



LINK 'N' TOWER



Collenbrook United Church

All are Welcome, NO EXCEPTIONS

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and United Church of Christ
Rev. Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell, Pastor

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March 2016

The Spirit of God is alive and well at Collenbrook United Church! Worship is my favorite time of week! It is a time of excitement, engagement, prayerfulness, praise and thought. We have visitors each week, and yes, a few more wiggly children. This also means a little more noise. If it bothers you, please don't reprimand them. They are being children. What you might consider is sitting with them, either in the pew or even on the floor as they color. Be with them, teach them, love them and guide them.

I know we've been missing Jiyeon leading our music, but we continue to hold her in prayer that God's healing hands are upon her. She is taking another month of rest for her back pain and plans to be back with us in April.

The good news is that Deb M. has not only stepped up to the piano to lead our music, but others, too, have joined in that effort. With so many pitching in (Pat, John, Bill, Kristen, Roseann, choir) the energy is palpable, and our joy compounded! If you have a gift that you'd like to offer, please let me know! I'd welcome anything and everything to enhance and enrich our worship each week. Michael T. has made sure that our sound system is up and running (what he recently gifted to us was broken and is now replaced) so everyone can hear more clearly. Bells are rehearsing and getting ready for Holy Week and Easter. Upcoming worship is going to be exciting! You're not going to want to miss it!

See you in church! Come join the celebration!

Peace,
Melanie

MISSIONS/MINISTRIES

Collenbrook has a rich history of mission and ministry in the wider community. From the Mission of the Month (MOM) to the new and successful Community Dinners, there is something for everyone to become of part of in some way.

Mission of the Month

March's MOM is for the UCC Youth Fund. There will be a speaker coming to service to explain what the Youth Fund is for and how we can help.

Community Dinner

Back in September several people decided to take on something very different and daring. Because it was unknown how it would work or how successful it would be, it was decided that in 6 months an evaluation would take place. The daring ministry is the monthly community dinners and this is the month that participants will gather together and critique, assess and determine how best to go forward. What does this mean? Well, for one there will be no monthly dinner in March. This was decided because not only do the volunteers need to do an evaluation, but it also allows for all to join in our Holy Week celebrations. Please hold this dynamic ministry in your prayers during this time and save the last Thursday in April for the next community dinner.

Collenbrook Social Singles Ministry(CSSM)

The first event for this new ministry was a success! There were 6 participants and had a wonderful time. The next event is PIZZA and GAME NIGHT on March 12 at 6 pm at the fellowship hall. There will be board games (bring your favorite) and pizza. All are welcome to join in the fun!

www.CSSMChurch.org.

ONA/ML

The next meeting is on Thursday, March 31st at 7:15 pm. There is much planning to do for both the Jamie Anderson/Ana Crusis concert on May 21st and the 2016 Pride Parade and Festival on June 12th. The concert is to raise monies for the community dinners. Tickets may be purchased either online for \$15 or at the door for \$18. Flyers will be posted with more details in the next week or so.

We are also planning to participate in the Pride Parade this year with some sort of float/flatbed so anyone who would like to join will be able to. We would love to show a large and fun presence and celebrate Collenbrook's diversity so keep an eye out for more info in the coming weeks.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 20th

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship

We begin this day with a Palm Parade! Please try to be here a little early so we can line up and welcome Jesus with palms and singing. We continue through the worship service to move toward the events later in the week.

Thursday, March 24th

Maundy Thursday Worship,

7 pm At this service, we remember the Passover Meal Jesus had with his disciples. We will celebrate Holy Communion with hand washing and prayer.

Friday, March 25th

Good Friday Worship, 7 pm

We remember Jesus' sacrifice this night with music, drama, and prayer.

Holy Saturday

While we will not have a formal worship service this day, prayer vigils are often practiced by Christians during this time. You are encouraged to take some time during the day set apart for prayer: pray for yourself, your family, your friends, your church, your pastor, your community, your city, your country, your world.

Sunday, March 27th

Easter Sunday

Easter Breakfast 9 am

Easter Worship 10:30 am

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Collenbrook is very much alive and well! There is so much going on that sometimes it can be overwhelming but also so exciting. From sharing gifts of music, gathering for a bible study or a movie, Collenbrook is one active family! The annual chinese dinner took place last week and was so much fun. There were 30 of us that descended on Ichiban seafood Buffet for great fellowship and good food. We also had a movie night on February 6th with popcorn and other snacks. Another wonderful time in the life of Collenbrook.

There are many ways to participate in the life of Collenbrook so take a look below and see if something ignites your interest and passion:

Music

Music is a huge part of our life here at Collenbrook and we are so blessed to have so talented singers and musicians. Music is a form of worship, whether we listen to or sing very contemplative and quiet pieces to shouting and raising our hands in sheer joy of feeling the rhythm of the Spirit move through you. If you like to sing please join our choir which rehearses on Sunday mornings before service.

If singing isn't something that interests but playing an instrument is then check out our newest music ministry, bell choir. Collenbrook now possesses its very own 3 octave handbell set which allows us another avenue to reach our wider community through music. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:30. If interested please talk with Pat L.

Bible Study - Revelation

There are 2 opportunities to participate: Wednesdays at 12:30 and Thursday evenings at starting at 7 pm. This is an exciting and interesting study on the last book of the bible and one in which many people are afraid of. Come join us and see why Revelation is not to be feared.

Fellowship Opportunities

Every month we try to do something fun as a church. This month was the Chinese Dinner, last month a movie, caroling was a blast in December and gathering at Rose Tree Park last summer for a concert was heavenly. Keep an eye out for the next gathering and if you have any ideas please speak with Debbie or Lois.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

14 Frank Bell
25 Jack Bryson, Jr.
26 Ricki Heinze

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

There are several fundraisers going on this spring to help various ministries of the church:

Yankee Candle

This is to help supplement the deacon's fund. Please pick up order forms and catalogs this week. Orders will be delivered in time for Mother's Day. Also remember you can have friends and family who don't live in the area participate on the website.

Buy A Bell

If you haven't heard, we now have our own 3 octave handbell set. This was purchased used and was an opportunity that had to be moved on quickly or lose it. Council made a decision to purchase and borrow the monies from the organ fund with the understanding that it would be paid back as quickly as possible. This allowed us to borrow from ourselves rather than taking out a loan or paying over time, incurring interest charges. So, in order to get the ball rolling, there will be a "Buy a Bell" fundraiser in the coming weeks so stayed tuned...

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

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COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH CALENDAR

MARCH 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 12:30-bible study 6:30 Bell Choir	3 7pm-bible study 7pm AA	4 7-10pm Podowan	5 3pm AA
6 9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	7	8 7pm-Council	9 12:30-bible study 6:30 Bell Choir	10 7pm-bible study 7pm AA	11	12 6pm CSSM Game and Pizza 3pm AA
13 9:30-Choir Reh. 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	14	15	16 12:30-bible study 6:30 Bell Choir	17 7pm-bible study 7pm AA	18	19 3pm AA
20 9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	21	22	23 12:30-bible study 6:30 Bell Choir	24 7pm – Maundy Thursday Service 7pm AA	25 7pm – Good Friday Service	26 3pm AA
27 9 -Easter Breakfast 10:30-EASTER CELEBRATION 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	28	29	30 12:30-bible study	31 7:15 ONA/ML meeting		