



# The Messenger

First United Methodist Church Newsletter  
446 Camden Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057  
856-235-0450

Rev. Tom Korkuch, Pastor  
Kathy Clawges, Director of Youth  
Donna Banes, Interim Music Team Coordinator  
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](http://www.meetwithGod.com) -or- Email us at: [church@meetwithGod.com](mailto:church@meetwithGod.com)

**AUGUST 2018**



## PEACH FESTIVAL Friday, Aug. 24th, 5:00pm

Mark your calendars for a night of peaches, ice cream, music and fun! Tickets will be \$7 per person, \$17 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. 23rd 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. 24th), help with serving, and help with cleaning up after the festival on Aug. 24th. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex. Thank you!



## THANK-YOU'S FROM PASTOR TOM

On behalf of my family, and my dog, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the men of the church who labored on a ninety-plus degree day to begin the parsonage fence project. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

I would also like to say a big "thank you" to the ladies of Martha's Hands for the outstanding meals that were delivered during our first week after moving in. It was so helpful to not have to think about dinner as we were unpacking boxes and getting the parsonage in order. Everything was so delicious!

Finally, I want to lift up John Halligan for the work that he put into the parsonage prior to, and after our arrival and Devika Gill for the amazing gift of stocking the parsonage with food and other household essentials. We have been blessed by your warm and gracious welcome!

## FEELING GENEROUS?

Check out our donation cabinets near the Pleasant Valley entrance. We deeply appreciate any items that you care to donate to the following ministries: Abba's Animals (pet products for animal rescue shelters), Eyes of our Hearts (clothing for Seeds of Hope, Camden) and canned goods and cereals, etc. for the Food Pantry. We have installed new signs to make it easier to see where you can drop off your donations. Thank you!

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## GROUNDS FOR GOOD COFFEEHOUSE - THE NEXT GENERATION

Having just completed the 10th season of our coffeehouse here at FUMC Moorestown, the coffeehouse leadership group would like to transfer the leadership of this outreach ministry to a new group of folks who are interested in taking the reins. Although the founding leadership group will not be actively involved going forward, we will be happy to support and mentor those who will be carrying this vital ministry into the next decade. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Bobbie Shinehouse, [Bobbiebas@comcast.net](mailto:Bobbiebas@comcast.net). The first coffeehouse of the '18/'19 season would be scheduled for the beginning of October, so it would be good to get the new team on board as quickly as possible. Thanks!



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 2-4	Youth Wildwood retreat
Aug. 12th	Light Harbor at Avista - 2:30pm
Aug. 14th	Youth Ocean City beach day-9am-8:30pm
Aug. 14th	The Serving Plate - 5:00pm
Aug. 18th	Eyes of Our Hearts breakfast - 7:00am
Aug. 19th	Summer Sunday School ends - 9:30am
Aug. 20-24	Vacation Bible School - 9:00am - 12pm
Aug. 23rd	Peach peeling - 7:00pm
Aug. 24th	Peach Festival - 5:00pm
Aug. 26th	Parents DIGG - 10:45am - 12:45pm



FROM PASTOR TOM

*“Faith of Christ?”*

I remember sitting in my biblical Greek class and being absolutely shocked by what the professor was suggesting. He was pointing out that often what is translated as “faith in Christ” in the Pauline corpus can be more accurately translated as “faith of Christ.” He went on to say that both are acceptable, but that “faith of Christ” can lead to a deeper sense of connection with God and one's faith.

*Mind blown.*

I have, however, come to appreciate this alternative as I grow more mature in my faith journey. Father Richard Rohr has offered that there are at least two seasons of faith. In the first season, we are like children which means that we need the spiritual equivalent of “baby food” - ideas and positions that are more black and white and easy to swallow. In this season, the use of the phrase “faith in Christ” is fitting because it allows us the time and space to grow and develop into more spiritually mature Christians that need not rely on “dualities,” as Rohr calls them. This leads us to the second season of faith - a season where questions are more important than answers, and shades of gray permeate the theological scene. It's in this space that “relationship” and “connection” become much more valuable to the person of faith than dogma and discipline.

