



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

JUNE 2016



MUSIC NEWS



Ocean Grove Choir Festival

DoXology For a New Day, the 200th Anniversary hymn/anthem will be conducted by the composer, Mark Miller at the Ocean Grove Choir Festival on Sunday, July 10. A group will be in attendance to represent our church and sing in the choir of 700-strong to celebrate this joyous event. If you would like to be part of that group please tell Glenn Rodgers and watch for announcements of music rehearsals.

Handbell Choir Canada Tour 2017

The Youth Handbell Choir will once again go on a performance tour after an 8-year pause. Arrangements have been made to tour nearby Canada for 8 days - June 30 to July 7, 2017. The tour will include locations in and around Ottawa, Quebec City and Montreal. The tour, which is reasonably priced, is open to anyone who wishes to accompany the ringers and perhaps even assist in ringing! Please contact Glenn Rodgers for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE

VBS registration forms are available at the Welcome Center in the narthex and online at www.meetwithGod.com. The theme is "Faith, Fun & Festivals". Dates are Aug. 15-19 from 9am-Noon and the cost is \$20 per family. MANY volunteers are needed to make this a successful week. Please consider volunteering. For more information on registration or to volunteer contact Karen Murray, DCE at 856-222-1120 or email education@meetwithGod.com.



LAST CALL FOR GROUNDS FOR GOOD Friday, June 3rd

It's the last call for the 2015-2016 season of Grounds for Good Coffee House, and we're going out in style! Join us Friday, June 3 as we enjoy live music by Flying with Instruments, featuring FUMC's own Norm Dorrell along with a very talented group of musicians. In addition to free coffee and tea, the evening will feature an art exhibition and delicious homemade treats for sale. Admission is always free, but donations and proceeds will benefit the Children's Home of Burlington County. Doors will open in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 pm, with music starting at 8. If you haven't come out to see what Grounds for Good is all about, now's your chance before we break for summer.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jun. 3rd Grounds for Good - 8:00 - 11:00pm
- Jun. 6th Chick-fil-a fundraiser - 5:00 - 8:30pm
- Jun. 7th Church Council - 7:00pm
- Jun. 9th Combined Choirs rehearse - 7:30pm
- Jun. 10th My Abba's Hands - 7:00 - 9:00pm
- Jun. 11th My Abba's Hands - 9:00am - 3:00pm
- Jun. 12th Music Sunday - 9:30 & 11:00am
- Jun. 14th The Serving Plate - 5:00pm
- Jun. 15th Internat'l Women's Friendship Grp.-10am
- Jun. 15th Elder Prayer event - 2:00 - 3:00pm
- Jun. 18th Eyes of Our Hearts breakfast - 7:00am
- Jun. 18-19 Youth Weekend - all services
- Jun. 19th Light Harbor - 2:30pm
- Jun. 28th Blood Drive, M'town Library-1:30-6:15pm
- Jun. 28th Crafts for Good - 7:00pm
- Jun 29-Jul 3 CreationFest



FROM PASTOR HEYYOUNG

I would like to begin by thanking you for your support and prayers during my trip to North Korea. I know my decision to travel to North Korea made many of you nervous. Some of you asked me, “Why do you want to go there?” My simple answer was “It was on my bucket list.”

A trip to North Korea was impossible when I lived in South Korea. Even now, South Korean citizens are not allowed to travel into North Korea. My trip was possible because I became an American citizen.

Still, even as an American planning this trip was not easy. Most of the news about North Korea tends to be negative. At times some of the news was downright scary and honestly had me rethinking about going. But my desire to see the other side of my motherland was stronger than the scary news I was hearing. I wanted see the land, smell the spring flowers, feel gentle winds, touch the rain drops, hear people laughing, watch children playing, and most of all I wanted to see the hand of God in that land. I am happy to report, I HAVE SEEN, FELT, and HEARD THEM ALL!

I found North Korea very different from South Korea. I had quite a bit of culture shock when I first arrived there, but soon recovered and was able to see behind the socialism. I witnessed many very kind people living there. I enjoyed talking with some of them and listening to their stories. Many of their stories were about their hardships and how they overcame them. I found spring in North Korea beautiful and I savored all the beautiful nature I was able to see. I also enjoyed visiting some of the well-preserved historical sites in North Korea that I had only heard about through books. North and South Korea share 4000 years of history together. When compared to their 70 years of division it seems so sad. Especially when you see families being separated by two governments. I pray that one day Korea will once again share their history as one nation.

