

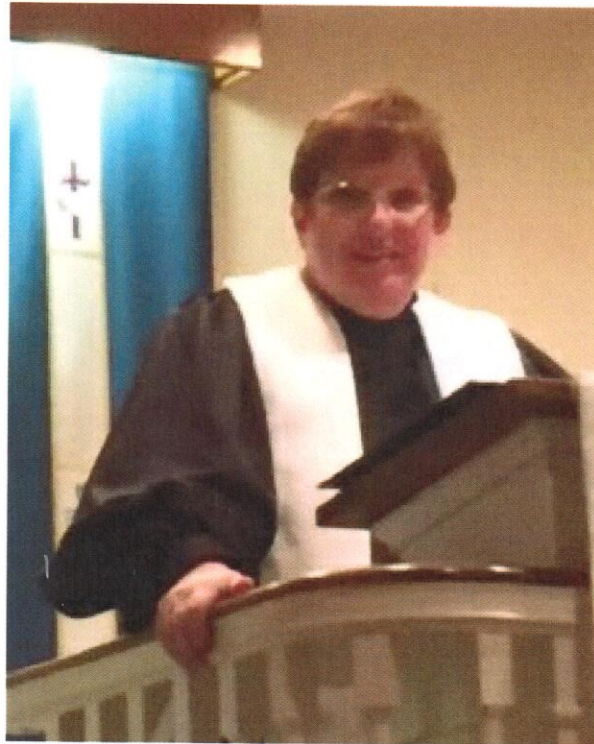


**LINK 'N' TOWER**  
**Collenbrook United Church**  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and United Church of Christ  
Rev. Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell, Pastor

Volume 116, Number 1

January 2016

*FROM YOUR PASTOR...*



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I apologize for not getting a newsletter out in December but it certainly wasn't dull around here! We had amazing worship! Additional décor for the holidays (thanks to Jil) were so beautiful! The choir was in great form throughout the Advent season. We added the Bell Choir which so enriched our worship, and added fun and fellowship we didn't have before. We went caroling to a number of our shut-in members and even made some changes in the sanctuary, removing some pews to make room for people with wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. Our monthly community dinners have grown (as has my waistline with all the great food). New and exciting ideas are springing up everywhere! Chocolate-covered pretzel sales may have contributed to my growing waistline. Our Yankee Candle Fundraiser also went very well. Thank you all for an amazing Advent and Christmas! I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

As we enter a new year, I remain committed to our ministry together and embark with



## MISSION OF THE MONTH (MOM) Heeding God's Call -- Anti Gun Violence

The January Mission of the Month is Heeding God's Call— Delaware County Chapter. Heeding God's Call is a non-denominational faith based organization that addresses Gun Violence in the Philadelphia Area. The organization's principal activity is to identify Gun Stores that do not enforce background check and other mandated gun sale laws. It calls for Gun shop Owners to accept and enforce a 10 point Code of Conduct regarding gun sales. Another action that they support is the creation and public display of Memorials to the Lost which are gardens of T-shirts inscribed with the names of gun violence victims from the local community. Finally, this organization is a firm supporter of President Obama's recent executive order.

Heeding God's Call is a grass roots organization that, we believe, is made of solely of volunteers. The website is: <http://heedinggodscall.org/> **Tom G.**

### ANNUAL MEETING

The date of our Annual Meeting (to be in February 2016) will be announced following our January 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. You will receive an email of the date and time, but also a mailed postcard, especially for those who do not have email. Please watch for this information. It is important that as many members as possible attend the meeting.

There was a shepherd who had 100 sheep. One of them was lost. What did the shepherd do? She went looking for the lost sheep, of course! Being all alone, the lost sheep was in danger of all the wild things out there! So, the lost sheep needed the flock. But then, again, the flock wasn't complete without the one that was missing.

We need each of you! And I'd like to think you need us, too. See you in church and for the Annual Meeting!

