

The Caller

SWARTHMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081

610-543-2110

www.swarthmoreumc.org

Surprise! The Unexpected Acts of God **Easter Season Sermon Series**

An Unlikely Friendship

Acts 9:1–20

God often brings us the surprising gift of friendships we never expected.

May 5

An Astonishing Imitation

Acts 9:36–43

By imitating Christ we become more like him and bring other people's attention to his glory.

May 12

An Unexpected Change of Menu

Acts 11:1–18

When we think we have God figured out, he surprises us by revealing his heart for the unexpected.

May 19

An Amazing Detour

Acts 16:9–15

The power of conversion is still God's building block to change the world one person at a time.

May 26

Caring Team

As a part of our new church organization, a Caring team is being created to address congregational concerns. The team currently includes Judy Luzak, Carolyn Stephens and Nanette Tobin and we are happy to have more members. Contact any one of us if you have questions!

Here's how it works:

Prayer List: If you have a prayer concern, please send an email to the office (Office@swarthmoreumc.org) or leave a note in the office. Include your name and the person's name with general information about the request: serious illness, job loss, etc. And, let's include some celebrations as well: new baby, new job, illness recovery. Peggy Mattox will create a prayer list to distribute to the congregation, via email or in the weekly bulletin insert.

Soup Group and Meals: Let us know if there is a member who needs some help with meals. We can set up a meal sign up list or gather our soup group together to cook.

Shut-Ins: Please keep the office advised of any members who can't get out much. We are putting a plan in place to mail church bulletins and information weekly to our shut-ins.

Thoughts, Ideas, Questions, Want to help?

Contact:

Nanette Tobin nmtobin56@gmail.com,

Judy Luzak jmluzak@aol.com,

Carolyn Stephens carolyn.stephens16@yahoo.com

From the Pastor's Desk

All In for the Kingdom of God

As I write this, The Judicial Council (aka The Supreme Court of the United Methodist Church) is in session. They are considering the constitutionality of the "Traditional Plan" recently passed at the called Special Session of General Conference (the Legislative Branch for the entire church). The Traditional Plan is a conservative plan that strengthens the denomination's current official anti-LGBT+ stance. This plan only allows for heterosexual clergy, heterosexual weddings, and creates a structure for maintaining and enforcing these standards.

As your pastor, I stand in resistance to The Traditional Plan as well as the current official anti-LGBT+ stance of the United Methodist Church. My reason is simple. The Kingdom of God excludes no one. Churches are, in essence, embassies of The Kingdom of God. In practical terms, we are not permitted to exclude anyone, for any reason, from full and complete participation in the church. If we were to do so, we would no longer be emissaries of the God we are claiming to represent. As the ambassador appointed to this embassy (aka your pastor), I have no other option than to represent the fully inclusive nature of God's Kingdom.

This also means that I stand in resistance to any and all forms of oppression and discrimination in whatever forms they may take. "All means all" doesn't really mean anything if it is not yoked to an active engagement in confronting the reasons that statement even needs to be said. Rather, the church is called to be all in. All in for justice. All in for equity. All in for diversity. All in for anti-racism. All in for LGBT+ folks. All in for immigrants. All in for love. All in for peace. All in for grace. All in, all in, all in. All in for the Kingdom of God.

He has showed you, O Mortal, what is good.

*And what does the Lord **require** of you?*

*Just this: To do Justice; To love Kindness; and to walk, humbly,
with your God.*

OUTREACH NEWS

May 2019

The Chester/Delco Chapter of Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence has two events on Sunday, May 5. At 2:00 p.m. there will be a chapter meeting at Swarthmore United Methodist Church. At 4:00 p.m. there will be a reception for the Second Session of the Celebration of Life Portrait Project at the Friends Meeting House in Chester. Last fall, several family members of victims of gun violence worked with our resident artist, Angel Pabon, and art therapist, Carolyn Falcone, to produce portraits of their loved ones. You will have a chance to see their art work and to hear their stories. It is a wonderful way to honor their loss.

