



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

AUGUST 2017



PEACH FESTIVAL Friday, August 18th 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for a night of peaches, ice cream, music and fun! Tickets will be \$5 per person, \$15 per family, and children under 5 are free. Watch upcoming Sunday bulletins for more details, including how to get your tickets!

Volunteers are needed! We need help with peeling peaches on Thursday, Aug. 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We also need cakes and other baked goods to go with the peaches (can be dropped off in the kitchen Aug. 17th or 18th), help with serving, and help with cleaning up after the festival on Aug. 18th. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex. Thank you!

UNDIE SUNDAYS! A Ministry of Seeds of Hope

Please join with us in supporting Seeds of Hope Ministries, one of our supported missions organizations, as they continue this year with an outreach designed to respond to the call in Matthew 25:31-40 and address a very real need. On August 6th, 13th and 20th, Seeds of Hope will be collecting new children's underwear, socks, pajamas and infant onesies that will be distributed to children who have an incarcerated mother or father. A box for collection will be in the narthex on each of those Sundays. Bring in as few or as many as you like. For more information or for an itemized list of what is needed, take a brochure near the Undie Sundays collection box in the narthex or visit <https://www.seeds-of-hopeministries.org/undie-sundays/> and click on the Undie Sundays link.

Matthew 25:40 - "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

CONTEMPLATION AND ACTION FROM THE PRAYER MINISTRY



As I have matured in faith not because of my years of being a Christian, which if I am authentic is closer to 12 years, than my infant baptism or my confirmation, I have moved into serving, learning, teaching. I realize doing more of action oriented has diminishing returns for my faith. I recently led a home study group on being Present Over Perfect based on Shauna Neiquist's book on faith and being still. Doing more is an active faith. Sitting still is just as active action of faith. In fact, faith in silence carries a trust that God is far bigger than I. In that silence, God desires to meet with me. In that silence, I find healing grace and love carry me through the day.

Our team would like to invite you to begin a practice of mediation with us on Wednesday August 16th 7:15 - 7:45 p.m. in the courtyard.

Call or text Nadine Mack at 856-266-7589 for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug. 6-13 Host IHN
- Aug. 5th Youth Kayaking - 8:15am - 4:00pm
- Aug. 8th Youth Ocean City beach day- 9am-9pm
- Aug. 8th The Serving Plate - 5:00pm
- Aug. 12th Praise Team Retreat
- Aug. 13th Last day of Summer Sunday School
- Aug. 13th Light Harbor at Avista - 2:30pm
- Aug. 14-18 Vacation Bible School - 9:00am - 12 noon
- Aug. 16th Meditation in Courtyard - 7:15-7:45pm
- Aug. 17th Peach peeling - 7:00pm
- Aug. 18th Peach Festival & Family Fun Day-6-9pm
- Aug. 19th Eyes of Our Hearts breakfast - 7:00am
- Aug. 23rd Youth Ocean City beach day - 9am-9pm
- Aug. 29th Crafts for Good - 7:00 - 8:30pm



**FROM
PASTOR RICHARD**

We are blessed here at FUMC with a wonderful staff that does their work with a high level of dedication and a sincere commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ. As the senior pastor, I have opportunity and privilege to be part of a team that seeks to be a faithful witness to the Gospel. I hope you regularly keep our church staff in your prayers.

As you know, one of our staff members, Mr. Glenn Rodgers is retiring at the end of August after 35 years of devoted service to our church. Glenn has been a faithful and dedicated servant of Jesus Christ and his musical direction and playing have been such a moving testimony of the power of God through music. But we have also received from his personal witness and the demonstration of the love of God for this church and the people he has served. Glenn has certainly seen his work as not only leading a music program, but as being a ministry for Jesus Christ. There have been prayer sessions of deep impact at choir rehearsals; there have been many moments of sharing faith experiences not only in music gatherings, but among staff, and in one-on-one conversations. We are going to deeply miss his leadership, but we know that the impact and influence of his work here will continue for years to come. We pray for God's care and blessing on Glenn and Cindy in this new chapter of their lives.

