



The Messenger

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

Rev. Tom Korkuch, Pastor

Kathy Clawges, Director of Youth

Donna Banes, Co-Music Leader

Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator

Rev. HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor

Karen Murray, Director of Christian Education

Norm Dorrell, Co-Music Leader

Devika Gill, Director of First Light Learning Center

Join us for Worship - Saturday 5:30 pm, Sunday 8:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am

Web: www.meetwithGod.com -or- Social media: @fumcmoorestown

MARCH 2019



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sermon Series Beginning March 10th

When Jesus invites us to pray, he says "pray like this" or "pray in this way." What follows are six lines of prayer petitions that become the foundation for our prayer life. You're invited to journey through each line of the Lord's Prayer this Lenten season at First UMC as we are reminded of age-old truths and encouraged to discover fresh meanings in these special words that Jesus has left with us as a blueprint for how we talk to God.

FIRE SAFETY FUNDING CAMPAIGN

As previously announced, the church is in need of fire safety improvements, since parts of our building do not meet NJ State Fire codes. The codes are not new, but our violation of the codes was only brought to our attention recently. Our only option is to complete construction to bring the building up to code or risk losing the use of our building.

The estimated costs of the improvements will be \$90,000. Due to the urgency of the project the funds must come from our current reserves, however the Finance Committee and Church Council have voted to initiate a Fundraising Campaign to offset those costs and replenish our reserves over the next two years.

We hope everyone will join in prayerfully supporting this necessary and important initiative. Pledges can be made over the coming six weeks with the option to pay over the next two years. Pledge cards can be found in weekend bulletins beginning Mar. 9/10, and can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office. Questions? Contact Brad Graham, Finance Chair or John Halligan, Property Chair. Thank you for your ongoing support of our faith community.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS MARCH 10TH!**



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to sleep Saturday, March 9th!



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 6th, 7:00 p.m.

Please join us as we begin the Lenten season on Wednesday, March 6 with a worship service and the imposition of ashes at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

You're also invited to join Pastor Tom for a Lenten study on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the Heritage Room beginning on March 13. The study will be using Mike Slaughter's Made for a Miracle. See pg. 2 for more information on the Lenten Study.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar. 1st Coffee House Sing-a-long - 8:00pm
- Mar. 6th Ash Wednesday- Soup-6pm;Service-7pm
- Mar. 8th My Abba's Hands - 7:00-9:00pm
- Mar. 9th My Abba's Hands - 9:00am-3:00pm
- Mar. 10th Daylight Saving Time begins
- Mar. 10th Acolytes - Noon
- Mar. 10th Light Harbor at Avista - 2:30pm
- Mar. 12th Church Council - 7:00pm
- Mar. 13th Lenten Dessert & Study begins - 6:45pm
- Mar. 16th Eyes of Our Hearts - 7:00am
- Mar. 16th Adult Fellowship - Noon
- Mar. 16th Youth Spaghetti Dinner - 4:30-7:00pm
- Mar. 17th Men's Breakfast - 7:30am
- Mar. 24th Parents DIGG - 10:45am
- Mar. 24th Chili & Chocolate Cook-Off - 4:00pm
- Mar. 26th Blood Drive - 1:30-6:30pm
- Mar. 26th Crafts for Good - 7:00-8:30pm
- Mar. 29-31 Rummage Sale set-up



FROM
PASTOR TOM

“A Lenten Invitation”

*Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the LORD, your God? - Joel 2:12-14*

As you are reading this article, it could very well be that Lent has finally arrived. March 6 marks the date of Ash Wednesday and the beginning of this contemplative season leading to Holy Week and Easter. Having said that, it could also very well be that spring is taking its time to make an appearance. It is true that technically spring doesn't "spring" until March 20, but usually by now the temperatures at least show some subtle hints of moderating and we have wonderful glimpses of what's right around the corner. Winter being winter, however, spring will likely have to wait for now.

Actually, Lent is late this year - about as late as it can get - which means that Easter won't arrive until April 21 when hopefully it'll be sunny and in the 60's. The lateness of Lent does afford us an opportunity to take full advantage of the reflective invitation of the season. We've had plenty of time to recoup from Christmas - now our attention can fully turn to the path that leads to the cross and beyond.

Lent, of course, is about self-reflection and our place in creation. It's the time of year when we can just "breathe" and "get real" with ourselves. It's a time to open ourselves up more fully to God and acknowledge our need for the "more" that is offered to us in Christ. Lent is about confession, repentance, and forgiveness, but it's also about reconnecting with who we are as God's children - flawed, yes, but also beautifully accepted and loved for the persons we were created to be.

