



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

JULY 2019



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School begins July 7th at 9:30 a.m. for children ages 5 - 2nd grade.

We will meet in Room E104.

Volunteer Teachers & Helpers are needed. Please email Karen Murray at education@meetwithGod.com to volunteer.

REMINDER:
Vacation Bible School registrations are due by July 25th!
Visit www.meetwithGod.com for more details.



GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP Beginning July 10th

First UMC will be holding a GriefShare support group on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00pm in the Parlor, beginning on July 10th. GriefShare is a special weekly support group for people grieving the death of someone close. It is a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. For more information, contact Pastor HeyYoung at 856-235-0450 or email at heyyoung@meetwithGod.com.

MUSIC NOTES



Pick your favorite hymn is back!!! Many of you may remember that over the summer we would take time in the service for members of the congregation to call out their favorite hymn to sing. We are going to do this again at our 8:30 & 11 AM services. This long-time favorite tradition will be kicked off on June 30th with Bob McCoy leading us in 2-3 Gospel favorites at 11 AM. So, the teacher in me is assigning "homework" - start looking through the hymn book for your favorite hymn and be ready to call it out!! We will follow John Wesley's Directions for Singing by "Singing all, singing lustily, singing modestly, singing in time and above all singing spiritually!!

Donna Banes
Co-Music Leader

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jul. 4th Independence Day - church office closed
- Jul. 7th Summer Sunday School starts - 9:30am
- Jul. 7-13 The Philadelphia Project mission trip
- Jul 10th Grief Support group begins - 2:00pm
- Jul. 14th Light Harbor at Avista - 2:30pm
- Jul. 17th Youth at Ocean City beach -9am-8:30pm
- Jul. 20th Eyes of Our Hearts breakfast - 7:00am
- Jul. 24th Youth Kickball & Apple Pie - 6-8pm
- Jul. 31st Youth Movie Night - 6-8pm



FROM
PASTOR TOM

“Communing with Nature”

“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?”

Psalm 8:3-4

It's a common tradition among all the major world religions that the handiwork of God can be seen in all creation - including and especially you and me. I love the way that Paul puts it in Ephesians 2: “For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works.” The Greek word that Paul uses to describe us here is *poiema* - from which derives our English word “poem.” The way that Paul is using it can be more closely translated as “achievement” or “workmanship” - which means that the next time someone says to you, “you're a real piece of work,” you can proudly reply, “Yes I am!”

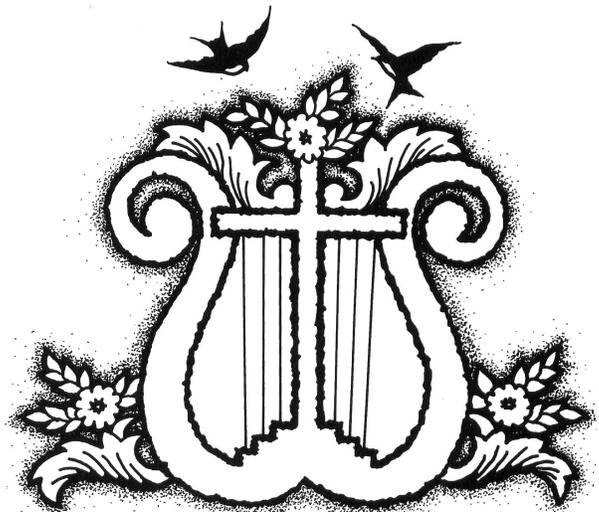
it to remind us that it reflects something of God which makes it a part of us.

As the summer season begins, I hope that on those weekends when we don't see you at church, it's because you're “communing with nature” in whatever way speaks best to you - and that by doing that, you're connecting in a very foundational way with your Creator!