Then on Saturday, June 1st at 1pm, there is a *Wear Orange Rally and Walk* at the Second Baptist Church, 400 East State Street, Media. It is sponsored by Delco United and coincides with the nationwide rallies by Everytown for Gun Safety.

On May 5 there is a new opportunity to serve at nearby Cokesbury UMC in Marcus Hook. Through the leadership of Judy Luzak we are starting to support their community dinner on the first Sunday evening of each month. This month Judy is coordinating ziti casserole making, and will also ask for one or two volunteers to help serve that evening at 5:00 p.m. Please contact Judy if you are interested in this mission.

May is when we celebrate "Reach Out and Read." We will collect gently used or new children's books to donate to the out-patient clinics of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. The goal is to be able to provide a book to every child at all clinic visits. You can place your book donations in the bins in the Centennial Room or make a cash donation to Sheila Bell and she will be sure to spend your money wisely on quality literature.

OUTREACH NEWS (continued)

May 2019

We are selling Mother's Day cards on May 5 and May 12 to benefit Phoenix Summer Camp, (Chester Eastside Ministries). Look for the table during Fellowship Hour. They expect about 40 campers and the camp will run from July 1-31. The cost per week of camp is about \$70. We asking for a minimum donation of \$10 per card.

There is still time to be part of ASP 2019. SUMC and Swarthmore Presbyterian Church are jointly sponsoring two work weeks, both of which will take volunteers to Chavies, Kentucky. The first week of service is June 23-29 and the second week is July 7-13. The first week is about full but the second week still has openings for students and adults. You will have the opportunity to buy stock in ASP on Sundays May 5 and May 12. If you would like to participate or want more information, please contact Linton Stables at lstable52@gmail.com.

And don't forget to support ASP at the Swarthmore Fun Fair on Sunday, May 19. ASP will be selling grilled hotdogs and hamburgers at the best prices at the Fair.

Our final PBJ Night for the spring will take place on Wednesday, May 15 at 7:45 p.m. Bring two loaves of sliced bread and we provide the peanut butter and jelly. The sandwiches benefit the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County and City Team.

We continue to collect food donations for City Team Ministries. Place donations on the table in the Narthex.

Faith and Life Offerings

May 2019

Please join us for the Faith and Life offerings in May. We meet from approximately 11:45-12:45, following the fellowship time, in either the Centennial Room or the Parlor.

May 5:

Did you ever wonder where those Shriner's Hospitals were that those kids on TV promote? Turns out that we have one in our own backyard. Join Mike Nozilo and Ed Roth, former board member of the local Hospital to learn more about their important mission and service to provide care for those in need.

May 12:

No Faith and Life session on Mothering Sunday. According to the History Channel, "Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday."

May 19: Conversations with Kevin.

May 26: To be announced

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 5: Heeding God's Call
chapter meeting—Parlor—2pm
- May 5: Reception—Friends Meeting House—
Chester, PA—4pm
- May 5: Community Dinner—Cokesbury UMC—
Marcus Hook
- May 6: Green New Deal Town Hall, 7-8:30pm
Sanctuary
- May 19: Support ASP—Swarthmore Fun Fair—
Town Center
- May 15: PBJ Night—Centennial Room—7:45pm
- June 2 : Tee Shirt Memorial to the Lost—
Second Baptist Church—Media

Deadline for the June Caller is Thursday, April 16th

Book Club Dates

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm

On May 8 the Book club will meet at 6pm for a potluck dinner and to choose books for next year. May's meeting will take place at Judy Luzak's home: 712 Beechwood Road, Media, PA. Discussion book is *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah.

All the World's a Stage
Theater Groups at Swarthmore United Methodist Church
MARPLE-NEWTOWN PLAYERS-SPOTLIGHT THEATER

Prelude to a Kiss

By Craig Lucas

Presented by special arrangement
with DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE. INC.

Directed by Jess Stinson

May 3, 4, 10, 11, 12

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

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!