

LINK 'N' TOWER

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

Volume 116, Number 9

October 2016



From the Pastor

What would it be like? Pat and I recently had an evening adventure of sky diving. No, we did NOT jump out of a perfectly functional airplane. We did, however, get to feel the excitement of flying with a company in King of Prussia. It was amazingly fun! (Let me know if you're interested in having a group activity there! I'd do it again in a heartbeat!)

What this has reminded me of is all the "What if's" or "What would it be like's" of life. So here's a list I've come up with for each of us to ponder as we move through this new season of autumn. Some of these, you may have already experienced or are living right now.

What would it be like...

-to be respected? - to wear pajamas all day? - to be at the bottom of the food chain? - to attend church every day? - to conduct an orchestra? - to read minds? - to always be first? - to always be last? - to be an angel? - to never get a hug from anyone? - to live in the dark? - to be in constant pain? - to know you were going to die today? - to be lost? - to be shunned? - to have a different opinion than someone you love? - to feel no guilt? - to live in a stress-free world? - to eat a worm?

What would it be like...

-if I lived in a country where I could not worship freely? - if I was told what to believe? - if I were not able to disagree and still be loved? - if I could not vote in elections? - if I could not make the choices I make every day?

It wouldn't be like Collenbrook United Church!

Please remember to get registered to vote and vote on Election Day. I don't care HOW you vote. It IS important that you DO!

Shalom, Melanie

Jiyeon...

Greetings to all members and friend of Collenbrook United Church. Jiyeon Kim, due to her illness, has resigned her position with us as Organist/Choir Director. We have been so blessed by her music ministry with us. It is important that we continue to hold her in our prayers as she continues her treatment. When that is completed, she will be traveling back to Korea for some time with her family there. She has declined to have a celebration of her ministry with us, so please shower her with cards, love and prayers. May God's peace and healing be with her now, and always. Amen.

CROPWALK
(October Mission of the Month)



On October 9th at 1:30 pm, walkers from the Delaware Valley area will gather at the Swarthmore to begin the 2016 Cropwalk. Collenbrook United has been a presence at the walk for many years and we want this year to continue that tradition. Just like last year, a team has been formed online at the cropwalk website. This makes donating even easier than ever! If you plan on walking than just sign up on our team and start collecting donations (using your social media points). If you are unable to walk than please go to the site and make a donation to our team. If you want Collenbrook bookkeeping to make a record of your donation just make a note to them with the donation amount (for tax purposes the charitable contribution would be to CWS if you make the donation online). Donating online means you can use a debit or credit card and monies go directly to Cropwalk. Ending hunger is a matter of justice and this small thing we do in October does have a huge impact on eradicating hunger in the world so join now and start collecting donations for the team of Collenbrook United Church. Our goal is \$1200. <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/swarthmorepa/Team/View/25278/Collenbrook-United-Church>. "I'm excited to be part of it and would love to have you join me on this journey. The steps we take - and the funds we raise - will make a real impact!" *Michael Tovar*

Worship Changes

Our Worship Committee / Team has met and would like to try a few new things. Yes, everything that we always have in worship will still be there. We are just simply shifting a few things around. What we are trying to accomplish is to begin our worship more quietly and build the energy through the worship experience. The biggest change you will notice is that we will begin the worship with a welcome, sharing the peace of Christ, with the chimes to ring us back to our seats, and then prelude. Announcements will come FOLLOWING the POSTLUDE, before we leave for Fellowship Hour. Therefore, after the Commissioning and Benediction, we will all sit back down and enjoy the Postlude. We're trying this for a variety of reasons, which includes people who may be a little late not missing out on announcements that are made. There are also those who enjoy that quiet contemplative time at the beginning of worship, and this provides us the opportunity to create that space. You will also notice that the frequency of Communion has increased. There are some of our members who would like Communion every week, while others prefer to have it 6-7 times a year. The compromise is to celebrate Communion the first Sunday of each month, with some special holy days added in. If you are worshipping and choose to not to receive Communion, no one will judge you in any way. We are each on a spiritual journey which we all live differently. We now have portable microphones which are important as we share our joys, concerns and announcements. Please use the microphone as it is handed to you. There are those among us who are hearing impaired, and no matter how loud we think we are, they still cannot hear us.

