



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

OCTOBER 2016



ONE COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE - Sunday, October 23rd

Last year we had the opportunity to gather for a special service of worship as we celebrated our 200th Anniversary. This year we will once again have **one worship service on Sunday, October 23 at 10:00 am** with the theme: "Celebrating Our Future Ministry". We have invited Trey Wince, who is the Conference Director of New Disciples to be our preacher for the morning. The service will highlight the good things God is doing in our midst and call us to meet the challenges of future ministry together. The worship service will be followed by a chicken barbeque in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar for this special day of worship and celebration.

GROUNDS FOR GOOD IS BACK!



Grounds for Good Coffee House returns on Friday, October 7, at 8 pm in Fellowship Hall to kick off another great season of music and fellowship to support organizations making a difference locally and globally. Spirit Driven will perform lively, inspiring musical entertainment. Admission, coffee and tea are all FREE, with delicious homemade goodies available for purchase. Proceeds and donations will benefit The Waymakers, a Willingboro-based organization dedicated to improving the lives of people in Ghana through sanitation and clean water, education, nutrition, and the good news of Jesus Christ. All are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items such as rice and beans, gently used clothing and small toys for a joyous Christmas celebration. Funds raised at the coffee house will go towards shipping these gifts to Ghana.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Sunday, Oct. 9th

On Sunday afternoon, October 9, we will hold our second annual blessing of the Animals in our courtyard at 3:00. You are invited to bring your dogs, cats, birds and other companion animals. Even if you have no pets of your own, you are welcome to join in the fun. From a spiritual standpoint, this worship service will provide an opportunity to celebrate our deep connection with creation and each other that our pets help enable. All pets will need to be on a leash or otherwise restrained. As part of the service, we will collect cans or bags of pet food to donate to the animal shelters and rescue groups that we support. Questions: Margie Morgan at 856-764-1247 or margiemorgan75@gmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 1st Golf Outing - 1:00pm
- Oct. 1-2 Youth at Ignite, Wildwood NJ
- Oct. 3rd Blood Drive - 1:30 - 6:15pm
- Oct. 5th Sing-Along at Mt. Laurel Ctr. - 10:30am
- Oct. 7th Grounds for Good - 8:00 - 11:00pm
- Oct. 8th Miriam Circle - 10:30am
- Oct. 9th Blessing of the Animals - 3:00pm
- Oct. 11th The Serving Plate - 5:00pm
- Oct. 12th Dessert & Study begins - 6:45pm
- Oct. 11th Church Council - 7:00pm
- Oct. 14th My Abba's Hands - 7:00-9:00pm
- Oct. 15th Eyes of Our Hearts breakfast - 7:00am
- Oct. 15th My Abba's Hands - 9:00am - 3:00pm
- Oct. 15th Adult Fellowship - 12:00 noon
- Oct. 16th Light Harbor - 2:30pm
- Oct. 19th Internat'l Women's Friendship Grp-10am
- Oct. 22nd Hoedown - 7:00 - 9:00pm
- Oct. 23rd Combined worship service - 10:00am
- Oct. 25th Crafts for Good - 7:00pm
- Oct. 29th Church Conference - 9:00am



FROM
PASTOR RICHARD

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” These words from the apostle Peter remind us that our Christian faith should never become stagnant but rather ever be growing in the understanding and living of our faith. As disciples and followers of the Lord Jesus, we are challenged to look for opportunities to deepen our relationship with Christ and discover more fully how to live out the implications of that relationship.

One of those opportunities is through some of the Christian education opportunities that FUMC offers. There are adult Sunday School classes, Bible studies, and other small group gatherings that are designed to help us in our walk with the Lord.

During the months of October and November, the sermon series will be on “Growing in Christ - Living a Life of Devotion”. It will be based on the book “Devotional Classics” which looks at the 6 great streams of Christian thought that have been practiced by Christians since the time of Christ and considers how our understanding of each of these traditions can deepen our own faith. In addition to the sermon series, I would like to invite you to further reflection and discussion on this series during our Christian education study held for 6 Wednesday evenings beginning October 12. These sessions will allow us to delve more deeply into the writings and thinking of those who have written “devotional classics”. I believe this will be a unique opportunity to not only enrich our understanding of various streams of Christian thought, but also help us to grow in our own faith as a disciple of Jesus. I look forward to learning with you.

