

LINK 'N' TOWER

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

Volume 116, Number 8

September 2016



From the Pastor

It is hard to believe that summer is moving into fall already! Maybe I'm imagining it, but it seems like it has been an incredibly hot summer. Last winter was pretty warm, too. I remember my spring bulbs were sprouting in January and February! I think I over planted my summer garden, which seems to be slowing, except for the tomatoes. I can't wait for them to ripen, and now I can't eat them fast enough!

So much has been happening at church these days, and the next week or so is no different. If you've been away during the summer, WELCOME BACK! No guilt trip... but I just missed seeing you! Don't be surprised if you see some new faces among us, as we are welcoming new people every week. This is such an exciting time for Collenbrook! We are growing a GOOD NEWS CHURCH!

We have some changes coming soon for worship, and you'll read more about that in another article in this newsletter. We are also in the process of figuring out our music leadership situation while Jiyeon is away for her treatments and healing. WiFi will soon be available throughout the building with a specific hub for Collenbrook members and another hub for other groups who use our space. An exciting new curriculum for Church School is on the way, and we'll be starting our next adult study "Unbinding your Soul" in September or early October. We are looking at a few different organs to replace our non-functioning one, and finally installing a few new pieces of playground equipment. Bell choir is practicing again, and the Yard Sale is THIS MONTH! The singles group is still active so look for activities in the upcoming months. Choir will resume, too.

Do you really want to miss anything? NO! This is too much fun to miss! There are three ways of looking at this. 1. We need you. We need your presence, your prayers, your ideas, your energy and your smiling faces! 2. I'd like to think you need us, too. You need our love, our prayers, our ideas, our energy, and our smiling faces. 3. God needs you and you need God. If one or more of these fits for you, I'll see you in church.

Shalom, Melanie

EXCITING HAPPENINGS AT COLLENBROOK

September is upon us and with it many opportunities to be a part of our community. Check out the various things going on this month:

Worship Changes

Our Worship Committee / Team has met and would like to try a few new things. Yes, everything that we always have in worship will still be there. We are just simply shifting a few things around. What we are trying to accomplish is to begin our worship more quietly and build the energy through the worship experience. The biggest change you will notice is that we will begin the worship with a welcome, sharing the peace of Christ, with the chimes to ring us back to our seats, and then prelude. Announcements will come **FOLLOWING** the **POSTLUDE**, before we leave for Fellowship Hour. Therefore, after the Commissioning and Benediction, we will all sit back down and enjoy the Postlude. We're trying this for a variety of reasons, which includes people who may be a little late not missing out on announcements that are made. There are also those who enjoy that quiet contemplative time at the beginning of worship, and this provides us the opportunity to create that space. You will also notice that the frequency of Communion has increased. There are some of our members who would like Communion every week, while others prefer to have it 6-7 times a year. The compromise is to celebrate Communion the first Sunday of each month, with some special holy days added in. If you are worshipping and choose to not to receive Communion, no one will judge you in any way. We are each on a spiritual journey which we all live differently. We now have portable microphones which are important as we share our joys, concerns and announcements. Please use the microphone as it is handed to you. There are those among us who are hearing impaired, and no matter how loud we think we are, they still cannot hear us.

Welcome Back Choir

We will resume our morning rehearsals on **Sunday, September 11 at 9:30** a.m. Please try to be on time as we'll have some music to work on and discussion on how to proceed forward. Anyone is welcome to join us! We'd love to have you! Melanie will be directing until Jiyeon returns or we hire someone temporarily. The great thing about singing in the choir is that we get to pray even more!

Church Rummage Sale

There will be another **church rummage sale** on **September 16th and 17th**. Rummage sales are Collenbrook's biggest fundraiser so we need everyone to start going through closets, garages and attics and gather those treasures that need new homes. We are especially looking for furniture and larger items. We will begin collecting items on Monday, Sept. 12th. Please bring clean, serviceable items to the sanctuary. Use the upper lot and someone will meet you at the sanctuary doors starting at 10 am to 3 pm through Thursday. Also, we need volunteers to set up, tear down and of course work during the sale itself. Sign up sheets are in the sanctuary. Hours are in blocks of 2. If you need to schedule a pickup of larger items please contact the church office or Pat L. Let's make this sale the best one yet!

Handbell Choir Fall Schedule

Handbell choir resumes rehearsals on **Wednesdays from 7-9** pm. If you love music and want something a little different this is for you. All that is required to participate is a love for music and the ability to keep a beat. The choir will be joining worship at least once a month as part of the music ministry of Collenbrook: **9/25th; 10/23rd; 11/20th; 11/27th; 12/4th; 12/11th** (previous 3 dates for advent ensemble); **12/18th; 12/24th; 12/25th** (solo). As a sidenote, there are still 3 bells for purchase (\$230 each) so if you haven't bought your bell yet there is still time.

Church Organ Search

The Organ Committee and any other interested parties will meet at **Aldan United Church on September 14 at 6** pm to meet with a sales representative of Johannus and Rodgers Organs to talk about and listen to a Johannus model. It's fun to learn about just how far digital technology has come and how it translates to beautiful pipe

organ sound. The committee is working hard to ensure we purchase the best organ for our needs while being good stewards of church funds. The hope is that an installation will be done before Easter. Along with installing a new organ in the next several months we must decide how best to install the new organ and how we can remodel the chancel to enhance our worship experience. This is a very exciting time in the life of Collenbrook so if you want to participate in the discussion please make sure to attend a council meeting in the near future.

Community Dinner

The community dinners are quickly becoming the place to be for good food and great fellowship. Each successive month we see more members of the wider community coming to get a free well balanced home cooked dinner. Please help get the word out to your family, friends and neighbors that our next dinner is **Thursday, September 29th starting at 5 pm.**

Coming in October!

Fellowship Opportunity at Linvilla Orchards – **Saturday, October 1st** at noon: our own John Mcleod will be performing with his band Wayside Shakeup. Please see Dibbie M for more information. There is a blood drive at the church on **Saturday, October 1st**. Please see Melanie for more information.

We are offering a new Adult Prayer Study entitled “Unbinding Your Soul.” It is a familiar format for those who participated in “Unbinding the Gospel.” However, the one big difference is this one is built into two 4 week sessions. The first 4 weeks is a warm up – and experiment in Prayer and Community. If after these weeks we wish to go on, then we can. Are you interested? There’s a sign-up sheet at the front of the sanctuary. Signing up means you may be interested, but does not commit you to anything. It lets the leaders know to be in contact with you. You may also email Melanie or the church office to let them know. We’re excited about this amazing experiment! As you’ll read in the introduction to the study:

God can, and will, do amazing things in our lives and through us if we’ll just pay attention and follow. This is a pretty humble process. It isn’t rocket science. It’s spiritual growth. We trust that God will bless our lives and take us to the next deeper level if we’ll talk honestly with each other, listen carefully and respectfully to each other, study bits of the Bible and pray. Four weeks isn’t very long, so let’s not tiptoe around the main point or fuss around with leading up to it gently.”

If you’re interested enough to agree to meet four time and to pray for three weeks, let’s get started!

Pastoral Relations Committee Report

Collenbrook United Church now has a Pastoral Relations Committee. Members are Bill Dolton, Carolyn Johnson, and Samantha Havey. We are just getting started, but we want to let you know what our focus is and what tasks we intend to accomplish.

Our purpose will be to support the pastor and the congregation’s relationship with the pastor, assist the pastor in setting goals and conduct periodic evaluations of the pastor, and establish a process for mediation when and if needed to resolve any issues that may arise between congregants and the pastor.

Our first task will be to work with Melanie to develop a formal job description for our pastor and seek approval of this from Council. Once that is in place, the Pastoral Relations Committee will work with Melanie to set goals consistent with the job description. At the same time, the committee will develop instruments and a procedure to be used for a formal evaluation. We anticipate conducting a survey of the congregation –which would be done every other year. On a yearly basis, there would be a council evaluation of the pastor as well as a pastor self-evaluation. The committee would be responsible for reviewing the results of the evaluation process with the pastor and Council.

The committee will also be developing a mediation process and presenting that process to Council and the congregation. The goal will be to help diffuse issues that may arise in the future and to provide a safe, comfortable means of conflict resolution.

Finally, the committee will also focus on assisting the pastor in ensuring there are resources available and support in place for on-going professional fulfillment (e.g., opportunities for study, collegial support and collaboration with fellow pastors, etc.).

New Fundraiser: Ebay for Collenbrook

Do you have treasures in your drawers and closets? We have a way to turn them into cash that can benefit both you and Collenbrook. Recently Nancy and Pat had an electric log splitter that was relatively new but they no longer wanted. They tried to sell it at the yard sales, but it went unsold. So they donated it to Collenbrook and asked Tom Gambino to list it on Ebay. It was viewed by people all over the country. Three weeks later a man from Tabernacle NJ paid \$175 for it. Nancy and Pat directed the proceeds to Collenbrook. Nancy and Pat get a tax deduction. Tom Gambino recently sold a Mont Blanc pen that was sitting in a drawer for \$217 on Ebay. He donated \$160 of the proceeds to Collenbrook.

So how does this become a fundraiser for Collenbrook? Tom Gambino is setting up an Ebay account for Collenbrook. All you have to do is identify items for sale and bring them to church. If you have original boxes and/or instructions they improve the value. Tom will take a bunch of pictures and list the items on Collenbrook's Ebay account. When your item sells, you donate 50% or all to Collenbrook.

When the item is listed you will receive a copy of the listing. When it is sold you will receive a copy of the sale. Then, 7 to 10 days later the cash becomes available. Anything not sold after 2 months will be returned or, if you wish, become part of our next yard sale. Note, most Ebay items are shipped to the buyer using the US Postal Service. So weight and size are important. Generally Ebay is not for furniture.

So let's see if together we can turn some of your unwanted junk or those gifts which the giver was sure you wanted but in fact you did not, into cash benefitting you and Collenbrook.

CHURCH INFORMATION - NEW

Pastor Melanie has changed her days off to Mondays and Fridays, at least for now. She was finding herself working many Tuesdays due to various meetings, etc. Therefore, Melanie will be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. 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.

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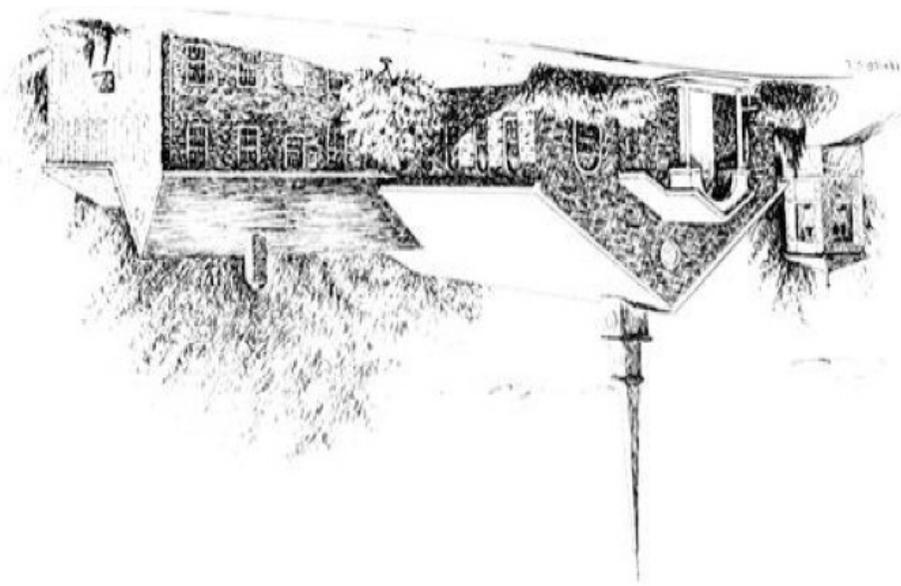
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COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7pm AA	2 7-10pm Podowan	3 3pm AA
4 10:30- WORSHIP communion 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	5	6	7 7pm Bell Choir	8 7pm AA	9 7-10pm Podowan	10 3pm AA
11 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	12 10-3 drop off for rummage	13 10-3 drop off for rummage Council	14 10-3 drop off for rummage 6-organ search 7pm- Bell Choir	15 10-3 drop off for rummage 7pm AA	16 9-5 RUMMAGE 7-10-pm Podowan	17 9-3 RUMMAGE 3pm AA
18 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	19	20	21 7pm- Bell Choir	22 7pm AA	23	24 3pm AA
25 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	26	27	28 7pm- Bell Choir	29 5-7 Community Dinner	30	



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FIRST CLASS MAIL