Peace!
Pastor Tom

For some reason, however, Christianity has been a bit reluctant to embrace the truth of God's presence in all the created world. Ever since the enlightenment and the need for rational definitions, creation seems to have taken a back seat when it comes to revealing the divine imprint of God. Ironically, the type of reverence and respect for nature's resources that is a part of ancient Christian traditions is probably best represented most recently in Eastern religions as well as Native American spirituality. One of the best classes I took in graduate school was a study on Native American religions - largely because it reminded me of an important segment of early Christian theology that we seem to shun these days.

“Mystery” is an important part of the spiritual journey that we lost when we started practicing what some have called “an idolatry of words.” In other words, answers are not to be found for every question. Sometimes, living in the “mystery” is the best we can do - and often it takes us to deeper spiritual thought. This is why, I believe, that it's important for us to “commune with nature” - if you allow me to borrow that well-worn phrase from the 1960's. We don't have to figure out the created world around us. All we need to do is experience it, be inspired by it, take care of it, and allow



FOR YOU MAKE ME **GLAD** BY YOUR DEEDS,
O LORD;
I SING FOR **JOY** AT THE WORKS OF YOUR
HANDS.

P S A L M 9 2 : 4



**FROM THE DIRECTOR
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Hebrews 13:8 (NRSV)

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Dear Friends,

As I sit at my desk writing a Messenger article (which I've done so many times before), I can not help but think about how much has changed since I first became employed as the youth director back in 2000 and yet, how much has stayed the same. As I begin sharing my time between this church and Masonville UMC, I know one thing that will not change and that is that this church will continue to be a church that desires to reach out to the hurting world with our words and actions through the Christian Education Department (For that I am truly thankful!)

It's true I am a few years older and I'd like to think a few years wiser, those are good changes, but more than anything I hope that I have been a witness to the never-changing love of Christ. I know with confident assurance that because of my time here I have grown in my faith, I have grown in my dependence on the love of God and I have grown in all the fruits of the spirit. (*Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Gal. 5:22*)

The scripture above reminds us that our Lord is the same at all times no matter the circumstances. The faithfulness of Christ and the power of his love are always available, that never changes. The steadfastness of his presence is with us, all we have to do is call on it and God will provide. On that we can rely!

Change is good, God is good, growing in your relationship, trusting in God is good and claiming the truth that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever is good.

My heartfelt prayer is that while some things here at First Church may be changing we will never stop depending on and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with all that we meet, that should never change.

~Grace and Peace
Pastor Karen Murray, DCE

IT'S BACK!!

Friends, On July 7th at the 9:30 Worship Service we will begin having “Children's Chat” every week after which time the children will be dismissed to enjoy a Bible Lesson, some playground time and a snack. ALL Children ages 2yrs. - 4th grade are invited to come to the Altar (when called) to enjoy a short message. When the message is finished the children will be dismissed. This will occur every week in July & August. Beginning in September it will once again return to one time a month on the 4th Sunday of the month. We LOVE having your children in Worship and we know that through this opportunity MANY lives will be changed.

Please support this effort and bring your children to the 9:30 Worship Service!

(Children's Bulletins are also available at EACH of our 4 Worship Services.)

SUMMER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Beginning July 7th at 9:30 (After the Children's Sermon) Children's SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Children through 2nd Grade in Rm. E-104

Volunteer Teachers & Helpers Needed!

(Contact Karen Murray 856-266-0083 to volunteer. Curriculum Provided.)

ADULT CLASSES

9:30 - “Fruit of the Spirit” in the Library beginning July 7th

11:00 - Sermon Discussion Group in Room E-203

Reminder: VBS REGISTRATIONS due by JULY 25th. Visit www.meetwithGod.com for more details.

**PHILADELPHIA
PRIDE FEST REPORT**

Many thanks to all who supported this event with their time and prayers. Those present at the Penn's Landing festival on June 9, were truly blessed to 'be' the FUMC mission statement. We shared a message of apology for the harm that the church has done and we were touched by the numerous people who stopped at the table to thank us for just being there. People of all ages, many of whom were formerly affiliated with a variety of denominations, had stories of rejection from their churches and even told us how different they would feel if they had a church with a message like ours. We felt a beautiful, healing presence as we shared space and love with our LGBTQ siblings. Never has handing out stickers and gumballs been so full of meaning!!! One of our most memorable messages was from a woman who walked up to our table and said, "I am an atheist and this is the best table at PRIDE fest." We were humbled and blessed by this experience.



