



The Lantern

NEWSLETTER OF MT. LEBANON UMC
EST. 1812

Dates to Remember

**AUGUST 20: COURTNEY &
CHRISTIAN'S BABY
SHOWER - FOLLOWING
WORSHIP**

**AUGUST 27: BLESSING OF THE
STUDENTS & TEACHERS**

AUGUST 28 - SEPT 1: OFFICE CLOSED

**SEPTEMBER 6: ADMIN COUNCIL
MEETING @ 7PM**

**SEPTEMBER 12: TRUSTEES
MEETING @ 7PM**

**SEPTEMBER 20: MISSIONS
MEETING @ 7PM**



**SACRED
GROUNDS**

Mt. Lebanon has been selected to receive the NWF (National Wildlife Federation's) "Sacred Grounds" certification.

Sacred Grounds recognizes places of worship that have committed themselves to growing native plants and pollinators that encourage insect and bird life. The upgrade of our landscaping last year and continued commitment to incremental growth in the future garnered us the award. Look for a plaque and a new NWF banner real soon!

-Your Trustees Committee-

**Happy
Summer!**



A Moment for Missions

Our team of seven prepared and served dinner to families at the Ronald McDonald House on June 10. If you missed this date, we plan to do dinner again in October, so hopefully you can join us. Watch for the specific date in an upcoming email.

Our July 2 Stars and Stripes Sunday was one of those events that so vividly portrayed how the efforts of many results in a magical afternoon of special music, delicious food, gracious fellowship and amazing generosity. We raised \$1000 to fund care packages for Eric Lindsay and Thomas Godfrey and their units. Thank you to each of you who contributed your talents, time and gifts to make the event so special and one where all of the church's parking places were filled. Praise God!

Our July 23 event to pack individual bags of cookies and write notes of encouragement for our Sunday and Wednesday evening N.A. guests is FAST APPROACHING! Both home baked and store bought cookies are welcomed. Please bring your cookies to church on Sunday for packing after fellowship hour.

We will be hosting dinner for families in the Family Promise rotational program on September 9 at the Jesus House on Milltown Road in Wilmington. The sign-up sheet will be available in August in Fellowship Hall or you can call the church office at (302) 652-8411 to sign up.

Please look for the Special Sundays Offerings invitation letter that will be mailed in late August or early September. We began this one time offering eight years ago, rather than having seven individual offerings throughout the year. This method has proven to be convenient for our members and friends. The Missions Team does invite you to share your thoughts if you have suggestions.



NEXT MEETING:
Wed. September 20
@ 7pm

From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

As the FIFA Women's World Cup (the Olympics of soccer, for anyone who may be unaware) takes place in Australia and New Zealand, our US Women's National Team is projected to fare well. We are the defending champions, and with some of the biggest names in women's soccer on our team, we can reasonably hold high hopes of victory.

As a former soccer player myself, the action playing out across my tv screen captivates me. I remember how physical the game is, as I was a high school soccer player; but my game was nowhere near the level at which these ladies play! After sitting on the bench for my whole 9th grade season, I worked hard to become the heart of the JV team's defense in 10th grade. (That was my career high; an ACL/ MCL tear that summer would place a stumbling block before me for my 11th grade season, and I once again had the honor of sitting on the bench on the Varsity team in 12th grade.)

My sophomore job as a defender was to be (if I might borrow a phrase from current soccer slang) a "brick wall." I had to make sure that the ball never got past me. It helped me that my friend Emily was our goalie, and a new one at that; the situation activated my impulses to protect my friend and to serve my team. It meant the world to me that Emily's father once told my dad on the sideline, "Emily always feels much better when Kelly is playing. She knows that ball won't be getting anywhere near her!" To me, it was the best compliment. I was a guardian, and that was my place on the team. I didn't care if my aim was true or not; if the ball got to me, it was going up-field as soon as I could get a foot on it, because that was my job. And I knew how to do it well.

As Christians, we are like a soccer team that plays with a common purpose, each with our own positions and jobs on the team. Just like a soccer team has forwards (also called strikers) whose job it is to score goals, many Christians stand on the front lines of innovation in teaching, community organizing, and ministry development, providing new and insightful ways for the local church to grow. Just as a soccer team has midfielders whose job it is to move between the offense and defense, sliding into position where needed and keeping up their endurance to lend a helping hand (or more accurately, perhaps a helping "foot!"), many Christians like to step into formation by filling in the gaps in church work, doing their best to serve where they are needed and keeping the team on task. And just as a soccer team has defenders, like I was, many Christians find that they are best at looking out for their neighbors - not caring only for their friends, but for all of those with whom they share a community. Churches need all of these types of Christians in order to form a team - and in order to help the goalie (in this metaphor, I imagine that the goalie might actually be Jesus) to keep the ball moving forward - and not backward, so as to lose a point.

Which kind of Christian are you? Where do you fit on the team? (And don't say your role is to stay on the bench, because Jesus calls no one to sit out of the Christian life!) Where do you find God calling you to step up for your team - for your church? And what is our church's purpose, or the reason why we "play" on a team together?

With great love and steadfastness,

Rev. Kelly Conner, MDiv, ThM

Pastor of Mt. Lebanon and Chester Bethel UMCs, Wilmington, DE

