

The Caller



SWARTHMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

610-543-2110

129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081

www.swarthmoreumc.org

January
2017

From the Pastor:

I'd like to share with you a little article about New Year written by Ted De Hass.

Clean House is the name for a new show on the Style Channel where experts in cleaning, organizing, remodeling, and painting sweep into a cluttered home with the purpose of leaving it more comfortable, attractive, and livable. The experts face the challenges of clothes strewn across the floor, bulging cabinets, closets filled from top to bottom, filled counter tops, and overflowing kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms, and living rooms—not a clean room in the house!

The experts' first step is to take an inventory of all the 'stuff.' Then, decisions are made about what to sell at a yard sale and what to keep. The home's inhabitants hesitate and hold on to favorite clothes from years gone by, childhood keepsakes, space-taking trivia, but then they yield. The sale is held, and money comes in to help with the makeover. Then the family leaves, and the work begins.

Rooms are cleaned out, redone for more efficiency and attractiveness, and repainted. Curtains are hung, cabinets set in, and walls decorated. A transformation takes place, and when the family returns, what a difference it makes! Any nervous anticipation quickly gives way to excitement and laughter when the family sees what's taken place. Thank you, thank you, the family says often amid smiles and tears.

In the spiritual realm, there comes a time for each of us to take inventory"of what's in our hearts, get rid of some things, and do some repairing and remodeling. And like the families on the show, we have an expert in remodeling and renovation—Jesus Christ—who can make our makeover an astounding success.

As we begin this brand new year full of hope and anticipation, let us let go of old things that are barriers to God, and allow Jesus, an expert in remodeling and renovation, to do new things in our lives. I hope and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to transform our lives, that we may, in turn, transform the lives of others. Happy New Year!

Sukja

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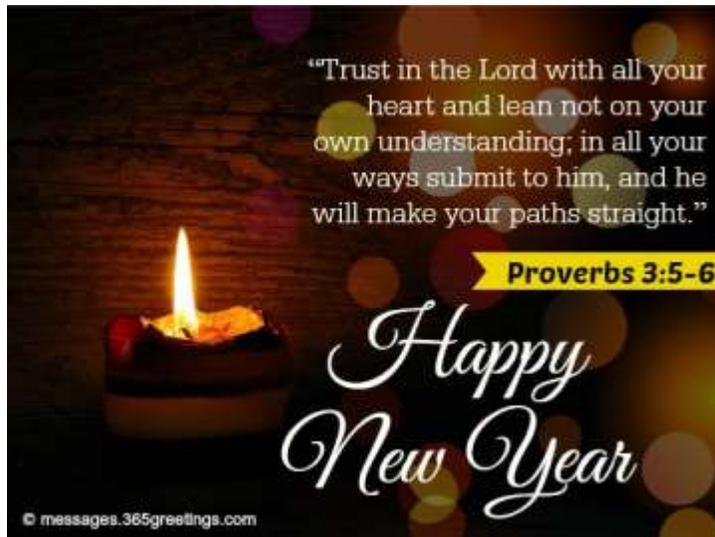
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"A new year is unfolding—like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good—with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible—with Your help and guidance."



EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES

Faith and Life Classes

The Education Committee invites everyone to attend a light luncheon on January 8 following the worship service. During this first Faith and Life offering of 2017, we will be celebrating Epiphany when the wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus. We ask you to bring small gifts for a baby, but more practical ones than gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Some suggestions might be baby lotion, a book, knitted cap, socks, or baby wipes. You are, of course, welcome to bring a gift even if you cannot stay for lunch. During lunch we will also tell about some upcoming programs planned for Faith and Life in January and February.



All the World's a Stage

Theater Groups at SUMC



MARPLE-NEWTOWN PLAYERS-SPOTLIGHT THEATER

Performances at Swarthmore UMC

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SUMC

Please join us for the following events:

- January 1: Happy New Year!
- January 8: Celebration of Epiphany: Light Luncheon during the Faith and Life Class
- January 15: Grace Café, carpool departs at 4:15 p.m.
- January 25: PBJ Night, 7:45 p.m. (Wednesday)

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Deadline for the February Caller is January 25th

Be sure and let the Church office know about any events you would like published



WORSHIP NOTES

- January 1: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12
- January 8: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalms 29
Acts 10: 34-43, Matthew 3:13-17
- January 15: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm s40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42
- Janaury 22: Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalms 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23
- January 29: Micah 6:1-8, Psalms 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

Thank You for Your Service!