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION

If you would like to use your mobile device to make an electronic donation to FUMC Moorestown, just scan this QR code and you'll be connected to our mobile giving page!



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
Monday, October 3rd



“Behold, I am doing a new thing...” Isaiah 43:19

Fall is a time of new beginnings: a new school year, a chance to clean house for the rummage sale, and a change of scenery as the leaves on the trees take on new colors. This fall, I am encouraging you to try giving of yourself in a new way by giving blood, perhaps for the first time. Giving the gift of blood takes less than an hour, costs nothing, is relatively painless, and forever changes the lives of critically ill and injured patients and the people who love them.

The next Red Cross Blood Drive is on Monday, October 3 in Fellowship Hall. Appointments are available every 15 minutes from 1:30 until 6:15. To make an appointment, you can sign up in the Narthex, contact Jen Dunne Appleton at 856-979-6329 or jendunne1@gmail.com, or sign up online at redcrossblood.org.

God is at work doing new things in our lives! Can you try something new for Him?



QUICK PRAYER

Gather for a half hour of prayer in the Prayer Room in the basement under Fellowship Hall on Saturdays, beginning on October 1 at 9:30 AM. Come when you can. Everybody welcome! Call Betsy Heinz for information, 856-304-4313.

CHURCH CONFERENCE
Saturday, October 29th

First UMC's annual Church Conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 29th at 9:00 a.m. This is the annual meeting at which we elect officers for the coming year, set pastoral salaries, and receive reports from the leaders of our many ministries. This year, we will be hosting several other churches in a combined Church Conference gathering. Look for more information in upcoming Sunday bulletins.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*“Those who put their trust in the Lord, who pay no attention to the proud
or to those who follow lies, are truly happy!” Psalm 40:4*

Dear Family & Friends of 1st UMC Moorestown,

This month's Messenger article will serve two purposes. First it will be similar to other articles that give general information on the happenings in the Christian Education Department and my interpretation of a particular scripture and second it will serve as my “Meet the Staff” letter.

The scripture that I chose for this article is one that simply reminds us to trust in the Lord. To look to Him for guidance and to seek a life that allows us to be truly happy and to resist those who follow the great deceiver, the Devil. I do truly pray that each person reading this is learning everyday to trust God's ways and to seek His face, especially in this difficult world. When we reflect on our lives and learn to trust that God is always with us, we can know that His timing is perfect.

Educational Opportunities:

Along with Sunday School for all ages, at 9:30 & 11:00, our **Fall DESSERT & Study** program will begin on October 12th. There are many opportunities throughout the week for learning, growing and serving, I pray that you find one that excites you. See the list of studies below and consider joining one.

Monday Morning Women's Group:	9:30 - 11:00am, Heritage Room (Childcare provided)
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study:	2:00 - 3:00pm, Room E-204
Thursday Morning Bible Study:	7:30 - 9:00am at Maritsa's Restaurant in Maple Shade
Thursday Morning, FirstPlace4Health	9:00 - 11:00am, Heritage Room (Childcare provided)
Friday Morning Men's Group:	6:30 - 7:30am, Parlor
Saturday Morning Bible Study Group:	7:30 - 9:00am, Parlor

Evening “Care” Groups

Mondays - Single & Parenting: 6:30-8:30pm, Resource Room

Wednesdays - DivorceCare: 6:30-8:30pm, Resource Room

Mondays & Wednesdays - Prayer & Pilates: 5:30-6:30pm, Heritage Room
(Childcare available upon request)

Dessert & Study begins October 12th

6:45 - **Dessert**

7:00 - **Study:** *“Devotional Classics - Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups - A Resource for Spiritual Renewal”* Edited by Richard Forster and James Bryan Smith.

