

The Lantern

NEWSLETTER OF MT. LEBANON UMC
EST. 1812

Dates to Remember

SEPTEMBER

- 20: MISSIONS MEETING @ 7PM
- 21: OFFICE OPEN: 10AM TO 2PM
- 22: OFFICE CLOSED

OCTOBER

- 3: FAMILY PROMISE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER AT WHITE CLAY CREEK COUNTRY CLUB @ 8AM
- 4: ADMIN COUNCIL MEETING @ 7PM
- 7: CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION DAY @ 9:30AM
- 8: BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
- 12: CHARGE CONFERENCE PAPERWORK DUE
- 14: RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE DINNER 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
- 16 - 24: PASTOR OUT OF OFFICE
- 17: TRUSTEES MEETING @ 7PM
- 22: COOKIES FOR NA @ 12PM
- 28: CHESTER BETHEL'S TRUNK OR TREAT 3PM - 5PM
- 29: JOINT WORSHIP AT MT. LEBANON @ 11AM // GUEST SPEAKER: CHRISTINE ROBINSON WITH FOSTER WELL



Our Fall Church Beautification Days are just around the corner and we are looking for some volunteers! Please contact Chelsea through the office email or phone and let her know if you are able to help out.



Bible Study Events

WHAT IS A METHODIST?

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BELIEF & PRACTICE



WHAT MAKES OUR METHODIST FAITH DISTINCTIVE?

TUESDAYS ON ZOOM @ 7PM

- SEPTEMBER 5
- SEPTEMBER 12
- SEPTEMBER 19
- SEPTEMBER 26
- OCTOBER 3
- OCTOBER 10

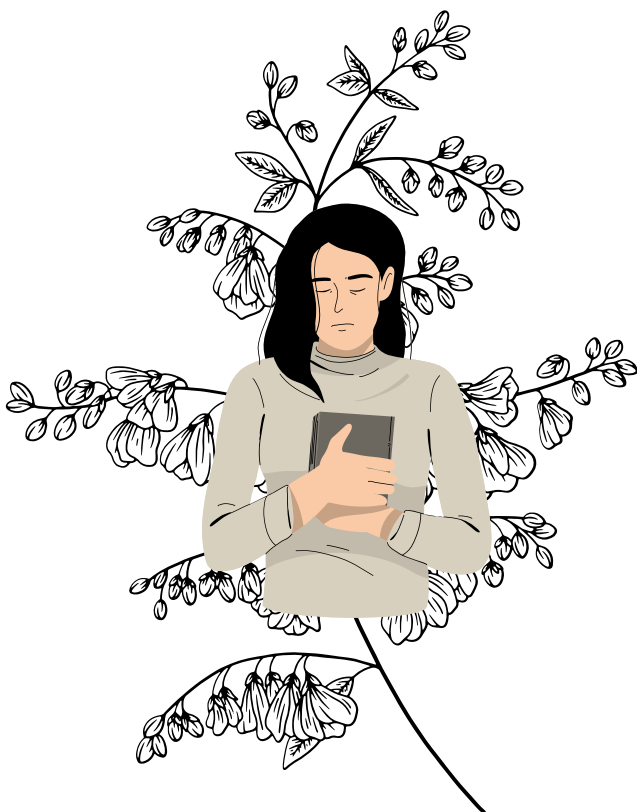
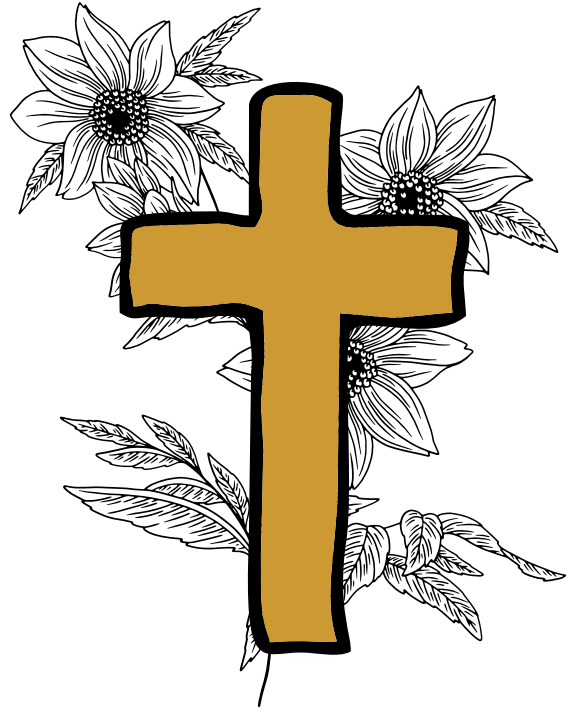
WHAT DO WE SHARE WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS?

THURSDAYS AT CHESTER BETHEL @ 10AM

- SEPTEMBER 7
- SEPTEMBER 14
- SEPTEMBER 21
- SEPTEMBER 28
- OCTOBER 5
- OCTOBER 12

"LIVING AS UNITED METHODIST CHRISTIANS: OUR STORY, OUR BELIEFS, OUR LIVES"

BY SALLY AND ANDY LANGFORD



MT. LEBANON & CHESTER BETHEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES
PRESENT

Fall Bible Study

A modern look at the Ten Commandments in historical context, how Jesus interpreted them and how every "thou-shalt-not" points to a life giving "thou shalt."

