



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church Newsletter
446 Camden Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057
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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

AUGUST 2019



JOIN US AT THE PEACH FESTIVAL!
Friday, August 23rd
4:30 - 7:30 pm

Fresh peaches, baked goods, ice cream, hamburgers, hot dogs and more!

Concert by
Kings Road Revival
6:30 - 7:30 pm
in the courtyard

Kids' games, too!

Tickets available in the church office
or at the door
\$7.00 per person, \$20.00 for a family
and children under 5 are free.

Please bring canned good for the
Moorestown Food Pantries

PEACH FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Your help is needed with peeling peaches on Thursday, August 22nd at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. We also need cakes and other baked goods to go with the peaches (can be dropped off in the kitchen Aug. 22nd or 23rd), help with serving and help with cleaning up after the Festival. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex soon. Thank you!



UMC UPDATE

Tuesday, August 6th
7:00 pm

Do you know what the “Traditional Plan” and the “One Church Plan” are? Do you know the challenges and issues that the United Methodist denomination is facing following the adoption of the Traditional Plan by the General Conference? If you have questions about these matters, please join Pastors Tom & HeyYoung in the Heritage Room at 7 pm on Tuesday August 6, 2019 for an update and discussion of these topics.

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

Aug. 2nd Youth@ A Closer Walk, Wildwood-7am
Aug. 4th VBS training - 6:30pm
Aug. 6th UMC Update - 7:00pm
Aug. 7th Youth@ Ocean City Beach-9am-8:30pm
Aug. 10th Youth Kayaking
Aug. 11th Light Harbor at Avista - 2:30pm
Aug. 13th VBS training - 7:00pm
Aug. 14th Youth at Six Flags
Aug. 17th Eyes of Our Hearts Breakfast - 7:00am
Aug. 19-23 Vacation Bible School - 9am-Noon
Aug. 22nd VBS Family Night - 7:00pm
Aug. 22nd Peach Peeling - 7:00pm
Aug. 23rd Peach Festival - 4:30pm
Aug. 24th Missions pot luck - 3:00pm
Aug. 24-25 Missions speakers - all services
Aug. 28th Youth@ Ocean City Beach-9am-8:30pm



FROM
PASTOR TOM

“Come and Worship!”

*“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
Come into his presence with singing.”*

Psalm 100

It's hard to pigeon-hole your pastor when it comes to my worship style. Some pastors are easy to identify as being “high church,” “low church,” “traditional,” “contemporary,” or even what's called “emerging.” I guess I prefer a variety of approaches. For instance, while I find contemporary forms of worship to be quite powerful, I wouldn't necessarily want to worship that way all the time. Likewise, some order in worship appeals to me and gives me a sense of direction that I'd miss if we did something entirely different every week - although, too much order that borders of idolatry isn't good either.

As you can tell, I view worship in a similar way that I view music - I appreciate and value almost all forms of it!

Actually, when it comes to worship, what's much more important to me isn't the particular “flavor of the month” - it's the meaning behind the “flavor.” If we dress in our Sunday best, stand and sit at the correctly appointed times, sing the right songs, and practice communion in the prescribed manner, are we doing so because we think we're fulfilling some requirement?

Worship should never be about vacant ceremonies and hollow routines - it should be about meaning. Meaning, after all, is what motivates us to live the type of life that Jesus calls us to live - a life of compassion, and forgiveness, and peace, and generosity, and love. Worship is not about entertainment - although it can be entertaining in that it moves us to something greater in our lives.

Why do you worship? Out of duty? Out of routine? Out of obligation? Let's remember that God doesn't want our worship to be void of what really matters in life. God wants our worship to be authentic and empowering. God wants our worship to be spirit-led, spirit-filled, and spirit-ed - and God wants all of us, not just the pastors and worship leaders, to fully engage in the worship experience by offering ourselves completely during that hour!

So, come and worship - and feel the power of the Holy Spirit as we sing praises to God and hear God's holy word for our lives!

Peace!
Pastor Tom

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Deaths:

Esther Wesley
on June 28, 2019

Sam Townsend
on July 19, 2019

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**

*"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."
Psalm 119:11 NLT*

These words remind me that each day we are to render the word of God into our heart. We are to make time to be in God's presence with a fully committed heart, mind and spirit. Distractions are all around us and we (myself included) try to do way too much at one time.

I think of Martha and Mary in Luke 10. Jesus was coming to their home and Martha was busy doing chores. Then when Jesus arrived instead of putting aside the distractions she challenged Jesus to scold her sister Mary. By being so consumed with all those distractions, she missed the best part of the day; sitting at Jesus' feet.

I wonder how often we miss the best part of our day because we did not take time to sit at Jesus' feet. Yes, we might read a quick devotional and maybe even think about the message that the pastor gave the week before or maybe we listen to a Christian song and think, "that's good enough."

Jesus does not want our "Good Enough" Jesus wants our best, our complete devotion. By spending undistracted time at the feet of Jesus, reading God's word, that is how we learn to hide God's word in our heart so that we might not sin against our Lord.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Karen Murray, DCE

Important Dates...

**Vacation Bible School - 9am-12pm, Monday, August 19th - Friday, August 23rd
To Volunteer, Please call Karen Murray at 856-222-1120**

****Our VOLUNTEER training sessions for VBS are Sunday, August 4th at 6:30pm & Tuesday, August 13th at 7:00pm in the Resource Room. ** If you'd like to volunteer Please Just Show UP! Youth & Young Adult helpers welcome.**

Sunday School Resumes for all ages - September 8th, 9:30 & 11:00 To volunteer as a teacher or helper, please contact Karen Murray.

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 21st & 22nd - Fall Rummage Sale! Set-up on Saturday, October 19th & Sunday, October 20th.

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FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee is looking for some help with putting up the banners that hang in the worship areas. The banners are changed during the liturgical seasons of the year and also to mark upcoming special events. Rosemary Smith, who has done this task for a long while, has offered to acclimate new volunteers to this program. If interested in helping the Worship Committee please give Alice Davidson a call at 856-305-0695. Thank you!



MUSIC NOTES

I am a fan of the game *Trivial Pursuit*, while I haven't played in a while, remembering trivial information was always kind of fun. I recently ran across this article about hymns that I found interesting! Will it show up in the next round of Trivial Pursuit, who knows, fun all the same!!

Donna Banes
Co-Music Leader

The Golden Age of Hymns: Did You Know?

JAMES TOWNSEND

The eighteenth century saw dramatic changes in the content, and practice, of congregational song. Note, for example, how the rendering of one psalm changed.

John and Charles Wesley published 56 collections of hymns in 53 years.

“Amazing Grace” - Americans' favorite hymn according to the Gallup Poll - was written by the former captain of a slave ship. That “wretch,” John Newton, eventually became an Anglican minister and worked to abolish the slave trade.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” was originally written as “Hark! How All the Welkin Rings” (meaning “how all the heaven rings”).

Thankfully, Charles Wesley's popular Christmas carol was changed by his friend George Whitefield, the famous evangelist who sparked America's Great Awakening.

Charles Wesley was an accomplished field preacher, who on occasion addressed crowds of 10,000 and 20,000 people. He experienced considerable opposition, sometimes from rock-throwing mobs. In fact, his well-known hymn “Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim” was written “to be sung in a tumult.”

Eighteenth-century hymnbooks were usually only collections of texts - they did not include musical notes. The first American hymnal to join tunes with texts was not published until 1831.

The usual method of singing in church was by “lining out” - having a leader say one line, and the congregation repeat it. (This was done because hymnbooks were expensive, and many worshipers could not read.) People

did not sing one line immediately after another, as they do now.

The singing of hymns was not officially approved in the Church of England until 1820.

Isaac Watts, who wrote such well-known hymns as “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” and “Joy to the World,” was an accomplished writer in many areas. He wrote a textbook on logic that was used at Oxford. His children's hymnal may be the most popular children's classic ever published. *Alice in Wonderland* parodied some of its hymns (for example, “Tis the Voice of the lobster, I heard him declare.”)

John Wesley's first two published books of tunes included only a melody line, because he held serious doubts about the propriety of singing in parts.

Throughout Charles Wesley's life, his Methodist companions sang none of his hymns in Sunday worship. (Throughout Wesley's lifetime, Methodists stayed in the Anglican church, which did not employ the new hymns in worship. Wesley's hymns were sung in informal Methodist gatherings during the week.)