All of us are invited to experience Lent as something "holy" - "holy" not so much in the sense of being "righteous," but more in the sense of being "set apart." These six weeks prior to Easter have been set apart for us to do the hard work of the soul. And of course, we've been set apart through our faith to live up to what is already ours - the gift of new life in Christ.

May your Lent be a holy one.

Peace,
Pastor Tom

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LENTEN STUDY - “Made for a Miracle”

At some time in our lives, most of us have prayed for or hoped for a miracle - an event that seems impossible but is brought about by God's transcendent power. But when miracles occur, did you know that you have a role to play?

If that's true, what's the catch? What do we have to do? What's it going to cost us?

Popular author and pastor Mike Slaughter examines the two components of every miracle: divine action and human responsibility. For a real miracle to take place, we must act with God, using whatever gifts, talents, and

abilities we have and directing them toward God's work. We need to follow the examples of Mary in the birth of Jesus, Jesus' followers when he healed them, and Jesus' disciples after he rose from the dead.

This Lent and Easter, use your God-given gifts and talents for God's glory, and get ready to be made for a miracle. To learn more about being made for a miracle, consider joining or hosting a small group this Lent season.

For additional information contact Karen Murray, DCE at education@meetwithGod.com or 856-222-1120.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*"I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.
I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me." John 17:21*

The above scripture is from Jesus' final prayer before being arrested and eventually crucified. From the context of the prayer it is clear that Jesus was praying specifically for his disciples; the ones who were closest to him, the ones with whom he had just celebrated the Passover meal. He was also praying for us, all of us! He gave a reason why it was so important for the disciples to believe that he was the Messiah, "...so that the world will believe that you (God) sent me." Consider this, the disciples were tasked with telling the world who Jesus was. The WORLD!

As I read through John chapters 15, 16, 17 and 18 again, I became filled with a feeling of excitement and anticipation. Each year during the season of Lent, (the seven weeks leading up to Easter) we are asked to contemplate the actions of Jesus, the disciples and the crowds. We are encouraged to go deeper and to grow in our own faith along the journey. At this church we have had wonderful Lenten studies over the years including ones written by Adam Hamilton, Philip Yancey and A.W.Tozer and yet, it still is not enough.

It is not enough to just let this season pass without taking a closer look as to what it really means to be a disciple of Christ, to acknowledge the sacrifice that Jesus made when he went to the cross and how his sacrificial love is the beginning of our reconciled life with God. It is not enough to look forward to the Resurrection on Easter morning without acknowledging the complete life of Jesus and it is not enough to continue on the sidelines hoping that you will enter the kingdom of heaven there must be an action. It is not enough for us to just glide through this season.

We must participate just as the disciples did long ago. We must be the ones who continue to tell the world about the child born in a manger and his unconditional love toward all people. We must be the ones that Jesus was praying for, his "now-a-day" disciples. It is our turn to tell the world about Jesus. So my question is, "What are you going to do to be the disciple that Jesus has called you to be in order to spread his love during this Lenten season?"

Grace and Peace,
Karen Murray, DCE

Important Dates:

- **March 6th, 7pm - Ash Wednesday Service (6:00 Soup Dinner)**
 - **Lenten Dessert & Study - Wednesdays at 6:45pm in the Heritage Room**
 - The Education Department's "**Winter Mission Adventure**" continues through March. We are collecting "Coins-for-Cancer". March 3rd - Nickels, March 10th - Dimes, March 17th - Quarters, March 24th - Dollars & March 31st ANY Spare Change!!
 - Thursday Afternoon **Children's Youth Group continues** to meet at 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Children between the ages of 5 & 5th grade are welcome. March 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
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LENTEN STUDY:

"Made for a Miracle" by Mike Slaughter - If you would like to **HOST** a Lenten Group in your home, or would like to be part of a small group please contact Karen Murray at 856-222-1120. All Hosts will receive the book with a Study Guide included free of charge.

**If you would like to order a book please contact Karen Murray. The cost of the book is \$8.00.



MUSIC NOTES

Recently I received a "Save the Date" card from the daughter of my college roommate for her wedding. It got me thinking that we have a lot of really awesome concerts coming up this spring that I hope you will "Save the Dates!"