If a bucket list is something people want to do before they die, before they “kick the bucket,” it should be something very important to them. This was so true for me. My trip to North Korea was on my bucket list and its successful completion has really enriched my life. I am able to see my life from a different view, a view that

has given me a new appreciation. I am glad that I pursued my bucket list.

How about you? What is on your bucket list? It is my prayer that you pursue those dreams and live your life to the fullest!

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**CALLING ALL
LIFESAVERS!**

Summer is a critical time for blood collection, as we lose so many of our high school and college blood drives. To help fill this need, the Moorestown Library will host a blood drive on Tuesday, June 28 from 1:30 until 6:15. Look for a signup table in the Narthex, contact Jen Dunne at jendunne1@gmail.com, or signup online at redcrossblood.org.

A Note on Blood Types: The wonder of God's creation extends to every facet of life, right down to the blood in our veins. When it comes to blood types, God has given us each our own type designed to nourish our bodies and heal other people. Every donor is a blessing to patients in need, but the Red Cross wants to make certain donors and potential donors aware of special lifesaving opportunities only they can provide. Type O donors are always in demand, because their blood can be given to any patient. In emergencies when there is not time to determine the patient's blood type, O blood is essential. In addition, when people with type O blood require transfusions, the blood they receive must be type O. So, by giving type O, you are helping your fellow Os in need!

Donors with type O-, O+, A- or B- have a special opportunity to give a double red cell donation. The process safely collects two units of red cells, making your donation go twice as far. Double red cell donations take a little longer, but they use a smaller needle, which many donors find more comfortable. To learn more about double red donation, check out redcrossblood.org/donating-blood/types-donations#double_red.

Each blood type is suited to certain recipients, and all donations matter. To learn more about blood types who you can help with your donation, visit redcrossblood.org/learn-about-blood/blood-types.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On April 30th, Pastor HeyYoung and I shared the Sermon time. Below is a synopsis of the message I wrote. The main theme, "Community" is taken from Acts 2:42-47.

"42They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

I chose to concentrate on the importance of Community. I used the term "Koinonia". The word 'koinonia' is a transliterated form of the Greek word, κοινωνία, which means communion, or joint participation. The essential meaning of the *koinonia* embraces concepts conveyed in the English terms such as, 1) community, 2) communion, 3) joint participation, 4) sharing and 5) intimacy, all producing fellowship with one another.

I was familiar with the word *koinonia* and even thought I knew what it meant but I was mistaken. It wasn't until I saw it played out in real life that I truly grasped the concept of meaning of the word.

To me the word Koinonia means to take care of, to be a blessing and to be blessed, and to show and share God's unconditional love to those around you. And to always remember that we are in communion with Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Over 12 years ago my friend Cathie Gray moved out to Pasadena, CA to attend Fuller Theological Seminary. She was a widow with a 2-year-old child and still had the desire to get her Doctorate in Psychology. When she moved there she knew no one and was truly living by faith. Fuller gave her housing in an apartment in a community known as "Koinonia". Also housed in this complex were other grad students with their families,

recently ordained pastors and other Fuller students, many from around the world. (When I shared with her that I was using her experience as my example she shared that while living there - in Koinonia, she & Nathan met people from over 20 countries!)

When Cathie arrived there she was met with an outpouring of love and compassion. Several folks helped her get organized, get furniture and even helped to get Nathan (my Godson) into a wonderful Daycare Center. During the years when Nathan was younger and Cathie was deeper in her studies there was always someone from Koinonia who was available to help her. For several years Nathan even had a "manny", that's a male Nanny!

Every year I would take a trip to visit Cathie and Nathan and every year I was met with love from her neighbors whether I had met them before or not. I witnessed the whole community coming together to help someone move out and someone move in. I witnessed trees bearing beautiful fruit that anyone could eat from and I witnessed friends sharing meals together. Experiencing how people loved on and helped Cathie over the years while she lived in the community reminds me of how I think God desires all of us to live.

That community, though small, was a witness to others of God's unconditional love, his sharing, his fellowshiping and his joint participation in making this world a better place.

We are all called to community, to help each other and to share the love of God wherever we go. My prayer is that as you go about your day you are always aware of whom you are in Christ and that you have the opportunity to share "*koinonia*" with others.

