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THE MESSENGER

March 2018



From the Pastor's Desk

It's been many years since I last took up the challenge of the deep woods with its rugged hand-over-hand climbs, nerve-racking water crossings, and sudden graceless falls. Even so I was delighted to come across this list taken from registration sheets and comment cards returned to the staff of the Bridger Wilderness Area in Wyoming:

- 1 Trails need to be wider so people can walk holding hands.
- 2 Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill.
- 3 Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of pests.
- 4 Please pave the trails so they can be plowed of snow during the winter.
- 5 Chairlifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them.
- 6 Escalators would help on steep uphill sections.
- 7 A McDonald's would be nice at the trailhead.
- 8 Too many rocks in the mountains.
- 9 The places where trails do not exist are not well marked.

There are things in life which are hard. Scott Peck reminds us in his bestseller, *The Road Less Traveled*, that "Life is difficult." This bit of wisdom should come as a shock to but a few. What is surprising is the number of people who understand how challenging life can be, and yet still get annoyed and even

upset by the inconvenience and discomfort that any challenge worth its salt is likely to produce. Now complaining comes as naturally to some folk as breathing, but wouldn't it be a wonderful world to live in if all of us would cut back on our complaining and instead become generous with encouragement.

In the Book of Acts it is recorded that Paul and Barnabas *strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith*. Now that's about what you'd expect from Paul and Barnabas. What you might not expect is that any soul would actually be strengthened by what they said: "*It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.*" (Acts 14:22)

In other words, life is difficult. And disciples of Jesus Christ don't have it any easier than anyone else. In fact, life gets more challenging with Jesus in it. What Paul and Barnabas knew was this: The difference between strength and weakness is found in the amount of encouragement received. So they "*encouraged them to continue in the faith.*" It was this tireless encouragement of the world's earliest Christian disciples that built for us a Church. It will be our own tireless encouragement of fellow disciples in Christ that will strengthen and build our Church for the next generation!!

I challenge you to become a source of encouragement and strength in the world.

Have a blessed Lent.

"The Messenger" is published 11 times a year by Hope United Methodist Church, located at Steel and Eagle Roads in Havertown. Worship each Sunday begins at 10:30 am and offers Childcare during the service. Each week, Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m.

Our Pastor, Maridel Whitmore, can be reached by calling the church office, 610.446.3351 or via her email at maridel329@aol.com. The church office hours weekly are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us at any service or special event. Learn more about us at our website: www.HavHopeUMC.org



Catch the Spirit!



March Schedule

- 2 World Day of Prayer—Annunciation
BVM Church is the Host Church
1:00 p.m.
- 4 Communion Sunday
- 11 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**
- 13 Casseroles for St. John's Hospice-
Thomas Hall kitchen 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Girl Scout meeting 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
in Sunday School Room
- 17 Food Bank 1:00 - 300 p.m.
- 25 Palm Sunday Service is being held
in the Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.
- Holy Week**
- 29 Holy Thursday - Maundy Thursday
Service at Hope 7:00 p.m.
Communion
- 30 Haverford Township Community
Good Friday Service -
To Be Announced

The Friday Adult Study/Prayer Group

1:15 pm • Roush Room
All are welcome to attend!

Girl Scout Troop

Meet every second Thursday
of the month in first floor
Sunday School Room



Serving in March

LAY READER

- 4 Communion Sunday -
No Lay Reader
- 11 A. Merrell
- 18 P. Cutillo
- 25 C. Bersheim

USHERS

- 4 WE NEED YOUR HELP
TO USHER ON 1ST
SUNDAYS.
THANK YOU!
- 11 J. Engler, R. Brunner
- 18 B. AmEisen,
K. Friedenberg
- 25 W. Hoyle, J. Hoyle

OFFERING COUNTERS

- 4 J. Engler, C. Hoffmann
- 11 P. Jacobs, R. Brunner
- 18 M. Black, M. Kelleher
- 25 L. Medica

ACOLYTES

B. Popky, M.G. Popky,
TJ Osborne

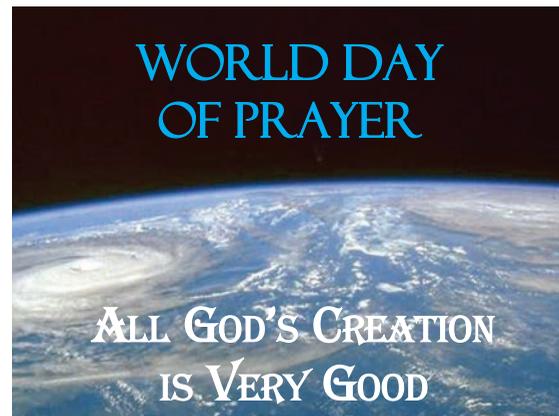
CHILD CARE

Miriam Gallagher

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Pat Evans

Thank you for Volunteering!



World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical celebration of informed prayer and prayerful action, celebrating the women of **Suriname**. Join in the prayer service hosted by Annunciation BVM at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2018. Contact Helen Connell if you are interested in participating in the service, 610-449-7385. Thank you!

Hope Food Bank

Below is a list of current Food Bank needs:

- Paper Towels • Toilet Tissue
- Laundry and Liquid Dish Detergents
- Jelly in Plastic Containers • Peanut Butter
- Canned Chicken (NO Tuna, thank you)
- Juices • Fruit • Applesauce
- Coffee • Cereal • Rice
- Condiments**
- Mustard • Ketchup • Mayo
- Personal Care Items, especially**
- Shampoo • Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste • Deodorant

*Thank you all for your generous donations.
The Food Bank Team*



The food bank served approximately 40 families in February. As always our friends were so thankful for all they got from us. The committee was happy to supply baked goods from Giant, produce and dry goods thanks to your generous donations. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

The committee hopes to clean out the closets in the Sunday School room soon. Periodically, we have the opportunity to store food for future months. By consolidating materials, there will be two closets that we can use to store these foods and other material that we use to prepare food for our families. We are excited by this endeavor.

