



LINK 'N' TOWER



Collenbrook United Church

All are Welcome, NO EXCEPTIONS

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and United Church of Christ
Rev. Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell, Pastor

Volume 116, Number 4

April 2016

We are growing a Good News Church! I am so excited about all that's happening at Collenbrook United Church! There is a Spirit among us that is both powerful and palpable. There is an energy in the air that is contagious. There are new faces every single week in worship, thus the face of Christ is forever in our midst. There is a feeling of connectedness and love that permeates all we do, and a vision to be all that God has created us to be. We are a praying people, who lift many into God's care and love, and hold them there. It is in those places where God heals, comforts, and is present within ways we may never completely understand. But we don't need to understand, because we trust God to be God.

As we enter the season of Easter, may we all be filled with the joy of new life and resurrection. We will see the face of Christ, if we're paying attention. We will feel the good news in the outstretched hands of those around us. We will hear God's call in our lives both personally and communally, to be all that God has created us to be. We will discover Christ inviting us, once again, to open ourselves to the new life offered through worship, prayer, study, mission and fellowship. As we await the breath of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we can know with certainty that the love of God is forever in our midst.

I can't wait to see where God leads us next! See you in church!

Pastor Melanie

HALLELUJAH

INSPIRED...

April showers bring May flowers. But wait! The flowers are blooming NOW! Our beautiful early spring weather and what seemed like a mild winter has allowed all of my bulbs to spring forth earlier than normal, and their beauty is inspiring!

Inspired! I'm inspired by all of you who have taken it upon yourselves to jump in, pitch in, step in and dance in our Lenten/Easter season celebrations. I believe God is in our midst inspiring us to reach deep down within ourselves and bring forth the joy and promise that lies within. We are incredibly blessed to have so many people in our community with amazing gifts to share. We have missed Jiyeon at the helm of our music ministry while she spent time healing from her back pain. She returns to us April 3rd feeling much better and grateful for the break. Yet while she was away, we had so many people jump in and lead in new ways! Debbie M. – we can't thank you enough for stepping up to the piano to lead us and share your prayer through music with us. It was so wonderful to watch and listen to you blossom right along with the spring all around us. We stretched ourselves in new directions which I hope to continue. Thanks also go to Bill D. who brought his guitar to add to the rich music we made together, Pat L. who kept our toes tapping with the beat she set, and even John M. who added his bass to the mix! The bell choir is amazing! I hope you are all as proud of yourselves as I am of you! I know there's more fun to come. And I cannot say enough about our singing choir who put up with me directing them for the last two months! They really are terrific! (I'm grateful Jiyeon is coming back to take this over again.)

I'm inspired by Jil B.'s artistry in décor. Her visual art displays throughout the sanctuary and fellowship hall are works of beauty and enjoyed by everyone. Thank you Jil for sharing a piece of yourself in your art. Pat S. helped me make our new banner which hangs in the sanctuary! Thanks Pat for not only offering, but following through even with your super busy schedule! Ted V. is unstoppable! I can't tell you how many days he's spent the entire day outside cleaning up winter limbs, chopping up the huge tree sections which the wind brought down, and then cutting and breaking down more yard debris. His response to me one day was, "Divide and conquer." This he surely has done, and more. Thank you Ted! Michael T. and Jeff M. continue to make sure you can hear effectively each week during worship by staying attentive to our audio needs, and making it all work correctly. There are so many others who are always behind the scenes in the background organizing, and making sure things are in place. I want to thank each of you for sharing so much with me and this amazing church family. You are a blessing, and we are blessed.
Peace, Melanie

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)

(May Mission of the Month)

One Great Hour of Sharing is a multi-denominational effort to support disaster, refugee and development actions. What does this mean? Seven denominations (both UCC and PUSA participate) work with the church world service to help with clean water, food, shelter, education, and advocacy to people who so desperately need it. Whether it be displaced persons in Japan during the tsunami or refugees fleeing death and destruction of their homes, OGHS is there to help so please give generously.

Nest month MOM is DREAM CATCHER CAMP

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

On **Sunday, April 10th** following worship, the Church Council is holding an informal gathering to discuss the additional work they have done on this year's budget. This is in response to the congregations request that they re-work the budget. What will be presented are real numbers with real challenges for not only the leadership of the church, but the whole congregation. We invite you to join us for this brief informational meeting, and also to participate in facing our current challenges. We'll meet in the sanctuary prior to fellowship time.

RECESSED ANNUAL MEETING

On **Sunday, May 8th** immediately following worship we will hold our Recessed Annual Meeting. Please make a note of it on your calendar. It is important for all members who are able, to attend.