To God Be the Glory!
Karen Murray, DCE

LAY LEADER LINES

Making Summertime Memories

Summertime - a time of (hopefully!) relaxing, traveling, resting, enjoying family and friends. What are your plans? It seems like in the hectic lives that we live, we yearn for some quiet time in the summer. Do you have a summertime memory, or more than one, that is special to you? I remember summer days growing up in a small Wisconsin town, riding bikes, playing "Mother May I", "tag", "hide and seek". Playing outside each day until supertime. Then there was the bookmobile! Once a week, the bookmobile came to our neighborhood. My friends and I looked forward to that weekly event. We eagerly returned our books, looking forward to new choices. After playing all day, we would gather at night and read. Wouldn't it be nice if we could take some personal childhood memories and recreate them as adults? Taking time to read, and rest, and pray. Reading Scripture can give us encouragement for resting and taking time. Psalm 23: 1-2a - "*The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside quiet waters. He refreshes my soul.*" Isaiah 26:3 - "*You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in You.*" Exodus 33:14 - "*The Lord replied: My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.*"

The Stephen Ministry retreat's focus, this April, was on quietness for each of us. *I John 14:27* is one verse that we talked about: "*Jesus said: "I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It is not like the peace that the world can give. So don't be worried or afraid."*

In our quiet moments, as we listen to God, praying for direction in our lives is such a privilege, one that I know I don't work on as much as I should. Taking some time this summer is something that I will pray for each one of you to do. Having had knee surgery this spring, I was more or less required to rest, and that is a hard thing for me to do! Reading and praying more, learning to listen, are lessons that can encourage us to lean on God as we muddle through each day.

I pray that a big part of the memories that you create this summer will help each of you to come out rested and rejuvenated. God does have a lesson, or more than one, for us to learn each day!

God bless you all,
Kathy Appleton
Lay Leader



**ELECTRONIC GIVING
OPTIONS ARE HERE!**

First UMC is excited to announce the introduction of electronic giving options for your regular (and one-time) offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Electronic giving is easy, secure, and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at www.meetwithGod.com
2. Under the News-Events-Give heading, use the Give to the Church option
3. Click on the green Give Online button
4. Click on the Create Profile button, then
5. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your contributions.

If you are interested in electronic giving but don't have internet access, an authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office. And if you prefer to access our online giving page from your mobile device, just scan the QR code above and follow the instructions!

The Finance Committee

**GRADUATING FROM
HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE?**

Each year our church honors the achievement of those in our congregation who are graduating from high school and college. If you have a name you want listed, call the church office, 856-235-0450 or email joan@meetwithGod.com with the student's name, high school or college they are graduating from, and their degree. Names will be printed in our bulletin on Youth Weekend, June 18/19. Please submit names no later than Monday, June 13th. Thank you and congratulations to all the 2016 Graduates!

COMMUNITY

I was blessed to be asked to read scripture at the 5:30 service on April 30. I love to read so when we were asked as a congregation for volunteers, I jumped at the opportunity. My verse for that Saturday was Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as they had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

They broke bread and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Pastor Hey Young and Karen Murray spoke that night of communion and community. I was sitting in a spot closest to where our prayer quilts are hung. I couldn't help being reminded of the reason I started My Abba's Hands prayer quilt ministry. Although Karen asked for volunteers to share personal stories of community, I'm not a quick thinker and didn't take her up on the request. Now that I have had time to think, I want to share a story.

On a recent local hike, I had to take another picture of a tree. It was the coolest sight. The tree had fallen over in a spot where you couldn't help but see a network of roots all intertwined but seemingly severed from the ground in a complete circle. It immediately reminded me of our church family. Bear with me! A church is only as strong and healthy as the people supporting it. We all have strengths and God given talents that draw us to serve as the under pinning to a healthy church community just like a root system of a tree. What holds that tree to the ground? The roots, right? This tree had fallen over because that root system, for whatever reason, couldn't hold on any longer. If we continue to extend this metaphor, we cannot function as a healthy church if we become disconnected from our support system, simply, prayer and fellowship with God.

I am excited to be on the ground level of ministry in our church. Servant's Roundtable is a group of folks serving God and community in areas where each has a passion to serve. And I am talking Passion! This network of

people reach out to you and others in our community in a variety of creative ways. Heaven's Cheer, Crafts for Good, Stephen Ministers are just a few missions that serve a need and do it well. We can't function as individual entities. We need you! Help us stay connected through your prayers. Reach out to us if you have a need. Personally? I am looking for other ways that My Abba's Hands can serve you better. Prayer quilts for those recovering from surgery or are struggling with health issues. Pocket Quilts are requested continually. We make placemats for Martha's Hands and the Serving Plate. The third graders just got cinch sacks for their Bibles and Sunday school papers. You can help me by praying for the folks that have a prayer quilt in the chapel. Tie a knot and ask the great physician for that person's healing and comfort. But most of all, just pray. None of us can do this without you keeping us connected to our heavenly Father.

