



COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH LINK 'N' TOWER

Volume 118, Number 4

April 2018

Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell, Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR

Have you ever heard of Holy Humor Sunday, Bright Sunday or Laughter Sunday? I've heard of it, but have never celebrated it before, until now—this week!

So much planning and creativity go into our Lent and Easter worship experiences. Many people find the whole Lenten season rather somber. So when we finally arrive at Easter, it almost feels like a let-down from how things have been for 6 weeks. Yet laughter and joy are sacred gifts which we often overlook.

For centuries, in Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant countries, the Monday and Sunday following Easter were observed as “days of laughter and joy” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Parishioners and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, sang, and danced. It was a time for jokes and have fun. So why not join the fun this year?



Your challenge for this week is to wear a silly costume or hat, or clown make-up or clothes that absolutely don't match. Get as crazy as you'd like and come join us for a few good laughs this Sunday, April 8th! Bring a few jokes to share, too, if you're so moved. However, keep them clean! We are in church, after all and the children are around!
Peace, Melanie

PS... In the middle of a long-winded sermon, a small child was overheard asking his mother in a whisper: “Mommy, are you sure this is the only way we can get to heaven?”

CALENDAR

Worship Opportunities:

Sundays 10:30am

1st & 3rd Fridays 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

May

5th Rummage Sale

8th Council 7pm

12th Sock Hop

13th MOTHER'S DAY

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

PHILADELPHIA FUTURES
(APRIL Mission of the Month)

Philadelphia Futures serves low income, first generation to college students with tools, resources and opportunities necessary for admission to and success in college. It helps to break down barriers that have stood in the way of these students as they make their way to college. From tutoring, studying for SATs, mentorships, helping with applications and traversing the very scary world of financial aid, this organization helps these students attain their dream of being the first in their family to bring home a degree. For more information go to their website for opportunities to volunteer and to see just how successful this organization has been.

www.philadelphiafutures.org



No Talent Talent Show! Friday

April 13th 7 pm

Bring your family and friends for a belly slapping, fun and cheap
night of entertainment
and all for a good cause!

Fundraiser for Collenbrook United's

Pride Entry for the parade!

Suggested Donation \$5

(or whatever you can spare!)

New **E**xperience in **W**orship

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.

Annual Spring Rummage Sale

May 5th

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.

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!

One Easter Sunday morning as the pastor was preaching a children's sermon, she reached into the basket and pulled out an egg. She pointed at the egg and asked the children, "What's in here?" "I know, I know!" a little boy exclaimed, "Pantyhose!"

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.

Sock Hop May 12th

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.

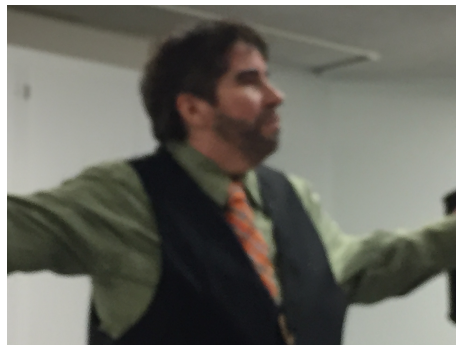
Pride Parade June 10th



This is the 3rd year for Colleenbrook 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!



A pastor visits an elderly woman from his congregation. As he sits on the couch he notices a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table. "Mind if I have a few?" he asks. "No, not at all!" the woman replied. They chat for an hour and as the pastor stands to leave, he realizes that instead of eating just a few peanuts, he emptied most of the bowl. "I'm terribly sorry for eating all your peanuts, I really just meant to eat a few." "Oh, that's all right," the woman says. "Ever since I lost my teeth all I can do is suck the chocolate off them."



**COMMUNITY DINNER
5-7 PM
APRIL 26TH**

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. 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.