



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

APRIL 2016

MISSIONS WEEKEND April 9th & 10th



Saturday April 9th:

Meet: 9:00 am - meet at Fellowship Hall for work day for Seeds of Hope. Young Life will be joining us and a light lunch will be provided. Wear work clothes. NO FLIP FLOPS

Return: 3:00 in Fellowship Hall
Pizza Party with Young Life immediately following. Come and learn about what they do!



Sunday April 10th:

Each service you will see all 22 missions you support

****Youth involved**

Extended Coffee Hour: after 11:00 service

****All Welcome**

Come and meet and hear all about Craig & Cassandra Fisher and their wonderful journey to do God's work



GROUND FOR GOOD Friday, April 1st

We're ringing in Spring at Grounds for Good Coffee House on Friday, April 1! Come out for a night of free coffee and tea, tasty treats, an art exhibit and lively worship music provided by Dana Isles & Facedown. FUMC's very own Kate's Place, a social program for teens and young adults with developmental disabilities, will be the beneficiary for the evening. Admission is free. We'll open the doors to Fellowship Hall at 7:30 pm, with music kicking off around 8. Hope to see you there!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr. 1st	Grounds for Good - 8:00 - 11:00pm
Apr. 4th	Chick-fil-A fundraiser - 5:00 - 8:30pm
Apr. 8th	My Abba's Hands - 7:00 - 9:00pm
Apr. 9&10	Missions Weekend
Apr. 9th	My Abba's Hands - 9:00am - 3:00pm
Apr. 9th	Miriam Circle - 10:00am
Apr. 10-17	Host IHN
Apr. 12th	The Serving Plate - 5:00pm
Apr. 12th	Church Council - 7:00pm
Apr. 16th	Eyes of Our Hearts breakfast - 7:00am
Apr. 16th	Adult Fellowship - Noon
Apr. 17th	Men's Breakfast - 7:45am
Apr. 17th	Light Harbor - 2:30pm
Apr. 20th	Rummage Sale - 6:00 - 9:00pm
Apr. 21st	Rummage Sale - 9:30am-2pm; 6-8:30pm
Apr. 26th	Crafts for Good - 7:00pm
Apr. 27th	Internat'l Women's Friendship Grp-10am
Apr. 29-30	Jr./Wesley Choir Overnight



FROM
PASTOR RICHARD

“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,” is the triumphant message of the Easter season. Jesus' victory over the grave becomes the personal victory we can experience in this life and in life after death. For the gift of eternal life is given to us as we allow the life-giving presence of Jesus to bring transformation to our hearts. As the apostle Paul says to the Ephesian church, we were once dead in our trespasses, but now we are “made alive together with Christ...and raised up with him and seated with him in the heavenly places.” The message of Easter has become our glorious hope. It is a message that fills our hearts with joy and thanksgiving.

We have been brought from death to life. During the Lenten season we travel the journey with Jesus that leads to a cross. We hear his call to take up our cross and follow him. We come to the cross and there witness the agony, the suffering, the ultimate sacrifice made for our salvation. We are challenged to live a life as a “living sacrifice” acceptable to God. But the Lenten season does not represent the whole story. For the story does not end in death, but rather in life...glorious resurrection life! Death has been conquered and we have become people with a living hope. Let us truly celebrate in this Easter season: We serve a living Savior who gives us real life...eternal life...resurrection life!

* * * * *

 LAY LEADER LINES 

To be a pirate princess!!

A little girl who stole my heart even before she was born (as her daddy also did before he was born) told me before her fourth Halloween that she was going to be a pirate princess. A big dream indeed!

We know that God has big dreams for all of us. Taking a lesson from the children who come into our lives would be a good thing, I think. Our dreams are not nearly big enough when compared to the dreams that God has planned for us. Missionary Amy Carmichael wrote: “Often, God's call is to follow in paths we would not have chosen.”

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10 ESV

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

There are many prospects, in our church and in our communities, of finding a place where God is encouraging us to serve. Sharon Jaynes, international Christian conference writer and speaker, offers some challenging words:

“When God invites you to join Him in His work, what you do next reveals what you truly believe. If you trust Him completely and follow His lead in the great dance of obedience, then you will experience the spins, twirls, and lifts of the glory life Jesus came to give. If you decide to sit this one out because of fear, then the chairs along the wall are positioned just for you to sit and watch the less fearful wow the crowd. But know this: The band is playing your song.”

