

The Caller



610-543-2110

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

Summer
2018

From the Pastor:

There is a story about a Russian Monastery that was dying and declining. The brothers were growing old, many had died. The villagers had stopped coming to visit the monastery. Young men were no longer interested in dedicating themselves to the monastic order. This decline led to worry, and the loss of hope led to bitterness. In desperation the abbot went to visit an old hermit they had heard about. He hoped that the old man might have some wisdom. The abbot arrived after a long journey and explained their problem to the hermit. The hermit prayed for the abbot but said nothing more. The two men sat in silence for a very long time and the abbot patiently waited to hear some word of hope - a blessing, a prophecy, just something simple to try. Finally, the abbot could abide the silence no longer and he begged the hermit for an answer. The hermit replied, "I'm sorry, but there really isn't anything I have to tell you. I don't know what the future holds for the monastery. I am sorry - oh, but there is this - I believe that the Messiah is in your midst." The Messiah, thought the abbot. Among us at the monastery? He rushed back and reported the unexpected news and the brothers began to question, "Who is it?" "Who among us is the Messiah?" Surely not Brother Nicolaus, he gripes too much. Surely not Brother Stavros, he is so whiney. But what if ...? And on it went.

And in time as the brothers began to suppose that any one of them could be the Messiah, they began to treat each other with respect and kindness and love. That spirit extended into the village and rumors of the Messiah's presence continued so that everyone began to wonder if their neighbor might be the Messiah. And though no one was ever identified as the Messiah, the monastery thrived, the village was blessed, and young men devoted themselves to the faith.

Since Jesus is with us always, then discipleship is on-going. It is not something for a special day or a special evening or a special program.

May God's blessings be with you during this transition time!

Love and Peace,
Sukja

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All the World's a Stage Theater Groups at SUMC



MARPLE-NEWTOWN PLAYERS—SPOTLIGHT THEATER

Performances at Swarthmore UMC

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SUMC

Sunday, June 3:

Faith and Life Class: please join us after worship service on June 3rd for a potluck lunch and informal conversation about areas of interest for future Faith and Life sessions. Bring a dish to share as we join together in fellowship and conversation.

Sunday, June 17:

Pastor Sukja's last Sunday at SUMC. Please join us in the Centennial Room following worship to celebrate her five years with our congregation.

Friday, July 6:

Hosting water ice celebration with Chester Children's Chorus, Lang Music Hall, 11am-2pm

August TBD, Outreach committee planning meeting for fall.

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Deadline for the September Caller is August 21st

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

WORSHIP NOTES



Sunday, June 3th

Celebrating SUMC Graduates

Sunday, June 24th

Summer worship begins **Worship time remains 10 am**

Sunday, September 9

Summer worship ends, return to the Sanctuary

OFFICE NOTES

The *Summer Caller* covers June, July and August activities.

Items for September should be sent to the office by August 21st.

Faith and Life classes are suspended for the summer and will resume in the fall.

Choir rehearsals will resume in the fall.

Book Club does not meet in July and August and will resume in September.

Thank You for Your Service!

Readers:

June 3:	July 1:	August 5:
June 10:	July 8:	August 12:
June 17:	July 15:	August 19:
June 24:	July 22:	August 26:
	July 29:	September 2:

Children's Message: No children's messages during summer months.

Ushers:

June 3:	Carr Family
June 10:	Joy Charlton and David Page
June 17:	Cresson Family
June 24:	Stewart Family
July 1:	Joy Charlton and David Page
July 8:	Rick Sultzer and Susan Kelly
July 15:	Cresson Family
July 22:	Carr Family
July 29:	Wes Hutchinson and Christine Hutchinson
August 5:	Andy Lewis and Bev Stewart
August 12:	Cresson Family
August 19:	Wes Hutchinson and Christine Hutchinson
August 26:	Stewart Family



Fellowship:

June 3:	Potluck Lunch	July 1:	Picnic	August 5:
June 10:	Stephens	July 8:		August 12:
June 17:	Tea—Pastor Sukja	July 15:	Patterson	August 19:
June 24:	Ciampa	July 22:		August 26:
		July 29:		September 2:

Flowers:

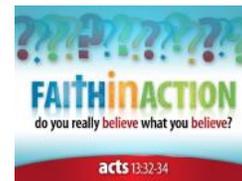
June 3:	Memory of my wife Connie, by Michael Nozilo and family
June 10:	Honor of August Bell's birthday by Sheila Bell
June 17:	Honor of Pastor Sukja Bang, by Susan Kelly
June 24:	Ciampa
July 1:	Ciampa
July 8:	
July 15:	
July 22:	
July 29:	
August 5:	
August 12:	
August 19:	
August 26:	
September 2:	

Counters:

First Sunday	Andy Lewis
Second Sunday	Rick Sultzer and Hogie Hansen
Third Sunday	Bill Flick and Harriet Hudgins
Fourth Sunday	Barb Weir and Charlie Hoover
Fifth Sunday	Bill Flick and Harriet Hudgins

Please call Peggy Mattox at the church office (610-543-2110) to let her know if/when 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.*



OUTREACH—Touching Lives for Christ

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



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES June – August 2018

Summertime has come and with it a time for a less hectic pace. But first I would like to celebrate with you and thank you, the congregation, for your generosity these past months. We collected enough money with our Lenten offering to assemble 34 health kits for UMCOR. These were recently delivered to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg for future distribution. And for Mother's Day we collected \$855 through the sale of Mother's Day cards, that is on its way to Chester Eastside, Inc. for their summer children's camp. We made PBJ sandwiches each month, May through September, to benefit the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County and City Team. We will take a break from PBJ in the summer and let you know in the fall when we will resume. We also served dinner for the homeless at Grace Café on four occasions over the past 9 months.

There are opportunities to host summer fellowship after church, aka "Just Lemonade" throughout the summer. You can sign up on the sheet in the Centennial Room. Also consider signing up for flowers through the summer.

As you know, this past year the Chester Children's Chorus rented our chapel for rehearsals weekday evenings and Saturdays. We hope you had a chance to hear some of their rehearsing if you were in the church during those times. We are planning to host a water ice event for the chorus during their summer camp on Friday, July 6 from 11:30 – 2:00 at Lang Hall. If you would like the chance to get to know some of the 140 students better, this would be a great opportunity. Please let Janice Ciampa know if you would like to be present for some or all of this event. Also we would welcome donations to cover the cost of the event.

The Chester/Delco Chapter of Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence will be displaying the T-shirt Memorial to the Lost at several Delco churches over the summer. Please contact Ralph Ciampa or Judy Luzak for further details.

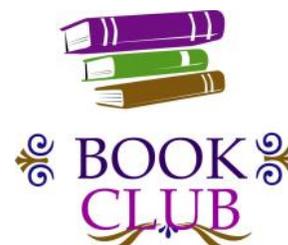
Please continue to donate to the City Team food collection table throughout the summer. It will be a blessing.

SUMC Book Club Dates

Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month, at 7:30pm

June 12: Book Club will meet at the home of Anna Cashion:
1668 Hance Lane, Garnet Valley, PA 19060

Book Discussion is *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett



Welcome to Pastor Kevin and Family

Pastor Kevin Babcock will begin his appointment with us on July 1, 2018. He will continue to serve the Clifton Heights United Methodist Church as he assumes his half-time appointment with us.

Please welcome Pastor Kevin, his wife Regina, and their sons Quincy and James to our congregation, our community and our parsonage.

Kevin has been serving Clifton Heights since 2012 and this past year also served as Youth Pastor at West Grove United Methodist Church. His previous appointments were as a Church Planter, and as Youth Pastor at Lima UMC. From 2000 to 2015 he served a Healthcare Chaplaincy in Metro Philadelphia. His prior career was as an Information Technology Consultant in New Jersey from 1986 to 1997.

Kevin graduated from Drew Theological School, Madison, NJ, in 2000 – Summa Cum Laude, winning the Kidder Prize for Best Academic Record in Practical Theology, and the Graybeal Prize for Ministry that Enhances Community Life. He also holds an MBA and a Non-profit Management Certificate.

Kevin serves as a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, an Urban Commission member, and a Delaware County Police Chaplain.

We look forward to getting to know Kevin and his family, and to serving God and neighbor under his leadership.



*Making Homes Warmer, Safer and Drier
Transforming Lives*

For many years Swarthmore United Methodist Church has sent teams of young people and adults to Appalachia to work to make family homes in that region “warmer, safer, and drier.” This year will be no different, as four teams leave for West Virginia on *July 15 and return on July 21*, working to improve the lives of people in central Appalachia.