As we look to the future of our music ministry, please keep our music transition team in your prayers as they discern what steps we need to take. In the meantime, we have established a gifted interim team that will carry on the work with excellence and commitment to bring the good news of Jesus through music. It is in the spirit of the Psalmist that we will continue our work and ministry: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing..."



Deaths:

Frances Duffner
on June 16, 2017

**A MESSAGE FROM
GLENN RODGERS**

Here it is, August of 2017, my 423rd and final month as Music Director of the First United Methodist Church community of faith. My gratefulness for having that privilege is too overwhelming to fully express. The musical opportunities and experiences were more vast and rewarding than I could have dreamed, no matter how developed I thought my vision was as a young adult. And you, the people, have been so good to me and my family through the best of times and the worst. To me, you are true witnesses of the faith. You are my inspiration, my treasure of memories, you inhabit my very soul.

Retirement is a mysterious concept to me - my vision of it is actually quite undeveloped! I have listened to many testimonials and much advice as to what to expect and how to plan. So, yes, my time will be restructured and I can pursue hobbies like - memorizing Shakespeare, studying astronomy, learning calculus, wandering off on my Harley, and so on. It also means that Cindy and I can take time to do more things together and be with the children and grandchildren more often.

We do not plan to move from our home in Delran and will continue to be active in the church. I will continue my activities with the organists' guild and when available will assist in the church's music ministry if needed or desired.

So we leap into September of 2017 - a new church program year and the 1st month of a new promising future for the Music Ministry of First United Methodist Church of Moorestown! *Soli Deo Gloria!*



Baptisms:

Lily Grace Stacchini
on June 25, 2017; daughter of
Jason & Melanie Stacchini

Rachel Marion & Jonah Benjamin
Nichols on July 7, 2017; daughter &
son of Rich & Rebecca Nichols



**FROM THE DIRECTOR
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

“AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.” JOSHUA 24:15 NIV

I know that it is only August but the fact is, soon the children will be returning to their “School Year” schedule, parents will be back to their 'regular' schedules and the local roads will once again be filled with people going in all different directions and with all that comes the demands of *time*. Time seems to be something people often want more of. I have heard people say, “If I only had more time!” or “Where has all the time gone?”

As someone who is motivated by having a schedule or at least an idea of what is happening next, I find myself often desiring “just a bit more time”. But is it time that is really needed or is what I need a better way to spend the time I have?

Prioritizing time or addressing time management can help us keep the most important 'time consuming things' in our lives at the top our list and therefore either add more stress or lessen the stress depending on how you look at your 'time' schedule.

So what is consuming your time and how does it affect your relationship with the Lord? Are you prioritizing your time to include a time of Prayer, Worship, Bible Study and Christian Fellowship? Perhaps spending time with the Lord is something that you view as “one more thing” that takes time.

Whatever your idea of “time” is, it is important to remember that the way you use it should bring glory to God and honor to Jesus, so why not try to use it wisely. Set those priorities and be sure to keep time with the Lord on the top.

May you truly find time to praise the Lord and give Him thanks!
In Christ,
Karen Murray, DCE

Important Dates...

Monday, August 14th - Friday, August 18th, 9am-12pm - Vacation Bible School. To Volunteer, Please call Karen Murray at 856-222-1120

September 10th, 9:30 & 11:00am, Sunday School Resumes for all ages. To volunteer as a teacher or helper, please contact Karen Murray.

September 10th, 5:00-8:00pm, Special Sunday School Rally/Open House. Bring your family, invite your neighbors & friends and come celebrate First United Methodist Church!

September 27th & 28th - Fall Rummage Sale!

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.

LAY LEADER LINES

Memories can truly help us grow in so many ways. I had the privilege, this June, of being a part of the fourth annual “reunion” with several of my closest friends from high school. We spent most of a week at Anna Maria Island, not too far from Tampa. We have quite a history, and were able to share stories of our adult children, our grandchildren, and our parents - lots of laughing, crying, and praying each day. I think we all felt revived as we left for home. On our mini-vacation, we took the time to listen to and support each other, knowing that we face similar challenges and celebrations each day. Even though we see each other just once a year, our sense of community is strong.