Rae Caputo
My Abba's Hands

Baptisms:

Serafina Gray Carite
on April 17, 2016; daughter of
James & Jennifer Carite

Andrew Robert Saggiomo
on May 1, 2016; son of
Anthony & Kara Saggiomo

Isabelle Ruth Moulton
on May 15, 2016; daughter of
Anthony & Lauren Moulton



Deaths:

Dot Rodriguez
on April 7, 2016

Marion Stepp
on April 30, 2016





MEET THE STAFF

This month - Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music

When I came to First United Methodist Church to be the Organist and Music Director in May of 1982, I had just received my Masters Degree in Music from Temple University, Ronald Reagan was beginning his presidency, the Phillies were perennial champions and the mortgage interest rate was 18.75 %. I joined the staff of Pastor Dan Hulitt, Associate/Youth Pastor David Van Sciver, Secretary Mary Steele, and part-time Secretary Eileen Carney. There were three choirs and one weekly service at 11:00 on Sunday. Our daughter Susan was 4 and our son Douglas was 1 ½.

I grew up in Philadelphia. Our house on Dyre Street was three blocks from Frankford High School in one direction and the Frankford Memorial Methodist Church in another but I went to Central High and my family belonged to Frankford Baptist church which was one block on the other side of the Market Street El on Paul and Unity Streets. I was baptized there, by immersion, at the age of nine. My first crisis of faith came in September 1964 as I prayed in vain to halt the Phillies famous collapse at the end of the season. Happily, my prayers were answered 19 years later when Ron Griffith took me to the fifth and final game of the World Series between the Phillies and the Baltimore Orioles - and it didn't matter at all that they lost. My father was a tool designer for the Budd Company for 40 years working on the construction of rail cars and my mother was a public school teacher. I was also raised by my grandmother who came to live with my parents when my grandfather died suddenly several years before I was born.

Musically, my family arranged for me to start taking piano lessons at the age of five because I had been playing on the piano we had in the house since I could stand up and reach it. My teacher was a church organist in the neighborhood whose name was Clovius Breneiser and who was born on July 4, 1900. At the age of nine my father and I went shopping for a better piano and we settled on a Knabe Grand which was much more than my parents had budgeted but which my father would come to say years later was the best investment he ever made. That piano is still in our living room. I began organ lessons at the age of thirteen and soon began substituting for churches around the city. I learned a lot

of Baptist hymns by playing for the Sunday evening services where my father was the song-leader for the hymn-sing every week when people would call out their favorites to be sung.

1969 was an especially formative year for me. I started studying organ with a new teacher who inspired me to devote my life fully to organ playing and music in church; a mission trip to Haiti in a group of other teens sent by the American Baptist Missions Society of Pennsylvania instantly revealed to me the responsibility that a Christian has to a desperately needy world; and I met Cindy on Christmas Eve at a Caroling party with a group from my friend Ron Matthew's church.

So here it is - 2016. I am in my 35th year as Music Director of this church with its 4 worship services, 7 choirs, Praise Team, and concert series. I serve as the Mid-Atlantic States Regional Chairman of the American Guild of Organists with over 3000 organists in my region. Cindy and I have been married 41 years. Jillian just received a Masters of Social Work from Rutgers, Douglas is married and lives in Maryland with our two grandchildren, and Susan is memorialized in the new Music Ministry Building.

On a personal note, I ride my Harley-Davidson every chance I get. Our family thrives on camping whether it's canoeing back into wilderness or setting up a pop-up tent-trailer at our choice of campground. And as you might expect, I always like to point out, "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood."

Glenn Rodgers
Director of Music

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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.

LIGHT HARBOR MINISTRY

When I was a young child my family would travel to Altoona, Pennsylvania every Easter to visit my grandmother, aunts, uncle and cousins. One year we visited a great aunt in a nursing home in the area. I was afraid of all those white haired wrinkled people who didn't seem to make any sense and watched every move I made with such pleasure. During the day, we noticed a nurse helping a little woman get dressed and doing her hair, anxiously awaiting her son's visit. As time passed, she began to cry so my mother asked the nurse what was wrong. The nurse told us every Sunday she gets dressed and waits for her son's visit but he never comes to see her. I remember feeling sad and wondering why her son wouldn't come to visit his mother in the nursing home.