Deaths:

Jack Weiss
on June 8, 2019

**ABBA'S ANIMALS
DONATION REQUEST**



The Animal Sanctuary Society is asking for help to feed a dog named Brianna, whose owner adopted her from them nine years ago as a puppy. An older man, he recently had to move out of state to live with his daughter and couldn't take Brianna with him. Brianna needs special food - Royal Canin Digestive Health dry food for medium sized mature dogs - which is more expensive than regular dog food. If you would like to help Brianna while she is waiting to be adopted, you can place a bag of her dog food in the Abba's Animals cupboard on the Pleasant Valley side of the Parlor, or send a donation to Animal Sanctuary Society c/o Bedlam Kennel, 10 Eayrestown Rd., Southampton, NJ 08088. Questions: margmorgan75@gmail.com or 856-764-1247.

**LOOKING FOR
AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE?**

From the Worship Committee:

The Worship Committee came through the Winter and Spring successfully. There are many programs and many people who volunteer throughout the year to make sure the services run smoothly and we are very thankful that the right help comes at the right time. We thank God often for the commitment of our members.

This summer we are facing a new challenge. And many of our talented and tech savvy members would not even consider this a challenge. The Worship Committee needs help with the projection of the worship services on Sunday. The technical support person will operate the program as the service moves along. We will offer the training needed to do this task. If any Scouts or college bound students need a community service project, this would be an easy way to get some hours. We need teenagers and adults to help us out on Sunday mornings. Our hope is, that with enough volunteers, we could work out an easy schedule for all.

For further information, please contact Alice Davidson, 856-305-0695.

From the Property Committee:

WANTED: PEOPLE WHO HATE WEEDS

Have you noticed our beautiful gardens all around the church? Well, we're looking for some new able hands to help keep them looking their best. If you have a green thumb, or even a brown one, and are willing to spend even an hour a month pitching in, we could use your help! Contact John Halligan (halliganjk@comcast.net) or call the church office (856-235-0450) to join up, or to get more information. Help us keep things looking beautiful. Thanks!

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!



YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER 2019



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

MISSION TRIPS:

June 23rd - 30th - AdventureServe Ministries/Music & Missions - Sr. High, College & Young Adults

July 7th - 13th - The Philadelphia Project Youth Mission Trip - Jr. & Sr. High

July 17th - Ocean City Beach Day; Parents & siblings welcomed.

We will leave the church parking lot at 9:00am and return at 8:30pm

Cost: \$10 for beach tag / spending money for boardwalk / bring bagged lunch

July 24th - Kickball & Apple Pie

Join us at 6-8pm in the church parking lot for "Kickball & Apple Pie". Parents & siblings welcomed.

July 31st - "Movie Night" 6-8pm. Movie TBA

August 2nd - "A Closer Walk" Retreat on Wildwood beach

One day only. Leave Friday morning 7:00am. Cost per ticket \$49

Includes: rides + water parks, speaker, worship sessions & t-shirt. Parents & siblings welcomed.

August 7th - Ocean City Beach Day; Parents & siblings welcomed.

We will leave the church parking lot at 9:00am and return at 8:30pm

Cost: \$10 for beach tag / spending money for boardwalk / bring bagged lunch

August 10th - Kayaking (cost & time TBA- will leave early morning); Parents & siblings welcomed.

August 14th - Six Flags (cost & time TBA)

August 19th - 23rd - Vacation Bible School - Youth participation (community service hours given)

August 23rd - Peach Festival - Jr. & Sr. High participation (community service hours given)

August 28th- Ocean City Beach Day

We will leave the church parking lot at 9:00am and return at 8:30pm

Cost: \$10 for beach tag / spending money for boardwalk / bring bagged lunch

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

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