Peace,

**Pastor Melanie**

### ANNUAL REPORTS

If you are a committee chairperson, please send or leave your annual reports in the church office by **January 21<sup>st</sup>**, 2016. This will allow Danielle time to gather and print all the materials for our Annual Meeting. Reports will be available to the congregation one week prior to the Annual Meeting.

*(cont. from front page)*

excitement toward all that God is calling us. We have welcomed new members Michael, Jeff and Liv, and look forward to a baptism in a few weeks. I know that we have an amazing year ahead of us! Come one and all to continue the journey! Bring your neighbors and friends to worship and any other activities we may be holding. We are growing a GOOD NEWS Church!

**Shalom, Pastor Melanie**

### 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!!!

### FOOD BOX

You may be wondering where in the world the food donation box went to for Chester Eastside. Well, it's still very much a part of Collenbrook so please continue to bring in those donations. The box is now located in the Fellowship Hall.

### 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.



## HANDBELL CHOIR

Our handbell choir gets to keep going, at least until Easter. We were able to rent the 3<sup>rd</sup> octave until then but because Malmark has a limit of 6 month leasing, this will be our last time for the that 3<sup>rd</sup> octave. Of course, the 2 octave set we have been using actually belongs to Podowan and they have been very generous in allowing us to use them.

If we want this to be a continuing ministry for Collenbrook, then we need to find a way to acquire our own 3 octave set of bells. There are 2 manufacturers of these beautiful and expensive instruments: Malmark and Schulmerich. Lucky for us both are located just north of Philadelphia. Deciding which to purchase is simply a matter of personal choice. Both are outstanding, quality bells. So the question is just how much money are we talking about? A 3 octave set (with cases) runs \$9,950 (Malmark) to \$10,150 (Schulmerich). I would love to have conversation about how we can acquire our own set with anyone who is interested in this ministry continuing.

Pat L.

## 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 MEMBERS



Collenbrook is so fortunate to have Michael, Liv and Jeff added to our numbers. Please make sure to let them know how much we love them!

## BULLETIN BOARDS

We are trying to keep our bulletin boards updated with current information. We'd love for you to check them out! In the hallway by the kitchen there is now a section for Council notes, ONA/ML and Just Peace notes, and Mission. Downstairs by the office, you'll find our most recent newsletter, fliers, and much more! (If you're looking for a paper copy of the newsletter, you'll find them at the back of the sanctuary on the table.) If you would like to help us keep them updated, fun and funky, we'd love to hear from you! Thanks, Melanie and Danielle

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Ted V.
4	Marie D.
5	Bill D.
6	Jeff D.
10	Courtney S.
14	Emily J
14	Louise V.
15	Tom G.

## 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 spa



## SAVE THE DATE!!!

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

What: **Movie Night**  
Where: Fellowship Hal  
When: 6:30 pm  
Cost: Free

It's always fun to gather together and watch a good movie. Come join us for a gripping, edge of your seat drama!

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016

What: **Community Dinner**  
Where: Fellowship Hall  
When: 5 – 7 pm  
Cost: Free

This is a monthly dinner we put on for all of us and the wider community. This month the dinner is back on its usual Thursday and the meal will be beef roast. Please get the word out to those you may know who would enjoy a meal with no strings attached.

### EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

If we have your email, we will be sending your newsletter to you in this form. If you still wish to receive a mailed copy, please let us know.

### 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)



# COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	4	5	6	7	8	9 3pm AA
10 9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	11	12 7pm-Council	13 noon bible study 6:30 Bell Choir	14 7pm AA	15 7-10pm Podowan	16 3pm AA
17 9:30-Choir Reh. 10:30- WORSHIP MOM Mtg 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	18	19 11-4 Presb Mtg	20 noon bible study 6:30 Bell Choir	21 Committee Reports Due 7pm AA	22 7-10pm Podowan	23 6:30 Movie Night 3pm AA
24 9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	25	26	27 noon bible study 6:30 Bell Choir	28 5-7 Community Dinner 7pm AA	29 7-10pm Podowan	30 3pm AA
31 9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA						