



# COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH LINK 'N' TOWER

Volume 118, Number 3

March 2018

Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell, Pastor

## FROM THE PASTOR



We're in the middle of Lent, and heading toward Easter. Danielle just said, "February is over and I'm glad spring is on the way." I've seen

robins in the playground, two geese have been meandering in the yard and parking lot, my neighbors' spring flowers are peeking through the earth, and the sunshine is warming nicely. While I'm excited that spring is on the way, I've even more excited about everything that's happening at Collenbrook United Church! There is a contagious energy that is palpable! We have recently welcomed 9 new members into our community! There are new faces every week and the calendar is filling up with fun and spirit filled events. While the earth is awaiting the birth of spring, we, too, are birthing something new in our midst! Our N.E.W. band is

excited and practicing weekly to learn new music for our new worship experience on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 7 p.m. The Bell Choir is attending its first bell festival this month, to play with 12-14 other bell choirs! The choir is gearing up for a Palm Sunday Cantata, Blood Drive is scheduled, No-Talent Talent Show is coming, and we're planning on a float for the PRIDE Parade this year! Have I mentioned that I'm excited about what's happening? I realize that our personal calendars can only handle so much. There is not an expectation that everyone attend everything that is going on at the church. I just don't want to miss all the fun! See you in church either Friday night or Sunday!  
Melanie

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME:**

Be sure to change clocks FORWARD 1 hour Saturday night before bed, March 10th!

**Leap Forward!!**

## CALENDAR

### Worship Opportunities:

Sundays 10:30am  
1st & 3rd Fridays 7pm

### March

10th Handbell Festival  
(Jonestown, PA)  
13th Council Meeting 7pm  
15th Chinese Dinner 6:30pm  
(Szechuan Hill)  
22nd Community Dinner 5pm  
ONA meeting 7:30pm  
24th Blood Drive 9am-2pm  
29th **Maunday Thursday** 7pm  
30th **Good Friday** 7pm

### April

1st Easter Breakfast 9am  
**Easter Service** 10:am  
10th Council 7pm  
13th No-Talent Talent Show  
14th Creek Cleanup 9am  
26th Community Dinner 5pm  
ONA meeting 7:30pm  
28th Rummage Sale

*Choir Rehearsals every Sunday at 9:30am; Handbell Choir rehearsal every Wednesday at 7pm.*

## COMMUNITY DINNERS

### March Mission of the Month

The first community dinner was held in September 2015 after a sermon Pastor Melanie gave about hungry people living in our own community. Immediately several parishioners got together and decided to do a dinner at the end of the month when many run out of money and food. That first dinner served about 25 people, most of them parishioners. Today we serve an average of 90 people, most coming from the wider community. This has become a flourishing ministry of the church.



What does it take to put these dinners on? Many hands attached to big hearts who give of their time, talents, labor and money. Planning, coordinating, buying, cooking, serving, security, set up/tear down, clean up. This is a labor of love. It is also expensive.

Many people who do the cooking/baking also contribute the costs of the food. This was doable when we were feeding 40 to 50 people. Now that we are averaging close to 100 every month though, it is becoming cost prohibitive to continue to do it this way. People

who sign up to prepare something go to their local grocery store and pay retail prices for the ingredients of that dish. Not only is this expensive but it means we are not being the best stewards of our monies.

The committee is trying to get a handle on the cost per person so

people are being asked to turn in their receipts even if they are not asking for reimbursement. This is the only way to

gauge what we actually spend each month. If we want to continue this ministry and feed even more people, we need to find better and more cost effective ways to do

this. One way is to purchase food and paper goods in bulk at a wholesale restaurant supply store, such as Restaurant Depot. To do this however, there needs to be money in the bank to cover these purchases.

Our community dinners have become a staple in our community and is a dynamic ministry of the church. Please give generously so we may become better stewards and provide even more meals to those most in need.