Due to this experience and the opportunity to have a service project for our youth, we volunteered to do a nondenominational service at the Mt. Laurel Nursing Home (now known as Mt. Laurel Health and Rehab) every third Sunday of the month. After the first year ended, the youth moved on to other opportunities but I could not let go. God placed me there for a purpose. This purpose is to open our minds and hearts to the needs of the elderly who live in nursing facilities.

Over the years I have observed many changes: management, name change, meeting place, and numerous Directors of Activities. I have noticed how some directors put more importance on faith-based programs than others. I have seen the residents' faces light up when we walk into the room knowing they will have a church service that Sunday. There are residents at the facility who love the Lord and want to worship Him but they are not able to travel to a local church. Some of these seniors were once active, vibrant people raising families, working, or maybe even leaders in their church but now have no families or friends able to visit. Therefore we must take the gospel to them.

I know we have many things to do but we can't afford to ignore the call to serve our elderly brothers and sisters in Christ. Worse than that, can we ignore the seniors who have not yet found the Lord?

I would like to leave you with two scriptures: Romans 12:7 says "If your gift is serving others, serve them well" and Galatians 6:9-10 says "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a

harvest of blessing if we don't give up. 10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone-especially to those in the family of faith".

We have been visiting the Mt. Laurel Health and Rehab Center for many years and recently have been invited to serve at Avista Healthcare in Cherry Hill. My heart tells me to say "yes" we would be honored to come but my head tells me "no". Our purpose is to show God's love through prayer, scripture, and music that is uplifting and fun for the residents each month but in order for our ministry to expand we need you. Do you feel God leading you toward helping others? 1 Corinthians 12:7 says "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other". Please call me, Linda Wanagas, at 856-273-1298 if you are interested in this ministry or have questions.

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COULD STEPHEN MINISTRY BE RIGHT FOR YOU?

"My Stephen Minister listened to me as no one else could at that point in my life. He was always there listening, sharing Scriptures, praying with me. That was when I realized that God was still working in my life, Jesus was still saying 'yes' to me, and I was going to be okay."

These are the actual words of Scott Robeson, who received care from a Stephen Minister when he was going through a divorce and who gave us permission to quote him by name. He resisted asking for help at first, but "a voice deep inside" challenged him to ask others for help.

- * Do you feel a loss of God's presence?
- * Do you question how God is working in your life?
- * Are you experiencing a life situation that leads you to question whether or not you'll be okay?

Could you benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister?

Contact: Please contact our church office or one of our Stephen Ministers

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FAITH NOTES
How God Is at Work in Our Lives

On Confirmation Sunday (May 15th), three of our Confirmation Class students shared how God is working in their lives, especially as it relates to their Confirmation journey. We are sharing their words below and on the next page, so you may all be blessed by their messages.

Alice McHale, Confirmation 2016

This church has been my family, and always will be my family. From the people who I've known since I could barely write my own name, to people who show me the true love of Jesus Christ every day. I have made a home in this church, and now I am going to be accepted into the family that I grew to love. My journey started as a kid in First Light Preschool and Sunday School, not yet knowing God, but now will continue throughout the rest of my life as I become confirmed into the church.

The way of Christ has taken over me in these past weeks of confirmation. I have been excited to share, proclaim, and practice living with God. There has been something wonderful at work through the people who have supported me in this journey of recognition. What they have taught to me has guided me into deeper thoughts, creating a want to better know God. My teachers, such as Mr. Haegele, Mrs. Clawges, Mrs. Murray, and my family, have played such an important part in my confirmation along with so many others. The love I see in every person who has guided me gives me assurance that this family of God will always be open towards me.

Every lesson taught makes me reflect on how to live my life as a better Christian. It was always hard for me to openly pray or openly say I loved God. It was always something that I wasn't quite comfortable with, yet. Every lesson or discussion made me more than comfortable talking about faith. Once I realized I was comfortable with this, then my need for God in my life grew. I looked forward to the days I could learn more about life as a Christian, and I looked forward to the days I could open my mind in a safe environment. The people that have been in this journey have made such a smooth transition for me into this comfort. I knew that God was helping me through this once uncomfortable situation by surrounding me with people who I love, and people who love me.

Now I'm preparing to start my journey, not finish it.

I am excited, and from my confirmation process, I am ready to love God and live my life as a Christian not only through these weeks of confirmation.

I would like to thank the congregation for accepting me as their family in Christ throughout my journey, and in my continuous journey.