CREEK AND INVASIVES CLEAN UP DAY



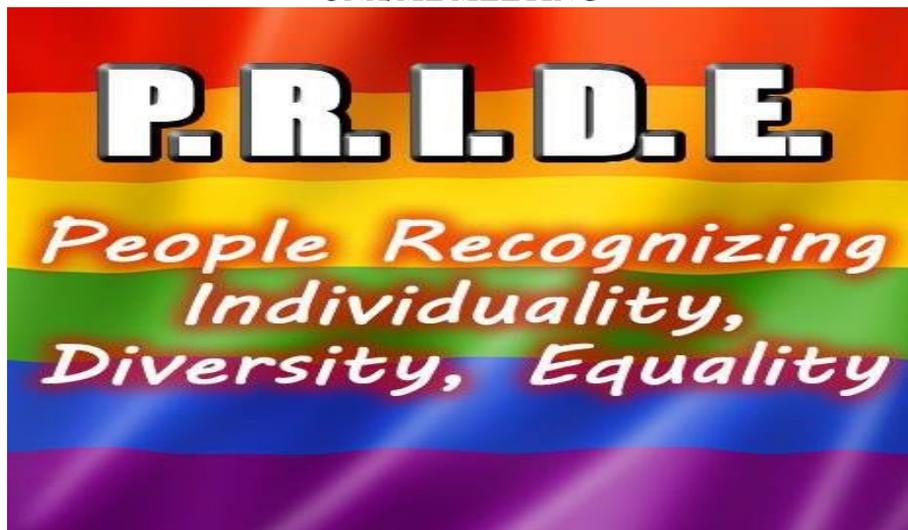
Saturday, April 23rd is our day to get back out to continue the work begun last fall – cleaning out the invasive plants around the creek. We made so much progress last fall, and now it is time to get back at it before the plants get any larger with the growing season. We need everyone who is able to join us in this effort. We'll begin by 9 am and work as long as you're able. We'll rent a chipper again and encourage all groups who use the church to participate, as well as the wider community. Bring your gardening tools, gloves and wear old clothes. Michael T. has already generously volunteered to take care of feeding the workers. Also, if you are unable to work outside there is always something to do inside the church.

APRIL COMMUNITY DINNER



Thursday, April 28th is the next date for the Collenbrook Community Dinner. This has been a resounding success and we will continue to work to make sure this mission grows. This month the menu includes pulled pork, coleslaw, salad, veggies and dessert. We will be doing most of the food prep in our kitchen from now on so there is consistency for the public. Remember, this is not a pot luck but a mission to feed the wider community who needs a well balanced hot meal and companionship at the end of the month. All are welcome to come and eat, and for Collenbrook people, to make sure all who come are warmly welcomed. If you would like to help our volunteers please see Michael T. so he may guide you in what is needed.

ONA/ML MEETING



The next meeting of the ONA group will follow the community dinner on **Thursday, April 28th**. There is a whole lot that is going on and we welcome all who seek acceptance and justice for all people. From our concert in May to marching in the 2016 Philadelphia Pride Parade, there is something for everyone to participate in. We also will be having some discussion during the coming months about what the bible actually says (and doesn't say) about homosexuality. This group is not just for those who identify as LGBTQA, but for all who believe all people should be treated with love and dignity. Please come join us!

HANDBELL CHOIR FUNDRAISER



Bells, bells, bells! Collenbrook is the proud owner of a 3 octave handbell set and it comes with all that is needed: tables, pads, practice and performance covers, music, music stands, mallets, other percussion instruments, etc! We have already sold 24 bells and only have 13 to go!! So just how does this work? One bell is "sold" for \$230. This can be bought by an individual or a group of people. Once you or your group buys a bell, your name will go proudly on a bell (paper) and be hung up in the hall on the bell tree. Once we get this paid back to the organ fund we will then concentrate on purchasing a new organ because the one we have is no longer playable. So, tell a friend, a coworker, a neighbor! Let's get this RING A DING DONE so we can move onto the OOMPA OOMPA ORGAN!!!!

YANKEE CANDLE FUNDRAISER

Another Yankee Candle Fundraiser is about to wrap up. All proceeds will go to community dinners and deacon's fund. All paper orders must be in to Pastor Melanie no later than **Wednesday April 13th**. Remember that you can still order online (yankeecandlefundraising.com). Call the office for the group number.



Our semi annual rummage sale is scheduled for **Saturday, May 7, 2016** at 9 am and will be outside if weather permits. We need volunteers to help set up, mark items and work throughout the day. We also need someone to chair this as well. If you are interested in taking the helm then please speak with Pastor Melanie. Let's make this a great event. Gather your gently used items and be ready to bring them to the church the week of the sale.

JAMIE ANDERSON LIVE IN CONCERT

With ANNA CRUSIS WOMEN'S CHOIR

TO BENEFIT COLLENBROOK'S COMMUNITY DINNERS!

WHEN: Saturday, May 21, 2016, from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

WHERE: Collenbrook United Church - 5290 Township Line Road Drexel Hill, PA

TICKETS: \$15 for Tickets-In-Advance:

EVENTBRITE:

<http://tinyurl.com/EBConcertTix>

PAYPAL: <http://tinyurl.com/PPConcertTix>

\$18 for Tickets At-The-Door.

Singer-songwriter-parking lot attendant Jamie Anderson has played her unique original songs in hundreds of venues in four countries, including 47 U.S. states and 3 Canadian provinces. Laughter is a big part of Jamie's performance. Her offbeat song intros and stories keep the performance fun, but don't be surprised when she delves into more serious issues. She's emceed at many events and twirls the baton badly, sometimes at the same time. She's also a belly dancer and former radio DJ, never at the same time. When Jamie isn't touring, she's taught music classes at Duke University, arts centers, festivals, and her studio. Visit Jamie Anderson at: <http://jamieanderson.com/>

Some members of the Anna Crusis Women's Choir will join Jamie Anderson during this evening of music, comedy, and fun! Visit Anna Crusis Choir at <http://www.annaocrusis.com/>

During intermission you can purchase Jamie's CD's and participate in our silent auction.



ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT OUR FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS!

Walk-in tickets may be purchased at the door via cash, credit card, or check.

Checks may also be mailed in advance to:

Collenbrook United Church Attn: CONCERT

5290 Township Line Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026

QUESTIONS: Phone: (610) 789-9590 | Email: CollenbrookUnitedChurch@Gmail.com

MAY BIRTHDAYS



6th.....Marie P.
14th.....Joe N.
18.....Jil B.
19.....Sue E.
25.....Danielle W.
31.....Branna L.

OTHER STUFF

There are always volunteer opportunities at Collenbrook: from singing in the choir, ringing a bell or two in the handbell choir, helping to set up or clean up after the community dinners to cleaning the sanctuary...there is always something to do. In fact, there is now another way to help out for those who are outdoorsy types! We are in the process of purchasing a lawnmower so we can save some serious dollars over the course of several years. As some of you know, hiring out this very basic task costs the church anywhere from approximately \$3,500 to \$4,300 a season. We will be able to purchase a zero turn mower for less than the lowest bid! We already have a group of people who volunteered to take this task on so keep on the look out for crazy drivers on a cherry red mower!

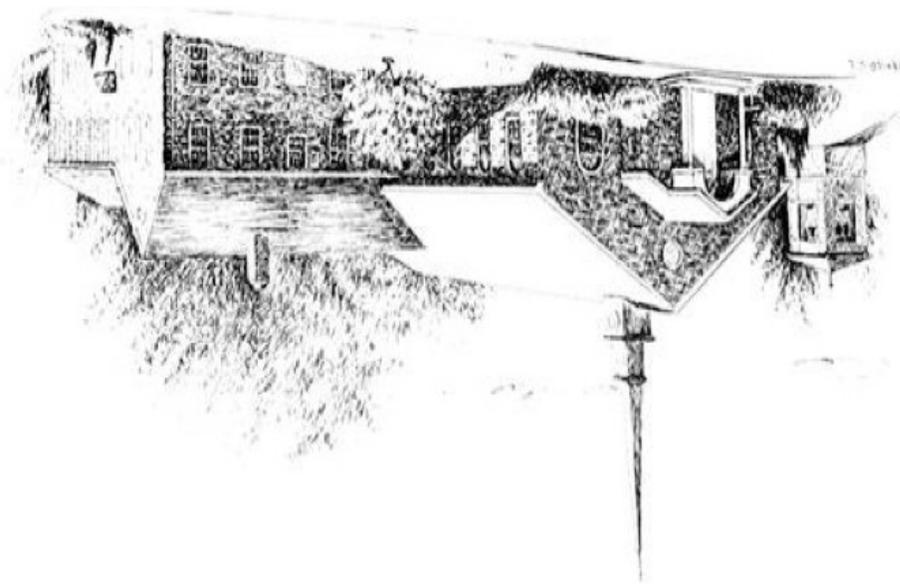
CHURCH INFORMATION

Pastor Melanie is typically in the office from Wednesday through Saturday. 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. Pastor Melanie's usual days off are Mondays and Tuesdays. Please respect this time by not emailing or texting her unless it is an emergency or it's something that needs immediate attention.

Collenbrook United Church, 5290 Township Line Rd., Drexel Hill. PA 19026
Phone: 610.789.9590
www.collenbrook.org
info@collenbrook.org

APRIL 2016

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|-----------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 7-10pm Podowan | 2 3pm AA |
| 3 9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA | 4 | 5 | 6 12:30-bible study 6:30 Bell Choir | 7 7pm-bible study 7pm AA | 8 7-10pm Podowan | 9 3pm AA |
| 10 9:30-Choir Reh. 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA | 11 | 12 | 13 12:30-bible study 7 pm-bible study | 14 7pm AA | 15 7-10-pm Podowan | 16 3pm AA |
| 17 9:30-Choir Reh 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA | 18 | 19 7 pm-Council Meeting | 20 12:30-bible study | 21 7pm AA | 22 | 23 9am Yard cleanup 3pm AA |
| 24 10:30 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA | 25 | 26 | 27 12:30-bible study | 28 5-7 COMMUNTY DINNER 7:15 ONA/ML meeting | 29 | 30 |



www.collbrook.org; info@collbrook.org
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5290 Township Line Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

FIRST CLASS MAIL

