. passed away. Conrad is survived by his wife, Melanie Evelyn. He was a US Navy veteran of WWII and a member of CUMC for many years.

In Memory: On December 29 LaVerne Keats passed away at the age of 97. He is survived by his wife Wilna (Willie) Keats. Verne was a member of the US Army during WWII and a long time member of CUMC.

THANK YOU

New Britain Food Larder thanks CUMC for giving them approximately 422 lbs of food in 2018. "We continue our commitment to the residents in need in our area..."

Rev Charles Green thanks CUMC for a gift of \$20.00 that will go towards helping children in the Republic of Moldova. He plans to visit there in the spring.

Willie Keats and family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to CUMC for visits with Verne and cards sent while he was in the hospital. They would also like to express their appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy received upon Verne's passing. It was a great source of comfort to know how he touched the lives of so many.

The staff of CUMC would like to express their appreciation for the generous gifts given by the congregation at Christmas.

The Anne Silverman Community Health Clinic was "sincerely grateful for the donation of knitted scarves, gloves and hats." They were distributed to many of their patients.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW would like to thank everyone who donated items to create care packages for our college students. We received so much stuff, we are going to be able to send a second round of packages closer to finals, and also send some items to help clients of A Woman's Place.

Ladies, mark your calendars for the UMW's Annual Community Tea. This year's event, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," will take place on May 11th.

Ticket sales will begin in April. If you would like to be part of the planning process, join the UMW for their regular meeting on Saturday, March 16th, at 9am. Kara Johnson

BOILER REPLACEMENT

Recently, we have discovered that one of the two boilers that provide heat for our building needs to be replaced. We are in a holding pattern at the moment, hoping that a temporary fix will hold until the coldest weather is finished to give us time to raise most of the funds required. We will wait until the fall to do the work if possible. The estimate is between \$15,000-\$18,000. Several fund raising events have been planned:

1. Bertucci's – This was on February 19-20 and gave us 25% back on meals served if a special coupon was used. We received \$130.00 from the Bertucci's fund raiser.

2. Hoagie Sale – The UMM will be having a fund raiser for the boiler fund on June 1st. Pre-sales will be during most of May. Please spread the word and sell hoagies to all your friends and relatives. Our hoagies (*turkey and Italian*) always receive rave reviews.

3. Applebee's Flapjack breakfast – This year our annual pancake breakfast will be on Saturday, October 26th at the Applebee's in Montgomeryville. Tickets will be available starting September 29th. Please bring your extended families and friends for a great "all you can eat" pancake breakfast and help us raise money for the boiler!

As of March 6, we have collected \$4,131.00 toward the project. Many thanks to those who have contributed. Please help any way you can, by direct contribution, attending the fund-raisers, or participating in the activities.

If you have ideas for other fund-raising activities, let us know.

JOIN US ON OUR 2019 LENTEN JOURNEY

This year our Lenten journey began on Wednesday, March 6th (*Ash Wednesday*).

Lent is that 40 day period before Easter. Historically, it has been a time for personal reflection, introspection and spiritual renewal as we join Christ on his walk to the cross. (*Sundays are not included since each Sunday is a celebration and remembrance of Christ's resurrection.*) During Lent we are challenged to think about our own walk with Christ. We are encouraged to think about who we are today and who we want to be.

This year we are going to be looking at the disciple Peter. Peter is the most famous of the disciples and one that many of us can relate too! He was passionate, but often spoke without thinking. He was afraid and confused. He was also courageous and at times did the impossible.

On Thursday evenings during Lent we will be using Adam Hamilton's "Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple Video Study." In this DVD study Rev. Hamilton will help us take an in-depth look into the life and faith of Peter while on location in Israel and Italy showing us key sites in the life of Peter.

Let this year be the start of a new lifetime adventure with Jesus of learning, reflection and action! Join us Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings beginning Sunday March 10 at 9:30 am.

Week #1 Sunday March 10 "**Remembering Our Call**" Luke 5: 1-11

Thursday March 14 @ 7 pm "The Call of the Fisherman"

Week #2 Sunday March 17 - "**Doing the Impossible**" Matthew 14: 22-34

NO SMALL GROUP STUDY ON March 21

Week #3 Sunday March 24 - Rev. Jane McCarthy Preaching Isaiah 25: 6-9

Thursday March 28 - "Walking with Jesus in the Storms"

Week #4 Sunday March 31 - "**I Will Build My Church Upon You**" Matthew 16: 13-19

Thursday April 4 - "Bedrock or Stumbling Block"

Week #5 Sunday April 7 - "**Deserters**" Matthew 26: 31-35

Thursday April 11 - "I Will Not Deny You"

Week #6 Sunday April 14 (*Palm/Passion Sunday*) "**Jesus Arrested, Peter's Denial**"

Matthew 26: 47-27: 50 (*excerpts*)

*Thursday April 18 (*Holy Thursday*) : see below

Easter Sunday April 21 - "**Resurrection and Reinstatement**" Luke 24: 1-9 & John 21: 12-19

***Join us on Thursday April 18 at 6:30 pm.**

The evening will consist of a pot-luck dinner in the Family Life Center as we remember Jesus gathering in the Upper Room for his last dinner with his disciples.

We will also share together in communion.

We will then move into the sanctuary where we will have a memorial service for Jesus. Together we will celebrate and remember the gift of his life for us.

The evening will conclude by 8:15 pm.

Blessings, Pastor Barb

The Messenger

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. ERIN MAURER	Deacon; Worship Leader
CRIS FRISCO	Director of Music
ED HOEHING	Church Administrator

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, March 10

(1st Sunday in Lent)

Thursday, March 14

(Lenten Bible Study)

Sunday, March 17

(2nd Sunday in Lent)

Sunday, March 24

(3rd Sunday in Lent; Jane McCarthy preaching)

Thursday, March 28

(Lenten Bible Study)

Sunday, March 31

(4th Sunday in Lent)

Thursday, April 4

(Lenten Bible Study)

Sunday, April 7

(5th Sunday in Lent)

Thursday, April 11

(Lenten Bible Study)

Sunday, April 14

(Palm Sunday)

Thursday, April 18

(Holy Thursday - 6:30 to 8:15 pm)

Sharing *(pot luck supper)*

Communion

Remembering *(service in the Sanctuary)*

Friday, April 19

(Good Friday)

Sunday, April 21

(Easter Sunday)