

NEWSLETTER

2013

ALLENTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

23 Church Street
Allentown, NJ 08501
www.allentown-umc.org

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings,

I begin my first letter as your new pastor with two words: THANK YOU! Another Francis, St. Francis, said that if the only prayer you ever prayed was "Thank You," it would be enough.

So first, I thank God for sending me here. As UM clergy we go where we are sent. I have been blessed in all my appointments. I am deeply blessed to be in your midst.

I have had the opportunity to meet many of my neighbors, local merchants and brothers and sisters in ministry. I have even had the opportunity to worship with some of my sisters and brothers of other denominations. I find great richness in the ecumenical community and look forward to joint community services.

Second, I thank all of you for the warm welcome I have received. The parsonage has been lovingly prepared. My freezer was filled and the lunch and dinner table overflowing on moving day! There was a lovely coffee

hour after our first service together. My family and I have been overwhelmed by your ministry of hospitality.

The church's hospitality continues on Sunday, September 8th when the Service for Celebration of a New Appointment will be held at 10:30 a.m. A covered dish luncheon and time of fellowship will immediately follow the service. I hope you will be able to attend as we celebrate the continuing ministry of AUMC. On September 24th we will have an Open House at the Giardinelli's so that we have an opportunity to get to know each other more fully. (details are in the newsletter)

Please also note that adult education opportunities will begin with Wednesday Evening Bible Study on the 11th of September. We will start with a meal at 6:15 p.m., followed by the study at 7:00. The following Sunday, September 15th, the Sunday Morning Adult Study Group will begin meeting from 9 to 10 a.m. in the church office. Everyone is welcome at both groups. Third, I give thanks for these two weekly opportunities to study God's Word as we gather to grow in our discipleship.

I have shared with you three reasons I am thankful. Now I ask you. . . If the only prayer you ever prayed was "Thank You", what three things would you be thankful for? I'd love to know your answers. Why not send me an email, franbmag@gmail.com or note. Let's thank God together as we journey the path of discipleship. We are blessed to be a blessing!

May the Love of God Enfold You,
Rev. Fran

PS: For pastoral care concerns and/or visitation please contact me at franbmag@gmail.com or 609-259-9817

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday evening Bible Study begins **Wednesday, September 11th** with a **covered dish supper at 6:15 p.m.** **The study starts at 7:00.** Our first study together will be a “Whitman’s Sampler” of sorts. The Psalmist tells us to . . . Taste and see that God is good. We will begin a 12 week study that allows us to “taste” a wide variety of scriptures. Each week’s study will be a sampling complete within itself. So if you find you can’t commit to 12 weeks it’s ok. We invite you to come as you can, knowing God’s word awaits, ready to fill you up with good food for your faith journey.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT STUDY GROUP

The Sunday morning Adult Study Group will begin meeting on the 15th of September. We will meet in the Pastor’s Office from 9 to 10 a.m. each week. Our first study will focus on the book of Psalms. Everyone is welcome to bring your favorite Bible translation.

PLANNING MEETING AND MEAL

On Sunday, September 29th **EVERYONE** is invited to remain after church for a covered dish. The meat will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. During the meal we will share memories, look at the present, and dream about the future. Come join in the food and fellowship as we plan for our journey as a church family in the coming year

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER LIST: Bob Brandt, Jim Burd, Major Eric Burkett USMC, Darlene Butcher, Edith Cheney, Mary Clark, Cleo Ellis, Dorothy Emley, Joan & Alex Fedor, Barbara Fennimore, Tom Forsaith, Barbara Graveman, Dorothy & John Hollendonner, John Kamer, Skip Magee, Frank Mentone, Jean & Bill Michaels, Lola Natale, Lucy Pavlow, Judy Peppler, Joan & Luke Platt, Peg Rockhill, Tara Silva, Sue Smith, Cindy Vegas, Debbie Weaver, Russel Zimmerman, President Obama and Congress, renewal.

Those in our Armed Forces: Philip Barnes, Ben Haigh Bavona, Ryan Burdge, Brian Carpe, Justin Carpe, Joseph Chicoski, Billy Cravin, Larry Cravin, Jonathan Crawford, Jeffrey Emammi, Bill Fortier, Jocelyn Ialacci, Adam Levine, Jonathan Mele, Roberta Neidt, Eugene Nelson, Evan Prince, Latoya Pritchard, Tim Skillern, Tim Sorensen, Sonya Spradley, Paul Steelman, Rob Sylestre, Dianne Tiano, John Ugart, Stanley Wisniewski III.

