

# The Caller

SWARTHMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081

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## **Last Sunday of Easter**

*An Ironic Escape*

Sometimes those who seem free are truly enslaved,  
and those who seem to be in chains are truly liberated.

Acts 16:16–34

June 2

## **Pentecost**

*The Ultimate Surprise Party*

Acts 2:1–21

June 9

## **Peace with Justice Sunday**

*The Problem of Peace*

Romans 5:1-5

June 16

## **Family Celebration Sunday**

*We Are Family*

Galatians 3:23-29

June 23

## **Pastor Carl's Last Sunday**

*Never Turn Back*

Luke 9:51-62

June 30

## **Lead Team News**

### **What is the Lead Team?**

Because of small congregation size, our church began transitioning to a new simplified leadership structure in January 2019. The Lead Team is responsible for ensuring we stay on our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Lead Team carries out the functions of the former Administrative Council, Trustees Board, and the Finance and Staff-Parish committees as a single, unified group. This unified structure allows the church to focus more on ministry.

### **Who is on the Lead Team?**

The initial class of Lead Team members were nominated by Pastor Kevin after consultation with members of the former structure as well as church members. Our current Lead Team members are: Kelly Billig, Janice Ciampa, Pat Francher, Christine Hutchinson, Andy Lewis, Regina Raiford Babcock, and Mark Stewart. We will have three vacancies on the Lead Team that we are hoping to fill on July 1, 2019. To encourage church stability and growth, we are seeking a young adult and a senior member from our church membership and a community member from outside our church who are willing to serve as Lead Team members. Please join in the bright future of SUMC by getting your nominations to Pastor Kevin by June 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have a meeting to elect the Lead Team members immediately following Sunday Service on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **What is the Lead Team Doing?**

The Lead Team meets regularly as well as using email to conduct urgent as well as routine church business. Currently, the team is working on ways to appropriately develop our church into a spiritual, cultural, social, and civic hub for our community given its ideal location in the heart of Swarthmore. Instead of the town's best kept secret, our goal is to become a stable and vital faith community serving as the Town Center's community church. Another goal of the Lead Team is to start addressing some deferred maintenance and landscaping issues to make our church safer and even more inviting and welcoming. Finally, we are also exploring ways to make our church more sustainable and integrated in our community through the strategic use of our church building and property for special events and other rentals.

## **N.O.W. Ministry News**

### Nurture, Outreach, Witness

Our N.O.W. Ministries are where the real action of the church takes place! As part of adapting to our being a smaller congregation, we are moving to this simplified ministry model to keep us grounded in the three essential aspects of being a faith community: Caring for each other, caring for the community, and keeping our focus on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Below is an overview of each ministry area and you are invited to contact the coordinator of any ministries you are interested in joining.

### **What is Nurture?**

Our Nurture Ministry is responsible for tending to the faith formation and spiritual needs of our church. This is accomplished through three ministry teams: The Faith Formation Team (Education and Discipleship) currently lead by Christine Hutchinson, The Caring Team (Congregational Care/Visitation) lead by Judy Luzak & Carolyn Stephens, and The Fellowship Team (Intentional Christian Community Gatherings) which is in the process of the getting started.

We are in need of a Nurture Ministry Coordinator as Christine Hutchinson, our current coordinator, and her husband, Wes, are moving to North Carolina! We will not only miss them dearly, but we will also miss the valuable service they offered our church over the years. Please join us in celebrating them as they start this new chapter in their life together.

### **What is Outreach?**

Our Outreach Ministry is responsible for ensuring our church continues to practice the Works of Mercy as mandated by our United Methodist tradition. Our Outreach Ministry Coordinator is Janice Ciampa. You can see all of the awesome work the Outreach Team is doing in this issue's separate Outreach News article.

### **What is Witness?**

Our Witness Ministry is responsible for worship, evangelism, and proclamation (representing church positions publically). Lead by Pastor Kevin, this ministry ensures the church stays focused on the Gospel of Jesus Christ as well as making the community aware of who we are and what we believe and practice.

## **OUTREACH NEWS**

### **Chester Eastside Summer Camp Fundraiser**

Our Mother's Day card sale raised \$840. Through your generosity, we will be able to sponsor one week of summer camp for 12 children. On behalf of Rev. Zuline Wilkinson, the director of Chester Eastside Ministries, we offer a big thank you!