First up is **Sunday, April 14th at 7PM**. This is Palm Sunday and this year the Adult Choir, Youth Choir and Friends will team up with our Youth Fellowship and present the Live Passion. It will be a meaningful way to start Holy Week and I am so excited about the intergenerational presentation of one of the most important weeks in the Christian calendar.

Next, **Saturday May 4th at 7PM**. We are hosting a concert by the Community Christian Choir located in Mercer County. This choir is about 120 strong and spans from children to adults. Their concert will have a multi-media aspect to it and the free-will offering of the evening will be dedicated to FUMC's Mission Committee. I know you will be blessed by their music!!

Then on **Sunday, June 2nd at 7PM**, we will host the Epworth Chorale and Handbell Choir from the First United Methodist Church in Boise, Idaho. Also known as the Cathedral of the Rockies! We will be part of the

choir's concert and mission tour. Our Youth Group will host them for dinner that evening prior to the concert and then we will be looking for host families to house the kids overnight. More will follow on how to sign up to be a host family!

Finally, June 28-30, our church is hosting the Young Organist Competition which is a part of the American Guild of Organist Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention sponsored by the Southwest Jersey Chapter. The public is invited to the Young Organist Competition Finalists Recital in our Sanctuary on **Sunday, June 30th at 2:30PM**. I hope you will plan to attend to hear these very talented and up and coming young organists. It will be a recital to remember. What an honor for us to be able to host the event!!

Now you can see why I wanted you "save the dates!" There are a lot of exciting and wonderful opportunities to hear some great music from a host of different choirs and organists!! I hope that you will come and be blessed by all of this awesome music!!!

Blessings!!
Donna Banes
Co-Music Leader



Baptisms:

Bedlyne Chery, son Zy'ahl Aiden and daughter Zy'kiya Denise on January 27, 2019

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR ABBA'S ANIMALS



Friends of the BC Animal Shelter is in great need of **used small ink cartridges**, which they recycle

through Staples to purchase all their office supplies. Please bring in your used ink cartridges from home or from smaller printers used in the workplace and deposit them in the container labeled "Used Ink Cartridges" in the Abba's Animals cabinet in the hall on the Pleasant Valley side of the Parlor.

Deaths:

- Henry Prouse on January 21, 2019
- Deanne Czeiner on January 22, 2019
- Robert Murray, Jr. on February 4, 2019
- June Krainik on February 5, 2019



The **Animal Sanctuary Society** needs **donations of large bags of dry dog food**. The program that has been providing free dog food to them was discontinued, so their need is great. Please place these donations in the Abba's Animals cabinet too. Questions: margmorgan75@gmail.com or 856-764-1247.



RECONCILING SUNDAY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, January 20th, we held our first "Reconciling Sunday" service. This was an opportunity to celebrate the belief that all persons, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation are created in the image of God and should be fully included in the life of the church. The service commemorated the congregation's affirmation that Jesus wants us to be fully inclusive and welcome all who seek to know God's grace and love. It was a time of asking God's forgiveness and healing for the pain caused by exclusion, and a joyful anticipation of a future without it.

In addition to several special music performances, guest speaker Reverend Dr. Marvin A. Marsh, retired and formerly of the First Baptist Church of Pottstown, PA delivered a powerful message that included sharing his own story. One of Dr. Marsh's points was that what this church is doing is what is normal. Even ordinary! This is some of the story that he shared:

"Yeah. Sorry about that to all of us who want desperately to be 'special.' But the truth is what we are affirming today is because of what we believe really is normal! Let's not slip into that heretical narcissism that declares being inclusive is 'special,' 'better than others,' or 'extraordinary.' I get weary of progressive churches that wallow in an identity of being 'special.' No, we do what we do because of the way we believe life really is!

Love is the standard by which we all live and breathe and have our being. Love is the ordinary ethic for us all. Now and forever. There is nothing exceptional about it. Its very nature is inclusion, and its destiny is to be ordinary throughout the cosmos."

Check out Dr. Marsh's sermon on our website meetwithGod.com, under the Care-Prayer-Share/reconciling team tab.

In the months to come, we plan to continue offering educational opportunities, seek partnerships with other like-minded communities of faith, and host events intended to reach out to the LGBTQ community.

Please join us! Contact Allan Hanlon at allanhanlon@gmail.com with questions.



CHILI & CHOCOLATE COOK OFF Sunday, March 24th

Do you have a favorite chili recipe? Are you vegan? Are you a vegetarian? Do you love cookies, chocolate and sweets? Do you just love your church family?! If you answered yes to any of these questions, we hope you'll join us for our first annual Chili and Chocolate Cook Off, Sunday, March 24 at 5pm.