BAPTISM: JaylinMay Marie Tufano was baptized on June 16th by Pastor George. JaylinMay is the daughter of Megan Ann Szper and Louise Anthony Tufano, Jr. The Godparents are Lena Marie Tufano and Michael Tufano.

WEDDING: Emily Ruth Adams and Douglas Garrett Hohensee were joined in marriage on Friday, June 28th. Pastor George performed the ceremony.

BIRTH: Congratulations to Heather and Cody Tussing on the birth of their son, Jacoby James Tussing born on August 10th. Jacoby weighed 7 lbs 7 oz and was 20” long. The proud grandparents are Mary Jane and Paul German.

“NOAH”

Monday, October 14, 2013

Sight & Sound’s original biblical epic, Noah, is back by popular demand for one season only! Join the millions of people from all over the world who have experienced this awe-inspiring show. Come on board with Noah and hundreds of animals as they faithfully embark on a journey into the storm.

We are planning a bus trip to the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA for the Columbus Day matinee on Monday, October 14th. We will travel by a coach bus from our church parking lot to the venue in Lancaster.

Following the performance we will enjoy a family style meal at the Hershey Farms restaurant before returning to Allentown. The cost of the trip will be around \$90 per person (a bit less for children) and includes the bus transportation, show ticket, meal and all gratuities.

We want you all to join us. We are establishing a preliminary list, friends and family are most welcome, as we have a 55 passenger bus to fill.

This is the last session for Noah, not to be performed again. Don’t miss it! Please contact JoAnn Carmichael @ 609-758-0906 or Linda Watson @ 609-259-2691.

Watch the Bible come alive!

CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS

Our choir will have their first rehearsal on Thursday evening, September 12th at 7:30 p.m. As many of you know, we are presently seeking a new Music Director. Emily Adams moved to Boston after marrying Douglas Hohensee. Emily is now employed by the Boston Ballet School. We wish Emily and Doug God’s richest blessings as they begin their life together. Since we are without a musical director, we will begin with “oldies but goodies”. This is a wonderful opportunity to renew your participation or join the present members for the first time as we gather sing praises to God. We would ask for everyone’s prayers for wisdom and discernment as we seek a new music director.

MISSIONS

Things to Save - Save Campbell labels and General Mills Box Tops for Education coupons and place in the proper containers on the Missions Table. Also, continue to save aluminum tabs for Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia.

Local Food Pantry - The Food Pantry is always in need of non-perishable food. Rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce, soups, cereal, vegetables, tuna fish, etc. Place food in the container in Fellowship Hall.

Shop Rite Gift Cards -Linda Watson is selling \$50 Shop-Rite gift cards as a year-round fundraiser for Ranch Hope.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Just a reminder that starting on Sunday, September 8th we go back to the **10:30 a.m. worship time.**

BOUTIQUE

The “Just a Cut Above” Boutique will be open again on September 4th. There are lots of things to do to prepare for the Bazaar and Boutique. Our new nursery worker has been wonderful in volunteering her time.

When donating things to either venue, make sure they are in “ready to purchase condition”. When putting items in the Mayer Building, please take them to the back of the building and put them on a shelf.

Please see Shirley Mayer if you are able to help in the boutique.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our annual Church Conference is scheduled for Sunday, November 17th. Reports are due in the church office on October 22nd.

MISSION TRIP

Many thanks to Linda Watson, Denise Erb, and Denise’s cousin who represented our church at the district mission trip Sandy recovery effort. We hope to give you a much fuller report on their trip at the remembrance of the 1st anniversary of Sandy.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE GIARDINELLI’S HOME

Part of our Conference’s new process for welcoming clergy in a new appointment suggest that open houses be held in the homes of parishioners so that folks are able to gather for fellowship and conversation with the new pastor. Mike and Betsy Giardinelli have graciously offered to open their home so that we have an opportunity to meet with our new pastor, Rev. Fran, in an informal setting. Come for a time of fellowship. Please let Betsy and Mike know if you expect to stop by. **DATE:** Tuesday, September 24th, **TIME:** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **PLACE:** 54 Beechwood Dr., Robbinsville, NJ. Many thanks to Mike and Betsy for their hospitality!

