

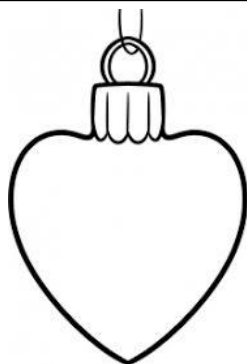
The Caller



610-543-2110

SWARTHMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081
www.swarthmoreumc.org

December
2018



Getting to the Heart of Christmas

December 2nd
Worship Theme: Simply the Heart
Intergenerational Fellowship: What is Advent?

December 9th
An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols
Intergenerational Fellowship: Blessing of the Greens

December 16th
Worship Theme: Clearing the Heart
Intergenerational Fellowship: Christmas Caroling

December 23rd
Worship Theme: Christmas Pageant
Intergenerational Fellowship: Advent Party

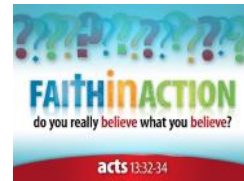
December 24th, 8pm
Christmas Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve Party

December 30th
Worship Theme: Searching the Heart
Intergenerational Fellowship: New Years Eve (Eve) Party

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*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

Thank you for supporting our mission activities!

With your gifts this fall we:

Assembled and donated 14 flood buckets to UMCOR
Sent 100 Christmas cards to prisoners in Pennsylvania
Collected hundreds of books for St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Hosted Grace Café at Arch Street UMC twice

This Year's Opportunities for Alternative Christmas Giving

Christmas Cards

Benefiting the Mpsa Eye Clinic in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
(\$10 per Card)

Sadly, eye disease and blindness. are extremely common throughout the Mpsa region.
Your donation will help support the Mpsa Eye Clinic, a mission of the United Methodist Church,
in providing eye care and surgery to those in desperate need of it.

Giving Tree for City Team Ministry in Chester

We are collecting socks, hats, gloves, and mittens to keep vulnerable people warm.
Please place your donation anytime on the tree in the lobby.

PBJ Night

Wednesday, December 19 at 7:45 p.m.
Bring two loaves of sliced bread and we will provide the peanut butter and jelly.
All are welcome and light refreshments are served.
Sandwiches benefit the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County
and City Team Ministry in Chester.

Swarthmore Borough Community Tree Lighting and Carol Singing

Saturday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.
Join us on our front lawn for a seasonal tree lighting and carol singing.
Then join us for inside for refreshments.

Christmas Play

A Ray of Hope / A Crumb of Dickens

Sunday, December 2 at 2pm @ the Swarthmore United Methodist Church Theater
Join us for a satirical take on the holidays!
There is no charge for the play, but a free will offering will be taken.

Book Club Dates

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm

Book Club meets on November 13 at Beth Carruthers's home, 301 Dartmouth Avenue,
Swarthmore, PA 19081.

Discussion Book this month is *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn



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

The Front Page

By Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur

Directed by Kathy Quinn

Presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

December 1, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 2018

Evenings at 8 PM – Tickets \$15.00

*Matinees at 2 PM – Tickets \$15.00



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us for the following events:

- December 1 Home for the Holidays Tree Lighting and Carol Sing—Front Lawn—7pm
- December 2 A Ray of Hope/A Crumb of Dickens—Theatre—2pm
- December 8 Media Chorale Concert—Sanctuary—1pm
- December 14 SRA Parents' Night Out—Sunday School Room—6pm
- December 21 Kwanzaa Pop Up—Centennial Room
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service—8pm
- December 26 Red Cross Blood Drive—Centennial Room—2-8pm

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Deadline for the November Caller is Tuesday, November 18th
Be sure and let the Church office know about any events you would like published



Swarthmore United Methodist Church
129 Park Avenue
Swarthmore, PA 19081



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor's Message

Advent is a time of waiting and preparing: Waiting for what is to come. Preparing for what the future means to us. Advent is really a time standing between the past and the future. It is a time of expectation in which we remember the past and look forward to the future. Advent is about being honest with ourselves in the present moment. It is a time to hold up a mirror to ourselves and our church and honestly look at ourselves. We are challenged to ask "how did we get here" and "where are we going?"

Answering these questions will allow us to honor and release the past so that it doesn't hold us back from entering into the future. Speaking of the future, we need to remember that Jesus broke into this world to make all things new. As a result, the mission of the church and disciples is one of constant renewal. May the celebration of the birth of Jesus remind us all that the greatest gift is found in the renewal of people, communities, and institutions from the inside out.

As we begin Advent, I invite you to join me on a journey of renewal. A journey of renewing our church, renewing our communities, and, yes, of renewing ourselves. Be open to the new opportunities that Jesus continues to create for us wherever and whenever he is born again in the lives of those who are open to receiving him. My prayer this that we will unwrap the gift of Jesus our Christ not only on Christmas but every day of our lives.

With Advent expectation,
Pastor Kevin