Adding “faith of Christ,” in addition to “faith in Christ,” to our spiritual repertoire makes room for us to more fully join in the path that Jesus has already traveled. It also makes room for us to move beyond credal statements and doctrinal absolutes that can eventually suck the life out of the believer. It's not that these tools of religion are unimportant. It's just that they are meant to be exactly that - *tools* that guide, inform, and point the way to the greater reality of the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, many Christians get stuck in this no man's land of faith to the point that law suffocates grace, and even love - something which is antithetical to the gospel itself. This is the dangerous place where faith is reduced to the lowest common denominator of a set of rules that are to be strictly adhered to with no room for

maneuver. But as Rohr points out, this reduction fails to speak to the heart and rarely does it transform anything in the person. He writes: “I'm convinced that much modern atheism is a result of such a heady and really ineffective definition of faith. We defined faith intellectually, so people came up with intellectual arguments against it and then said, “I don't believe in God.”

Friends, when we try to “know” God in such an academic sense alone, we're surrendering our greatest assets and abandoning the call that Jesus places in our lives to always move in the direction of love. When we do that, our Pharisaic certainties will surely get the best of us, and we'll move further away from the kingdom as Jesus describes it - rather than moving closer to what we were created to be.

Love Wins!  
Pastor Tom

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**Baptisms:**

Alexis Nicole DeLuca  
(confirmand) on July 1, 2018

James Alexander Leggoe  
on July 8, 2018; son of  
Scott & Jennifer Leggoe

Cristian James Carite  
on July 15, 2018; son of  
James & Jennifer Carite



Newly Baptized

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**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!**





## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV*

Every time I read (or sing) these words I am reminded of how much the Lord loves me (and you) and how when I take time to really reflect I am able to see how much having and believing in his love has changed me.

During this time of transition here at First UMC, I am reminded that when I accepted Christ as the Lord of my life I was required to love unconditionally, show grace and mercy without regard and to be compassionate. For some people change is extremely hard whether it is something that they had a say in or something that happened in spite of them. I agree that change in any situation can be difficult however as a Child of God, adopted into his family, I believe change is part of our everyday faith journey.

With all the changes happening here, please be patient my friends, and instead of grumbling or leaving, be the change agent that God called you to be when you agreed to take that leap of Faith to be his follower, and consider remaining in this church family. We need you and you need us. After all, with the newness of each day we are filled with his love, grace, compassion and forgiveness, surely we are able to extend the same blessings to each other.

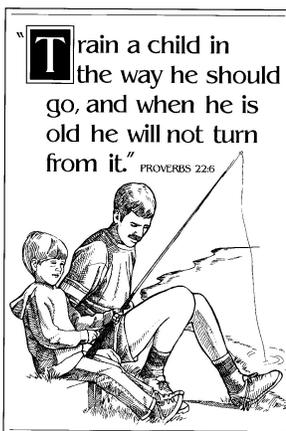
Whether in a church family or your own family, if we are to accept the Lord's love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and grace which are 'new EVERY morning' we need to seek constant change and growth to be a greater reflection of him.

Change happens and when it does it can be awesome!

In Christ,  
Karen Murray, DCE

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### Important Dates...



**Vacation Bible School - 9am-12pm Monday, August 20th - Friday, August 24th**  
**To Volunteer, Please call Karen Murray at 856-222-1120.**

**\*\*Our VOLUNTEER training sessions for VBS are Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 & Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm in the Resource Room.\*\***