COMING IN OCTOBER

Sunday, October 6th is World Communion Sunday. Join us for a special worship service focused on the breathe and depth of the world-wide Christian family.

Sunday, October 20th is Laity Sunday. Rev. Fran is looking for volunteers to take part in the service. Please contact her if you are willing to take part. She can be reached at Franbmag@gmail.com or 259-9817.

A Future with Hope is planning a week of services, volunteer opportunities and events from October 27 - November 3 to mark the anniversary of superstorm Sandy, bring attention to recovery needs and recognize the progress that has been made. Watch the Sunday bulletin for additional details as the Conference makes them available. You can also check the conference website: www.gnjumc.org.

9/11 REMEMBERED. . .

Below you will find a few thoughts from a reflection by Melissa Bane Sevier. “We are still recovering from 9/11. In some ways those of us who remember it will never be completely out from under its shadow.

We have seen the worst of how human beings can terrorize each other, wrongly accused, be harmed and harm others.

On the other hand, we have seen the best of how people can reach out in times of trouble, show hospitality, and stepped gently but firmly across the taboo spaces between religions, cultures, races, and issues that divide us in order to heal the division.

The things that frighten us can turn us into fearful people, always looking over our shoulders and mistrusting everyone who is Different. Or they can make us determine (even if cautiously) to overcome what terrorists intend.

If we open our postures to receive the stranger, open our hands to share, open our hearts to risk knowing and loving the other, open our minds to hear New ideas, we can create the greatest counterterrorism strategy known. We can slowly sort out the rubbish of our fears, and together build shelters of peace.”

On 9/11 let us take a moment to remember and also pray for peace in our hearts, homes, country and world.

GRADUATES

In June we recognized our graduates.

Zoe Amato graduated from the preschool at School Time. She will enter Kindergarten at Peter Muschal School in September. Zoe is the granddaughter of Bob and Nola Noller

Alaina Zigich graduated from Kindergarten at Upper Freehold Elementary School. She will be going on to 1st grade.

Charlie D’Amico graduated from Pond Road Middle School. Charlie will enter his freshmen year at Robbinsville High School. Charlie is the grandson of Bob and Nola Noller.

Brittany Jacob graduated from Taylor University. She is the granddaughter of Jean and Donald Pullen.

Brandon Korneluk graduated from Kean University with a degree in criminal justice. Brandon is the grandson Bob and Nola Noller.

Nathan Schmalbach graduated from Full Sail University. Nathan is the son of Larry and Karen Schmalbach.

BIRTHDAYS

COMING IN NOVEMBER

September Birthdays

Sept. 1 - Connor Marshall
Sept. 5 - Ruby Farmer
Sept. 8 - Darlene Butcher
Sept. 9 - Zachary Muntone
Sept. 13 - Wayne Carmichael, Karen Durbin
Sept. 15 - Robert Noller
Sept. 16 - Charles Cottrell IV
Sept. 22 - Edward Rittenhouse
Sept. 23 - Beth DeMartin
Sept. 24 - Cyndi Donnelly, Warren Durbin
Sept. 25 - Jill Malloy
Sept. 28 - Joe Lanzillo

October Birthdays

Oct. 1 - Nathaniel Muntone
Oct. 2 - Laura Levine, Erin Wikoff
Oct. 5 - Jaxon Gentz
Oct. 7 - Mary Tucker
Oct. 9 - Jeff Farmer, Stephen Giardinelli
Oct. 12 - Liz DiDonato
Oct. 13 - Sue Holman
Oct. 19 - Franco DiDonato
Oct. 20 - Leonard Kelly
Oct. 25 - Rebecca Simms
Oct. 26 - John Hollendonner, Connor Matwiow,
Howard Wikoff
Oct. 30 - Melinda Brown, Anderson Keys

Saturday, November 2nd - Bazaar and Auction

Sunday, November 17th - Stewardship Sunday

Luncheon

Church Conference

Friday, November 29th - Hanging of the Greens

B - Baked Goods, Books, Baskets, & Bikes

A - Animals, Art, Apple Pie

Z - Zoo animals (of the stuffed variety)

A - All kinds of goodies from A to Z

A - All to help Allentown UMC

R - Room for more flea market items

So go through your closets, basements, and attics. . . find those items you haven't used in years, clean them up and bring them in to the Mayer Building.

**The Newsletter of
Allentown United Methodist
Church**

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2013