7:00 - **Jr. & Sr. High Bible Study:** Led by Kathy Clawges & Youth Leaders

**Pastor Richard will lead a 6 week study on “Devotional Classics” This book features readings from Augustine of Hippo, Blaise Pascal, Francis of Assisi, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and many others. The editors, Foster and Smith sift through works from these and other great spiritual writers of the past as well as readings from contemporary spiritual leaders to create a guide that is indispensable for those looking for a deeper and more balanced spiritual life.

***If you are planning on attending Pastor's Study, please contact Karen Murray to order your copy of the book, “Devotional Classics.” Cost of the book is \$11.00. Checks can be made payable to 1st UMC. Also, a sign-up sheet will be on display in the Narthex.

**For information on any of the groups listed, please contact Karen Murray at 856-222-1120.

Please see Karen's “Meet the Staff” letter on the next page!



MEET THE STAFF

This month - Karen Murray, Director of Christian Education

Ok, now it's time to "Meet THIS Staff":

Well, I am the third of four children born to Richard and Barbara Yarnall. I have an older brother, an older sister and a much younger brother. I grew up in Delaware County Pennsylvania where I graduated from Ridley High School. From there I attended Bloomsburg State College where I received a degree in Early Childhood Education then continued my studies at West Chester University where I received a degree in Special Education. Throughout my childhood and adolescent years I would often dream of being a teacher so as soon as I was old enough I volunteered in the church nursery and of course baby sat neighborhood children. I suppose, looking back it wasn't just the joy of being with the children but there was also joy in knowing I was helping people. I do love helping people!

As I grew I realized more and more that God had a calling on my life. I loved Sunday School and Church. At a young age I would walk to the church around the corner to go to Sunday School even if no one else from my family was attending that day. I recall vividly being in 4th grade and having to recite Psalm 100 in front of the congregation on Education Sunday.

Though one of my greatest memories of Church is from my adolescent years. It was when I asked Jesus to be my personal Savior. It was on a youth retreat and several of us snuck out of our cabins and went to the lake to take out the canoes. It was on a canoe in Lake Innaba, in Pennsylvania staring at the stars and the bright moon that I knew there was something WAY bigger than me in the universe and it was God. Suddenly everything I had learned in Sunday School and church felt completely real to me and I was forever changed. That was also the year I was part of the Confirmation Class and again more affirmation that God was real and I needed Jesus.

I did eventually become a teacher and a certified parent advocate working with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit. Eventually, I got married to Bob and then had our son Bobby. Not long after Bobby was born, Bob was transferred to New York City for work. It was a huge leap of faith transferring from our hometown

to New York but again as I look back I see God's hand in all our moves. After moving several times we ultimately ended up in Moorestown, NJ and started attending this church. Bob was working in Philadelphia again and I had taken a job as the Education Coordinator at Hampton Behavioral Health Center, in Westampton, NJ so we decided to remain in NJ or as we say, "this side of the bridge."

Once we got settled in Moorestown, Bob and I started volunteering as youth leaders for the 7th & 8th grade. (Bobby was only in elementary school then so he came with us every week too.) We both became Stephen Ministers, I even went on to be a Stephen Ministry Leader, I had joined the Praise Team and served on several committees. We made it a point to keep God at the center of our family and to serve him by being the best parents and servants to Him that we could be.

While I became even more committed to "Church work" Bob was serving the Moorestown Community. He was President of the Baseball Federation, helped with the planning and execution of the Labor Day Soccer Tournaments and even became President of the High School Football Parents club. It was when Bobby was in 8th grade that the opportunity to move into full-time paid youth ministry arose. I applied for the job and eventually got it. It was hard leaving Hampton but I was sure this was where God was leading me. For the next six years I was the Director of Youth Ministries until I took over being the Christian Education Director in 2004.

Our family has been blessed to be part of this church since 1993 and since my employment here I have truly felt that this is where I am supposed to be. I know God is not finished with me yet and as Bob and I enter the next phase of our lives as grandparents I truly look forward to how I can serve God and His people here in this community. Yes, it really is all about trusting God and His perfect timing.