I asked our granddaughter Amanda, just this week, if she could tell me what community means. She said: “A group of people who play and work together.” Jesus shows us about community and family in so many ways. I like Hebrews 10:24-25a: *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another”*. Another verse seems to fit: Psalm 133:1 - *“How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!”*

Reading about all of the good things that are being accomplished in our church family, and throughout the community, shows God's work being done by our church family. Thinking about our Servants' Roundtable, there are 27 active service ministries, some serving within our church family, and some that are serving in our communities, local and otherwise. Our Visioning Team is working hard, the music directors are preparing exciting things for the new season, and the education department is preparing so many programs. The youth department, and the young adults, is working on ways to inspire more people to be an active part of what they hope to accomplish within their communities.

Romans 12:4-5 reinforces this as well: *“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”* We are reassured, again and again, to use our spiritual gifts, and to work together as a community.

As we start to wind down our summer, and prepare for the autumn, we know that there is a lot of work to be done. In the book of Romans, 15:5, the apostle Paul told us: *“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.”*

Let's work together this coming season, by helpfulness, love and prayer. Some sound advice from a young child: “If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you don't like to play with.” As one more young child wisely shared: “Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen...”

My prayer for all of us is to learn to listen better to each other, and to be willing to help each other do God's will for our community.

God bless you all,
Kathy Appleton
Lay Leader

**LAY LEADER REPORT -
AUGUST, 2017**

There is nothing new to report for the summer. We will be working on our next one-worship service weekend, and the service will be on Sunday, October 8th. Even though World Communion Sunday is October 1st, we will be celebrating this day on the 8th. Stay tuned for announcements concerning this day.

We were happy to have some additional church family members sign up for Scripture Reading, and are encouraged to see this ministry growing. We are grateful to the coordinators for each service, who organize the speakers for each month.

God bless you all,
Kathy Appleton
Brian O'Donnell
Lay Leaders

**YOUTH HANDBELL RINGERS ATTEND
HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA- AREA 2
YOUNG RINGERS FESTIVAL
Onondaga Community College
Syracuse, NY**

The Youth Handbell Ringers participated in the three day festival the end of June. During the three days they participated in rehearsals for all 6 bell choirs in attendance as well as rehearsals for their division. In addition to the rehearsals they attended classes to further enhance their ringing techniques as well as learning various processions for handbell choirs. The Festival Conductor was Nick Hanson, who was very inspiring and easily engaged all those in attendance.

Our youth were outstanding in their ringing and in their leadership with ringers younger than themselves. It was a joy to watch them embrace the music and the experience of this year's festival.

Once the festival ended we headed to Boston, spent a morning whale watching out of Gloucester Massachusetts and the afternoon in Boston, just being tourists!! Saturday evening we headed to Lynn, Massachusetts and Grace United Methodist Church. There we were greeted by Pastor Sandra Kim and members of the church who housed us overnight.

Sunday morning we participated in Grace United Methodist Church's worship service ringing three of the pieces we had learned from the festival. The church does not have a handbell choir and they were very receptive and excited with our ringing.

Please watch for upcoming announcements of a Homecoming Concert performed by our Youth Handbell Choir. They are excited to share their music with you!!!

Blessings,
Donna Banes



**YOUTH MINISTRY
SUMMER 2017**



ALL JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH ARE INVITED!!

Summer Youth - Wednesday nights, 6pm-8pm.
Dinner and fellowship - All Jr. & Sr. High invited.

August 5th - Kayaking
Cost: \$45 - we will leave the church parking lot at 8:15am and return approximately 4:00pm.

August 8th - Ocean City Beach Day
Cost: \$10 for beach tag + spending money for boardwalk. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:00am and return at 9:00pm.

August 18th - Peach Festival
Jr. & Sr. High will participate by grilling.

August 23rd - Ocean City Beach Day
Cost: \$10 for beach tag + spending money for boardwalk. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:00am and return at 9:00pm.

We will most likely need drivers for our trips - if you are available, please let me know. Thank you!

*For questions call, email or text:
Kathy Clawges, 856-912-1148,
kclawges@gmail.com*

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!