March 17th is our next distribution date. Anyone who would like to see the food bank in operation or help out are invited.

Thank you for allowing us the blessing of helping God's people.

Blessings,
Elizabeth McKelvey

March Birthdays

- 1 Alex Stango
- 2 Grayce Rinehimer
- 8 Emma Wojnovich
- 10 Alex Merrell
- 11 Jackie Martin
- Lisa Osborne
- Amelia Wojnovich
- Donovan Roush
- Erica Oslack
- 14 John Emmett
- 16 Jodi Deegan
- 17 Michael O'Donnell
- 20 Leah Mariani
- 26 Dorothy Wolfe
- 27 Tom Reisch, Jr.
- 30 Daniel Mariani



**Fall/Winter
Sunday Worship
is held in
Jones Chapel
at 10:30 am**





Christianisms

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen:
1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

God loves everyone,
But probably prefers 'fruits of the spirit' over 'religious nuts!'

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, But mosquitoes come close.

Altar Flowers Request for 2018

If you have missed the sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Altar Flowers please fill out this form and either mail/or bring to the Church Office.

DATE REQUESTED: _____

PRESENTED BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____



If the Altar is not available for the date you request, the Church Office will contact you for an alternative date. The cost of flowers is \$ 20.00.

Condolences

Hope Family and Friends wish to express their condolences to Henry Scheck and family in the death of Lois Scheck, wife, mother and grandmother. She was a dedicated and active member of Trinity and Hope UMC and past president of Wesleyan Circle. Lois is at peace with her maker after a long series of medical complications.

Funeral Services were held at Hope on Saturday, February 24th.

Please keep Henry and his family in your prayers at this time.

In Sympathy

We wish to extend our condolences and prayers to the Pollack family in the death of their daughter, Meadow Pollack who was a victim of the gun violence at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. Meadow is the daughter of Mike Popky's cousin.

Please pray for the families, students and all those involved in this tragedy.

With Deep Appreciation

I want to extend my deepest thanks and gratitude to the entire Hope community for all the love, support and prayer for my family thru this trying time. It did not fall on deaf ears or hearts. I am doing fine, knowing that my father is now at peace is my greatest comfort. Glory to God in the Highest. Thank You All!

Peace,
Dale McKelvey



BIBLE STUDY

The Friday Adult Study/Prayer Group 1:15 p.m.
All are welcome to attend!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Pastor Maridel has made arrangements with Kenny's Flowers in Media to provide a fresh altar arrangement each Sunday for \$20.00.

There is a sign up sheet on the table outside the chapel for anyone who would like to dedicate an arrangement in honor of or memorialize a loved one.

SUNDAY GIVING ENVELOPES

Envelopes are available for pick-up in the back of the Chapel. If you are able to deliver envelopes to shut-ins or anyone you know that does not attend services regularly we would be most grateful. Envelopes are used so all contributions can be recorded and credited to your end of year contribution statement. Thank you.

SUNDAY BULLETINS

Anyone interested in sponsoring the Sunday Bulletins the cost per month is \$30.00. Please indicate all information on the sign up sheet in on the table outside Jones Chapel. Thank you.



Adult Sunday School ~ Lenten Study

The Season of Lent is the perfect time to *take something on* rather than to give *something up!*

Adult Sunday School has resumed at 9:00 a.m. and will continue through Palm Sunday. Join us as preeminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan take us on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps throughout the Roman Empire. We will explore fresh insights into Paul's message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman imperial theology, and the apostle's radical relevance for today.

Haverford Community Dine Around

Second Mondays, 12:00 Noon

Community fellowship and friendship, good food and meaningful programs bring us together as people of faith. The next luncheon will be held on March 12, 2018. Join the St. Patrick's Day Celebration 12:00 noon at Annunciation BVM Church, Brookline Blvd., Havertown.



KLove 106.9

Looking for an "positive, encouraging" contemporary Christian music radio station?



Give KLove a listen - 106.9 fm - for continuously inspiring music, and commentary from DJs as well as insightful clergy and lay people worldwide. The station is a nationally broadcast, so there is resonating input from other listeners and advisors from all walks of life. The station is listener supported. So... Commercial Free - and Politics Free!

ALL ARTICLES FOR THE MESSENGER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

Any items received after the 15th will appear in the following month's letter.

2018 LENTEN SERMON SERIES JESUS VS THE ZOMBIES

Zombies are the bad ideas that have popped up at various misguided moments in the Church's history and for whatever reason keep coming back and in some cases exert a kind of stranglehold on the life of Christians and the ministry of the Church. The way we fight off these Zombies is with better ideas—with good solid theology that reflects the grace of God, the compassion of Jesus, and the life of the Spirit.

February 18, 2018
ZOMBIE IDEAS ABOUT THE BIBLE

February 25, 2018
ZOMBIE IDEAS ABOUT HEAVEN
Genesis 12:1-4a
John 3:1-17

March 4, 2018
ZOMBIE IDEAS ABOUT CHURCH
Exodus 17:1-7
John 4:5-42

March 11, 2018
ZOMBIE IDEAS ABOUT HELL
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14

March 18, 2018
ZOMBIE IDEAS ABOUT SALVATION
Ezekiel 37:1-14
John 11:1-45

March 25, 2018
JESUS VS THE WORLD
Matthew 21:1-11

Easter Sunday
LIFE VS DEATH
John 20:1-18

