



**LINK 'N' TOWER**  
**Collenbrook United Church**  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and United Church of Christ  
Rev. Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell, Pastor

Volume 116, Number 2

February 2016

***FROM YOUR PASTOR...***



It seems we just finished moving through Advent and Christmas, sliding past Epiphany, and now we face the Transfiguration and the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. The seasons of the church year move us quickly from Jesus' birth through his ministry, triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his arrest, crucifixion, and finally to resurrection. Lent lasts for 40 days, which do NOT include Sundays, since each Sunday is supposed to be a mini Easter. Oh, that we would treat each Sunday as such. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

As crazy as it may seem, Lent, Holy Week and Easter are my favorite time of the church year. I have some wonderful worship surprises in store for all of us during Lent this year, and I pray that you won't be able to stay away.

We are growing in numbers. We have welcomed four new members into our faith family during January! This is good news, indeed! Please welcome Jeff, Margaret, Michael and Olivia as you meet them. Each of them bring their excitement, their unique faith experiences, and their energy.

The weekend of the BIG STORM, we still worshiped on Sunday morning, and baptized 11 month old Elizabeth D., daughter of Jeff and Kristin D., and sister of Nathan. What a beautiful little girl and a wonderful celebration. It is so exciting to welcome one more child of God into the family of faith. Each time we baptize or welcome new members, we are making promises to them and to God. Now, with God's help, we try to live into the promises made.

See you in church!

Shalom,  
Pastor Melanie



## MISSION OF THE MONTH-FEBRUARY

### CWS Blankets

Church World Service Blankets is our MOM (Mission of the Month) for February 2016. This vital ministry helps people around the world recover from disasters and get a fresh start. Someone like Karen, a senior citizen in Michigan whose home was flooded in 2014, or Nerline, a mother of four in Haiti, who lived in a tent for several years after the earthquake in 2010 destroyed her house are only two who have been served by CWS Blankets.

Through CWS Blankets you are helping neighbors not only recover from disasters, but offer them hope, necessities for cleanup, and the tools they need to rebuild their lives. You also make it possible to be prepared for whatever may come in the future so CWS is ready to act.

\$50 can provide 5 warm blankets for a family left homeless by a tornado or other disaster.

\$110 can provide an emergency food package for a family of 5 for a month.

\$200 can provide 20 mosquito nets to help keep families safe from the bite of mosquitoes and the illnesses they bring.

During the month of February, please be prayerful about what you are able to offer others whom you will never meet, but will most certainly impact with your gift. Thank you for your generosity.

### ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**, following worship, Collenbrook United Church officially calls for our Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall. It is important that all of our members attend this important time in the life of our congregation. Please plan to be present to celebrate the exciting ministries and missions from our past year, and envision with us our goals for the next year!

Annual Reports will be available to all members on Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup>

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – FEB 6th

The Collenbrook United Church young people have been participating in Souper Bowl Sunday for many years is on February 6, 2016. What on earth is that? So glad you asked!

Using the energy of the Super Bowl, youth across the country unite to raise funds to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and/or in need. The idea of Souper Bowl of Caring is a gift from God, as are our children. They, too, have the ability to make a difference in the wider community in helping others. We all know that hunger and poverty have a negative impact on individuals and communities, and through this youth led mission, joy in serving and giving can also impact us all, producing hope. During our 1 day event at Collenbrook United our children will be located at the exit doors following worship with pots and pans. Our donations will ALL be donated to the charity of their choice. Please be generous in your giving. Our children and those whom they serve thank you, in advance.

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** we celebrate the Transfiguration of Jesus. Come to the mountain with us!

**Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** we celebrate Ash Wednesday. "Get your ASH in church!"

**Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** we celebrate the first Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion.

**Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** we will look to the stars with Abram.

**Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>** we will explore God's everlasting covenant found in Isaiah 55.

### COUNCIL MEETING CHANGE

Normally Council meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. In February, Council is meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, **February 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm. Please mark your calendars with this change.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need to take care of those that are not able to drive anymore but would like to attend church. If you are able to help with this ministry please contact Debbie McLeod through the church office.

### BOOK EXCHANGE

The book exchange is now in full swing. Here's how it works: bring in your donated books to the table in the fellowship hall. Take a couple of other books with you for a monetary donation. The donated monies will go to Chester Eastside. A great ministry we all can participate in!!!



## OUR BELOVED ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

As many of you know, Jiyeon has been struggling with back and leg pain for many months, which has not allowed her to play the organ. She is under the care of doctors, and has seen some temporary improvements with treatment, but is still in a great deal of pain. She has decided to take time off in February (possibly longer) to try to heal. We will most certainly keep her in our prayers and offer our assistance in any way we can. She is not only a gift in our midst, but she is our family and wish and pray for only the best for her.

