



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church Newsletter
446 Camden Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057
856-235-0450

Rev. Richard Nichols, Pastor
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music
Kathy Clawges, Director of Youth
Devika Gill, Director of First Light Learning Center

Rev. HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor
Karen Murray, Director of Christian Education
Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator

Join us for Worship - Saturday 5:30 pm, Sunday 8:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am
Visit us on the Web at: www.meetwithGod.com -or- Email us at: church@meetwithGod.com

FEBRUARY 2016



ASH WEDNESDAY February 10th

Please join us as we begin the Lenten season on Wednesday, Feb. 10th with a special Ash Wednesday soup supper at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by a worship service with imposition of ashes, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Soup suppers will continue each Wednesday evening throughout Lent, with small groups meeting at 7:00. (See pgs 2 & 3 for more details about the Lenten small group studies).

MEET THE STAFF



On Sunday, January 24, we had the opportunity to have our church staff introduced to the congregation. We are grateful for their dedication and the leadership they bring to our church's ministry. During the course of this year we will be asking each staff member to share in a service some things about the work he/she does. We hope this will give you an opportunity to get to know our staff on a more personal level and remind each of us to keep each staff member in your prayers. Our church staff consists of:

Richard Nichols, Senior Pastor
HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor
Karen Murray, Christian Education and Life Director
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music
Kathy Clawges, Youth and College Age Director
Devika Gill, Pre-School Director
Joan Flamini, Administrative Assistant
Karen Halligan, Membership Secretary
Doug Hamilton, Maintenance-Property Security Coordinator



GROUNDS FOR GOOD Friday, February 5th

Come in from the cold to enjoy warm fellowship, hot drinks and lively music at Grounds for Good Coffee House on Friday, February 5. Local favorite Stillwaters Gospel Band will perform, and as always, there will be an art display, free coffee and tea and delicious homemade goodies for sale. Admission is free, but proceeds and donations will benefit Love Orphanage in Haiti, which cares for children who lost their families in the earthquake of 2010. Doors will open at 7:30, with music kicking off at 8. Hope to see you there!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 1st	Chick-fil-A fundraiser - 5:00-8:30pm
Feb. 3rd	Sing-Along at Mt. Laurel Ctr - 10:30am
Feb. 5th	Grounds for Good - 8:00 - 11:00pm
Feb. 7th	Youth Hoagie Sale pickup-8am-12:30pm
Feb. 9th	The Serving Plate - 5:00pm
Feb. 10th	Ash Wednesday Soup supper - 6:00pm
Feb. 10th	Ash Wednesday service - 7:00pm
Feb. 12th	My Abba's Hands - 7:00-9:00pm
Feb. 13th	My Abba's Hands - 9:00am - 3:00pm
Feb. 13th	Adult Fellowship - Noon
Feb. 15th	Presidents Day - Church office closed
Feb. 17th	Internat'l Women's Friendship grp-10am
Feb. 17th	Lenten study groups begin
Feb. 20th	Eyes of Our Hearts breakfast - 7:30am
Feb. 20th	Miriam Circle - 10:00am
Feb. 21st	Men's Breakfast - 7:45am
Feb. 21st	Light Harbor - 2:30pm
Feb. 23rd	Crafts for Good - 7:00pm
Feb. 26-27	30 Hour Famine



**FROM
PASTOR RICHARD**

The Lenten season calls us to a time of spiritual examination and reflection. We recall the journey of Jesus to the cross and hear his call to take up the cross and follow him. It is a journey of finding forgiveness. It is a pathway that for Jesus led to suffering and death and reminds us to die to those things that hinder our faith and find the strength of walking with the Lord.

During this Lenten season, our sermon series is on the "Life of the Beloved" based on the book by the same title by Henri Nouwen. We will consider what it means to be a child of God who deeply loves us and the implications for daily living in a world that often seems unloving. We will follow each sermon with some further reflection and discussion at our weekly "Soup and Study" to give us the opportunity to delve deeper into the wonderful truths of this book. You can get more information on all the opportunities for spiritual growth during Lent by reading Karen Murray's article in this Messenger.

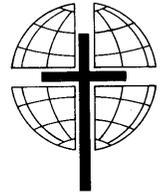
As you consider your own commitments during the season of Lent, let this be a time to look for ways to follow in the ways of Christ. May our own journey bring us closer to the Lord and allow us to be the witnesses of God's good news of peace and love in a troubled world.



**SOMETHING NEW AT
COLLINGSWOOD MANOR**

A room once used as a conference room has been transformed into a physical fitness gym for the residents to use. This is not to be confused with the physical therapy department. The two are separate entities housed in different areas of the Manor. The physical fitness room can be used by any resident to gain or maintain strength. A knowledgeable attendant is there to guide the resident on the proper use of the equipment to insure their safety.

Joan Van Alstyne
Ambassador to Collingswood Manor



**MESSAGE FROM
MISSIONS**

As Missions Weekend April 8, 9 & 10 approaches, it was brought to our attention that some are not sure just what Faith Promise goes towards. Your Faith Promise is used to support our missionaries. Your promise allows us to provide support for our missionaries who are carrying out God's work. They are spreading the word and revealing God's wonderful Grace to all in need. In conjunction with their monthly stipends we do have excess funds that when a particular need arises we are able to assist. An example would be when Neighborhood Center of Camden called to say they had 500 families to provide turkeys for and they only had 150. FUMC/Missions was able to step up and provide 125 turkeys to help with the deficit. We could not have done that without your support. All of what you as a congregation give is so appreciated and I trust that it in turn strengthens your walk with the Lord.

We are Methodists. We are missionaries. We show God's Grace.

Let's look at the definition of "Faith Promise"

Faith-devotion to a duty or a person-LOYALTY; quality of keeping one's promise

Promise-to commit oneself by a promise to do or give; pledge

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Let's be thankful for what we have. Heat, clothing, food, a job etc. More importantly let us be thankful for the freedom to express our Faith in God.

Blessing to you all for being missionaries,
Judi Angelow on behalf of the Missions Commission



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. ~Romans 12:3-8

Each year in the Education Department we decide on a topic or theme that carries throughout the curriculum and in our small groups. Last year we focused on Discipleship and this year (2016) the theme is “Being a Part of the Body”, focusing on the above scripture from the book of Romans. I love how this passage reminds us that one person cannot be everything to everyone. That we must recognize that The Body of Christ (His Church) is just that, a group of different parts with different gifts all coming together to make a whole entity.

As we focus on *this body* (First United Methodist Church in Moorestown, NJ) consider where you fit in and how you can be a part of the whole body. What is your “gift” and where are you going to use it? Our “Church Body” will be stronger, wiser and healthier if we all do our part to be those who share Christ “with the hurting world through our words and actions.”

May God reveal to you exactly where you need to be in His Body.

Sincerely,
~Karen Murray, DCE

Our Lenten Study this year beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 10th, is from author and teacher Henri Nouwen entitled “**Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World**”. “Initially written for a Jewish friend, *Life of the Beloved* has become Henri Nouwen's greatest legacy to Christians around the world. This sincere testimony of the power and invitation of Christ is indeed a great guide to a truly uplifting spiritual life in today's world.”

If you would like to participate in this whole church study, by either facilitating a group or participating in one, please contact me at 856-222-1120 or via e-mail at education@meetwithGod.com for books. (Discussion questions are in the back of the book. There is no DVD to this study.) Books will cost \$12.00 each. Small groups will begin the week of February 14th. To order a book, please contact me at the above number or email by February 10th. This book is also available as an EBook from Amazon and the Apple Book Store.

Small Group Sign-Up forms for this Study will be posted in the Narthex beginning the weekend of January 24th.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Confirmation Class Meeting Dates - Feb. 1st, Feb. 14th & Feb. 22nd

Children's Youth Group - Thursday's Feb. 4th, 11th & 18th

Winter Mission Adventure Continues - Check the bulletin or online for what to bring to donate to this annual Mission opportunity!

WHO BENEFITS FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Everybody benefits from Stephen Ministry.



- ✓ Those receiving care from Stephen Ministers benefit because they receive prayer and support through the crisis they face.
- ✓ Stephen Ministers benefit through the spiritual growth they experience from being involved in meaningful ministry.
- ✓ Our pastors benefit because caring ministry at FUMC is expanded, and fewer people will slip through the cracks.
- ✓ Most of all *you* benefit from the knowledge that special care is available to you should you need it.
- ✓ In addition, you now have a place where you can refer a friend, neighbor, coworker, relative, or anyone else you know who is going through a difficult time so that they can receive special care when they need it most.

Stephen Ministry makes First United Methodist Church of Moorestown a much more caring place! Our Stephen Ministers have gone through 50 hours of training in providing Christian care so that they can focus on your needs and listen to what you really have to say. If you or someone you know could use a Stephen Minister, please call the church office, 235-0450 or contact one of our Stephen Ministers.



MIRIAM CIRCLE
February 20, 10:00 a.m

Come join us for a wonderful morning filled with music with our own gifted Glenn Rodgers. There will be delicious refreshments provided by Betsy DeWitt & Fay Ferris. Bertha Bendel will bring us our devotional.

Save the date now for the Miriam Circle and we hope you come and bring warmth to a chilly February day.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

First United Methodist Church is a community of faith committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting world through words and actions.

FREE SENIOR CITIZEN MATINEE
“Hello Dolly!”
at Moorestown High School

Each year, Moorestown High School offer a free matinee performance of their spring musical to senior citizens in the area. This year's musical is “Hello Dolly!” The matinee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2nd from Noon till about 2:30 p.m. It is free of charge for senior citizens. Pretzels, candy and water are served at intermission by the Moorestown Education Association. Guests are welcome to bring their own lunches, if needed. Guests/living facilities need to provide their own transportation (buses can drop passengers off at the door, but those driving will need to park and walk to the entrance). If you have any questions, please call Tracey Gural, 609-744-7698.



FAITH NOTES
How God is at Work in Our Lives

I want to sincerely express my appreciation and offer my thanks and love for your prayers during the time of my back surgery. My wife Stephanie and I are so grateful for your prayers and for your love and support you demonstrated to my family. I know in my heart that it was your prayers that God honored which led the Lord to miraculously save me from death while in the hospital. I feel compelled to give you a brief update on my status.

It all happened very suddenly with no warning. My back surgery went very well. That evening after my surgery, I felt well enough to test out my new reconstructed back by taking a stroll down the hospital hallway. Everything was going very well with my walk until I came back to the room with the nurse and sat down on the chair that was beside my bed. Almost immediately I felt like I was about to faint and after a few seconds I did indeed pass out sitting in the chair. As it turned out my heart had stopped beating. The next thing I remembered was waking up to 10 doctors and nurses, and one chaplain, all on the Hospital's Response Team hovering around my bed. Their apparent fear and worriedness on their faces told me what had just transpired. And yet I felt like I had just come out of a deep refreshing sleep, being at peace and feeling close to our Lord.

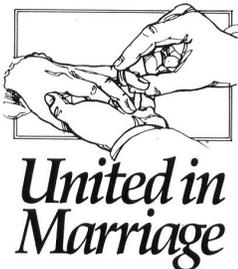
According to the heart monitor strapped on my chest, my heart had stopped beating for 40 seconds. A nurse later told me that the Response Team was about to administer CPR before using the electric paddles as a last resort. The next day the cardiologist who had been there with the rest of the Response Team, told me and his dozen medical students at the foot of my bed that in his long career he had never seen a case where the heart stopped beating for this long duration of time and then to have the heart re-start on its own was truly remarkable.

Remarkable or not I take no credit for my body re-starting my heart on its own. Clearly it was our master physician, the Lord Jesus who revived me. I also feel so indebted for all of your prayers for a safe and successful surgery. I know and am thankful that the Lord honored your prayers.

Even though I did not suffer any heart or other related problems, the cardiologists placed a pacemaker in me and I will be fine as I was just discharged from the hospital last Sunday. With each passing day I noticed I am slowly regaining my strength. As my body continues to be on the mend, I am so looking forward to being able to come to church soon, worship our Amazing Lord together and personally thank you for your prayers, love and support you gave to me and my family. Again, thank you !!!

Love in Christ,
Allan Estrin

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Weddings:

Tammy Maver &
Frank Woolman on
December 27, 2015

Ragnhild Moyer &
Robert Banes on
January 2, 2016



Baptisms:

Hugo Walter Walsh
on December 20, 2015; son of
Jonathan & Grace Walsh

Deaths:

William Plumb
on December 30, 2015





THE PARENT UPDATE

First United Methodist Church Youth Fellowship

Welcome to February Youth News!

Kathy Clawges

Jr. & Sr. High students meet every Sunday night from 7:00-8:30pm. Bible Study is every Wednesday 6:00-8:00pm (includes dinner - donations are much appreciated). Thank you for your continued support!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Superbowl Sunday Youth Hoagie Sale

Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 8:00 AM to Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 12:30 PM

Italian or Turkey-\$6.00 each. Order by January 31st. Email orders to:Robin Stepp rlstapp@comcast.net or complete form below and drop in basket in the back of the Sanctuary. All proceeds will benefit Youth Programming. Pick up will be in Fellowship Hall

30 Hour Famine

Friday, February 26, 2016 at 6:00 PM to Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 7:30 PM

We will Starve for food!! Jr. & Sr. High students fast for 30 hours to raise funds for world hunger through Compassion International. Food donations are much appreciated for our feast on Saturday night after the 5:30 Worship Service.

Need more info? Email me at kclawges@gmail.com / 856-912-1148 or visit us at www.meetwithGod.com

FUMC YOUTH HOAGIE SALE Sunday, February 7th, \$6.00 each

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

No. of Italian: _____ No. of Turkey: _____

Please include cash or check made payable to: "FUMC Youth Account"

Intentional Parents

Doug and Cathy Fields

Let's begin with some truth telling: Parenting is difficult!

Yes, it's hard. But what you do as a parent every day and every week matters. Your actions---over time---are the single greatest influence in the life of your child.

Still, many parents wind up relying on quick fixes as a parenting style. Simply put, parenting becomes about fixing kids' problem behaviors or the agony parents experience because of these behaviors. Parents use quick fixes to achieve some short-term wins---to fix current problems---but over time the strategy falls and fails because there is no connection to a long-term purpose and no intent to lead a child from Point A to Point B. Using quick fixes to solve problems do not help kids grow up to become healthy and independent young adults.

We'd like to suggest a better way: you can become an exceptional parent when you choose to be an intentional parent.

We didn't do everything right as parents, and you won't either. But we made the choice to fight against Quick-Fix Parenting in order to become Intentional Parents. And along the way we discovered 10 intentional actions that are key to becoming intentional parents.

- 1) Intentional parents have strong belief. Intentional parents believe that they are the most significant influence on their children.
- 2) Intentional parents understand they are 24/7 role models. They make a deliberate choice to be vigilant about the examples they set for their kids by how they live their lives.
- 3) Intentional parents use encouraging words. Encouraging words are positive, life-giving, powerful, and memorable. They are like food for your child's soul.
- 4) Intentional parents offer genuine affection. Appropriate and regular physical affection gives kids more security, better self-esteem, and healthier emotional balance.
- 5) Intentional parents provide consistent presence. They plan, strategize, and sacrifice in order to be present in their lives of their kids.
- 6) Intentional parents create a peaceful home. A peaceful home is a safe home, giving kids a shelter from the storms of life.
- 7) Intentional parents use delicate discipline. Discipline and love go together; they provide kids with needed guidance, care and concern.
- 8) Intentional parents activate responsibility. They provide opportunities for their children to develop responsibility and pursue healthy independence.
- 9) Intentional parents create positive memories. For better or for worse, your kids will carry family memories into adulthood. Intentional parents pursue a path to ensure kids will have a flood of positive memories.
- 10) Intentional parents provide serious fun. They work to nurture and model a home environment where laughter and fun is the rule, not the exception.

Doug and Cathy have created two resources to help parents dig deeper into the important topic of becoming intentional parents. You can find their Intentional Parenting DVD and Workbook at www.dougfields.com

What to Teach Your Kids About Friendship

Jim Burns

Vital friendships help to provide the support system people need to thrive in life. To raise healthy kids, parents need to help teach characteristics of true friendships so that when the inevitable storms blow through our kids' lives, the encouragement of real friends can provide them with the help they need to survive.

The most important method for teaching your kids what true friendship looks like is by role-modeling what it means to be a true friend in your own relationships. If you are married, demonstrate openly the value of your friendship with your spouse! Remember, your kids are watching and they are very likely to learn the meaning of friendship from your example.

Here are some proven characteristics that build value into friendships. Pass these along to your kids by living them out in your own friendships!

- 1) Good communication. Lasting friendships are built on the principles of good communication. True friends open their lives to share their thoughts and feelings with one another. Friendships that stand the test of time don't dominate or refuse to participate in communication.
- 2) Be a good listener. Listening is the language of love. To grow lasting friendships, learn to listen well.
- 3) Don't manipulate. When relationships turn to manipulation, friendships die. Manipulation shows up when friends become "clingy," when they constantly seek to be pitied, or when they attempt to control another.
- 4) Be humble, on equal footing. True friendships are the result of humility and treating one another equally on the journey of life.
- 5) Be available. When people are frequently unavailable to others they send the message that they aren't interested in maintaining the friendship. Nothing is more important in friendship than the gift of availability.
- 6) Be encouraging. This doesn't mean that long-time friends never disagree or argue. It does mean, that on the whole, friends provide plenty of affirmation and encouragement.
- 7) Sacrifice. A lasting friend is one that walks the extra mile and can be depended upon even when it's inconvenient.
- 8) Be loyal. Loyalty is a key ingredient to true friendships and a trait that is sorely missing in our culture today.
- 9) Tell the truth. Nothing destroys friendship quicker than dishonesty. Sometimes, telling the truth means being willing to admit your faults, or lovingly confront theirs, even when it hurts.
- 10) Forgive and Forget. This may be easier said than done, but true friendships are ones that "get-over" the hurts and offenses that are part of any relationship.