Based on Adam Hamilton's book, "Words of Life" (available online or through the church office)

In a culture of workaholism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God's path leads to gratitude, confidence and peace.

THURSDAYS IN PERSON @ CHESTER BETHEL:
BEGINNING OCTOBER 31 @ 10AM
NOVEMBER 7, 14, 28

TUESDAYS ON ZOOM @ 7PM:
NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16, 30
THE ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT OUT VIA
EMAIL THE WEEK PRIOR -- KEEP AN EYE OUT!

A Moment for Missions

You hopefully have received your Special Sundays Offerings invitation letter when you are reading this. If not, please call the office at (302) 652-8411 and request a copy. Thank you in advance for your participation to help fund thirteen ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Thank you to each of our team of eight who supported our September 9th hosting of Family Promise families at the Jesus House. We'll do it again on December 16th and as always welcome new and return friends. Also, the Family Promise Fundraising Breakfast is on October 3rd at 8:00am at the White Clay Creek Country Club. Mt. Lebanon is sponsoring a table of ten and there is still room for you to join us. Please call Iva at (302) 388-0409 if you are able to attend.

As promised, we will prepare and serve dinner to families at the Ronald McDonald House on Saturday, October 14. We will meet at 3:30pm to prep and cook so that dinner can be served promptly at 5:30pm. Look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall at the end of September.

Our next "cookie packing" event for our NA guests will be October 22nd after our worship service. We welcome all cookies, both home baked and store bought, as well as friends to pack and write notes of encouragement to our NA guests.

Moving onto November, we are so excited to announce that the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Project will be held at Mt. Lebanon on November 12th from 4pm to 6:30pm. Since COVID-19, this will be our return to having the event inside to pack the bags and to enjoy a potluck supper together. We will start collecting bags of food in mid-October and looking for volunteers to be at this event to welcome our friends from Christ Church, Beth Emeth and the Islamic Society of Delaware.

Finally, we will be participating in the Angel Tree program this year and are blessed to have 25 children. More to follow.

As always, the Missions Team invites you to join us at our meetings. Our next meeting is September 20th at 7pm, followed by November 15th.

We are very excited to share that we are blessed to have Moments for Missions speakers, as follows: September 24 - Robyn Beck-Gott from Sojourners Place; October 26 - Christine Robinson from FosterWell; and November 19 - Dr. Zamuntima Chijere from RiseMalawi Ministries.



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wed. September 20 @ 7pm

Wed. November 15 @ 7pm

From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

It's barely September, and already the leaves are starting to fall. Every time I see the beginnings of new colors on the trees – the shades of red, orange, yellow, and even brown that begin to spread over the summer green – I am reminded of a writing prompt that my 4th grade teacher assigned to us in class: “If you were an autumn leaf, what color would you be and why?”

As an adult, such a question seems frivolous. Why would we want to spend our time thinking about our answer to a question that has no utility whatsoever in our lives? I will never be a leaf; I will never need to choose what color I would be; I have things to do, so I should be attending to those instead of pondering leaves. But I'm sure that you all are interested in what I had to say as a 4th grader, so here it is: I remember choosing to become a “multi-colored” leaf. In effect, I chose all the colors, as I simply could not decide between red, orange, and yellow! (I think I might have even thrown some green in there for good measure.) I remember that I wrote a flowing story about being that multi-colored leaf on the tree, my stem separating from the branch as I floated toward the ground. Now, at age 33, I could only dream of being as creative as I was at age 9!

Nowadays, when leaves begin to fall, I am reminded that everything in life has its season. Ecclesiastes 3 is all about the transition of seasons in our lives; it tells us:

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

...a time to break down and a time to build up;

a time to weep and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn and a time to dance...” (NRSV)

Ecclesiastes reminds us that we must move from one season to the next – that no time in our lives may last forever. Such is the human condition.

There are times in our lives when we might not particularly want to transition to a new season. Perhaps our children are going off to college, and we wish that they would stay “little” forever; perhaps our parents or grandparents are beginning to lose their independence with old age,

and we wish that everything could stay the same – that our loved ones might never find themselves with declining health, or that we would never have to lose them in the future. Or on a lighter note, perhaps we are finishing up a glorious and sunny vacation, and we wish that we could stay there and enjoy it forever instead of coming back home to work, to school, or to our other responsibilities!

On the other hand, there are times in our lives when we might be perfectly willing to move on to a new season. This may include times when we find ourselves unhappy in our job, and we seek a new one that might be more suitable. And if we find ourselves in seasons of chronic pain flareups, illness and treatment, or rehabilitation from an injury, we want that season to pass as quickly as possible so that we can get back to a sense of normalcy! Those kinds of seasons in our lives might be emotionally or physically painful; abiding in them is hard work for us. Such seasons tend to steal our joy and wring out all our energy.

But if we are honest, we know that the colorful leaves must fall. Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that no matter what, there will be new seasons in our lives, whether we want them or not. Whether you are experiencing a good season right now, or you're experiencing one from which you'll be happy to move on, I pray that God will help you to remain fully present in all of your experiences. I pray that you may seek the everyday blessings of God where they may be found, and that you do not lose sight of hope. For summer will return next year, and winter after that; the “good” and “bad” times will trade places in our lives until we pass on into the Church Triumphant. There can be hope in that knowledge: God is always moving, and a new season may bring exactly what we need.

With great love and steadfastness,

Rev. Kelly Conner, MDiv, ThM

Pastor of Mt. Lebanon &

Chester Bethel UMCs, Wilmington, DE