LAY LEADER LINES

As my last article focused on hope, the topic of faith kept coming up in my prayers. I would guess that each of us has had certain things happen in our lives that would most likely have been almost impossible to work through, without the gift of faith that God offers to us in love.

Whether we are overwhelmed with families, careers, volunteer commitments, simply knowing that God is with us, leading us, comforting and encouraging us should strengthen our faith.

Helen Steiner Rice has a simple, yet poignant, message regarding faith: "No matter how steep the mountain - the Lord is going to climb it with you." As I am sure you have, I have spoken with so many people who have said that he/she could not have gotten to the other side of a particular challenge without the gift of faith. Another quote, by an unknown author, says it well: "It is such comfort to drop the tangles of life into God's hands and leave them there." We do know that God is with us, and that each challenge He puts into our lives absolutely makes us stronger, and teaches us a valuable lesson. Max Lucado also has something for us to remember: "God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, or sun without rain. He did promise, however, strength for the day, comfort in the tears, and light for the way." Hebrews 11:1 is a verse that I carry with me: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Children also teach us so much. They look to us for guidance and love, yet I think, many times, we can learn about unconditional love from them. As one small child prayed: "Dear Lord, I can't find the right words. Can you please just listen through my heart?" A young boy named Dean has this prayer: "Dear Lord, you don't have to worry about me. I always look both ways!" The faith that this child shows is something that I pray we can all experience.

Even Cinderella has some advice for us: "Have faith in your dreams, and someday your rainbow will come smiling through."

Life, as we know it, seems to get busier this time of the year, and taking the time to pray, and listen, might not happen as often as we would like it to happen. It might

take a bit of extra effort (this is something I need to work on each day!)

Wherever we are in our lives, my prayer for each of us is to let our faith lead us in the ways that God would like to do. As Max Lucado also said: "Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It's the belief that God will do what is right." I believe that God has pleasant surprises waiting for every one of us, and that we will take the time to celebrate gifts of all kinds and sizes. We can also learn from a child named Ruth: "Dear God, I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions!"

God bless you all!
Kathy Appleton
Lay Leader

Weddings:

Erin Johnson &
Juan Diaz on
August 16, 2016

Ashley Whittendale &
Jeffrey Engel on
September 3, 2016



Deaths:

Lillian James
on August 18, 2016

Ada Campanile
on August 27, 2016



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.



WELCOME ALL LADIES
Miriam Circle will meet on
October 8th at 10:30 A.M.
in the Church Parlor

All ladies are welcome to join us for our first meeting of the 2016-2017 year. This is our Pledge Meeting and it will be led by Janet Ash. We will be discussing the results of our Aug. 10th planning meeting. Janet Ash, Mary Lou Nelson and Sue Mitchell will be providing the refreshments for this meeting. We look forward to seeing every one as we discuss the charities we support.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
VETERANS' APPRECIATION SERVICE

On Sunday, November 6, 2016, FUMC will honor military veterans during our Veterans' Appreciation Service at 2:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Light refreshments will follow the service in Fellowship Hall. Check your bulletin for details in October.

If you would like to participate in planning of our Veterans' Appreciation Service please call Linda Wanagas at 856-273-1298.

* * * * *

LIGHT HARBOR MINISTRY UPDATE

During the months of August and September your Light Harbor Ministry has done a church service at Avista Healthcare per the request of their Activities Director Maria Gommel who left Mt. Laurel Center in the spring. Her residents were very excited when we agreed to come on a Sunday afternoon in August to provide them with a church service. The very next day Maria called to thank us for making her day because the residents (18 in attendance) were so happy. They told her we had musicians, songbooks with hymns, and that we spent time praying, singing, and sharing the scripture with them.

Our September service was on Sunday, September 11th so we planned a patriotic theme and told Maria to let the residents know so they could wear their red, white, and blue colors. Maria told me she had American flags and that we could use them during the service. We not only remembered September 11th but December 7th because we thought some of the residents may be old enough to remember that day too. We prayed, sang songs, read scripture, and shared memories of these horrifying days in America's history. We tied it all together with this one statement "War and destruction are inevitable, but so is God's final victory. At that time, all will stand quietly before the all-powerful Lord." There were 25 or more residents at this service and many of them wore their red, white, and blue colors while waving the American flag.