Readers:

January 8: Penni Flick
January 15: TBD
January 22: TBD
January 29: TBD

Children's Message:

January 8: Rich Cresson
January 15: Pastor Sukja Bang
January 22: Janice Ciampa
January 29: Nanette Tobin

Ushers:

January 1: Andy Lewis and Rich Cresson
January 8: Rick Sultzer and Susan Kelly
January 15: David Page and Joy Charlton
January 22: Wes Hutchinson and Christine Hutchinson
January 29: Murray Family

Fellowship:

January 1: Ciampa Family
January 8: Cresson Family
January 15: TBD
January 22: TBD
January 29: TBD

Counters:

First Sunday: Andy Lewis and Marion Purdy
Second Sunday: Rick Sultzer and Hogie Hansen
Third Sunday: Bill Flick and Harriet Hudgins
Fourth Sunday: Barb Weir and Tom Morton
Fifth Sunday: Bill Flick and Harriet Hudgins

Please let the church office know if you cannot serve on the date for which you signed up so that a substitute may be arranged.

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.



**FAITH
IN ACTION**



OUTREACH—Touching Lives for Christ

For as much as you have done unto these, you have done unto me.



We will start off the New Year with a hosting of the Grace Café at Arch Street United Methodist Church on Sunday, January 15, 2017 on MLK weekend. Grace Café is Arch Street's ongoing mission of providing a worship service and Sunday dinner to the homeless of Philadelphia. We will again gather at SUMC at 4:15 p.m. to drive into Philadelphia to serve dinner at 6:00 p.m. and we will return to Swarthmore by 8:00 p.m. Last month we served 200 guests, and that has been their usual average attendance at the meal. So we could use your help in making this happen. We will be asking for donations of rolls, salad greens, desserts, or cash. Volunteers to help serve the dinner are also needed. Please contact Janice Ciampa if you would like to be part of this mission.

The Chester/Delco Chapter of Heeding God's Call will be using the winter months to do some strategic planning and recruitment for the coming year. Please contact Ralph Ciampa if you are interested in helping to prevent gun violence in our region.

PBJ Night will take place on Wednesday, January 25 at 7:45 p.m. Please bring 2 loaves of sliced bread and we will provide the peanut butter and jelly. The sandwiches made are donated to the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County. All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2017 marks the return of the Chili Cook Off. Back by popular demand, we will welcome entries of both meat and vegetarian chilis in this community event to determine the best chili in Swarthmore.

Remember to bring something for the food cupboard at City Team. The collection table can be found in the narthex. Cathy Darrell faithfully delivers our offerings to them every week.

SUMC Book Club Dates

*Please note that meetings have been changed to the second **Wednesday** of each month at 7:30 pm*

January 2017:

Meeting will be held at Sheila Bell's home on January 11th.
The Dream Lover, by Elizabeth Berg



CityTeam Chester

The office received the following thank you letter from Cityteam:

“Thank you for your holiday food drive donation. You have made a major difference in the lives of 900 plus hungry families in the Greater Delaware Valley. Without donations like this it would be impossible to serve so many hungry families. We praise God for you, and thank you for faithfully administering love and supplies to people in need.

Cityteam receives no government funding and is completely dependent on donations from individuals, companies, churches and corporations to provide these valuable services. Needless to say we cannot operate without your support. Our food budget is completely dependent upon donors to support this community. I feel that you have not only supported the community, but have supported me in my walk with God.

I hope our partnership will last for many years to come, please consider coming for a tour. Do not hesitate to call or email questions at 610-872-6865 ext. 107 or jclifford@cityteam.org. For more information on volunteering and donating to support Cityteam’s programs, please visit our website at cityteam.org/Philadelphia/“

Sincerely,

John Clifford

Food Service Supervisor

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

