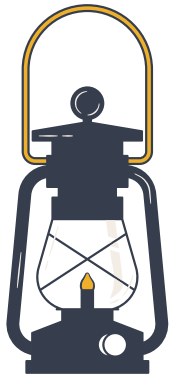


MARCH 2023



The Lantern

NEWSLETTER OF MT. LEBANON UMC
EST. 1812

Dates to Remember

APRIL 1:

10AM: EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 3:

7PM: TRUSTEES MEETING

APRIL 6:

7PM: MAUNDY THURSDAY
SERVICE

APRIL 7:

7PM: GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
@ CHESTER BETHEL

APRIL 9: EASTER SUNDAY

6:30AM: SUNRISE SERVICE
11AM: TRADITIONAL SERVICE

APRIL 12:

7PM: ADMIN COUNCIL MEETING

Easter Lilies



Order forms are located in the Fellowship Hall on the sign-up sheet table. Orders must be placed by April 5th.

If you are unable to make it in to the church, please contact Chelsea and an arrangement will be made for you!

Easter Egg Hunt

Join us on Saturday, April 1 from 10am - 12pm!

Toddlers to 12 years

RAIN OR SHINE

SNACKS

ARTS & CRAFTS

DOOR PRIZES

MUSIC & SINGING WITH WE KIDS ROCK



A Moment for Missions

Praise God that 2023 has started to be a year of returning to events that have been on hold since March 2020 and the COVID pandemic. We prepared and *served* dinner to Family Promise families at the Jesus House on Milltown Road on March 4. It had been years since we had been able to *serve* and *dine* with the families.

Thank you to all who baked or bought cookies to share with our NA and Al-Anon guests at Chester Bethel on January 29. We will bake and buy again on April 30.

We will host an Easter Egg Hunt for our Angel Tree, We Kids Rock, and neighborhood families on April 1. From 10am-12pm, there will be music, singing, arts and crafts and of course snacks for kids aged 2-12. Invite your families, neighbors and friends!

Mark your calendar for June 10 when we will prepare dinner for families at the Ronald McDonald House on Rockland Road.

Ragghi Rain, our dear Native American sister, will be with us at worship on April 16. If you have been blessed to have experienced her storytelling, you will want to experience it again. If you have never met Ragghi, you definitely need to have this blessing.

The Missions Team continues to have conversation with Chester Bethel UMC and Aldersgate UMC to explore ways to partner to expand current mission outreach and seek new outreach opportunities. Please call Iva Boardman at 302-388-0409 with your ideas of organizations and opportunities for us to share the many blessings that God has given us.



NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, May 17 @ 7pm

From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

There's a special tradition that I enjoy participating in during children's sermons on the Lenten/Easter seasons. I don't know if it has a name, but I like to describe it as "The Disappearance of the Alleluia." One Catholic church's website describes it very well:

"The Alleluia is Hebrew, meaning "praise Yahweh." Traditionally, it has been seen as the chief term of praise of the choirs of angels, as they worship around the throne of God in Heaven. It is a term of great joy, and our use of the Alleluia during worship is a way of participating in the angels' worship. It is also a reminder that the Kingdom of Heaven has already begun on earth through Jesus, and that our worship is a way for us to participate in the Kingdom.

In order to emphasize the penitential nature of that journey, the Catholic Church, during Lent, removes the Alleluia from the Mass. We no longer sing with the choirs of angels; instead, we acknowledge our sins and practice repentance so that one day we may again have the privilege of worshipping God as the angels do."

Not a lot of United Methodist congregations have the tradition of omitting the word "Alleluia" during Lent, but I like to have fun with it! On the Sunday before Lent, I have in previous years enjoyed having all the children in the congregation come up during the children's sermon and scream "Alleluia" as loudly as they possibly can, celebrating the last time before Easter that we focus on the Kingdom's impending arrival, and recognizing that during Lent we will focus on participating in the present time in what we can do to help God prepare the way for the Kingdom. This, of course, is very difficult to explain to children; but they (and I) have greatly enjoyed screaming "Alleluia" at the top of our lungs in the middle of the service!

Even more than this, we get to do it again on Easter Sunday, when the Alleluia returns! Even when children aren't present, I use the opportunity to have the congregation "Alleluia" as many times as I can that day. I feel that this adds to our celebration and helps us get into the festive spirit. So I invite you to, during the rest of our season of Lent, prepare your heart and your mind to receive the coming Easter joy of the risen Christ- and to once again participate in praising the Lord of all with heavenly the choirs of angels who reside above!

With great love and steadfastness,
Rev. Kelly Conner, MDiv, ThM
Pastor of Mt. Lebanon and Chester Bethel UMCs, Wilmington, DE