**NOTE: March's Dinner is on March 22nd instead of the last Thursday.**

## Central PA Handbell Festival

March 10th, 3pm  
Lebanon Area  
Evangelical Free Church  
600 Shephard St,  
Jonestown, PA

The Handbell Choir invites you to join us as we embark on our first festival participation. We will be joining 12 to 14 other choirs to make some beautiful and joyful noise. Free.

## CHINESE DINNER

March 15th, 6:30pm  
Szechuan Hill Chinese  
Restaurant  
1238 Township Line Rd,  
DH

Some may ask why we go out and have Chinese? Well, it goes way back and has become a beloved tradition. One of our dear parishioners, Mrs. Mark, and her family owned a restaurant and so every year we ate there as a family. Although the Mark family retired from that business, we keep the tradition going. Deadline for sign up is March 4th. There is monetary assistance for those in need (see Melanie).

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE**

The Worship and Music Committee is probably one of the most fluid, ever changing committees on Council. Our worship and its music should mirror who we are.

Collenbrook has a long standing tradition of joyful musical talent during morning worship. We have used instrumentalists, vocal soloists, bells, ethnic and culturally diverse selections and even taize chants. Our congregation is open to experiencing new music in the worship of God. The committee and Pastor Melanie welcome input from congregants and guests. This input also applies to ways to make the worship component of our services more meaningful to people we serve. The newest culmination of these efforts is the N.E.W. program on the first and third Friday nights at 7 pm. Musicians from our own congregation saw a need for a different type of worship and came together to make it a reality.

If you are someone who has an idea or a vision of something that would make worship more meaningful for you and others please pass it on to a committee member. Do you have a flare for the dramatic or a musical talent? Maybe you envision yourself as a great organizer or technical support person. The Worship and Music Committee would love to get to know you better. There are no regular meetings- usually just a sharing of ideas on Sunday mornings during Fellowship Hour.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Committee Members: Elizabeth P., Roseann N., Debbie M., Barb P., Barb H., Ricky H., and Michael T..

### **New Experience in Worship**

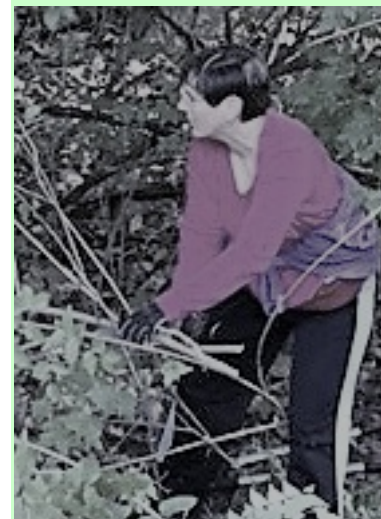
1st & 3rd Fridays Monthly  
7:00pm

There are many ways to worship and praise God just as there are many unique and different peoples. Some really like the more traditional filled with liturgy, choirs and organ. Others like quiet and meditative with no music. Some like a more free flowing service with guitars and drums. It usually boils down to what one was raised with or what one may connect with. The whole idea of worship is to get close to God. Our Sunday services are on the more traditional side and many people enjoy this type of worship, but as we grow and gain younger members, the need for a more modern approach has become needed. Out of this need was born New Experience in Worship (N.E.W.)

With a group of musicians and Pastor Melanie's guidance Friday evenings will be filled with music and songs, a more free flowing prayer time and an opportunity for a lesson or conversation. This is meant to be an informal yet a more intimate way of worship and we still are learning as we go. With input from parishioners and Melanie's creativity, this is sure to become a staple here at Collenbrook so please join us on the 1st and 3rd Fridays if you seek something different or just want to be in church worshipping God one more day.

### **CREEK CLEAN-UP**

Once again the wider community is invited to join us for cleaning up the creek and surroundings.



**Saturday, April 14th  
from 9 a.m. to**  
whenever after a light lunch. Let's get a whole bunch of people here and we'll get a whole lot done! Bring your tools (clippers, saws, gloves, etc). We're trying get 2 chippers for the day! We also need someone to make a light lunch for the workers (hotdogs, chips, cookies). Mark your calendars!

