



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 2017



POPS CONCERT
February 12, 4:00 p.m.,
*followed by a covered dish
supper in Fellowship Hall!*

This light-hearted program of favorites, both sacred and secular, is sure to chase away the midwinter blues. Featuring children, teens, adults, handbells, choir chimes and always a few surprises! Please join us for this annual favorite, *at an earlier time this year*. Then stay for a fun time of food and fellowship at a covered dish supper, immediately after the concert. Look for more details in upcoming Sunday bulletins and Church News emails!

SANCTUARY ROOF FUNDING CAMPAIGN

As anticipated, the Sanctuary Roof repair is one of our main concerns for 2017. The estimated cost will be around \$55,000. To ensure we stay dry during services, we are pleased to announce that the Finance Committee and Church Council have voted to initiate a Fundraising Campaign to underwrite the cost to replace the roof. Initial response to this need has been positive, and we hope everyone will join in prayerfully supporting this important initiative.

The Property Committee hopes to complete the project this spring. Donations to support the roof repair project can be made by simply indicating "Roof Repair" on your check or offering envelope.

Contact Greg Kincaid, Finance Chair or John Halligan, Property Chair with questions. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support and prayers.



A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

If you signed up for electronic giving during 2016 and have changed the amount of your pledge for 2017, please remember to log in to your Vanco account and update your giving details. If you're not sure how to do that, contact Karen Halligan in the church office, 856-235-0450 or church@meetwithGod.com. Thank you!

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 1st Sing-Along at Mt. Laurel Ctr. - 10:30am
- Feb. 3rd Grounds for Good - 8:00 - 11:00pm
- Feb. 5th Youth Hoagie Sale pickup-10:30 & 12:15
- Feb. 6th Chick-fil-a fundraiser - 5:00 - 8:30pm
- Feb. 10th My Abba's Hands - 7:00 - 9:00pm
- Feb. 11th My Abba's Hands - 9:00am - 3:00pm
- Feb. 12th Pops Concert & covered dish supper-4pm
- Feb. 14th The Serving Plate - 5:00pm
- Feb. 15th Internat'l Women's Friendship Grp-10am
- Feb. 18th Eyes of Our Hearts breakfast - 7:00am
- Feb. 18th Adult Fellowship - noon
- Feb. 19th Men's Breakfast - 7:45am
- Feb. 19th Light Harbor - 2:30pm
- Feb. 19th Organ Recital - 3:00pm
- Feb. 20th Presidents Day - Church office closed
- Feb. 24-25 30 Hour Famine
- Feb. 28th Crafts for Good - 7:00 - 8:30pm



**FROM
PASTOR RICHARD**

“Love, love, love, love, the Gospel in a word is love” are the words of an old chorus that simply express the key message of Scripture: Our God is a God of love. We declare this every time we recite John 3:16: “God so loved the world...” We hear John repeat this affirmation in I John: “God is love and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.”

In the month of February we celebrate Valentine's Day and many couples will express romantic sentiments to each other. Cards and flowers will be given. Perhaps a box of chocolate candy. These are expressions of love.

But for the followers of Jesus Christ, living with love in our hearts is more than a one day theme. Jesus instructs us to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” and to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” John repeats this message: “We love because He first loved us...those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.” This kind of love is much stronger than sentiment and warm feelings. It is worshipping God with all that I am and striving to find ways to express love, caring and forgiveness to my brothers and sisters in the human family. This kind of love is a precious commodity in a world that is filled with violence, hatred, discrimination, and greed. But it is the love of Christ that constrains us and moves us to reach out to all persons with compassion and service. May God stir our hearts to this kind of witness and caring so that the world may know we are Christians by our love.



**FROM THE
MISSIONS COMMISSION**

Hello my Fellow Missionaries,

I am Judi Angelow. I am the newly appointed Chairperson of the Missions Commission. I want to say I am delighted and blessed to have this appointment. My soul is on fire and I hope to set a fire in your soul as well. We had our first meeting and everyone seems to be a great fit. We laughed and got to know each other. It is our intent to get all of you involved in missions. It is our plan to have many small missions

during the course of the next year. Please look to see announcements of our upcoming mission events.

It is my hope and prayer that you all find something that is inviting for you to partake in. Missions is not just for adults. It is also for our youth as they are our future. I hope to see the young and the old working together to show the hurting world God's wonderful Grace. They can learn from us and we can learn from them. Together it would be a great union. Remember it takes a village to raise a child. It takes a congregation to mission to those in need.

I have seen over the course of the past few years of my membership here that we are a giving people. I am amazed with your generosity. Giving is not just monetary. Giving is also of yourself and time. Many do not have the finances to give but do have the time. So I urge you to look into the Eyes of Your Hearts and see how you feel. Is God telling you “It is time my child to give. For those of you that give to those in need, you have also given to me.” Matthew 25:31-40

Our members are listed below. I urge you to talk to them and they will fill you in on all our exciting plans for this year! Each of the members are an integral part of the commission. Not one single person will do it all. We will do it together!... Yep I said it..I can't do it all. Those who know me will understand. I am learning to delegate.

Judi Angelow, Dan Mayo (small missions), Tom Roosa (treasurer), Tracey Howells (secretary), Kerry Swezey, Audrey Giza, Allan Estrin, Steve Feerrar, Synclaire Angelow, Doug Carty

Spend time in prayer and see where the Lord is leading you to be His servant.

SAVE THE DATE - Missions weekend is April 21-23

I love you all for supporting me in my vision of showing God's wonderful Grace to those who are lost.

Peace & Blessings,
Judi Angelow



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

“Doxology”

“24 To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” Jude 24-25 (NIV)

The above scripture comes from the book of Jude in the New Testament. Jude is a little book (Letter, Epistle) tucked between 3 John and Revelation. This one chapter Epistle is written by Jude a servant of Jesus. Jude's “letter” is one not directed to the members of one church in particular, but rather it is intended to be circulated and read in all churches, even ours.

In this letter, Jude gives a *salutation* (To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for[a] Jesus Christ: 2 Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.) and then a *warning against false teachers*, which were very prominent at the time. He then gives *instructions to believers* on how they are to live as disciples of Jesus. Lastly he gives them a *Doxology*, which is a liturgical formula of praise to God.

I love that definition, “a liturgical formula for praise to God”. How fun would it be to just go around singing a Doxology all day long!

I believe that anything that points us in the direction of giving God praise is wonderful and to have instructions straight from the scriptures makes it, for me, even more special.

Our Thursday Afternoon Youth Children (grades 2-6th) will often sing this “Doxology” penned by Thomas Ken in 1695 before they eat dinner.

*Praise God from whom all Blessings flow, Praise him all Creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye Heavenly Host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

It is a true joy to hear the children sing their praises to God and to give thanks to Him for keeping them in His care.

As we continue in this New Year consider repeating the above scripture or singing the Doxology daily as an offering of Praise to God. You may just find yourself filled with unspeakable JOY!

*Sincerely and with Joy,
Karen Murray, DCE.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Lent Begins on March 1st. Check the weekly Bulletin Announcement page or the website for updated information on joining a Lenten/Transformation Group.

February Confirmation Class Meeting Dates - Feb. 5th, Feb. 13th & Feb. 26th

Children's Youth Group - Thursday Feb. 2nd, 9th & 23rd

The Education Department's Annual “Winter Mission Adventure” for February continues with the collection of Cleaning Supplies to be donated to *The Neighborhood Center in Camden.*

Also, A Special Thank you to those who have already donated to the **Winter Mission Adventure**. We were able to “Fill-A-Crib” for a young mother having a baby this month. In January we made “Blessing Bags” for the “Eyes of My Heart” Ministry and our Adventure concludes with the collection of “Coins-For-Cancer” to be donated to Erin Talbot's Mission in memory of her sister Leah who died from a rare cancer.

If you would like to learn more about our “Adventures” please contact Ceciley Binegar, Christian Education Chairperson at 856-345-8785.

LAY LEADER LINES

With so many days to celebrate in February, how do we choose our favorite? I think, with children, Valentine's Day is a favorite day. Exchanging Valentine greetings in school, and making Valentine bags to collect the cards from their classmates, is definitely a joyful time. As we know, children are very honest. One young boy sent a Valentine's Day card to his mother: *Dear Mom, Happy Valentines' Day. I love the dinner you made for me on January 4th, 2004. Love from your son, Jackson.*

What are your passions? What do you love to do? I treasure those quiet moments where I can sit with a good book and a cup of coffee and read, with no time constraints. Spending time with our precious granddaughter and not looking at the clock is also a most wonderful gift. Relearning perspectives of an almost 7-year old is an endless reward, as well as an education.

Passions - how do we get a passion for Jesus? I have been reading a lot about this topic, and I hope that some of this information will be encouraging to you too.

Get to know Him better - *Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Romans 12:2 - Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* I know that I do have the best of intentions, but that "to-do list" creeps up and becomes a distraction. I am trying to work on disciplining myself to let it go for a little bit of time, at least. (Not easy, as I am definitely a "list" person!).

Pray consistently- *Ephesians 6:18 - Pray in the Spirit on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Matthew 26:41a - Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.* Again, taking some quality time!

Walk closely with Him - *John 8:12 - When Jesus spoke to the people, He said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* Wow!

I am reading an article on passionate worship, and several verses are sticking with me: *Romans 12:11 - Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor,*

...serving the Lord. There are so many, but verses 1 and 2 from Psalm 100 also pulled me in: *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.*

Watching the children in our church sing in the children's choir brings a smile to so many faces. These children are passionate about their worship! I know that I learn from observing them, and talking with them afterwards. Watching children pray, they devote themselves to the moment - what a good lesson! Listening to them pray, with hearts for God, is something that they can truly teach us.

This quote by Brennan Manning, from his book The Ragamuffin Gospel, is humbling:

"We should be astonished at the goodness of God, stunned that He should bother to call us by name, our mouths wide open at His love, bewildered that at this very moment we are standing on holy ground."

So in this month with Valentine's Day as a day of celebration, let's work together to remember that God's unconditional love for us is the best gift of all. As a five year old boy said, describing unconditional love:

"Love is putting someone else's needs first. It's like if there's only one bagel left and you two were in love and were married would you let her have it? Yep."

This anonymous quote made me smile, and I hope it will for you too: *"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."* Unconditional love - I think it surrounds us.

Let's take some time to listen to each other, and to God, as we begin this month of February. I pray that we can work together to build on our individual and collective passions for Jesus.

God bless you all!
Kathy Appleton
Lay Leader



ORGAN RECITAL
Sunday, February 19th, 3:00 p.m.

Performed by students of Glenn Rodgers: Ruthann Arndt and Marilyn Rabbai.



Ruthann Arndt is a native of Swedesboro, NJ where she raises sheep with her family. She studied the piano for eleven years and began her organ studies two years ago. Ruthann teaches private piano lessons and plays the organ, piano, and handbells in church. She enjoys cooking, crocheting, gardening, horseback riding, hiking, and traveling.



Marilyn Rabbai received a Master of Arts degree in piano performance from The College of New Jersey. In 2006, she was honored to be the recipient of a Gloucester County Outstanding Teacher award for her work with middle school choirs and general music classes in the West Deptford, NJ school district. Ms. Rabbai earned a Service Playing Certificate from the American Guild of Organists in June 1988, and became a Colleague of the guild in June 2015. Now retired from public school teaching, she serves as director of music/organist for the First Presbyterian Church of Pitman, NJ.

YOUTH HOAGIE SALE

Sunday, February 5th
SUPERBOWL SUNDAY



Italian or Turkey - \$6.00 each
Place your order by January 31st

Email orders to : Robin Stepp: rlstepp@comcast.net or complete this form and drop in basket in the back of the Sanctuary, or mail to the church office (446 Camden Ave., Moorestown, NJ 08057).