* * *

Hi. My name is Connor Graham and this is a poem that I wrote as a homework assignment on Empathy.

Spark of Light By Connor Graham

The world of darkness. There are shadows on every corner. They grew bigger and bigger. Soon that shadow sees me. It comes to me. When it was an 10 inch away from me the shadow pick me up to the stars. I pray to my lord, Jesus up in heaven I said help me lord help me lord screaming to the stars. Then something happened my inner spark of light lit up and My lord, Jesus was helping me. The shadow grew smaller and smaller. Then it disappeared into the unknown darkness. I said thank you lord, thank you lord while crying with tears of thankfulness.

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FAITH NOTES from the Confirmation Class,
continued

Good Morning, I am Mary Hudak. I am 1 of 7 kids, who have all been born, raised, baptized, and I soon to be confirmed. These last few months of confirmation classes have been amazing. Hearing the lessons from Mrs. Murray, Mr. Haegele, Mrs. Clawges, Pastor Richard, Pastor HeyYoung and Mr. Rodgers have all been very meaningful to me. Confirmation has had a wonderful impact on my life. I decided to start Confirmation, because I knew that it would be something important to do and would strengthen my relationship with Christ. I officially signed up, and also got assigned a mentor. Her name is Lauren and she recently joined FUMC, along with her husband and 2 adorable kids. She is so sweet and easy to talk to. I always would look forward to meeting up with her every month. As I began going to the first few classes, I immediately started seeing a change in my relationship with Christ. I learned that God has a plan and no matter what happens he has full control. I continue to still go back and remember how important that is. It has made me think more positively, and made me feel completely reliant on Him no matter the circumstance. Also, participating in Confirmation has made it easier to talk to God. Before, I knew that God was always there and I could talk to him whenever I needed to, but I struggled in feeling a closeness, while praying.... But when Pastor HeyYoung gave her lesson about Discipleship, she talked about how God is your best friend and has all the qualities you want, and look for in a best friend. Knowing this, it has made me feel safe and comfortable, and also gave me a stronger connection. Thanks to confirmation.... I have a much stronger and deeper connection with the Lord.... I have met an amazing new friend Lauren.... And I am now very ready to affirm my faith to God. Thank you.



FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE
9:30 Worship Sheet Music Available

Sheet music sets for the 9:30 worship service are now available and are located in the basket on the bookshelf to the left of the main entrance of the Sanctuary. At the end of the service PLEASE RETURN THE MUSIC TO THE BASKET. Questions, comments or suggestions, please talk to Sue Harris, Worship Committee Chairperson.

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UNDERSTANDING GRIEF
A Lecture and Discussion

Hosted by the Mount Laurel Home for Funerals
& Samaritan Healthcare and Hospice
Open to the Public

Thursday, June 9th, 2:00 pm
at the Mount Laurel Home for Funerals
212 Ark Rd., Mt. Laurel

Presented by Grief Counselor, Mary Parsons, LSW

For reservations, call 856-234-6900
or email mountlaurelhomeforfunerals@comcast.net

Light refreshments will be served

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YOUTH MISSION
DONATIONS NEEDED

StudentServe Leadership Team is asking for donations for our next "Missions Blast". It is being organized by Synclaire Angelow. We are in need of children's coloring books, crayons, markers, colored pencils, and stickers. If you would like to donate any of these items, there will be a box in the back of the Sanctuary marked "SSLT Mission Blast Project". All these items will be combined and delivered to the children at The Philadelphia Project Kids Camp. If you have questions, contact Kathy Clawges at kclawges@gmail.com or 856-912-1148 or you may speak directly with Synclaire Angelow. Donations will be collected through the end of June.

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION
AND GRATITUDE**

So much joy is ours as we continue to follow FUMC and all the weekly services on the web site, and all the caring, sharing, loving and exciting happenings and programs there. So much going on and such rich experiences for growth and discipleship. Surely you all continue to live out God's Word and the Mission Statement of FUMC.

We often feel like the disciple Paul as he wrote letters to the New Testament churches, in that it gives us such great joy to hear of your faith in Christ Jesus and we remember you all in prayer giving thanks to God for your work produced by faith and your labor prompted by love and hope. We have been blessed to be able to worship and serve in Englewood United Methodist Church which is so very much like FUMC with numerous and amazing ministries. We are thankful that God's grace has provided this community of faith for us.