### **The Chester/Delco Chapter of Heeding God's Call**

This ministry is going to be very busy over the summer witnessing through the Tee Shirt Memorial to the Lost. Currently, the memorial is being displayed at the Second Baptist Church of Media at 400 East State Street in Media. On Saturday, June 1 at 1:00 p.m. there will be a Wear Orange Rally and Walk at memorial sponsored jointly by Heeding God's Call and Delco United for Sensible Gun Policy. All are invited to participate in this rally and orange is the color of the day. The Wear Orange movement is a national movement dedicated to decreasing gun violence. Then later in the month, on Saturday, June 22, we have the opportunity to help with the installation of the Tee Shirt Memorial at our sister church, Clifton Heights UMC.

### **Annual Conference 2019**

Please be in prayer for our leadership during the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference yearly gathering at Oaks Convention Center being held June 13 to 15. There will certainly be more discussion regarding the status of LGBTQ individuals and the United Methodist Church as both supporters of the One Church Plan and supporters of the Traditional Plan have stated their intentions to make their presence known. As a Reconciling Church we will continue to advocate for the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in the church at Annual Conference and continue to practice it as a faith community.

### **Appalachian Service Project (ASP)**

The first ASP team will be on their way to Chavies, Kentucky the week of June 23. The second team will be going to the same work site the week of July 7. On Sunday, June 9, during morning worship, we will recognize and bless the mission team participants.

## **OUTREACH NEWS**

(continued)

### **Peace with Justice Sunday**

On Sunday, June 16, Peace with Justice Sunday, we will celebrate with our traditional march to the Peace Pole. We are planning on having Clifton Heights United Methodist Church join us for worship and a potluck luncheon. The church will provide the main dishes so we are asking everyone to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

### **City Team Donations**

Donations are always needed and welcomed.  
Please leave them on the collection table in the narthex.

## **Summer Flowers**

In the summer our altar flowers come from our members' gardens. On June 30<sup>th</sup> worship service moves to the Chapel and we will need volunteers to bring flowers from their own gardens or to buy them to bring. You will also need to provide your own containers. Look for the Summer Flower sign-up sheet in the Centennial Room.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 1: Tee Shirt Memorial to the Lost—  
Second Baptist Church—Media
- June 22: Tee Shirt Memorial to the Lost—  
Clifton Heights UMC
- June 13-15: Eastern PA Conference—Oaks
- June 16: Peace with Justice Sunday  
Pot Luck Luncheon following worship
- June 22: ASP team departure—Chavies, KY
- July 6: ASP second team departure—Chavies, KY
- July 9: Recognition of ASP teams

*Deadline for the Summer Caller is June 18th*

## MARPLE-NEWTOWN PLAYERS SPOTLIGHT THEATER

### ***Seussical Jr***

Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty and Eric Idle

Based on the works of Dr. Seuss.

Produced by special arrangements

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI)

Directed by Rosie Gallagher

**June 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 2019**

Tickets: Phone 610-328-1079 or on-line at *Ticketleap* (fees apply)

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Reflections on My Retreat

Last month I attended a retreat for pastors. It was held at Pecometh which is a United Methodist camp in the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference. The theme was "Being a Non-Anxious Pastor in an Age of Anxiety." First, Pecometh is located along the Charles River on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and just being there was enough to make me feel relaxed. Second, I enjoyed the fellowship of my colleagues in ministry for a few days. Third, being in an intentionally non-anxious setting made me realize how toxic and corrosive anxiety truly is and just how easily it can erode relationships and organizations, especially the church. Dealing with the anxiety in our culture and in our lives is something that I am going to give more pastoral attention. There are already folks using our church for relaxation, meditation, and yoga. I encourage you to check them out and join them if you feel led.



### The Wesley Award

At District Conference, Pastor Victor Gimenez and I received The Wesley Award for the urban revitalization and renewal ministry we are doing together in Darby. This coveted award is given in the form of a John Wesley Bobble-Head and, of course, we took a selfie with our awards during the ceremony!



## **Swarthmore United Methodist Church**

### ***Who We Are***

We are a community of faith, pilgrim people on a spiritual journey to what God would have us be.

We are pledged to prayer, study, worship, and service. We are a communion of sojourners, seeking to live by faith, to do justice, and to strive for wholeness in a broken world.

The foundation of our life in faith is the Bible, which we take seriously but not literally. We find wisdom from Scripture and tradition to guide us in confronting life's deepest questions and uncertainties.

We are a sacramental community gathered around the table of the Lord, where all are welcome; communion is at the heart of what we do and who we are.

We are a community of faith where the sorrowing find comfort, the needy find help, the despairing find hope, the seeker finds a fellow traveler, the lonely find a home, the fearful find calm, and the stranger finds welcome.

We seek to find a middle course between the extremes of secularism and religious fundamentalism through faithful witness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate our spiritual, intellectual, political, and lifestyle diversity. We are a reconciling congregation and welcome all God's children regardless of sexual orientation.

**We invite you to join us on the journey!**