MISSION AND MINISTRIES

Music Ministries

Music is such a vital and important part of the church and Collenbrook is in full “swing”. Choir has begun with rehearsals on Sundays at 9:30 and is open to anyone who loves to sing. If belting out a tune is not up your alley maybe ringing in the bell choir sounds interesting. If so then please feel free to join rehearsals on Wednesdays at 6:30. We try to bring a balance to worship with traditional and contemporary music so that all congregants may be fed spiritually. To that end the organ committee is getting closer to making a recommendation to council which will culminate in purchasing an organ to enhance the worship experience for many. Music is a connection to spirit for most people and there are many musical paths to follow from a Bach piece on the organ to a more contemporary song filled with drums, piano and guitar. May we all be mindful that we come from different generations with differing musical connections.

Blood Drive

Collenbrook is having a blood drive on Saturday, October 1st from 9am to 1pm. The American Red Cross will conduct the drive. Giving blood is a painless way to help our wider community. It only takes about a half hour of your time and you get cookies at the end so please come donate if you are able.

Collenbrook Mission Trip

A group of volunteers are going to southwest West Virginia to help in rebuilding homes. This part of West Virginia is remote and the area was hit hard with floods last year. Please keep Jack B. and the rest of the crew in your prayers as they travel in early October for a week to help our brothers and sisters in West Virginia.

Adult Prayer Study for Fall

We are offering a new Adult Prayer Study entitled “Unbinding Your Soul.” It is a familiar format for those who participated in “Unbinding the Gospel.” However, the one big difference is this one is built into two 4 week sessions. The first 4 weeks is a warm up – and experiment in Prayer and Community. If after these weeks we wish to go on, then we can. Are you interested? There’s a sign-up sheet at the front of the sanctuary. Signing up means you may be interested, but does not commit you to anything. It lets the leaders know to be in contact with you. You may also email Melanie or the church office to let them know. We’re excited about this amazing experiment! As you’ll read in the introduction to the study:

God can, and will, do amazing things in our lives and through us if we’ll just pay attention and follow. This is a pretty humble process. It isn’t rocket science. It’s spiritual growth. We trust that God will bless our lives and take us to the next deeper level if we’ll talk honestly with each other; listen carefully and respectfully to each other; study bits of the Bible and pray. Four weeks isn’t very long, so let’s not tiptoe around the main point or fuss around with leading up to it gently.”

If you’re interested enough to agree to meet four time and to pray for three weeks, let’s get started!

Outfest

On October 9th Collenbrook ONA/More Light group will be hosting an information table at the 2016 national Outfest in Philadelphia. This is an outreach to the LGBTQA community and we would love some of you to come out (no pun intended) and join us any time between noon and 6pm. This is the largest event of the year for the community and is a fun way to show your support.

Community Dinner

The community dinners are quickly becoming the place to be for good food and great fellowship. Each successive month we see more members of the wider community coming to get a free well balanced home cooked dinner. Please help get the word out to your family, friends and neighbors that our next dinner is **Thursday, October 27th starting at 5 pm.**

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS

(Almost) Free Halloween Candy

Can you imagine buying all of your Halloween candy for just one dollar? That is all it could cost you along with a little mathematical skill. Want to improve your odds even more? Put in as many guesses as you want, only **\$1** each. The Collenbrook Fundraising Club (to further to mission and ministry of the church) is giving everyone an opportunity to support the church and win a delicious assortment of Halloween candy. Just guess the correct number of wrapped pieces of candy hiding in our Halloween container or be the closest (over or under). Ties will be broken by a second opportunity to guess. Fill out a slip with your guess, your name, and phone number and drop it in the Halloween box. Each guess needs to be accompanied by a dollar. You do not have to be present to win, but you must be available by phone on the day of the drawing, Oct 23. The Halloween Candy Container and entry box will be available at the Rummage Sale, the Community Dinner and every Sunday after worship until the drawing on **Oct 23rd**. Good Luck and Happy Estimating

Yankee Candle Time is Here

Yankee Candles make great Christmas gifts and it's a wonderful way to raise some needed monies for the ministries and mission of Collenbrook. The church receives a straight 40% of the sales so it is a great opportunity. There are several ways to participate: take a catalog and some order forms and have family and friends order from you or you can set up a link from your social media outlets to the Collenbrook Yankee Candle portal so people can order from all over the country! Please talk to Pastor Melanie about how you can best be a part of this great fundraiser. Sales are for 6 weeks and delivery is guaranteed before Christmas.

Ebay for Collenbrook

Do you have treasure in your drawers and closets? We have a way to turn them into cash that can benefit both you and Collenbrook. Recently Nancy and Pat had an electric log splitter that was relatively new but they no longer wanted. They tried to sell it at the yard sale but it went unsold so they donated it to Collenbrook and asked Tom Gambino to list it on Ebay. It was viewed by people all over the country. Three weeks later a man from Tabernacle NJ paid \$175 for it. Nancy and Pat directed the proceeds to Collenbrook. Nancy and Pat get a tax deduction. Tom Gambino recently sold a Mont Blanc pen that was sitting in a drawer for \$217 on Ebay. He donated \$160 of the proceeds to Collenbrook.

So how does this become a fundraiser for Collenbrook? Tom Gambino is setting up an Ebay account for Collenbrook. All you have to do is identify items for sale and bring them to church. If you have original boxes and/or instructions they improve the value. Tom will take a bunch of pictures and list the items on Collenbrook's Ebay account. When your item sells, you donate 50% or all to Collenbrook.

When the item is listed you will receive a copy of the listing. When it is sold you will receive a copy of the sale. Then, 7 to 10 days later the cash becomes available. Anything not sold after 2 months will be returned or, if you wish, become part of our next yard sale. Note, most Ebay items are shipped to the buyer using the US Postal Service so weight and size are important. So let's see if together we can turn some of your unwanted junk or those gifts which the giver was sure you wanted but in fact you did not, into cash benefitting you and Collenbrook.

CHURCH INFORMATION - NEW

Pastor Melanie has changed her days off to Mondays and Fridays, at least for now. She was finding herself working many Tuesdays due to various meetings, etc. Therefore, Melanie will be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please call the church or drop in during those days if you would like to speak with her. It is always a good idea to call ahead just to make sure she is available. Please remember there are times when she is out of the office during these days working on church or denominational business.

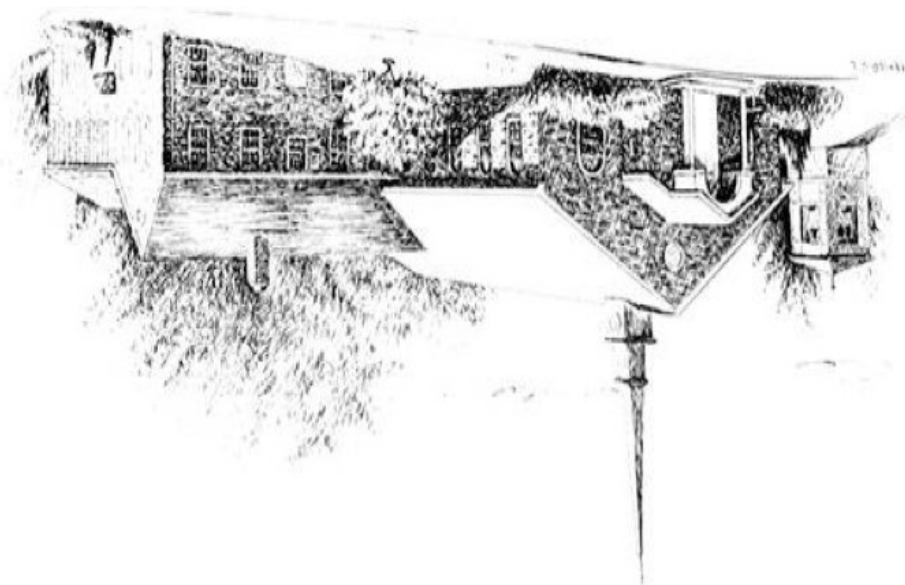
Collenbrook United Church, 5290 Township Line Rd., Drexel Hill. PA 19026

Phone: 610.789.9590 www.collenbrook.org info@collenbrook.org

COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Blood Drive 3pm AA
2 9:30 Choir 10:30- WORSHIP communion 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	3	4	5 7pm Bell Choir	6 7pm AA	7 7-10pm Podowan	8 3pm AA
9 9:30 Choir 10:30- WORSHIP Cropwalk OutFest 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	10	11 7pm Council	12 7pm- Bell Choir	13 7pm AA	14 7-10-pm Podowan	15 3pm AA
16 9:30 Choir 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	17	18	19 7pm- Bell Choir	20 7pm AA	21 7-10-pm Podowan	22 3pm AA
23 9:30 Choir 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	24	25	26 7pm- Bell Choir	27 5-7 Community Dinner 7pm AA	28 7-10-pm Podowan	29 3pm AA
30 9:30 Choir 10:30 WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	31					



www.collbrook.org; info@collbrook.org

COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH

5290 Township Line Road

Drexel Hill, PA 19026

FIRST CLASS MAIL