

## LINK 'N' TOWER

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

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The season of Lent has begun and we move through 40 days of preparing, readying ourselves and perhaps the world around us for the high point of the Christian year, resurrection and new life. As with all preparation, something is required of us. To pass a test at school, study is your preparation. To produce a crop, the farmer must prepare the soil, plant the seeds, and care for the plants. For us to host an event, we must make our plans, set up tables and chairs, prepare any food required, and welcome our guests as they arrive. Wait! Don't we have to invite people?

When was the last time you invited someone to church? We are a growing church filled with the Spirit of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ! As you look around on Sunday morning, you see many new faces! How exciting! Just a few short weeks ago we welcomed new members into our midst. While some of us adapt well to all the newness and changes, others of us may find it difficult. With new people come new ideas, and even old ideas presented in a new way and with new energy.

God isn't finished growing this Good News Church! There are, however, a few things for us to do as we prepare for our continued growth.

1. Continue to be a people of **PRAYER**. Prayer is a key in preparing. Without it, we are just moving through the motions. We become a club rather than a faith community. God is in this thing we do together! We must never lose sight of God's voice and hand in our midst.
2. Be a people of **EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME**. We are this, without a doubt. But it takes energy to keep this going. We must always welcome whatever gifts someone brings to the table and offers from their heart. We are so blessed with incredibly generous people in this church. When someone else's expectations are different from our own, please offer thanksgiving and praise!
3. Be a people of **MISSION and OUTREACH**. Mission and Outreach is sharing monetary gifts, yet goes way beyond that with sharing personally and passionately. Our Community Dinners do just that. It is so exciting to watch you all engage with each other and our guests each month as this ministry grows. Beyond this, we must always be listening to God and paying attention to what is going on around us to discern how we are being called to share God's love.
4. Be a people who are **GROWING SPIRITUALLY**. Spiritual growth happens in many different ways: study, prayer, welcoming, sharing and reaching out. All those first three things contribute to spiritual growth.

We are preparing the groundwork for God's Good News of resurrection and new life to come! God is planting the seeds in you and me. We're setting up to welcome all whom God sends our way. If you're excited enough, maybe you'll even invite others to join in! I hope you will. We are growing a **GOOD NEWS CHURCH!**

Peace, Melanie

## March Mission of the Month – West Virginia Mission Trip



This past Fall Jack B. and others from the church made a trip down to southern West Virginia to help rebuild houses. This area has been hit hard with flooding over the last couple of years and are still in need of hands on help. It was a successful trip so they are going back to do it again. Please donate generously so we can send our people not only with prayers and well wishes but also some money to help in the rebuilding of this devastated area.

*Next month: Justice Rescue (animal rescue)*

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 3/1 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
- 3/11 Dinner and Drag Show
- 3/14 Council Meeting
- 3/16 Round Table Discussion
- 3/18 Charity Boot Camp
- 3/25 Blood Drive
- 3/30 Community Dinner  
ONA meeting

## DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Please make the following corrections to your 2017 directory:

Ricky H.: Thornhurst, PA 18424-8019;

Marge H.: Swarthmore, PA 19081

## ONA/MORE LIGHT PRESENTS

This is going to be a night to a drag show you are in for a treat. art form. It's entertainment. It takes Some of the world's best performers venues, including television. for their craft and we are lucky that will make you laugh and have a a soup and salad dinner. There will and will be complemented with delectable dessert. This event is to youth organization in Philadelphia. \$15/single; \$25/couple.



remember! If you have never been to Drag performances are a bona fide talent, charisma and guts to do well. headline in Las Vegas and other Performers like RuPaul are respected enough to be able to bring a show great time. Included with the show is be a variety of soups to choose from breads and salad, followed by a raise money for The Attic, an LGBT Tickets can be purchased at the door:

### ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

I personally invite each of you to join me in a Round-Table Discussion on **Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**. This discussion is to open the door to conversation about our troubling times and our lack of ways to converse respectfully to these issues that so passionately concern us. Some people feel silenced by the vitriol and angst. Others are more vocal and still feel deep anxiety. Since we are all agreed that political conversations aren't appropriate during our worship time, I am creating a space for some conversation to happen. Please join us. Don't be afraid. All voices honored and respected. If we can't find ways to talk about our views and feelings about what is happening in our country here in our own church, with people we know and love, then we're going to have difficulty talking with people outside the church.

### MARCH BOOT CAMP -BOOK DRIVE

**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 am** there will be an opportunity to get some exercise and help others at the same time. If you have never been to a Boot Camp then please give it a try. Last month was a blast and because of the nice weather it was held outdoors. This month bring new/very gently used children's books (all levels). These books will go to the Camelot KAPS program in Philadelphia. This is a therapeutic day school for students with emotional disturbances.

#### MARCH COMMUNITY DINNER

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm**

The word is out. We are feeding more people every month and it keeps growing. This ministry is on fire and you all are the reason for its success. If you want to help please contact Michael T. Remember, this is NOT a potluck and the menu is set so if you want to help prepare the meal please talk to Michael.

#### LGBT Group Meeting

The next meeting follows right after the community dinner on **March 30<sup>th</sup>**. We have a lot going on this year and we need your help. All are welcome and that includes allies.

### BLOOD DRIVE

**Collenbrook United Church**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Saturday, March 25, 2017**

**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

There is a huge need for blood and platelets. We can help by signing up to give a blood donation. It only takes about 30 minutes and you get some good treats. Please go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: collenbrook.

### NEW AND EXCITING THINGS

Movie night went well. There were about 12 of us that ate popcorn and hotdogs, watched a fun but a thought provoking movie and had wonderful discussion. It went so well the ONA/More Light Committee decided to host a movie night every other month. Next movie will be in April so watch for the date.

Bridget T. is hosting 8 weeks of **YOGA** at Collenbrook United Church. These classes are free and the goal of learning the poses of Yoga and getting started. Please speak with Bridget if you're interested!

We have offered space to the **Girl Scout Council** of Eastern Pennsylvania to host a Teddy Bear Tea. This is an event where they invite girls and their parents to come and learn about Girl Scouting. We may also host a Girl Scout troop here at Collenbrook in the near future. Council has not only approved this, but welcomes it.

#### CHURCH INFORMATION - NEW

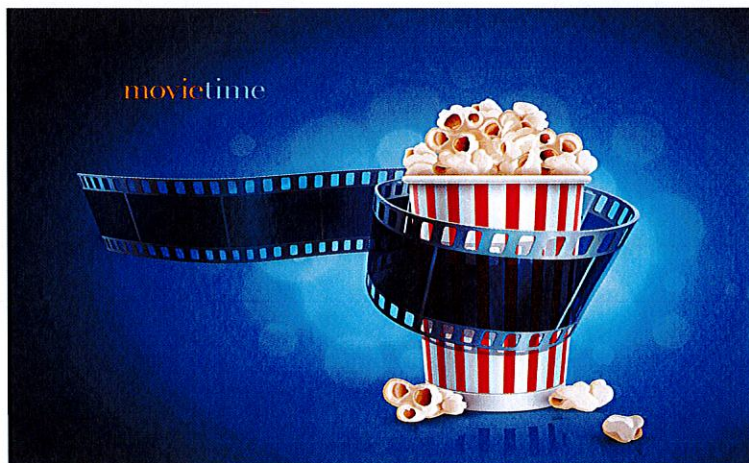
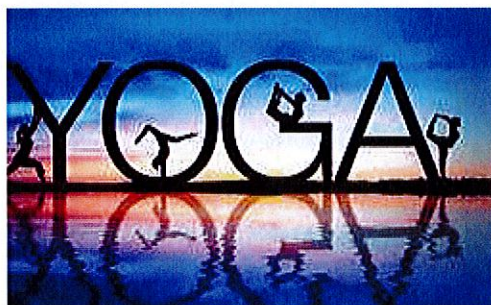
Pastor Melanie has changed her days off to Mondays and Fridays, at least for now. She was finding herself working many Tuesdays due to various meetings, etc. Therefore, Melanie will be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please call the church or drop in during those days if you would 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](http://www.collenbrook.org) [info@collenbrook.org](mailto:info@collenbrook.org)**

**All articles and calendar events must be in to the editor no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send items to [collenbrookunitedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:collenbrookunitedchurch@gmail.com). Please note that this email is different than the church email. If you do not have email please give your articles/event dates to Pat Lawrence-Caldwell in legible form.**

*From the editor: if you are not receiving an email copy of the newsletter and would like to please send an email to the above email address so you can be placed on the newsletter email list.*



# COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH CALENDAR

## MARCH 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7pm Ash <b>Wednesday Service</b>	2 7pm AA	3 7-10pm Podowan	4 3pm AA
5 9:30 Choir 10:30- <b>WORSHIP</b>  1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	6	7	8 7pm Bell Choir	9 7pm AA	10 7-10pm Podowan	11 <b>Drag Show Charity Event</b>  3pm AA
12 9:30 Choir 10:30- <b>WORSHIP</b>  1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	13	14 7pm Council	15 7pm Bell Choir	16 7pm Round Table  7pm AA	17 7-10-pm Podowan	18 <b>10 am Charity Boot Camp</b>  3pm AA
19 9:30 Choir 10:30- <b>WORSHIP</b>  1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	20	21	22 7pm Bell Choir	23	24 7-10-pm Podowan	25 3pm AA
26 10:30- <b>WORSHIP</b>  1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	27	28	29 7pm Bell Choir	30 5-7 <b>Community Dinner</b>  7:15 ONA/ML MTG 7pm AA		