All proceeds will benefit Youth Programming.

Pick up will be Feb. 5th in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour and after the 11:00 am Service.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

No. of Italian: _____

No. of Turkey: _____

No. of Cheese: _____ *(no meat)*

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



FAITH NOTES
How God Is at Work in Our Lives

This month - Glen Haegele

My Name is Glen Haegele. My family and I have attended this church since 1997. My youngest son Eli was baptized here, and all 3 of my sons were confirmed here. My wife Cheryl has been a Sunday School teacher almost since we started coming to First Church. For many years, many of you would see me at Pastor Steve's 9:30 service while Cheryl and the boys were in Sunday School, and then many other of you, would see me at Pastor Baxter's 11:00 service (That's right, 2 services every Sunday).

But that's not where my Faith walk begins. Before First Church I belonged to St. John's Lutheran Church in Mayfair, Philadelphia. Between the years of 1978 and 1997, Cheryl and I were often found roaming the halls. This is the church where I met my wife, attended youth group, was married and my first 2 sons were baptized. Many of my dearest friends and memories came from this church. But that's not where my faith walk begins.

Before St. John's, I belonged to St. Petri's German Lutheran Evangelical Church of Tacony, Philadelphia. This is the church where my family history is from. It was the church where I was baptized and confirmed. It was where: I was in Sunday School, rang the church bell, sang in the choir, attended boy scouts, and much of my life was wrapped around. But again, this is not where my faith walk started.

My Faith walk started with my mother, reading to me from the children's Bible and praying with me long before I could walk. My mom introduced Jesus into my life at such a young age that I don't ever remember not walking with Christ. Jesus has always been a part of what I do and the decisions I make. I believed in Jesus because my mom made him real to me. We prayed, we read, we made up plays and invited neighbors to watch. She was my Sunday School teacher every year until I was in 5th grade. My mom prepared me for a Life with Jesus. When I was in middle school, she became a youth leader and was Cheryl's Luther League advisor.

I have been blessed in my Faith. I have no doubt. I talk to Jesus every day, all day. It is as normal as breathing.

My life hasn't been all mountain tops, there have been valleys as well. At age 14 I lost my older sister in a tragic car accident, but Jesus walked by my side. I am not a know-it-all when it comes to the Bible. I consider my knowledge very limited. But Jesus is real. He is in my life. He answers me and makes me feel special.

I come to church every week not so much to learn (which I always do) but instead to help me keep my eyes open to where God is at work in my life. It sharpens my skills. Church keeps me focused on what is important and where to look. Church is that constant reminder that I am not the only one seeing God's hand.

My greatest desire is to pass off some of my Faith to others, so that they too can find the Joy in this world that I have found through Jesus. Talking about my Faith is easy... it's like breathing!

Thanks Mom, He Lives!



Deaths:

Charles Jenkins
on January 3, 2017

Peggy Weiss
on January 18, 2017

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!



February Youth News

Hello parents!

Jr. & Sr. High meet every Sunday night from 7:00-8:30pm downstairs, below Fellowship Hall, in the youth rooms. All Jr. & Sr. High students are invited to join us.

Bible Study every Wednesday night from 6:00pm-8:00pm. This includes dinner (Fellowship Hall) and study (Sr. High room). Food donations and help with food preparation are always appreciated.



Hoagie Sale / Super Bowl Sunday

February 5

8am - 12pm

LOCATION: FUMC - Fellowship Hall

PLEASE PLACE ORDERS BY JANUARY 31ST.

Italian, Turkey or Cheese \$6.00 each.

Please email orders to: Robin Stepp at: rlstepp@comcast.net or complete the form on pg. 5 and return to the church.. All proceeds benefit youth programming. Pick up is during coffee hour and after the 11:00am Worship Service on February 5th.