“When God extends His invitation to join Him in the divine dance of obedience, the time to accept is at that very moment. We have about ten to thirty seconds before common sense talks us out of obeying God's promptings. The time to act is as soon as you sense the Spirit calling you to move.” I can't imagine saying this any better! Taking time to pray, reviewing your spiritual gifts, interests, talents, searching your community to find something that is exciting to you - there are many opportunities to serve.

2 Corinthians 9:7 encourages us: *Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

We can give in so many ways, and our time is such an important, and rewarding, action. My prayer for you is to use your gifts to be a “pirate princess” (or prince!) in a way that God has planned for you!

God bless you all!
Kathy Appleton
Lay Leader



FROM THE DIRECTOR
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

“For I know that my Redeemer lives and He shall stand at last on the earth.” Job 19:25

The scripture above was written by Job at a time when he found power and strength in the Lord, despite his circumstances. Read this commentary from Matthew Henry's Commentary.

“Job was taught of God to believe in a living Redeemer; to look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come; he comforted himself with the expectation of these. Job was assured, that this Redeemer of sinners from the yoke of Satan and the condemnation of sin, was his Redeemer, and expected salvation through him; and that he was a living Redeemer, though not yet come in the flesh; and that at the last day he would appear as the Judge of the world, to raise the dead, and complete the redemption of his people. With what pleasure holy Job enlarges upon this! May these faithful sayings be engraved by the Holy Spirit upon our hearts.”

This commentator is pointing out that it's faith in the promise of a Redeemer that we find our strength. Job, had no way of knowing when the Redeemer would walk this earth or bring forth redemption, he just had faith! We, on the other hand, know that Jesus, the Great Redeemer, has already come and our debt is paid in full. We can sing “My Redeemer Lives” because we trust in Jesus' power and His promises.

Friends, having just celebrated Easter, our Savior's Resurrection, I truly hope that you take to heart the truth that our Redeemer lives and He wants to be in your presence today and throughout eternity.

Happy Easter...He IS Risen!
~Karen M. Murray, DCE

Special Events

Vacation Bible School Registration has begun. Forms can be found on the Welcome Center or downloaded from the website, www.meetwithGod.com. (VBS Week is Aug. 15th-19th, 9am-12noon).

Volunteers are NEEDED to staff our 2016-2017 Sunday School Year as well as our VBS week (Aug. 15th-19th, 9am-12noon). If you are interested please contact Karen Murray @ 856-222-1120.

Confirmation Sunday - May 15th 11:00 Worship Service. Please pray for this class of beautiful students as they are preparing to join this Church.

* * * * *



MOORESTOWN CROP WALK
Sunday, May 1st

Each year, the Moorestown CROP Walk raises thousands of dollars to help end hunger. A portion of the money raised is given to local agencies. FUMC partners with other churches in Moorestown to raise awareness and money to end hunger in Moorestown and throughout the world. This year's CROP Walk is hosted again by St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

This year's event is on Sunday, May 1st. Please consider walking - this is a great way to walk around town with the whole family or a group of friends. If you cannot make it, you can sponsor a walker. There will be a sign-up table in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall on Sundays in April. Additionally, donations can be made online at www.crophungerwalk.org. For more information contact Stephanie Woodruff at 856-324-4469.



MIRIAM CIRCLE
Saturday, April 9th
10:00 a.m.
in the Church Parlor

Please come join us as we find out about “the sinking of the ZamZam”. The ZamZam was an Egyptian freighter bound for various ports in Africa when it was torpedoed by the Germans. Fay Ferris was a child on that boat, along with her missionary parents, and will tell how they survived.

Our hostesses will be Ruth Gandek and Pat Leggoe, and Ragnhild Banes will lead us in our devotions. All ladies in the church are welcome to join us for this special time of relaxation and fellowship.

**MOORESTOWN COMMUNITY BAND
25th Anniversary Concert
April 8th, 7:30 pm**

You are invited to attend a special **25th Anniversary Concert** presented by The Moorestown Community Band, conducted by our own Bruce Smith. This **free** concert will be Friday, April 8th, 7:30 pm in **William Allen Middle School, N. Stanwick Rd., Moorestown**. The Concert Band will play popular, classical, Broadway, march and patriotic music. Included will be highlights from Les Miserables and Henry Mancini's Movie & TV Themes, Ravel's Bolero, and some of Louis Armstrong's best known hits of the 60's. Our Jazz Band will perform Sinatra's Fly Me to The Moon, The Shadow of Your Smile, and Mercy, Mercy, Mercy. You are also invited to attend our 25th anniversary reception following the concert.



Deaths:

Virginia Moyer
on March 1, 2016

Gladys Hulitt
on March 15, 2016



**FROM THE
MISSIONS COMMISSION**

WE ARE METHODISTS!