**If you'd like to volunteer Please Just Show UP! Youth & Young Adult helpers welcome.**

**September 9th, 9:30 & 11:00 - Sunday School Resumes for all ages.**

**To volunteer as a teacher or helper, please contact Karen Murray.**

**\*\*New Classes are forming. If you would like to teach or lead a class please let Karen Murray know asap.**

**More information about the Fall Sunday School options will be in the next Messenger. Keep watch!**

**SAVE the DATE! October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> - Fall Rummage Sale!**



MUSIC NOTES

The month of August is often referred to as the “dog days of summer!” I don't know about you, but my dog is not a happy camper with the hot, humid weather. I have been fortunate to have a dog or two on and off since I was six. Most recently, Riley pup, who is no longer a pup, but 16 years old; is a part of my family! So, it is during our morning, late afternoon and evening walks that I find myself turning to prayer. As we wander through the neighborhood it is a great time for me to carry on my conversation with God. It's a time for me to pray for family, friends, my church and any praises or concerns that may be on my heart. Many times, during my walk a hymn will pop into my head. In recent weeks, as I have followed Riley, the hymn Where He Leads Me has been running through my thoughts. Which I find rather amusing since it is Riley who dictates the direction in which we will head. I decided to do a little digging and see what I could find on this hymn.

The internet can be a great resource for locating information especially when not one of my hymn devotional books had this hymn listed. I found out that there really isn't much about the author of the hymn. What I did find out is as follows: E.W. Blandy was a Salvation Army Officer. He wrote the hymn Where He Leads Me after choosing between a comfortable post at an established church or an alternative assignment to the NYC waterfront known as Hell's Kitchen. He chose the latter. As I thought about this it occurred to me how often we may be called to follow our Savior, but it may be outside our comfort zone to go. Yet, he always assures us that he will be with us all the way.

Where He Leads Me

I can hear my Savior calling, I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling, “Take thy cross and follow, follow me.”  
Where he leads me I will follow, where he leads me I will follow,  
where he leads me, I will follow; I'll go with him, with him all the way.  
He will give me grace and glory, he will give me grace and glory,  
he will give me grace and glory, and go with me, with me all the way!  
Where he leads me I will follow, where he leads me I will follow,  
where he leads me, I will follow; I'll go with him, with him all the way!

I hope and pray that if and when we hear our Savior calling we can trust in him to step out of our comfort zone and go where he may lead us!

Donna Banes  
Interim Music Team Coordinator

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WE'VE MOVED!



We have moved our Abba's Animals donations drop-off place. It is no longer in the lobby of the Education Building; nor is it in the foyer across from the office. We have moved it to the cabinets on the side of the Parlor near the Pleasant Valley doors. This is also the drop-off spot for donations to the Food Pantry and the Eyes of Our Hearts ministries. The cabinet for each ministry is clearly labeled.

We need donations of the following items: dry and canned cat and dog food or treats; cat litter; towels; washcloths; pillowcases (no pillows, please); cleaning and laundry supplies; plastic bags; and other pet supplies. **Especially pressing** is the need for safe, hard (not plush or fabric) chew toys for dogs, such as large knuckle bones or large black Kongs. For a full listing of wish list items from the rescue organizations we support, check the list on the cabinet door. Questions: Margie Morgan at [margiemorgan75@gmail.com](mailto:margiemorgan75@gmail.com) or 856-764-1247.

**LAY LEADER LINES**

I have a wonderful little book that was a gift from my thoughtful husband, called "Together is Better, a Little Book of Inspiration". One of my favorite quotes is "Fulfillment comes when we live our lives on purpose." This reminds me of our church family, as we work hard to live our lives on purpose.

As we continue to grow, working hard to serve God together is always challenging. Hebrews 10:24-25a encourages us: *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.* Psalm 133:1 reminds me of a cheerleader: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

As I say each year, September always feels like the beginning of a new year, with children (and adults!) back in school, programs starting up again, or new programs beginning, at church, and in our local communities. With a new pastor leading us, I pray we will all have open hearts as we work together to serve God. Times are always challenging, and as Winston Churchill said: "Mountaintops inspire leaders, but valleys mature them." I believe that we become stronger as we meet our challenges. One of my favorite quotes, by Fred Beck, a baseball player from the early 1900's, said: "The brook would lose its song if you removed the rocks."

I believe that God is always teaching us something, and many "somethings" throughout each day. There are lessons to be learned each day.

We can learn so much from children, and our encouragement to them shows in their perceptions of working hard. As six-year old Rob prayed: "Dear God, of all the people who work for you, I like Noah and David the best."

I think that our church family members are committed to our faith community, as well as to the outlying areas, and that we are looking forward to continued growth. As it says in Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

My prayer is that we will all come back, refreshed and renewed after our summer, ready to work together to serve our Lord in the ways that we know we are called to do so!

God bless you all,  
Kathy Appleton  
Lay Leader

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**FROM THE  
MISSIONS COMMISSION**

Through out the bible God tell us the importance of children and how He values them. When Jesus was asked who among the kingdom is the greatest He took a little child and said in Matthew 18:3 that unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus goes on to say that whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I believe Jesus selected children because they quite often not only exhibit humbleness but are ready to believe the message when hearing it from their parents, a minister, a Sunday School teacher or another adult they look up to; unlike adults who typically use a methodical thought process along with past experiences to assess whether something is true. Jesus knew that to become a believer you need to first start out with "child-like" faith before building on that foundation.

No one can ever tell God that the message of salvation is too difficult to understand, too difficult to believe where even a child can understand and accept the message. Yet there are a lot of clever people in the world who have many prestigious degrees that have contributed immensely to the welfare of mankind through solving difficult problems in math, science, engineering and other disciplines and yet cannot comprehend nor believe the good news. To them the message of salvation is foolishness. Contrast that to what Jesus says in Luke 10:21 where he talks about the way to salvation and then praises the Father because He has hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children because this was God's good pleasure.

*Continued on next page*

**Missions, continued**

As parents God has entrusted and given us such an awesome responsibility in raising our children up in the faith. God tell us that children are a gift from Him and instructs us how to raise our children in the faith in a loving manner. Proverbs 22:6 says that we need to train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. In other words, we need to train our children in the faith as early as possible, so we can be assured that they will continue to be faithful to God by living a Godly life when they are grown up. But just as God disciplines those he loves (Revelation 3:19), God tells us that parents need to also discipline their children as a way of loving them. Hebrews 12:11 says no discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. God also warns us parents to build up their children and not tear them down or they will become embittered and discouraged (Colossians 3:20). In other words, disciplining and raising our children in the faith must be motivated by our love for them and not a way to force our authority over them.

Sadly, we live in a world where children do not always receive God's instructions from their parents. This makes them ill equipped to handle the traumatic events that no one is immune to. These traumatic events can be the result of one or more things such as a death of a parent, sibling or close relative, substance abuse in the family, physical or emotional abuse, etc., etc. This may lead to the youth having behavior related problems at home, at school and/or in their community. Without help these children may be unable to cope with a range of problems such as an inferiority complex, social anxiety, depression, etc.

Fortunately, there is a place locally that children can go where they can feel the unconditional love of Jesus and have their lives transformed through the teachings and acceptance of Christ in their lives. The name of this place is called **Ranch Hope** in Alloway, NJ. which is a Behavioral Health Care Residential Treatment Center where for the past 54 years children's lives have been transformed through the Christ-centered love and compassion they receive from their staff. Through the leadership of David Bailey, Jr. along with his staff, Ranch Hope is committed to the safety and well-being of all children that come to them for help. The guiding scripture of the Ranch Hope ministry is found in Romans 15:1 "We who are strong ought to bear with

the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves." The people who minister at Ranch Hope are continually motivated to teach the children the values and lessons in life that were taught by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In addition to mentoring God's ways into the children's lives, everyone affiliated with the ministry believes that every child that has been entrusted to them can learn, can grow and can succeed while feeling valued and loved as a child of God.

One of the many examples of how Ranch Hope is making a difference in children's lives occurred recently when the youth were given a periodic survey to fill out. This survey ranged from their experiences by feeling welcomed, to food, to youth activities, to school, to staff, etc. It is very important to the staff that the youth be able to voice their opinion and how they are feeling. What response made the most impression were the feelings several of the youth shared about the same staff member; not only because the staff member is having a positive impact on the youth, but also the depth of the feelings the boys were willing to share. Some of their comments are as follows: *He treats me like I am his own child. He treats me like family. I don't have a father; he is like a father to me. He protects us like he would protect his own family. He is firm but fair.*

We on the Missions Commission are very thankful for the compassion and love that the people of Ranch Hope have in transforming the lives of the youth by mentoring our savior's ways to those children entrusted to them. We are also thankful for your generosity through your faith promise giving so that our church can be a financial partner with Ranch Hope along with many other ministries. This month may we take time to pray for the people at Ranch Hope who are furthering God's kingdom one child at a time. Please go on their website at [www.ranchhope.org](http://www.ranchhope.org) to learn more about their ministry and contact them if you have any questions or comments.

Allan Estrin  
Missions Commission Member

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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.*

**A MESSAGE FROM  
THE RECONCILING TEAM**

## What will FUMC look like as a Reconciling Congregation?

This question and others like it, has been asked often since we began this endeavor. The short answer is that FUMC will look like and be whatever God wants it to be. We believe FUMC is called to make every effort to become as inclusive as Christ, and by doing so, we will honor our Creator and bring more disciples to His table of grace.

Fundamental to the idea of a Reconciling Team is increasing awareness of FUMC members and friends to the challenges that LGBTQ people face, especially when considering whether to attend or join a UMC church. We pray that awareness will lead to a broader understanding of and appreciation for the obstacles and struggles faced by those in the LGBTQ community, and that this change in perspective will translate into attitudes and actions to wholly embrace and more fully support them.

### **Who?**

A Reconciling Congregation is a church where all people, regardless of race, gender identity, marital status, or other aspects of diversity are equally valued and are equal recipients of God's forgiveness, mercy, and love. It is a place where LGBTQ people are no better or worse, and no more or less equal than anyone else. It is a place that shows respect for and shares the joy of the love in the lives of LGBTQ people, just as we do for those in heterosexual relationships.

### **How?**

The Reconciling Team will continue offering opportunities to learn and share with our church and our community, with the goal of banishing the stigma felt by those in the LGBTQ community and providing a safe place where all people are loved and accepted as they are.

### **Why?**

This change is about ministry and spiritual growth. We believe that the LGBTQ community has suffered greatly at the hands of well-meaning Christians and others. Everyone needs the Good News in their lives. But how can those in the LGBTQ community be faulted for a reluctance to seek Him when they persistently face judgment and criticism in His church? This journey has caused many of us to challenge who we are as Christians, what we believe, and how to most faithfully understand and live out the Bible.

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### **COORDINATOR NEEDED FOR PEACH FESTIVAL 2019**

This year will be the last year Marilyn Arbittier will serve as coordinator for our yearly Peach Festival. She has done an amazing job and now needs to pass this on to someone else. Marilyn has been our coordinator for many years and it's well organized for an easy transition. If this sounds like something for you, we suggest you work alongside with Marilyn at this year's Peach Festival (August 24th) to learn what she does. Contact Pastor HeyYoung and let her know if this is of interest to you at 856-235-0450 or [heyyoung@meetwithGod.com](mailto:heyyoung@meetwithGod.com).



## August Youth News

First United Methodist Church  
Jr. & Sr. High Newsletter  
kclawges@gmail.com  
856-912-1148

**YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEERS** - Do you like to spend time with teenagers? Do you find them interesting and fun to hang out with? Have you ever considered volunteering in Youth Ministry? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, you just may be who we need. We're looking for volunteers to help out on Sunday nights for both Jr. High & Sr. High. For more information, please contact Kathy Clawges 856-912-1148 or kclawges@gmail.com.



### "A Closer Walk" 3-Day Retreat

**August 2 - August 4, 3pm - 12pm**

LOCATION: Morey's Piers / Wildwood Beach

**ATTENTION: Jr. & Sr. High and College Students** - Welcome to the most amazing Christian youth event of the summer! A Closer Walk is all about getting closer to God -- in a totally awesome setting. Experience inspired speakers, talented worship artists and genuine fellowship on the beach - yes, on the beach! PLUS, we've built in some free-time so you and your friends can have a blast chillin' in the water parks or zooming on roller coasters.

And, as if that's not enough, you get to camp overnight on the beach, where else do you get to do that?! Only at A Closer Walk. Your event registration includes ALL this:

- o Camping on the beach under the stars
- o Morey's Piers amusement rides & waterparks
- o A free Closer Walk t-shirt
- o Guest speaker sessions
- o Live worship and concerts
- o Friday night fireworks

Total costs \$64 - **Please RSVP** if you want to go! Kathy Clawges 856-912-1148 or kclawges@gmail.com



### Ocean City Beach Day

**August 14, 9am - 8:30pm**

LOCATION: Ocean City, NJ

All Jr. & Sr. High and their families are welcome! We will leave the church parking lot at 9am and return by 8:30pm. \$10 needed for a beach tag / spending money for boardwalk. Pack a lunch. Dinner provided.



### Vacation Bible School

**August 20 - August 24**

LOCATION: First United Methodist Church

**COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!** Jr. & Sr. High - please let me know if you would like to volunteer to help! There are many areas that need volunteers. Sign up today! You can email me, Kathy Clawges- kclawges@gmail.com or Karen Murray - education@meetwithgod.com. Thanks!



### Peach Festival

**August 24, 5pm - 9pm**

LOCATION: First United Methodist Church

**Jr. & Sr. High Youth** -Once again, we are very excited to be cooking for the Peach Festival! This is a Youth Community Service Mission Blast. Please come out and help. All donations received go towards the food bank in our community. *I was recently told that one church in our community helps feed 150-200 people every week!* There are a lot of hungry people in our own backyard and they need your help! Don't forget to bring canned goods to donate.

Let's get cooking!!!

Youth Newsletter, *continued*

## **Now What? Reading Between the Lines of Current Research**

*HomeWord.com*

### **Teen Brains Wired for Pleasure, Risk-Taking and Rewards**

In recent years, scientific research has provided us with a much greater understanding into the teen brain. We now know that throughout adolescence, the teen brain is maturing and won't fully reach adult development until the mid-twenties.

In a new study published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* researchers found that when teenagers receive rewards, their brains' pleasure centers respond more actively than those in adults who receive the same rewards. The study found that increased brain response in the teen brain is not due to them valuing the rewards more than adults, but rather that the teenage brain hasn't finished maturing.

Combining findings from this and various other studies, we know that the portions of the brain responsible for pleasure, self-control, judgment, emotional regulation, assessing risks and rewards are all under construction for teenagers. Talk about the perfect storm! Now you know why teenagers have long had the reputation for doing some very puzzling, irresponsible (and sometimes risky) things. Blame the brain.

Unfortunately, teen brain science is not particularly comforting to parents and can lead some to shelter their kids and hover over them to prevent them from the potentially life-altering consequences of making poor decisions.

Now What?

- Parents should not expect their teenager to always make adult-like decisions. Sometimes they will and sometimes they won't. Remember, the teen brain is under construction!
- Teens must have opportunity to exercise their brains by making decisions (yes, even poor ones) so that the brain can mature to adulthood.
- Parents who protect their kids from (or do not allow) decision-making only impede the teen's brain from developing normally.
- Remember each teenager is unique. Parents should use a realistic assessment of what decisions are both age- and maturity-appropriate for their child to make and then allow him or her to make these decisions.
- Parents should also keep an eye on the goal of increasing the number and scope of decisions they allow their teenager to make.
- In this season of the "perfect storm" going on in a teenager's head, parents should provide consistent encouragement, guidance, coaching, and a measure of safety to their teenagers.

**ADDENDUM TO THE AUGUST MESSENGER**

*A letter from Kathy Appleton, who has resigned as Lay Leader of  
First United Methodist Church*

July, 2017

Dear friends,

It has been more than a privilege to serve with you in my role as Associate Lay Leader, and Lay Leader, for the past 5 ½ years. I have learned so much from you. Your patience with me, and support of our work together, has meant more than I can put into words.

I have seen God's love in so many ways. My prayers for you will continue, and I pray that yours for Jay and me will continue as well.

I pray that the faith that we share, and the love of God that we share, will shine in everything that we do. We know that God gives us so much joy each day, and such gifts!

As 7-year old Eugene said: *"I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday. That was cool."*

I believe, with all my heart, that God has so many cool things ahead for each of us.

God bless you all,  
Kathy Appleton