William Cowper, who wrote a classic hymn on God's providence - “God Moves in a Mysterious Way His Wonders to Perform” - tried a number of times to commit suicide. He suffered from mental illness.

Many early hymns contained more than a dozen stanzas. Charles Wesley's “Soldiers of Christ, Arise,” for example, originally boasted 18 stanzas. Brother John Wesley included only 12 of these in his 1780 hymnbook - and he divided them into 3 separate hymns.

In eighteenth-century England, many hymns contained rhyming words that no longer rhyme today. For example, *join* could rhyme with *divine* or *thine*; and *convert* could rhyme with *art*.

The first hymnbook of the Wesley's was published not in England but in America (in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1737). And it contained no texts by Charles Wesley. For his effort, John Wesley was “arraigned before a grand jury for altering authorized psalms and for introducing unauthorized compositions into church services.”

Continued on next page

Music Notes, continued

Peter Böhler, who helped lead John and Charles Wesley to experience conversions, once said, "If I had a thousand tongues, I'd praise Christ with them all." Charles Wesley expanded this stray comment into lines that became the well-known hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing."

Augustus Toplady, who wrote the famous hymn "Rock of Ages," called John Wesley a "tadpole in divinity." Wesley in turn called Toplady "the most rancorous hater of the gospel system." Nevertheless, in Toplady's 1776 hymnal, "Rock of Ages" stood next to Charles Wesley's "Jesu, Lover of My Soul."

There is evidence that Toplady plagiarized his most famous hymn ("Rock of Ages") from his opponent, Charles Wesley!

Isaac Watts's collection of psalms and hymns was still selling as many as 60,000 copies per year over 100 years after it was published. His *Psalms of David* went through 31 editions in its first 50 years, including a 1729 reprinting issued by Benjamin Franklin.

Augustus Toplady wrote 6 hymns; William Cowper wrote 68; John Newton wrote 280; Philip Doddridge wrote around 400; and Isaac Watts wrote 697. But Charles Wesley wrote 8,989.

Though not usually known for writing hymns, John Wesley did write several original hymns, and he translated many from German.

John Wesley often severely edited his brother Charles's hymns, both for length and theology. When Charles wrote "Thou didst in love Thy servant leave," John wrote in the margin, "Never!"

Dr. James Townsend is Bible editor at David C. Cook Publishing Co. and author of eight volumes in The Bible Mastery Series (Cook).

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

If so, why not consider becoming part of the 9:30 am worship team - Kings Road Revival? We practice on Monday nights at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Norm Dorrell, Co-Music Leader at nedriffed@aol.com

**MISSIONARY GUESTS
AT FUMC
August 24th & 25th**



Lowell & Claudia Wertz are missionaries of Joy in the Harvest in Africa, and will be our guests the weekend of August 24th. It's a busy weekend with the Peach Festival but I hope that you can make time to hear their story in depth at 3:00 Saturday, Aug. 24th for a potluck dinner and fellowship. Everyone bring a covered dish to share; I'm sure we'll have peaches left over from the day before so most likely no desserts will be needed. Please come and hear their story and socialize. The Wertz's will be here for the weekend speaking for 5 minutes at each service. The potluck will be a chance to hear the full story. Looking forward to spending time with you all.

Judi Angelow
Missions Chair

**CAPITAL DISTRICT
MISSION TRIP
October 2019**

The Capital District of United Methodists of Greater New Jersey is organizing a District-wide mission trip to Puerto Rico in October 2019 to assist our sisters and brothers in their spiritual and physical rebuilding. On Sept. 16, 2017 the island was impacted by Hurricane Irma, causing significant flooding and damaging the power infrastructure. Only 14 days later, Hurricane Maria hit the island - the strongest hurricane ever to form in the Atlantic Ocean. Hurricane Maria was rated a Category 5 storm. The entire island endured 175+ mile per hour winds and more than 40 inches of rain, leaving behind a path of destruction and devastation. The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, and Rehace Inc., the social holiness arm of the Methodist Church in Puerto Rico, reports that between February and December 2018, 108 teams, with a total of 1,151 volunteers, have served to help rebuild Puerto Rico. Yet, there remain 35,000 houses with blue tarps covering their damaged roofs! If you are interested in going on this mission trip or would like more information, please contact Pastor Tom, 856-235-0450 or tom@meetwithGod.com.