WOO HOO HOW COOL IS THAT?

IT IS THE GREATEST FEELING IN THE WORLD

Our mission statement: **A community of faith committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting world through words and actions**

We would like to take this time to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support.

As Missions Weekend is upon us we hope that we have educated you on the missionaries that you support. We hope that you had fun throughout the year learning. We trust that on this special weekend you will have a blast and your hearts will be filled with joy and God's grace. You help out so many people. You should be so blessed for all that you do. I am in awe of all of you. You are an awesome group of people. My heart is so full. Actually I am not in awe of you...I am in awe of the wonderful gracious God we serve. Only through him can you do all that you do. He & you are awesome. We were created in His image. How powerful is that? So with that power we have big shoes to fill.

Faith Promise as always is/was a success.

Search your Hearts and Souls. Give as the Lord leads you.

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

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.

**First United Methodist Church of Moorestown, NJ
Invites you to Shop at our SEMI-ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE**



APRIL 20TH AND APRIL 21ST, 2016

Shopping Hours

Wednesday, April 20th from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 21st 9:30am – 2:00 p.m. & 6:00-8:30 p.m. (bag night)



Soup and Sandwich lunch for sale from
11:30 a.m. - 2:00p.m. on Thursday

Donations Accepted:

Sunday, April 17th from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday, April 18th & 19th from
8:00 a.m – 8:00 p.m.



(Sorry, we may need to close doors early for donation if we are full)

PLEASE, NO magazines, encyclopedias, large furniture,
large exercise equipment, tube TV's, PC Monitors
or anything requiring two people to carry

*Sponsored by Adult Fellowship & the Education & Youth Departments



MEET THE STAFF

This month - Joan Flamini, Office Administrator

Out of all the years I have been on staff here, this is my first article for *The Messenger*! As part of Pastor Richard's way of giving each of you a glimpse of the staff, I am very happy to tell you a little bit about myself and my ministry in the church office.

I remember receiving a phone call in August, 1989 from someone named "Bertha Bendel" from the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Keep in mind, back then I belonged to a Pentecostal church and didn't know what a Staff Parish Relations Committee was. I responded to an ad in the local paper about a church in Moorestown looking to hire a secretary. I thought how perfect it would be to work in a church. I was looking for a job close to home as both of my children were now in grade school full-time. So, I called the number and left a message. A few days later I received a call from Bertha asking if I would be able to come in for an interview in two hours! Two hours! I thought there is no way I was prepared to go in and interview with two hours' notice, but my children said "You can do it".

That August night was so hot and humid and I came all dressed up to meet this Bertha Bendel. As most folks do, I got lost and couldn't find my way in. Eventually, I found Bertha and she led me to the Parlor where I was shocked to find a room full of people, including the pastors, then Sr. Pastor Carl Halvorsen and Associate Pastor Glenn Conaway. I thought I was just meeting Bertha! I was literally sweating bullets in my nervous attempt to answer their questions and tell them about myself. I was given a sheet of what the duties were and was asked to look it over to see if there were any items I might have questions about. Honestly, all I could think about was the sweat pouring down my face as I stared blankly at that sheet of paper. To this day, I could not tell you what was on that sheet, but I said I had no questions. I was politely escorted to the door and assured I would get a call back with a decision one way or the other.

The next day Bertha called congratulating me on my new job and could I start in one week, as the current secretary was moving to Colorado. I said "Yes"!!! I only had one week with her to learn this job and I'm so glad the pastors were patient with me. Let's just say there was a lot to learn. Not being Methodist, (I was raised Catholic, baptized and Confirmed then began attending a Pentecostal Church) I went to the local library and read a book on Methodism.

Here it is, 27 years later, and I'm still here. I've seen a lot of changes over the years and I'm still learning.

I eventually joined this church and got remarried to my wonderful husband Dennis Flamini. My two children Dara Sawyer (husband Chuck) and Chad Armstrong still live in the area. Dennis has two grown children and between the two of them they have 3 children. Dara and Chuck have given us two wonderful grandchildren, Mason and Chloe and Chad is engaged to be married to Chrissy very soon. Between Dennis and me we have 5 beautiful grandchildren, with number 6 on the way.

In my spare time I love to visit with the grandchildren and 'be a kid' again. My husband and I enjoy spending time together, especially at the beach! It's taken some time, but my husband has finally convinced me that I like to go fishing with him. (Just ask him about the 8½ lb. largemouth bass I recently caught). I'm

also a 5am 'gym rat' who loves to exercise. I have taken up running a few years ago and find it's a good way to be outdoors and clear my mind. Although, having just turned 60 I'm realizing my bones are older, too and I need to be a little gentler with them.