SUMC works through the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) organization, which makes arrangements with the families who need repairs, purchases the materials, and organizes the efforts of teams from across the U.S. This year we are coordinating with Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, working together on fundraising, tool and safety training, and sharing tools. Team leaders in each church realized that they have sets of tools that are only used one week each year, and that this did not seem like good stewardship. Likewise, there are people who want to go on an ASP trip, but whose schedules conflict. The churches have worked out a plan to allow participants to choose the dates that work best for them. The SPC group leaves for Kentucky on June 24 and returns on June 30. At this year's Rotary Club Charity Fun Fair both teams worked side-by-side, raising funds for the two trips.

ASP volunteers use their time and skills doing repair work on homes, ranging from installing insulation to adding plumbing to a bathroom to re-roofing. Students are between the ages of 14 and 21. Many young people and adults are returning to Appalachia, some of them having gone 3, 4, or more times. Both teams will accept participants from anyone in the community who would like to go. Those interested in learning more about ASP and participating this summer should contact the SUMC office at 610-543-2110, or at office@swarthmoreumc.org. Support in the form of donations is always welcome, so please send your check to the church office, designated for ASP 2018.

Linton Stables

Finance Committee Update

A hearty thank you goes out to our loyal congregation for their generous giving through the first four months of 2018. SUMC received almost \$73,000 in gifts and offerings through the end of April. Rental income for the same period was \$6,000. This exceeded our budget expectations by approximately \$16,000 and helped to offset some of the unbudgeted expenses associated with our very cold and snowy winter. We are also current on all of our conference obligations.

SUMC had budgeted an annual deficit of approximately \$40,000 so our first four months have significantly reduced our deficit expectations. With the traditional slowdown in the summer months it is very important for the congregation to remain current on their pledges and giving.

SUMMER FLOWERS

As in past years, summer flowers are supplied by members of the congregation from their personal gardens or the local supermarket. Please sign up in the Centennial Room. We meet in the chapel for the summer beginning June 24th. Please bring your own containers. Thank you for helping to enhance our services!

Reconciling United Methodists June 2018 Update

2018 marks ten years that Swarthmore United Methodist Church has been a reconciling congregation. Several members of the congregation have continued to participate in some of the activities of RUM throughout the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Here are some updates:

Reconciling United Methodist Churches is presenting during the evening session of annual conference on June 14th in the Oaks Center. The presentation addresses the *UMC Commission on a Way Forward*. The latest update of the Bishop's Commission will recommend "the One Church approach" to the Special General Conference to be held in 2019. The key provision of their recommendation is that the restrictive language that was placed in the discipline in 1972 regarding full inclusion of LGBTQ persons will be removed. Individual congregations will be allowed discretion to interpret scripture regarding sexual issues. The connectional church structure will be preserved around those points of faith on which we agree.

RUM will again participate in the Philly Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 10. The parade starts at 13th and Locust Streets at 11:30 a.m. and concludes approximately 90 minutes later. There is a morning worship service at Arch Street UMC at 10:00 a.m. prior to the start of the parade. If you are interested in participating in this or other RUM activities you may contact David Krueger from Arch Street UMC by email at davidkrueger01@gmail.com.

SUMC Book Group 2018-2019

All meetings are the second Wednesday at 7:30 unless otherwise noted.

September 12: at Carolyn Stephens's

(NF) *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wulf

October 10: at Carol Carr's

(F) *Lazaretto* by Diane McKinley Whetstone

November 13; at Beth Carruthers's

(F) *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn

December 11: at Barb Weir's

(F) *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate, book bag

January 9: at Nanette Tobin's

(NF) *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren, book bag

February 13: at Peggy Fantozzi's

(F) *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline

March 13: at Mary Drott's

(NF) *Educated* by Tara Westover

April 10: at Sheila Bell's

(YA-F) *The Hired Girl* by Laura Amy Schlitz

May 8 at 6pm, potluck, choose books for next year: at Judy Luzak's

(F) *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah

June 12: at Christine Hutchinson's

(F) *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng



Swarthmore United Methodist Church
129 Park Avenue
Swarthmore PA 19081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Take God with you, wherever you go



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™