

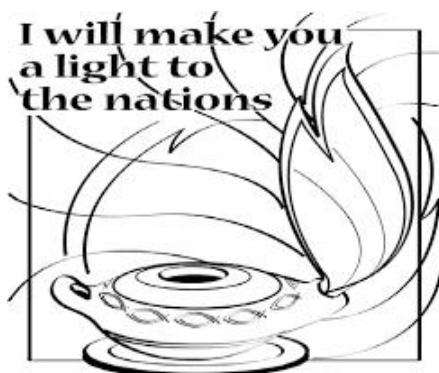
The Caller



610-543-2110

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

February
2019



A Light to Enlighten the Nations

Hometown Boy
Luke 4:21-30

Jesus' good news for the world isn't a threat, but an invitation.
February 3

Called and Sent Luke
5:1-11

We hear and accept our own call to be part of Jesus' work.
February 10

Fullness and Emptiness
Luke 6:17-26

Only by emptying ourselves will we experience true fullness.
February 17

Unlimited Love
Luke 6:27-38

Jesus' unconditional love opens the boundaries of our love.
February 24

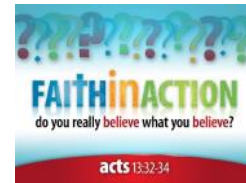
Transfiguration Sunday
Listen to Him
Luke 9:28-43a

Don't box Jesus in; shine his light for all to see.
March 3

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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

FEBRUARY 2019

February is about keeping the faith alive as we journey through the long nights of winter. We are encouraging you to **reach out to someone** who needs to hear a word of hope—to connect with their spiritual center, to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is February and time for the Swarthmore United Methodist Church **Chili Cook Off**. This year the event takes place on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. It is your chance to make and eat many varieties of chili. We are going to feature again a category for aspiring chefs ages 18 and under. We will also have our traditional meat chili, vegetarian chili, and the People's Choice chili categories. We are still finalizing our panel of chili judges for this year's event. Chili cooks need to arrive at 5:30 p.m. for judging. Doors will open to the public at 6:00 p.m. Ticket prices are as follows:

Adults—\$15
Students—\$10
Cooks—\$10.
Children under 12—\$5.

In addition to chili, there will be macaroni and cheese, bread, corn muffins, salad, chips / dip, desserts, and beverages. And there will be some children's activities.

PBJ Night will take place on Wednesday, February 20 at 7:45 p.m. Please bring two loaves of sliced bread. We provide the peanut butter and jelly. The sandwiches made will benefit the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County and City Team.

Please continue to be in prayer for the upcoming "Way Forward" special session of General Conference that will take place in St. Louis, Missouri from February 23-26. To show our support as a Reconciling United Methodist Congregation, we are sending rainbow stoles to the 18 clergy and lay delegates and alternates from South District of EPAUMC.

The **food and toiletries collection** for City Team continues in the narthex. Cathy Darrell continues to be our liaison for this valuable ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us for the following events:

February 20: PBJ Night—Centennial Room—7:45pm
February 23: Chili Cook Off—6pm

Deadline for the March Caller is Thursday February 14th
Be sure and let the Church office know about any events you would like published

Book Club Dates

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm

Book Club meets on February 13th at the home of Peggy Fantozzi
302 Colonial Drive, Wallingford, PA 19086

Discussion book is, *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline.



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



Inherit the Wind

By Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

Presented by special arrangement with DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE. INC.

Directed by Pat O'Neill

February 1, 2, 3*, 8,9, 2019
Evenings at 8 PM – *Matinee at 2 PM
Tickets \$15.00

Seniors (65+) and Students w/student id \$12.00

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

From the Pastor's Desk

Recently, Swarthmore made the national and international headlines for its racism. Yes, racism. I am unable to attribute an intentional racist act, the production and distribution of a xenophobic, hate-filled "comic" letter by high schoolers, to youthful indiscretion. I am also disheartened by the racially insensitive, whitewashed response to the letter made by some members of our community. Rather, this incident and the response to it revealed the pervasive, systemic, and persistent river of racism flowing through our community. You might have seen The Interfaith Council of Southern Delaware County's letter, which I signed, decrying this act of overt racism in the local newspapers. However, what is needed is not just a letter, but a long-term commitment to confront racism.

As your pastor, I am committing myself to doing the hard work of being a leader in confronting the racism in our community. As part of this commitment, I have applied to join the initial cohort of white pastors participating in a year-long anti-racist training program. The training is appropriately called "Whites Confronting Racism." This program, which arises out of our Annual Conference's commitment to dismantling racism in all its forms, is designed to prepare white pastors to seek racial justice in all aspects of their lives and to influence others to do the same.

The "Whites Confronting Racism" training is intense. Over the course of 2019, if accepted into the program, I will attend three progressive three-day, all-day training sessions, complete readings and assignments between each workshop, participate in a support group that meets at least once a month, and go to periodic evening sessions between workshops. However, if I am not accepted into the program, I will participate in other anti-racism training programs this year and apply again to the "Whites Confronting Racism" program the next time it is offered.

Engaging in this work complements our commitment to being an open and inclusive church that truly welcomes, embraces, and affirms all people. Engaging in this work will provide us the skills and tools needed to effectively confront racism. Engaging in this work will support us in our mission to transform the world into the beloved community of God.

I look forward to sharing this journey of intentional anti-racism ministry with you.

Blessings,
Pastor Kevin



Swarthmore United Methodist Church
129 Park Avenue
Swarthmore, PA 19081



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2019 Faith and Life Offerings

Please join us for the Faith and Life offerings in February. We meet from approximately 11:15-noon, following the fellowship time in either the Centennial Room or the Parlor.

February 3: We continue with the Great Courses DVD and a presentation by Professor Amy-Jill Levine on “the Old Testament, or Tanakh, (that) was written in ancient Israel over 1,000 years by many authors. What can this book teach us about the ancient Israelites? What does our faith find in new scholarly understanding? As scripture or as the most influential piece of literature ever written, this book is a source of constant wonder, inspiration, and intrigue.”

February 10: Join us to learn about the Global Kindness Revolution from its founder, local author Judith Trustone. Her plan is outlined in her recently released book, *The Global Kindness Revolution: How Together We Can Heal Violence, Racism and Meanness Through Active Mindfulness*. We are fortunate to have Ms. Trustone describe a positive way to change the world by one little act of kindness at a time.

February 17: Pastor Kevin will present a topic of importance to our SUMC community during his monthly “Conversations with Kevin.”

February 24: Back by popular demand and from his world travels, David Page will lead a meditation session, a fulfilling way to quiet our busy minds and get in touch with the spirit within.