When I tell people I work in a church, they most often ask "What do you do all day long?" I laugh because they haven't a clue about the workings of a church and how busy the office can be. All one needs to do is look at the church calendar to see what a typical month looks like here.

The purpose of my position is to organize information, manage team logistics, communicate information relating to the church calendar & building usage and work toward keeping the day-to-day operations at First UMC organized.

For years I didn't consider my position "a ministry". However, my thinking has changed. Along with putting together the weekly bulletins, answering phones, emails, sending meeting notices, mailings, organizing Christmas help for families, payroll, just to name a few, the administrative office is the "Hub" of the church. This is the place where people call or stop to get information pertaining to the church and its ministries. From weddings, to funerals, Bible Studies, committee meetings, right down to when the next Rummage Sale is; the office is the go-to place.

The expansion of our ministries has also led to the expansion of my responsibilities. Not only am I here to meet the needs of the church, but also those outside the church. I have come to learn about the many needs in our community. As I soon learned, when someone is in great need, the first place they often call is a church. Our church has opened its doors as a servicing unit of the Salvation Army. We receive many calls from people who need help and we are here to assist them.

Our church is a part of the Moorestown Ministerium, which has another separate branch called the Good Samaritan Ministry (GSM). I have become deeply involved with both of these ministries helping meet the needs of local residents with rent, utilities, food, clothing, or whatever they need. This particular part of my job has become a large portion of what I do in the course of a week. I realize this is a "ministry" that God has entrusted to me. I never thought of myself as someone God would use to help others in this way, but God knew.

God has indeed blessed this church and its people. And it's because of that blessing we are able to help those who walk into our church doors when they feel they have nowhere else to go. We are the eyes, hands and ears of Jesus and it's our prayer they see Jesus in us and in the many works we do.

It is my honor and privilege to work at First United Methodist Church alongside two wonderful Pastors and a supportive staff.

Love and peace,
Joan Flamini, Office Administrator



FAITH NOTES
How God is at Work in Our Lives

Recently we have been grappling with Henri Nouwen's thoughts on living as God's Beloved children and I would like to share with you how God has been enabling me to live as His Beloved child.

Growing up in a Christian family meant that I did not question God's love for me, but it was not until my sophomore year in college, when my health and academic career seemed to be unraveling, that I fully experienced that God loves me simply because I was His. That year, the day before the Fall semester began, I accidentally dumped a pot of boiling noodles into my lap, resulting in severe burns on my legs. This led to a chain of events that left me dropping classes and dealing with immigration, as my International student visa required me to maintain a full academic course load. I felt that I was a failure, and a disappointment to my parents.

Each day I was barely able to drag myself to my remaining classes and my part time job. I could not pray. Instead every day when I came to God, I would cry uncontrollably. It was during one such session that God let me know, almost as if He spoke to me, that nothing mattered, I was His child and that He loved me. It was on that basis that I began to take concrete steps to turn my life around.

Slowly I learnt to love Him back by accepting His gracious provisions with thankfulness. I also found that life is such that while one needs to be responsible for oneself, there are many unexpected turns that take us to places where we have no control over how things turn out. Gradually I learnt to believe that no matter how bad things might be, I must keep believing that God has NOT left me to deal with it alone. Even though I may not see Him immediately, He knows where I am and His loving arms are always stretched out over me.

About five and half years ago, my late husband was diagnosed with acute leukemia and passed away six weeks later. During that time, many of you prayed for us. You came and sat with us in the ICU waiting room. God let us know in no uncertain terms that we were loved. He brought to my mind the lyrics of hymns I had learnt as a child, songs such as "God Will Take Care of You" and "The Lord Knows the Way Through the Wilderness". He reminded me that even though I was surrounded by a fog of uncertainty, He was not going to let me become lost in it. Just when my grief threatened to drown out everything else, I found an apple pie left on the hood of my car, a pot of tulips left outside my door and warm homemade muffins delivered with a hug. And when my house was broken into, you came to help me take pictures of the damage. When things got tough at work, God provided understanding and caring colleagues to comfort and encourage me. These are all ways God used to let me know that He loves me dearly. And because He loves me so much, He is not willing for me to live my life unaware of His unwavering care for me.

My dear friends and brothers and sister in Christ, I know that my experience is not unique, but I know that having received so much love, it would not be right to keep silent. As God's Beloved Children, you have been His gift to me. You have enabled me to know that like you I too am beloved. So thank you and may God bless you.

Respectfully submitted,
Elite Law