We write to express our heartfelt and full gratitude for all the many, many cards, notes, phone calls and e-mails that our beloved brothers and sisters have and continue to share with us. So many thoughts week by week and month by month have lifted and encouraged us. You ALL are truly caring and sharing God's love with a hurting world in our lives and those of so many others. Each week when we least expect it we received lovely caring cards and good wishes and prayers as Ron continues through this journey with Lewy Body Dementia.

He is doing much better on his new medications and though this is a progressive condition, Ron is determined to work hard and do all he can to be better. We have good moments and days, and then very challenging times. The prayers of all of you and hundreds of others along with God's grace, and the Lord's healing mercies have brought us to this point. Ron, through it all, has an even deeper faith in our loving and amazing Heavenly Father and does not hesitate to share with others his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. Also, his sense of humor is intact, and dry as it can be at times, he even catches me off guard sometimes.

This has been and continues to be a 'roller coaster ride', and some of you have your own such times, but our great God, Emanuel, El Shaddai, is walking with us and before us. We thank you all again, from the depths of our hearts and we love each of you, even those whom we have not met, as God continues to multiply FUMC with Pastor Richard's and HeyYoung's ministry, along with all of you faithful servants. Such a wonderful leadership team, and we pray for the small group ministry in which Ron and I always grew so richly and loved. Also it is wonderful to see the laity participating in all the services. So exciting!

The most meaningful relationships we hold dear to our hearts are the friendships we made and make in our lives that are forged in the circles of God's love and faithfulness of human experiences. No richer relationships exist in our day by day experiences than those that grow and have grown in the fellowship of spiritual interactions that are initiated by the Holy Spirit. That is our experience with you all.

We are grateful for all of you, for Jesus being alive and well in you, for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon FUMC as you continue to share the love of God with a hurting world - even us. We love you and we pray for you always.

Grace and peace to all,
Carol and Ron Griffith



THE PARENT UPDATE

First United Methodist Church Youth Fellowship

Welcome to June Youth News!

Kathy Clawges, Youth Director

Jr. & Sr. High students meet every Sunday night from 7:00-8:30pm. Our last Sunday night Youth Group before summer break will be June 12th. We will end with Color Wars.

Bible Study is every Wednesday 6:00-8:00pm (includes dinner). Our last Bible study before summer break will be June 8th.

Youth Summer Program (YSP) will begin Wednesday night July 6th from 6-8pm and will include dinner.

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH SUNDAY/weekend

Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 5:30 PM to Sunday, June 19, 2016 at 12:00 PM

The Youth will be involved in Services this weekend with a skit, music, sharing & scripture. Come out and see the wonderful things the youth are doing in our church and how they love to worship!

Creation Festival Northeast

Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 9:00 AM to Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Creation is a four day Christian Music Festival at Agape Farm in Mt. Union, PA. It's a great time of fellowship, while camping together, attending concerts and seminars, and paying tribute to our Creator.

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

Three Ways I've Adapted to Survive Parenting

Jonathan McKee

Effective parenting requires a hefty learning curve. Today's parents must observe and adapt to survive. This past year has provided plenty of these life-lessons, giving my wife and I the opportunity to test-drive three parenting practices truly helping us better connect with our daughter.

Three Practices Helping Us Connect with Our Teen:

1. The fine art of shutting up

One of the best practices I've learned this year is simply shutting up. It's amazing what you can learn when you just sit back like a fly on the wall, noticing your kids and listening. Try this when you drive a car full of your kids' friends. Shut up... and they'll forget you're there. You'll learn a lot about your son or daughter's world that you never knew.

Better yet, try this at the dinner table if you want to get your teenager talking.

Ask a question... then just clam it. My youngest never answers the first question. I have to wait it out. Eventually she'll kill the silence.

Most kids love being heard—they're just never given the opportunity. But this requires proximity. You can't listen to them if they aren't there. That's where I learned this next practice...

2. Saying "yes"

Say yes to any opportunity to connect with your kid.

This year I've tried something. It doesn't matter if I'm in the middle of doing yard work, taxes... I slide it all aside and take the time to connect with my kid.

I reflect back on countless times as a young parent where my kids would ask me:

"Dad, do you wanna play video games?" or "Wanna play Barbies?"

So many times I was too busy. (Can you hear Cat's in the Cradle playing in the background?) How I wish I could go back in time and change my response.

Now I look for any opportunity to be in the same room as my kids, and that includes...

3. Providing the house to "hang"

"Dad, can Megan spend the night... on a school night?"

"Absolutely."

The question is simple. Would I rather my daughter be at someone else's house, or have her here?

This year we've not only committed time, but also money, to this practice.

