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CALENDAR

Worship: Sundays 10:30

Choir: Sundays 9:30am

Handbells: Wednesdays 7pm

September

- 28 Blood Drive
- 29 Breakfast and Music Celebration

October

- 8 Council
- 24 Community Dinner
- 26 Fellowship Event: *Halloween Party*

November

- 12 Council
- 23 Fellowship Event: *Thanksgiving Dinner*

LEARN

Pastor Melanie's Musings...

Do you remember the story about how a couple of guys wanted to get their sick friend in through the throngs to get to Jesus so he could be healed? What they did was ingenious: they went up to the roof of the house Jesus was in, removed the fronds or tiles and lowered the sick man down to Jesus! I can't imagine what the homeowner thought about a hole in his roof but we do know one thing: the sick man's faith made him well. Creative action and faith = healing.

We also had a hole in our roof that was beginning to cause a lot of damage. No, we didn't lower anyone through it but it did need to be fixed. Thanks to the generosity of one anonymous donor, Collenbrook now has a brand new roof! Without that donation we would have faced a real dilemma....how to raise upwards of \$35,000 quickly? You see, our building is getting on in years. The first addition was built in the mid 1940s and the second addition was done in 1955. What this means is that we are dealing with original plumbing and electrical in many parts of the building. We also do not have central cooling anywhere but in the sanctuary. This is becoming a problem as the temps tend to get higher and more humid. We need to address our ailing building issues as well as just making sure we are meeting budget. "Oh no, not money again!" Yes, I do hear the groans. Yes, it is that time of year again (stewardship) but do not despair! Just like the guy lowered down through the roof, by creative action and our faith, we can take up our proverbial mat and go forth with a healthy building to continue our missions and ministries for years to come. and here is how we start...

We're coming up on the time of year when we discern and pray about what we will give back to God through our stewardship to the church. Jesus talked about money a lot! So, are you ready to talk about money in your church? We'll be handing out a very simple quiz in the coming weeks. One of the questions is: When the offering plate is passed at your church, people treat it like...

- A. A restaurant check no one wants to pay.
- B. Something embarrassing that should not be looked at.
- C. A symbol of generosity.
- D. Smelly cheese.

In the coming weeks you will be hearing about how Jesus talked about money, and how that relates to both our faith and God. I'd also like to think we can have some fun with this, too. I promise I won't bring any smelly cheese. See you in church!

Sunday School Happenings...

Fall is here and so is Sunday School! This year we are following an exciting curriculum that the kids will enjoy. Bible stories, art, music and video are great ways to develop a deep and abiding relationship with God. School starts about 10:45am in the fellowship hall.

About Us... we are a Presbyterian/United Church of Christ union church that believes that ALL people, no matter where they are on life's journey, has a place at God's table, as Jesus teaches. We are an open and affirming/more light congregation, which means we exuberantly welcome our LGBTQ siblings.

Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell:
 Pastor and Teacher

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LEARN

Adult Bible Study...

One way to strengthen your relationship to God and each other is through study and conversation. Pastor Melanie knows it is difficult to schedule a time that is agreeable for everyone so she put out a survey last Sunday to choose times and topics for the next study. Times can be in the evening or daytime (she is happy to do 2 each week to accommodate those who cannot drive at night). Wednesday evening is not available since Pastor is a member of the bell choir which rehearses at that time. Each book study is about 6 weeks long.

So far it looks like it will be Monday evenings at 7 pm. Our voting suggests that we begin with 1 & 2 Corinthians. There is still time to voice your opinion on time and topic if you hurry. Topic choices are Genesis, Job, Ecclesiastes, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, I and II Corinthians, or Romans. Books need to be ordered for the start of the study: cost is \$5.50 per book. Please let Melanie know if you want to participate but cannot afford the book.

Make your voice heard by either phone, email or in person by Sunday, September 29th so that the study can begin the week of October 7th.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Biblical | Challenging | Relevant



Council Corner

Greetings from the Collenbrook United Council. We meet each month on the second Tuesday at 7 pm and have been in discussion about many things. We'd like to share some of what we've been talking about with you each month, so watch the newsletter, the Sunday bulletins and the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. In September, we discussed the renovation work during the summer and autumn, the roof replacement and upcoming adult education opportunities.

While Ancona School was on break, the three classrooms were painted, all school floors stripped and waxed, and the basement bathroom brought back into use. The bathroom floor still needs to be completed, which will happen on a weekend while the school is closed. If you haven't seen the new look in the classrooms downstairs, please do take a look.