So, in the meantime, we have some of our own capable musicians stepping up to fill the gap while she's away. Please remember to thank and be patient with us as we find our stride.

## COMMUNITY DINNER

Our monthly dinners are going SO WELL! The date for February is Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, serving from 5-7 pm. Please watch and listen for more information coming soon about the menu and needs. Thank you to all who are working so hard and serving with your hearts. It IS making a huge difference in the lives of those we're serving!

## CSSM (Collenbrook Social Singles Ministry)

This new group is forming for all singles (however you define single is fine with the group). Each month this group will meet for a social event of some kind. Come, bring your neighbors, friends, members and non-members alike. *Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>* the group will be attending a dinner theater event! Sound like a lot of fun! Speak with Michael T. or check out their calendar of events at [www.CSSMChurch.org](http://www.CSSMChurch.org).

## ONA/ML

The Open and Affirming/More Light group is up and running at a fast pace. This year we plan on taking on some new events to not only help raise awareness of LGBTQ issues, but to help raise monies for Collenbrook's community dinners. First, we will be hosting a concert on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm in the sanctuary with all monies raised going to the community dinners. The indomitable and witty Jamie Anderson will be performing. Look for more information in the next coming weeks and be sure to save the date of *May 21<sup>st</sup>*.

We also would like to participate in the Philadelphia Pride Parade and Festival on June 12<sup>th</sup>. It's important to have a presence in the wider community to let people know we exist and are here to welcome them. Our next meeting is on *February 25<sup>th</sup>* after the community dinner and all are welcome to join us.

## SNOW... SNOW... OR ICE...

We have been so incredibly fortunate so far this season with such warm weather. However, you never know what may lie ahead. In the event of heavy snow or dangerous ice conditions, please check our Facebook page for cancellation of worship. We will also make every

effort to call, text, or email members and regular attenders. Most importantly, use your discretion for traveling. I prefer you're safe rather than sorry for coming out in dangerous conditions. God most definitely understands, and so do I. Peace, Melanie

## NEW BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible Study begins within the next week, as soon as those participating decide on our meeting day and time. If you are interested, please speak with or call Pastor Melanie as soon as possible. She'd love to have you join us as we read and study the book of REVELATION for 8 weeks. Your first lesson is noticing that there is no "S" on the end of Revelation (a mistake many people make). Hope you'll prayerfully consider joining the group. While some people find Revelation scary and something to avoid, it is really a book of very good news!

## NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!

We are in the process of updating our Website! We'll let you know when it is up and running.



## KIDZ KORNER

Valentines Day is on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a day to celebrate and honor those people in our life that we really care about. Parents, teachers, siblings and close friends can be valentines! There are many people in the Bible who had special valentines in their life. Match column A with their valentines in column B.

### A

Joseph  
Samson  
Ruth  
Adam  
Isaac  
Jonathan  
Zechariah  
Sarah

### B

Rebekah  
Elizabeth  
David  
Mary  
Abraham  
Delilah  
Esther  
Eve



### Pastor Office Hours

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 1pm. Pastor Melanie is also available for scheduled appointments on Saturdays and ***anytime for emergencies***. Please be aware there are times when she is not around during office hours due to other church business.

**Church:** 610.789.9590

**Cell:** 484.432.5908

If you email Melanie on her days off (Monday, Tuesday) she will respond on Wednesday.  
[pastor@collenbrook.org](mailto:pastor@collenbrook.org)

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

11 Elizabeth D.  
22 Ashlyn L.  
28 Arling S.

### ANYTHING TO ADD?

If you know of a church event that needs to be on the calendar or you have an article you would like to include, remember, deadline is on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Although an effort will be made to include everything, please be aware that articles should be approximately 250 words or ½ page, single spaced.

# COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	
		6:30 Bell Choir	7pm AA	7-10pm Podowan	3pm AA	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP Souper Bowl 12:30-Council/Podowan Meet 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA			7pm-ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	7pm AA	7-10pm Podowan	3pm AA
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30-Choir Reh. 10:30- WORSHIP (communion) 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA		7pm-Council	6:30 Bell Choir	7pm AA	7-10-pm Podowan	3pm AA
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA			6:30 Bell Choir	5-7 Community Dinner 7:15-ONA/ML 7pm AA	7-10pm Podowan	CSSM Dinner and a Play 3pm AA
28	29					
9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP ANNUAL MEETING 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA						

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COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH

