



The Lantern

NEWSLETTER OF MT. LEBANON UMC
EST. 1812

Dates to Remember

JUNE 11

HIGHMARK WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

*AT THE WILMINGTON RIVERFRONT

*MEET AT BLUE ROCKS STADIUM AT 8:30 AM

JUNE 16 - 18

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*ZOOM MEETING - SEE MORE INFO BELOW

JULY 3

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES TO BEGIN AT 11AM

JULY 7

FAMILY PROMISE DINNER

@ RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE - 3:30PM

SETUP TIME/5:30PM DINNER TIME

Missions Team Note

The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community is this Saturday, June 11th. We are meeting at 8:00am at church to carpool into Wilmington or you can meet us there.. Our team to date is composed of "casual walkers" rather than disciplined hikers.. This year's donations will be sent to Neighborhood House in Wilmington for their new playground. Thank you to those of you who have already sent checks to sponsor our team and know that we will be collecting through June 30th. Please make your check payable to the church with "Highmark Walk" on the memo line!

After your amazing response to our request to provide cookies to our N. A. guests, The Missions Team invites you to participate in making this a regularly scheduled event in months when there is a fifth Sunday. Join us again in making this happen on July 31!

We are excited to share that we will be hosting dinner at the Ronald McDonald House on Thursday, July 7th. We will arrive at 3:30 to prepare dinner and serve at 5:30. There is a menu sign-up sheet in fellowship hall. Please join us for our first in person dinner since 2020. Praise God!

We continue to have conversations with Aldersgate UMC and now Chester Bethel UMC about partnering to participate in the monthly H.O.P.P. (Harvest Project People Project) food ministry. Please stay tuned..

The Missions Team continues to look at sponsoring a community outreach event. As you remember, we have done free car washes in the past. Please know that we invite you to share your ideas with us.

2022 Annual Conference

The 2022 Annual Conference is nearly upon us! Please take the time to visit www.pen-del.org to register. This year's Annual Conference will be held as a ZOOM Meeting, so take a look at the schedule located on the website, as well as the viewing information!



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

Hi Mt. Lebanon Church Family,

Happy (almost) summer! It's such a joy for me, and I'm sure for you as well, that temperatures are warmer and the sun is out longer! I've been loving the chance to be outside with my dog, Dinah, as she hunts groundhogs!

As you know, on July 1, I will be the pastor of both Mt. Lebanon UMC and Chester-Bethel UMC. No change is easy, and I know that some of you will feel the effects of it. Please feel free to talk with me if you are concerned; I will continue to be available for you, and I'm here to listen. It's a big change for me, too, and it can be overwhelming. But together, we will grow our little family to include more brothers and sisters that we have the chance to meet! I'm looking forward to a lot of activities that we can do together, such as fellowship meals, worshipping together on the final Sunday of any month with five Sundays, and mission projects. I was speaking to one of you who phrased it this way: "I've been thinking of all the negative effects of sharing a pastor, but I'm starting to get excited about all the things our congregations can do together!" I think this is exactly the attitude that we all have the opportunity to take. While change can be difficult, there are a lot of advantages, too.

This new "circuit" between our two churches is also an opportunity for us to celebrate and remember that through Christ, all things are made new. I'm reminded of this passage from Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthian church: *16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;[b] even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,[c] we no longer know him in that way.*

17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Through Jesus, we can have hope that God is already moving ahead of us, occupying the scary spaces of our unknown. Where we may fear to go, God is already working. I pray that this circuit arrangement is one of those places where God is already working, and where we can find the confidence to imagine all the possibilities for how God can transform us, transform our church, and transform our relationships with others to look more like the coming Kingdom.

With great love and steadfastness,
Rev. Kelly Conner

