



Collenbrook United Church



Link -n- Tower

Volume 119 Number 8

DECEMBER 2019

Pastor and Teacher:

*The Reverend Melanie
Lawrence-Caldwell*

Dec. 8th Advent II –
10:30 Advent Lessons &
Carols

Dec. 15th Advent III –
10:30 Worship – Bells -
Ordination/Installation
of Elder

Pastor's Open
House in Fellow-
ship Hall follow-
ing worship –
come and join us!
(Come and see
how Pat manages
to make our Fel-
lowship Hall into
a livingroom!)

Dec. 22nd Advent IV –
10:30 Christmas Les-
sons & Carols

Dec. 24th Christmas
Eve – 8 pm Birthday
Celebration, Com-
munion, Candle
Lighting

Dec. 26th Community
Dinner! 5-7 pm

Dec. 29th 10 am Agape
Breakfast & worship
(informal & bring some-
thing to pass)



From the Pastor...

They showed up. Who showed up? Well, first of all, Joseph and Mary. Not that they actually had much choice in the matter. God told them both that a child would be born and that he would be named “Jesus.” Then they had to show up in Bethlehem for the census. They didn’t have a choice there, either. Then the angels showed up and told the shepherds in the fields what was happening. Then the shepherds showed up at the birth. Then the Magi showed up. They all showed up! Oh, except King Herod. He sent others to do his dirty work.

God shows up. God always shows up when we need God. I

think God shows up even when we think we don’t need God. God always shows up we we’re lost and alone. God shows up with the poor, the hungry, for healing, for grace, mercy and forgiveness. When we are our worst selves, God shows up. When we are most distraught, and maybe when we can feel God the least, God is still there. God shows up. God is there with our celebrations and our joys. God carries us when we can’t make it on our own, and dances with us on the highest mountains.

What are WE willing to show up for? Do we show up for our families? Do we show up for each other? Do we show up for our country? For God’s crea-

tion? Do we show up for those around us who are desperately seeking something which they can’t quite touch? We are invited to show up for the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Will we go? We are invited to show up to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort those who mourn. Will we show up?

I, for one, am showing up, not because it’s my job, but because I can’t imagine not showing up! We’re all invited to witness God showing up again as we celebrate the birth once more! Come on! Show up! The angels are calling and the star is showing the way!

Pastor Melanie

RETIRED CLERGY FUNDS – DEC.MOM

Do you remember your childhood pastor? Do you ever wonder whatever happened to him or her? When I was a child my pastor lived in the house provided by the church. His family lived there for many years. I grew up and moved away but I always wondered where Pastor Miller went when he retired. The house wasn't his, it didn't belong to him but to the church he served. Did he retire to to come from the denomination? If they had some sort of retirement, was it adequate to provide for that pastor and family?

Our pastors took care of their flocks: they baptized our children, they married our friends, they buried our parents. You knew you could call your pastor anytime, day or night, if needed. Our pastors never blinked an eye at a call at 3 am because someone was in the hospital; our pastors never hesitated to hold our hands, council us, pray with us in our time of need. This month think about your childhood pastor and ask yourself if he is able to pay his rent, does he have enough to eat? Is someone there for her in her hour of need? Think about your childhood pastor and give generously.

STEWARDSHIP PUZZLE

We're still missing
Is your piece one of
mail them to the
pledge, or bring it
Even if you aren't
PLEASE bring your
We're not complete



pieces of our puzzle!
them? Please either
church with your
with you to church.
able to pledge,
puzzle piece back!
without YOU!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The fall season of Sunday School is coming to a close and I'd like to say thank you to all of our teachers. Please tell them thanks when you see them! They are: Danielle, Pat, Katie, Kathleen & Mary Ann, Kristen, and DeAnn.

- Two things:
- 1) The next season for winter is only 8 weeks. The sign-up sheet for teachers in on the bulletin board in the hall. Please choose your dates before they're gone!
 - 2) Parents – It is important to try to have your kids in church with you. It is disheartening when you've prepared for a class to have no children show up. We are all responsible in helping teach and lead your children in their journey of faith. Please don't make them wait until Confirmation. They need us to set the tone for them much earlier than that.

Other Important and Fun Things

SOMETHING NEW

We are in the process of replacing the name / date plates on the Memorial Garden pole. The ones currently there have become quite worn and rusted. They are being replaced with a different material which will stand up better with any weather and look awesome for many years to come.

BEAUTY

The sanctuary is beautiful with our decorations this year! Thank you to our volunteers who helped make it happen: Jil, Nancy H., Beth, Angie, Pat, Bill and Melanie.

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will be arriving for worship on Sunday, Dec. 15th.

BETHANY CHRISTMAS ADOPTIONS

We have adopted 18 youth from Bethany Children's Home for Christmas. We can be so excited to provide Christmas for youth that would otherwise not be able to celebrate much. Thank you all for your generosity and caring.

COMMUNITY DINNER



The next Community Dinner is the day after Christmas on **December 26th** starting at 5pm. Pat and Melanie are the leads on this one so if you are available please let Pat know. There will be a sign-up sheet at church for those who will be around for serving. This is going to be a simple one with just salad, lasagna, bread and desserts.

BIBLE STUDY

We completed our six-week Bible study of 1 Corinthians. We had two classes: Mondays 1 pm and Mondays 7 pm. Both groups decided to take a break during Advent and Christmas. We'll resume again after Jan. 1st. We will be studying the Gospel of John. Let Pastor Melanie know if you're interested in joining one of the classes. Days and times can change based on what is best for the group.

Activities from outside Groups



Yoga Classes are under way in the Fellowship Hall! Contact Danielle for more information on rates and class schedule, by either calling/texting her at (610) 908-9670,



Junior Girl Scouts meet on Tuesdays at 5pm.



Piano and Organ Lessons. Reasonable rates. Contact Bill through church office.

AA groups

Meetings on:

Sundays 7pm

Thursdays 7pm

Saturdays 3pm

COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH

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Website: www.collenbrookunited.org



Collenbrook United Church
All are Welcome, NO EXCEPTIONS

Lawrence-Caldwell Open House

It has become a tradition for Pastor Melanie to host an “open house” every December. This is her way of saying thank you to all her church family. Usually this is at Melanie’s home.

This year, due to logistics, the Open House will be in the **fellowship hall following worship service on December 15th**. We hope all of you will join us for some wonderful holiday fellowship.

Love, Pastor Melanie and Pat



Did You Know...

We now have a **Junior Girl Scout Troop** meeting at Collenbrook United Church on Tuesday afternoon. We are so excited to extend a welcome to them!

Bell Choir is attending a bell festival in March 2020. We’ll be starting the music for this after the new year. If you or someone you know is interested in playing with us, please see Pat as soon as possible! We’d love to have you!

The **clothing collection bin** in the upper parking lot is being used by many in the community! It is a win / win. Others win by receiving much needed clothing, and we win by being paid per pound of clothing collected.

There is a **new floor cleaning machine** being used by our Sexton, Pat. It does a much better job of cleaning the floors, is much easier on her back and takes a fraction of the time of a mop and bucket.

Bill, our Organist/Choir Director is here a good portion of the week practicing, organizing and planning for future worship services. If you haven’t thanked him lately, please do. He works hard to bring us excellence on Sunday mornings.