**Pancake Breakfast**  
Easter Morning  
9am

Collenbrook Tradition  
Ted is at it again!  
Signup sheet is in  
sanctuary.

## ONA/ML NOTES

After a short hiatus the ONA/ML committee is in full swing with lots planned for the coming year. Just as a reminder, "ONA" stands for "open and affirming" and is the official designation for a UCC church that has gone through a process to make sure its doors are open to anyone including LGBTQA persons. "More Light" is the presbyterian equivalent. We meet right after the community dinner so please come join us to see how you can help this be a successful year:

### NO TALENT TALENT SHOW April 13th



Everyone has some kind of "no talent" so this should be some awesome entertainment. This is a fundraiser for the other events throughout the year. There will be a donation requested per person and we also may have a 50/50 raffle to top it off. We are looking for some brave people who want to show off their "no talent" so if interested please talk with Michael T. or Pat L.

### Cinco De Mayo Sock Hop May 5th

What better way to celebrate Cinco De Mayo than to have a sock hop? Remember those days when you went to a dance with your sweetheart or maybe you liked to go stag? Either way a sock hop was always fun. Come join us and bring your dancing feet encased in fabulous socks!. This is a free event.

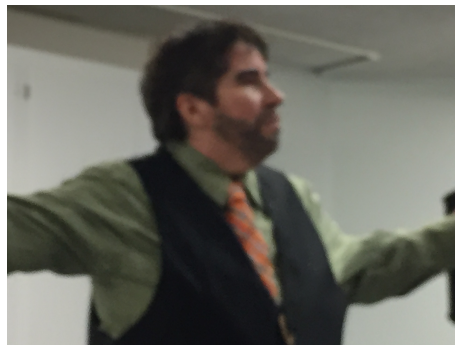
### Pride Parade June 10th



This is the 3rd year for Collenbrook and it is a wonderful way to let the greater community know who we are and what our message is. Yes, everyone is welcome, no exceptions. We want to do a float so that more of you can participate and we are more visible. We are in need of a low boy trailer or hay trailer so if you know of one we can borrow or rent let Melanie know. If you are unsure if this is for you just ask Helen C. She will tell you what a great time she had. So, SAVE THE DATE and come parade with us!

### Drag Show October 13

This was so successful last year we just had to do it again. Watch for more information about this event as we are still in the planning stages but know this will be better than ever!



### Annual Spring Rummage Sale

April 28th

We are doing a one day sale this spring so we need to make it HUGE!!!! This is the only fundraiser for the church so we need to all pitch in, start going through closets, basements, attics and wherever you can think of to find gently used, CLEAN usable items. More information is forthcoming so keep your eyes peeled as we get closer to the date.

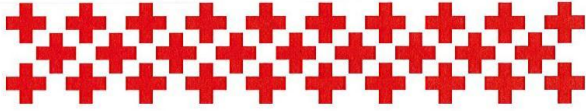
#### **Please Pray For:**

Ricki H.  
Michael T.  
Karen K.  
Jen K.  
Carol M.  
Clara L.  
Dottie J.  
Gunnar C.  
John and Debbie M.  
Nicki M.  
Tabitha T.  
Nancy K.  
Louise V.

and anyone we may have missed.

American Red Cross

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



**Blood Drive**  
**Collenbrook United Church**

Fellowship Hall  
5290 Township Line Road  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

**Saturday, March 24, 2018**  
**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Appointments are preferred.

To make an appointment please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
and enter sponsor code: collenbrook



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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**Construction Ahead**

Remember that State Rd. will be closed in the near future for several weeks so make sure to use the Township Line Rd side. The chain will be open on Sundays to accomodate everyone.



**All articles and calendar events (in an editable file format) must be in to the editor no later than the 25th 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.***

**CHURCH INFORMATION**

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)**