To enter the contest, bring a batch of your favorite Chili or your favorite chocolate dessert (enough for 10-12 people, please!)

Expert judges will be in the house to judge the entries and award prizes! Categories for chili may include - Red Chili, White Chili, Chicken Chili, Meatless Chili, Vegan/Vegetarian Chili, One Alarm Chili, Two Alarm Chili and Three Alarm Chili. Chocolate categories may include - Cookies, Candy, Cupcakes, Pies, Cakes, Vegan, and Gluten-Free.

Tickets include chili, salad, cornbread, drinks and desserts! Tickets will be \$15 for adults, \$10 for children (\$40 per family max) and all proceeds will benefit the capital campaign for fire safety improvements! Tickets will be available in the church office, at the door or by contacting Lisa Kulp (trklkk@comcast.net) or Devika Gill (devikagill@comcast.net).

Bring us your best recipes, your family recipes, your tried and true favorites or a new creation - this promises to be a fun night! Look for additional information in the bulletin starting in March.



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.



FROM THE
MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee would like to thank you for your faith promise giving that will help our church provide financial support to our 27 ministries in furthering the kingdom of God. Unfortunately, with our recent budget cuts the only source of funding this year for missions will be through your faith promise giving. In the past 50% of our missions support came from the budget while the remaining 50% was through your faith promise. In all, the Missions Committee was grateful to have approximately \$90,000 each year that was distributed to missionaries in the field from both local and abroad. Although this may seem like a significant blow, perhaps this is a lesson God is teaching us about what faith promise really is and what it is not.

Over the past couple months I have spent time reflecting on what faith is, what it is not and reacquainting myself in the bible of how faith relates to our beliefs and good works. I think it is easier to define faith on what it is not. Faith is **not** the belief of something that you already have experienced by sight. For example, everyone knows that when an object is pushed off a table, it falls to the floor. We know this happens from our past experience because our eyes recognized this as truth. In fact, physics explains why this phenomenon happens in the first place. Many of the things we know as truth are the result of our senses experiencing something which science helps explain how and why this occurs in the first place. Yet this is *not* faith.

Hebrews 11:1 says that faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. The word hope is not used here like in our everyday talk where we are unsure of something. Instead, it means being *confident*. Jesus would often tell the people he healed not to tell anyone about the miracles he performed because he did not want anyone to place their belief in Him based on sight but on faith. The bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God. Then one may wonder how can one obtain faith if it is not by sight? The bible says that faith comes from hearing the message (Romans 10:17). When we hear God's message such as His plan for salvation and believe on His word, we are exhibiting faith. Having faith means that even though we have yet to experience every promise God tells us about in the bible, we know in our heart, soul and mind that one day God will carry out everything He says.

If one then is grounded in faith, is it ever possible to not have any good deeds to show for it? The answer is no. Our good deeds are the manifestation of our faith in Christ. James tell us in chapter 2 verses 14 to 26 that we cannot have faith without works. Although we are saved through faith by God's grace, our works confirm what we believe in and who we have faith in. Thank God all believers were given the Holy Spirit (our helper); who not only takes control of our lives (when we allow Him to) but gives us the desire and strength to do good deeds in the name of Jesus while giving us such joy when doing it! This is why James says that faith by itself without accompanied by action is dead. In other words it is not possible to say you have faith in Christ without doing good works.

One of the ways we can continue to be faithful through exhibiting good deeds is by giving generously to faith promise. The money that our church receives from your faith promise giving goes directly to the missionaries in the field who make a difference in furthering God's kingdom. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians, 9:6-7 that whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Paul goes on to say that each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. We on the Missions Committee would be very appreciative if you would prayerfully consider going above and beyond your giving toward our church budget and consider donating to faith promise as you will be blessed in doing so. Please pray that God will continue to supply all of our missionaries' financial needs and that with your help we will be able to continue to provide the same level of support as in the past.

Thank You and God Bless You!
Allan Estrin
Mission Committee Member

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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!





March MYF News

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -- MYF

Sunday nights 6pm--8pm in the youth rooms downstairs below Fellowship Hall

Jr. High - 6th -- 8th Grades

6pm-7pm Small Groups

7pm-8pm MYF Activities

8pm--Dismiss

Sr. High - 9th -- 12 Grades

6pm-7pm Small Groups

7pm-8pm MYF Activities

8:00pm--Dismiss or stay for "hang time", which is optional until 8:30pm and gives Sr. High time just to "hang out" and fellowship together.

SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR OPPORTUNITY - 4 WEEK SERIES - WE NEED YOU! We're looking for facilitators for Jr. & Sr. High for April 28th through May 19th. All materials will be provided. The small groups meet on Sunday night from 6-7:00pm in the youth rooms. If you are interested in committing to a 4-week series small group with our youth, please contact me for more information; Kathy Clawges 856-912-1148 or kclawges@gmail.com. (you do not have to have children in youth group to participate). Thank you for your consideration!

Bible Study-- Jr. & Sr. High Wednesday nights 6pm-8pm. We resume on March 6th with a Lenten study. For questions, please contact Kathy Clawges 856-912-1148 or kclawges@gmail.com. If you would like to volunteer to facilitate a Bible study for Jr. High, please contact me -- all material will be provided.

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Choir will meet on Sunday nights at 5:30pm in the Heritage Room.



SPAGHETTI DINNER

March 16

4:30pm - 7pm

LOCATION: Fellowship Hall

Let us cook dinner for you! Help support youth missions!

Tickets will be available in Fellowship Hall after 9:30 service. For questions, contact Kathy Clawges, kclawges@gmail.com or Robin Stepp at rlstepp@comcast.net

Adults \$10.00 Children and seniors \$8.00

Continued on next page

Youth News, *continued*



CREATION FESTIVAL NORTHEAST

June 26 - June 30

8AM - 8AM

LOCATION: Mount Union, PA

A TRIBUTE TO OUR CREATOR!! AGAPE FARM, PA

Join us for the biggest music festival in the Northeast! ALL ages & families are welcome to come.

There's a great music line-up so far, including, David Crowder, Skillet, Elevation Worship, Hillsong Worship, Tenth Ave North, Mandisa & Andy Mineo, just to name a few. So far speakers include, Bob Lenx, Reggie Dabbs, Vince Vitale, Jo Vitale, Alycia Wood, etc....

There's also a great Kids & Family Stage!

Total cost is \$130, includes tickets to the festival & food. Kids 12 & under \$65. Kids 0-6 free. A \$75 (non-refundable) deposit is due by February 28, 2019. We will have a quick information meeting during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall, Feb 24th (10:30am).

We will also participate in a recycle project with AdventureServe Ministries. Last year we recycled 1.75 tons of plastic -- that's over 1.5 tons more than the year before when we didn't help with this project. This is a great opportunity for community service hours if needed.

For more information contact Kathy Clawges 856-912-1148 or kclawges@gmail.com

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Five Tips to Eliminate Stress in Your Home

*Jim Burns - President of HomeWord and Executive Director of
the HomeWord Center for Youth and Family at Azusa Pacific University*

Families are in need of more calm and less stress! The breathless pace we're living in is tearing families apart. Still, there is something that can be done about the stress you and your family experiences. A lot of stress can be removed if you make the tough choices necessary to gain control over your schedule.

Here are 5 choices you can make to help eliminate the stress in your life:

1. Create a Calm Environment at Home. Make your home a safe, calm haven from the madness going on in the outside world. Try not to overreact to circumstances of home life. Sure, many issues need to be addressed, but when you get angry or frustrated, overreactions are common and family stress levels rise. Look to cool down before you respond to such situations.
2. Refresh Your Spirit. Make time for God everyday. Reading a daily devotional each day is a great way to refresh your spirit in the presence of God. Encourage your family to do the same. Consider a regular family devotional time.
3. Renew Your Body. To eliminate stress, we need to be people who reflect balance in our physical lives. Everyone in your family needs plenty of rest, exercise, and a healthy diet.
4. Strengthen Family Relationships. Our families provide us with relational connections that will sustain us through both good times and bad. Strained or broken family relationships are naturally accompanied by stress. To eliminate stress, take the lead with your family to make sure your relationships become and stay healthy.
5. Roll with the Punches. No family is exempt from difficulties in life. Some are brief "moments" while others are "seasons." How we respond to the hard times is a determining factor of whether or not stress will wreak havoc with our family. Stay flexible when the tough times happen and your family will still be standing when those times have passed.

In the end, your family's stress levels have a lot to do with your own choices. You can choose to let busyness, over-commitment, and hard times take their toll on your family, or you can proactively make choices to lower the stress your family experiences. Begin today by making choices to ruthlessly eliminate stress in your home!