Maria emailed me the next day to thank us for coming and sent me some pictures from the service taken by her staff. Hopefully I will be able to show them to you (2 of them are printed below). I told her that we plan to come on Sunday, October 9th and her response was "WOOHOO, the residents will be so happy, they asked me today when you guys would be back. Thank you."

The Light Harbor Ministry would love to continue serving both of these facilities each month but we need some other volunteers to make this happen. I Corinthians 12:7 reads "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other". If you play an instrument, love to sing, are able to read scripture, able to turn pages, or love to talk you meet the qualifications for this ministry. Our ministry's purpose is to show God's love through prayer, scripture, and music that is uplifting and fun for the residents each month. Do you have one hour a month to share God's love with others? Please call Linda Wanagas at 856-273-1298 if you are interested in this ministry or have questions.





Kathy Clawges, Youth Director
856-912-1148
kclawges@gmail.com

Hello parents! Youth Group has begun! It's exciting to see what God is doing in Youth Ministry! Jr. & Sr. High meet every Sunday night from 7:00-8:30pm downstairs, from Fellowship Hall, in the youth rooms. All Jr. & Sr. High students are invited to join us.

WELCOME TO OCTOBER YOUTH NEWS!!



JR. & SR. HIGH BIBLE STUDY

October 5

6pm - 8pm

LOCATION: Fellowship Hall / Sr. High youth room

We will meet every Wednesday from 6pm-8pm for dinner (6-7) and Bible study (7-8). If you can't make dinner, please come for the study. Food donations are always appreciated.



ANNUAL HOEDOWN hosted by Jr. & Sr. High Youth

October 22

6:30pm - 9:30pm

LOCATION: Fellowship Hall

Please join us for our annual Hoedown! All are welcome! This year we will have a BBQ cook-off & Pie Making Contest. We will begin taking entrants on October 1st. If you have a knack for BBQ or making Pies, please enter for the taste off. Pies will be dropped off in Fellowship Hall by 5pm and BBQ can be drop off or can be cooking all afternoon - bring your grill or smoker! We are featuring Caller Howard Richman from 7-9pm. He will call square dancing, etc., so wear your best duds and boots & join us for a great night of fellowship for all ages!

ABC's of Homework

Jim Burns

*President of HomeWord and Executive Director of the HomeWord Center for Youth and Family at
Azusa Pacific University*

For many families, homework is the number one source of conflict between parents and their kids. When kids won't do their homework or the quality of work is poor, the sparks begin to fly.

I interviewed the acclaimed parenting expert, author and columnist, John Rosemond, about what he believes parents should do regarding the issue of homework, and he outlined his ABC's:

A. All By Myself. Children ought to do their homework in a private, personal area -- not a high-traffic or family area like the kitchen. Insisting on a private area for homework tells your children that homework is their responsibility. As we help our kids move from dependence on us to becoming independent -- a private area allows them to function and complete tasks by themselves.

B. Back Off. Backing off means refusing to give children help with homework unless absolutely necessary. Although this is often difficult for parents, they need to realize that when children say, "I need help," it doesn't actually mean they do. According to Rosemond, when kids ask for help, about 80% of the time they are looking for mom or dad to solve a problem or bail them out of a situation that has frustrated them. When parents jump in to fix or bail out, they confirm for their children that they indeed were unable to solve the problem themselves. Backing off while supporting and encouraging your kids is the way to go. Even if kids fail, they will learn important life lessons.

C. Call It Quits. Rosemond suggests that parents set a time deadline when homework must be completed for the day, whether or not all assignments have been finished. When deadlines are set and kept, kids will begin to learn to manage their time more effectively.

These ABC's are nothing more than the approach to homework that most parents used 50 years ago. They might go against some popular thinking today, but they emphasize the development of self-discipline, responsibility, and the resourcefulness kids will need to become self-reliant and functioning adults.