

# The Lantern

NEWSLETTER OF MT. LEBANON UMC  
EST. 1812

## Dates to Remember

### **MAY 4**

ADMIN COUNCIL MEETING - 7PM  
\*IN PERSON

### **MAY 8**

RMN INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 12PM  
\*IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FELLOWSHIP HOUR

### **MAY 18**

MISSIONS MEETING - 7PM

### **MAY 19**

PRE-ANNUAL CONFERENCE BRIEFING &  
ORIENTATION - 7PM  
\*ZOOM MEETING

### **MAY 21**

ALL-CHURCH WORKDAY - 9AM THRU 12PM  
\*PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED FOR LUNCH

### **JUNE 11**

HIGHMARK WALK FOR A HEALTHY  
COMMUNITY

### **JUNE 16 - 18**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
\*ZOOM MEETING

## Reminder!

*While July may seem like it's worlds away,  
it will be here before we know it.*

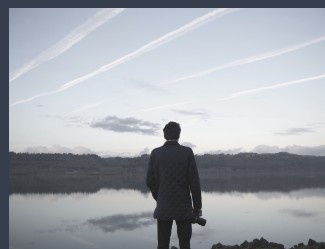
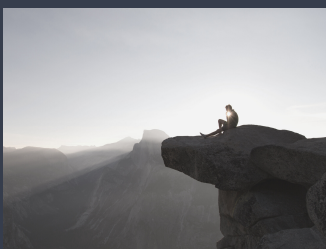
*We'll be smack dab in the middle of the  
summer season and will have some  
adjustments to make with Pastor Kelly  
beginning to serve for Chester-Bethel UMC!*

*This is an exciting time but also a time of  
change. Our Sunday Services, starting on  
July 3, will be held at 9:30am with  
Fellowship Hour following immediately  
after at 10:30am.*

## Follow us on our socials!

 Mt Lebanon UMC - Wilmington

 @mtlebanonumc\_de



## **Upcoming Event Registration Information**

### **Pre-Annual Conference Briefing & Orientation**

May 19 at 7pm

### **Annual Conference**

June 16-18

\*Registration Information TBD\*

### **Highmark Walk For A Healthy Community**

The primary goal of the walk is to help participating organizations raise money for their individual missions. 100% of the funds raised through this event go directly back to the participating organizations, as Highmark underwrites all the associated costs of the event.

To register, visit [walkforahealthycommunity.org](http://walkforahealthycommunity.org)!



## **Reconciling Ministries Network**

### **Mission**

Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

### **History**

The language of our mission comes from the United Methodist baptismal vow, and that's our charge. Simply put, we work to advance justice and inclusion for all LGBTQ people in The United Methodist Church and beyond.

Since 1984, RMN has worked to transform hearts, churches, and communities. We do that through grassroots organizing, resourcing and educating, denomination-level change-making, pastoral care, and working with you: faithful people hopeful for a reconciled Church.

RMN began as a faith-based response to institutionalized homophobia braided into the fabric of The United Methodist Church. Now, over 30 years later, the Reconciling movement spans four continents, 1,000+ churches, and 40,000+ individuals. And we're still growing. Love is still growing.

\*To learn more, visit [RMNetwork.org](http://RMNetwork.org)!

## Missions Team Note

The Missions Team thanks each of you who baked, brought and packed cookies and wrote cards of encouragement to our NA group guests who meet here on Wednesday and Sunday nights. We also had enough cookies to share with the art class that meets on Monday afternoons in the kitchen.

We are exploring the possibility of partnering with Aldersgate UMC on Concord Pike to distribute food boxes once a month. This would be under the current H.O.P.P. (Harvest Outreach People Project) which is composed of various United Methodist Churches in Wilmington and New Castle.

Just a reminder that we are participating in the 2022 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on June 11th at the Riverfront in Wilmington. It is exciting to be able to participate in person for the first time since 2019. The walk is 5 kilometers (3.11 miles) and participants can walk as fast or as slow as needed. Get on your walking shoes and put this date on your calendar! We can carpool from the church as needed.

It is exciting that we have reserved Saturday, May 28th to host dinner at the Ronald McDonald House. Again, how great it will be to be back there to meet and serve dinner to families who have a child at A.I. duPont Hospital. A sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall or you can call the office at (302) 652-8411 to talk with Chelsea or Pastor Kelly about what to bring.



## Volunteer Opportunities

We have many members in our congregation who are occasionally unable to find transportation to worship, to doctor appointments, or to other appointments that are necessary for their health and well-being.

Since we have so many amazing people here at Mt. Lebanon who are always willing to pitch in, I'm hoping that we can find some folks who are willing and able to be occasionally available to provide that transportation for our members in need.

If you feel like you might be available to pick up a member from their home, drive them to their appointment, and return them to their home safely, and you'd like to be on a congregation-wide "short-list" of folks that members can call if they want to schedule a ride with you, please contact the church office via phone or email and let Chelsea know that you are willing to help out on our Transportation Team!



## From the Desk of Rev. Kelly Conner, MDiv, ThM

This coming Sunday is the Sunday after Easter – the second Sunday of the Easter season. And in the Early Church, this Sunday went by another name: Holy Humor Sunday. Holy Humor Sunday was a day to recognize the cosmic joke that Jesus had pulled on sin and death in rising from the dead and bringing us all the gift of salvation. And to commemorate Jesus' cosmic joke, a great tradition on Holy Humor Sunday is to tell jokes from the pulpit. So you can look forward to some (not cheesy at all) jokes like these at Mt. Lebanon this coming Sunday:

- **Why did the cowboy get a dachshund?** ●
- He wanted to get a long little doggie. ●

Part of living in the liturgical season of Easter, which lasts until Pentecost, which falls on June 5 this year, means that we get to walk each day in the glory of Jesus' gift to us. We get to remember each day that God has done this amazing thing for us in dying for us and becoming (as 1 Cor. 15:20 tells us) "the first fruits of those who have died." Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we can expect to follow suit. It isn't that the concept of our death, or the deaths of loved ones, doesn't scare us anymore; I think that some part of us will always fear the unknown. But Easter means to us as Christians that while we may fear what we have not yet seen, Jesus Himself has already walked through it and come out on the other side. God does not send us anywhere that God's very self has not gone. That, I think, is a huge part of the Good News!

With great love and steadfastness,  
Rev. Kelly Conner