30 HOUR FAMINE

February 24 - February 25

6pm - 8pm

LOCATION: First UMC

WE WILL STARVE FOR FOOD!! All Jr. & Sr. High are welcome to participate. We begin fasting on Friday after lunch and end with dinner on Saturday night after the 5:30pm Worship Service. During the time we are together, we will collect canned goods for the neighborhood food bank, package and deliver soup & bread to our shut-ins, build cardboard city and have fun, while we're hungry! The youth are asked to raise a minimum of \$40 each for the event. All proceeds go to World Vision.

Some hunger facts:

--poor nutrition causes nearly half of all deaths in children under 5.

--every day, over 7,000 kids die from hunger-related causes. That's nearly 3 million children each year who never grow up.

PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING OUR YOUTH & KEEPING GOD'S WORK MOVING FORWARD FOR MILLIONS OF FAMILIES. TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING AN IMPACT!

Continued on next page

February Youth News, *continued*



BLUE MOUNTAIN SNOW TUBING

February 11

8am - 8pm

LOCATION: Blue Mountain - Poconos

All Jr. & Sr. High are welcomed to enjoy a day of tubing in the Poconos. The cost is \$60. We will leave the church parking lot at 8am on Saturday morning and return approximately 8pm Saturday night. Parents are welcomed! We will need help with driving. If you would like to go, please email or text Kathy Clawges at 856-912-1148 or kclawges@gmail.com.

* * *

3 Simple Parenting Tips You Don't Typically Hear

Jonathan McKee -at *TheSource4Parents.com*

As a parenting author, I've seen hundreds of parenting books and read countless articles. Often, they are echoing the same principles. I'm not knocking it... I've written numerous articles about the biggies that parents often neglect, like spending more time with your kids. But here are 3 tips you don't typically hear:

1. Wanna be a good dad? Then be a good husband first.

Want your kids to feel safe, loved and valued? Then work on your marriage. We're seeing more research emerging about one of the best predictors of cognitive success being emotional stability of the home environment. Bioengineering expert Dr. John Medina said it like this, "Do you want to know how to get your kid into Harvard? Go home and love your wife."

It's this simple. When our kids are young, they are searching for clues in their home to see if they are safe. "Children look to their parents and the relationship they have with each other to assess whether that's true or not," Medina says.

2. No Rules by 17 1/2

Most people would agree toddlers need a lot of guidance. If your 2-year-old starts heading for the road when a semi-truck is coming... not many dads would say, "Leave him be. He'll learn!" At the opposite end of the spectrum, everyone knows when our teens turn 18, they can legally move out and do whatever they want. The tricky part for parents is that time in between. How much guidance and control do we assert, especially in those teenage years?

The answer is "a segue." Start with heavy guidance and slowly segue towards less control, with a goal of "no rules by 17 1/2." Sure, you could wait until 18... but why? Why not have them totally free while still under the safety of your shadow?

I tried this principle with my oldest daughter, starting with realistic guardrails, then giving more trust over the years, and eventually parenting our 17-year-old like an 18-year-old. She is 18-years-old and on her own now... and it's really no big deal. She's been making decisions for a while now.

3. Real Life Reality Shows

Parents are always looking for teaching moments. When real life hardships appear, don't be scared to talk about what you experienced. If your sister is getting a divorce, ask your teenagers what they think. What can they learn from the situation?

Real life isn't always a huge crisis. Yesterday I was driving down the road and came upon a lady trying to back her boat into a driveway... and it became quickly and painfully obvious she didn't know how to back a trailer. Cars began lining up and honking. I pulled over, walked over to her with a smile and asked, "Would you like some help?" She happily got out of the car and let me take a crack at it. Moments like these are fun to dialogue about with your kids. Don't lecture, just ask questions: "Why do you think people were so upset with her?" "How should people respond when they see someone struggling like that?" "What are ways we can show love to people in stressful situations?" "How could you help someone in need?"

Look for these real life discussion moments, or even watch entertainment together that springboards discussion about real life.