"This Sunday night we're all thinking of going somewhere to watch movies."

"Bring them all over here. I'll buy pizza."

This year has provided plenty of opportunities... costly opportunities.

"Dad, next Wednesday is senior cut day, so I want to bail school and go to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk with my friends, but two of them can only go if a parent goes."

"I'll take you. Let me email your school and excuse you." (Call me crazy, but I did it (it helps that she's getting a 4.2 grade point average and it's the last month of school). Any opportunity to be with her.)

Opportunities like this give me the chance to rehearse all three of these practices. I said yes and got to spend the day with my daughter and her friends in Santa Cruz. I shut up most of the drive and listened a lot. The same group spent the night at my house the next week and I made them all breakfast. They know our door is open to them any time.

Is your door open?

Adapting and learning as a parent has opened the door to numerous new opportunities to connect with my daughter this year. Does that mean I have this parenting thing perfected? Hardly. But I am learning from my mistakes and gaining more insight each day. These little life lessons are providing me with new opportunities to build into my kids regularly.

Are Smartphones & Social Media Too Dangerous for My Kids? Or Can Today's Parents Effectively Teach Mobile-Device-Responsibility?

Jonathan McKee

In a world where little boys see too much, and little girls post too much... is it even possible for young people to learn to text, Tweet, and Insta responsibly? If so, how can we teach them this...and model this?

Here are 5 steps parents can take to help their kids learn to be responsible with their mobile devices:

1. Give Them the Heads Up

Communicate your plan from the very beginning. When they're young and begging you for their first device, let them know why, and let them know when they get to make this decision on their own. "When you first get your device, your use of it is going to be limited. But as you get older, you'll get more and more freedom with it. Our goal is that by your senior year of high school you will have full control."

I tried this with my daughters: Here's how it turned out. (Author/speaker Andy Stanley was interviewed last year and declared a similar approach.)

2. First Device at 12

For years experts have been recommending parents wait until their kids are age 12 to give them their own mobile devices. (Tablets, iTouch, laptops...especially devices that allow them access to the Internet and social media.) In fact, most experts recommend kids do not begin using social media until age 13.

I realize this is difficult when every other parent out there is giving their kids devices before they cut their first tooth. Our kids are sure to complain, "But Chris has his own iPad!"

This is where parents need to stop and ask themselves, "What is my role?" If you want to be the friend parent, or "peerant," who gives into their kid's every whim...then by all means, give em' a phone. If you see your role as the Sherpa who will guide them along the road to adolescence successfully to adulthood, then wait until they're 12. Even then you don't just hand it to them.

3. No Secrets

Create a climate of continual conversation about social media and screen entertainment. Walk with them as they set up their first online profiles, teach them online privacy settings and give them guidance on who to select as online friends.

In the past I recommended parents knew their kids' passwords so Mom and Dad could do precisely what their doctor recommended, monitoring exactly

what websites and social media their kids were using. Sadly, demanding a password can create a parent-vs.-teen dynamic. Never a good thing. And frankly, I've found if today's kids want to sneak... they will sneak. It's much better to create an environment of open communication and "no secrets."

This takes time. Good parenting takes time. If you don't know anything about Instagram, then Google "Instagram safety tips" or "Instagram privacy settings" and see what people are recommending. Help your tween understand these settings, after all, your plan is to equip them to choose these kinds of settings on their own in just a couple years.

Engage in regular check-ins, reviewing their privacy settings and seeing who their online friends are. Don't be a parole officer, be a guide, looking to encourage and offer advice where needed.

But we also need to...

4. Limit Screentime

Your family doctor has been recommending this for years. And in a world where young people average almost 9 hours per day in entertainment media and technology, this is no easy task. Sit down and talk about some realistic guardrails together and decide what is fair.

5. Seek Out No-Tech Time

If you're a parent today then you know it can be difficult to get a teen to lift their eyes from their mobile device and actually dialogue. So my advice is simple. Seek out these natural settings where the phone is put away:

- * Dinner
- * Bedtime
- * Sitting in the hot tub
- * Exercising
- * Hunting, fishing, boating...
- * Baking (sticky hands and phones don't mix)

The American Academy of Pediatrics just released their new list of media tips for parents, and several of the tips encourage parents to "create tech free zones" and "seek out face-to-face time." Experts are realizing how important it is for parents to seek out one-on-one time. It's a little scary when you start reading the research about exactly how damaging a smartphone is becoming to a generation who barely knows life without it. How will they ever learn responsibility if we don't teach them?