

LINK 'N' TOWER

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

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Life can change in an instant. A blink of an eye. The unexpected can happen and turn your life upside down. It happens to all of us at one time or another. Sometimes it's a huge blessing like meeting that special someone and you just intuitively know it or it can be something devastating like getting a phone call that tells you a loved one has been in a fatal accident.

When these life changing events happen how do we react? How does God fit into it? Well, when it's a good life changing event we tend to shout our thanks to God and tell everyone about our wonderful blessings. However, when it is dreaded life changing events we tend to blame God, yelling and cursing our misfortune. I remember my first "R" rated film, Pete and Tilly starring Carol Burnett. The scene that stuck in my head all these years was when Tilly (Burnett) was in her back yard, screaming at the top of her lungs to God, cursing God, crying, begging and then back to cursing as she shook her fist at the sky. At that point in my twelve years I had already experienced the loss of my grandfather and the loss of my oldest sister's first baby during delivery so, even at that young age I understood this woman's anger and grief laid bare before God.

God is fully present in our lives and this manifests itself in these life changing events. We would never tend to either thank or blame God if this were not so. God celebrates with us in our times of utter joy and God walks with us, carries us, holds us tight in our worst times of sorrow. It is ok to shout our thanks and to scream our anger and grief. As Isaiah 49:16 says "*Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands, Your wails are continually before me.*" God holds us close in our best and worst times so even though you may not feel God's presence in those times, know God is holding you, cradling you, so go ahead...shout and scream. God can take it.

Peace, Pat Lawrence-Caldwell

CROPWALK **(October Mission of the Month)**



On **October 8th at 1:30 pm**, walkers from the Delaware Valley area will gather at the Swarthmore to begin the 2017 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 \$1500. www.crophungerwalk.org/swarthmorepa/Collenbrook.

CELEBRATING 300 YEARS – Philadelphia Presbytery

Please join in the celebration of the historic happening. There will be several of us singing in the choir and we would love to have a large group represent Collenbrook. The worship service is **Saturday, October 7 starting at 10 am** at the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church. If you would like to attend please speak with Pastor Melanie as soon as you can and look for flyers with more information.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

The Outreach Committee invites members and friends to a meeting on **Thursday, October 5 at 7 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting is an opportunity to learn more about Collenbrook's relationship to the greater community and ways in which you can help. For example, helping with our Community Dinners.

We have been doing a monthly dinner on the last Thursday of each month for the last year and a half. The purpose of these dinners is to give the wider community a good, healthy meal and fellowship at the end of the month when people tend to have a harder time making ends meet. The dinner is always free and is prepared and paid for by the generous donations of time and money by members and friends of Collenbrook. We would love to keep this ministry going but we need more committed hands involved. This is where you come in. There have been times when I think, "I just can't do this" but seeing the beautiful, grateful faces month after month is the greatest payoff I could have. It started with just a few

people coming to feeding close to a hundred every month. It has become a time to eat, meet old and new friends and just hang out. So please come to the meeting and see what Collenbrook is up to and how you can be a part of it.

Carolyn J.



Grace and peace to you, Collenbrook family and friends! I want to take this opportunity to inform you about a temporary display which will be installed on October 28th and removed on November 11th on the church property. It is called **Memorial to the Lost**.

The Memorial to the Lost commemorates those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the previous year. We are partnered with Heeding God's Call, a faith-based organization and movement to prevent gun violence and it is their goal to provide support and resources for faith communities to form multi-racial, ecumenical and interfaith partnerships on both social and legislative levels to prevent gun violence.

Handguns reach streets and neighborhoods through a highly developed illegal trade – gun trafficking. These guns are used to threaten, wound, maim and kill. Some of the victims of gun violence are children who are caught in the crossfire. The linchpins of gun trafficking are criminal entrepreneurs, traffickers, and straw buyers who stand in for them to make their bulk purchases and gun dealers who look the other way and enjoy the profits.

The Memorial is a powerful display of the real tragedy of gun violence and is comprised of stands and t-shirts; one t-shirt represents a victim of gun violence and is personalized with the name of the victim, the age of the victim, and the day of passing of that victim. Each life is precious, and each loss of life through gun violence is tragic and senseless.

As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters of small children, we all know they will ask questions. In giving you some advance notice, you'll have some time to think about how to address that child's questions in ways that are informative yet not frightening. This is a teaching opportunity and offers an invitation to healthy and constructive conversation with family, neighbors, friends and faith communities. I would encourage all to take time to walk the display and feel the presence of these souls lost to us through unnecessary violence.

Shalom,
Melanie

NEW MINISTRY – CLEANUP BUCKETS



Thanks to the generosity to so many people we have put together 10 cleanup buckets so far. We hope to add 15-20 more in the next week or so. Each bucket costs approximately \$58 (includes the \$3.00 shipping fee) which sounds like a lot, but this cost is way down due to smart bulk shopping. The next meeting is on **Saturday, October 14th at 6 pm.**, however we will be putting buckets together on Sundays after church on occasion. If you would like to help this new Collenbrook ministry please talk to either Melanie or Pat L. for more information.

STAY TUNED....

RUMMAGE SALE



November is fast approaching and Collenbrook United Church has a lot going on. First, the church's biggest fund raiser of the year –**FALL RUMMAGE SALE**. These rummage sales help Collenbrook meet our yearly budget so we can continue to keep our doors open and do ministry. If we are forced to close our doors like so many churches are doing then not only will Collenbrook be displaced but so will all the groups that use our building....Podowan, Ancona, Girl Scouts, Charity Boot Camp, Yoga, Civitan, etc. Our rummage sales are important to the ongoing life of this church so all are asked to participate as you are able. **Pat Lawrence-Caldwell** will be heading it up again so talk with her about what you can do to make this the best rummage ever. Since this is in November, we will be focusing more on Holiday things but all clean, gently used items will be accepted starting on Tuesday, October 31st in the sanctuary. Please call church office to be let in if door is locked. Sale begins **Friday, Nov 3rd 9-3;** **Saturday, November 4th 9-noon.**



Church Thanksgiving Dinner: this year we will be celebrating all God has blessed us with as a church family **Saturday, November 18th**. This is a pot luck (Turkeys and stuffing will be provided) so bring your favorite side dish or dessert (look for sign up sheets). This is open to all church members and friends of Collenbrook (and their families) but be aware this is not the community dinner which takes place the last Thursday of November.

EXCITING THINGS

COMMUNITY DINNERS are always a fun time and are growing. We fed over 100 people last month and are planning for that amount again. To that end we desperately need financial donations to help keep this ministry alive. If we can buy most of what we need in bulk we save money and it doesn't become a financial burden to just a few people. Also, it has always been the goal to serve as many outside community people as possible but our space is limited so we ask that if you are a member of Collenbrook to please allow our guests to sit and eat first. **Next Dinner is on October 26th starting at 5 pm.**

HIKING/WALKING/RUNNING group getting underway. Debbie M. is spearheading this wonderful way to exercise, enjoy nature and get to know each other on a more personal level. All fitness levels are welcome. Group meets on **Thursdays at 7 pm** at different parks so be sure to contact office or Debbie for weekly locations.

MUSIC programs at Collenbrook include adult vocal choir (**Sundays at 9:30 am**) to handbell choir and ensemble (**Wednesdays 7 pm**). We also have so many talented musicians who help us in worship throughout the year from classical flute to folk guitar to African drums so if you love to sing or being a part of an ensemble or play an instrument, feel free to come to rehearsals (check calendar) or let Bill (organist/choir director) or Pat L (handbell director) know of your interest.

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

All articles and calendar events must be in to the editor no later than the 25th of each month. Please send items to 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

OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:30 Choir 10:30 WORSHIP	2	3	4	5 7 pm Ch.&Com.	6	7 10am – 300 year anniversary service
8 9:30 Choir 10:30 WORSHIP	9	10 7pm Council	11 7pm Bell Choir	12 7pm Hiking	13	14 6pm Bucket Ministry
15 9:30 Choir 10:30 WORSHIP	16	17	18 7pm Bell Choir	19 7pm Hiking	20	21
22 9:30 Choir 10:30 WORSHIP	23	24	25 7pm Bell Choir	26 5PM COMMUNITY DINNER 7pm Hiking	27	28 Fellowship Halloween Party
29 9:30 Choir 10:30 WORSHIP	30 rummage drop off	31 rummage drop off	1Nov rummage drop off	2Nov rummage drop off	3Nov Rummage Sale	4Nov Rummage Sale

LEGEND

Sanctuary – S

Choir Room – CR

Fellowship Hall – F

Chancel – C

Off Campus – OC

Office - O

Downstairs Room - DR

Nursery - N

Remember we have non church groups that use our building during the week:

Ancona Montessori: Monday – Friday from 7am-6pm

Podowan: **Sundays @ 1pm; Fridays @ 7pm**

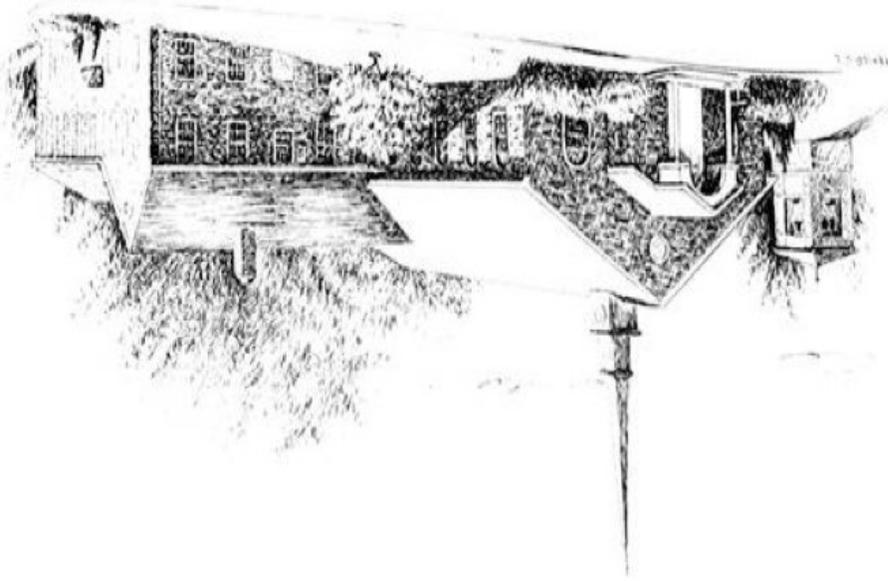
AA groups: **Sundays @ 7pm; Thursdays @ 7pm; Saturday @ 3pm**

Daisy Scouts: **every other Monday evening**

Civitan: **every other Wednesday @ 5pm**

Yoga: **Tuesdays @ 7pm; Thursdays @ 6pm**

Charity Boot Camp: **2nd Saturday of the month @ 10am**



www.collbrook.org; info@collbrook.org
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FIRST CLASS MAIL