While Pat and Melanie were busy inside DeAnn was busy outside with weeding, planting, and mulching. It looks amazing! The Council is suggesting that people can sponsor a shrub (or two or three) to continue sprucing up our curb appeal. Thank you DeAnn and all those who will adopt a shrub! The new roof is almost completed, and has been funded by a generous angel in our midst. We give thanks for such generosity, and must never take it for granted that some are able to gift the church abundantly. We are all encouraged to give as generously as we're able when we're able. Thank you so very much for gifting Collenbrook United church so generously! We're all in this together and are incredibly blessed.

On Sunday, September 22 following worship a brief Congregational Meeting elected Jacques Piquion as an Elder to Collenbrook United Church Council to replace Chris Templeton who had resigned because he was moving out of the area. Jacques Piquion and Coe Kummer will both be installed as Elders on Sunday, October 6th, 2019 during worship.

Psalm 146: 1-4: ***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord oh my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.***

GIVE/SHARE

CROPWALK (Mission of the Month)

The October Mission of the Month (MOM) is Cropwalk. Collenbrook has participated in this very important mission for many years and this year is no different.

Cropwalk raises money to help stamp out hunger around the world. Money raised goes to things like purchasing goats, seeds, tools, water pumps, and of course food.

One of the ways we help raise not only money but awareness is by participating in the annual Cropwalk, which takes place this year on **October 13th at 1pm** starting at Swarthmore Presbyterian. Collenbrook always has a team so please join us for this fun way to raise awareness about world hunger.

Blooddrive...

Collenbrook hosts several blood drives a year with American Red Cross. On Saturday September 28th the drive had a packed schedule which culminated with 20 useable pints. Thank you to all who gave.

There are several ways to help for the next drive: you can give blood or if you are not able, can work the welcome table. It's a great way to get involved with this very important work.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser...

The sale has begun! If you need an envelope with the catalog, Pastor Melanie has them. If you'd like to do online sales and invite all your family, friends, and neighbors, near and far, you can access the materials online at:

www.yankeecandlefundraising.com

Group number: 990088647

There are over 500 items online, including online exclusives, and is available through January 8, 2020.

If you use the catalog, please collect \$ as you sell, and do not charge sales tax. Checks can be made to Collenbrook United Church, memo: Candles. Deadline for your order forms is **November 10th** or sooner to Pastor Melanie. With catalog sales, your delivery will arrive at the church before Christmas. If you order online, it will be shipped directly to you. The church receives 40% of all our sales. This is one of our yearly fundraisers, so please jump in and make this our best sale ever!

Community Dinner...

As most of you are aware, Collenbrook committed to this exciting ministry several years ago. It takes a lot of teamwork, planning and effort to pull off a successful dinner.

The dinners begin with planning the menu. This takes research and time to make sure that recipes can be stretched to 100 servings. When recipes are doubled they don't lose their essence but quadrupling a recipe does not work chemically. Food prep is a science and it takes someone skilled in the culinary arts to make sure our recipes work and we are lucky to have Chef Herb, who volunteers his time to do this.

Sometimes people wonder how a menu is chosen or what recipe is used. If you have suggestions please make sure to attend a quarterly meeting or place your suggestion in our new suggestion box. That way it is sure to be heard.

After planning comes the work: who will do what from purchasing, cooking, hall prep and cleanup to serving. It takes many hands to make sure all areas are covered so make sure to volunteer at least quarterly. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer in some capacity. If you are unable to attend the dinner, think about contributing drinks or dessert or even a cash donation.

October's dinner is on the **24th** (4th thursday)

November: NO COMMUNITY DINNER but we will have our annual church family dinner (more information to follow)

December's dinner is on the **26th**. If you are able to help serve and cleanup please talk with Pat L as she and Melanie are leading that month.

FELLOWSHIP

Celebration of Music Sunday, Sept.29th...

Join us for a wonderful way to hear some of the exciting music you will hear throughout the year. Collenbrook's own Bill Byrd will be playing several pieces on the organ; the choir is singing several selections. The handbell choir will ring in and the Praise band will get their turn as well to get you on your feet to sing praises of God.

Breakfast starts (free) at 8:30 with service beginning at 10 am.

Halloween Party...

Save the date of **Saturday October 26th at 6pm** for the annual Halloween party. All are encouraged to come with costumes and ready to have a great time. Fun snacks and spooky games are on the menu. This is for all kids, young and old.

Annual Collenbrook family Thanksgiving Dinner...

Saturday, November 23rd at 5pm.

This is a time for us, as a family, to gather and give thanks to God for the love and caring we have for each other. Pat and Melanie will make all the turkey and stuffing. As we get closer to the date and know our numbers, we'll figure out the rest. This is not a mandatory thing we do. It's a fellowship event for us and our families and friends. It is always fun and the food is always great! Hope you'll be able to join us! PS... I love green bean casserole. We don't need everyone to bring that, but it never fails... it's gone before I can get any!



I Corinthians 16:14