

LINK 'N' TOWER

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

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AMEN! As I was reading this week I was suddenly thinking about the word “amen” and our use of it. Most often in our tradition we use it at the end of a prayer or hymn meaning “so be it.” English translations also include “verily” and “truly.” In the Hebrew scriptures it is used as a declaration of affirmation. In call and response traditions, as is that of our African-American brothers and sisters, 'amen” is the response often heard as both strong agreement and/or encouragement of the speaker.

In pondering the word and our worship, it occurs to me that more often than not, it signals the end of something, a song or a prayer. But, when it is the last word in those hymns and prayers, it is actually signalling the beginning of 'make it be so”. It is the start of moving forward toward a new reality prayed for, hoped for, dreamed of. God is in that future calling us to participate. God even yells out the “amen” to us! Yes, people of God! Amen to that! *Shalom, Melanie*

HAITI CHOLERA FILTERS (January Mission of the Month)

One of our members, Ricky H., has a friend who created a filter to eliminate cholera from the water supply in Haiti. He did this several years ago. He then took his invention to Haiti and freely gave this technology to the people so they could set up a factory to make them. They are low cost to make and to use. They are simple in design but powerful in results.

A couple of years ago Haiti again faced another natural disaster and this time it destroyed the factory that made these little life saving filters. Ricky's friend is now taking a trip to Haiti at the end of January to hand deliver monies to the right people so another factory can be started and these filters can once again be used to save lives.

We are asking for donations to be made in the next week because he is leaving for Haiti at the end of the month and Ricky needs time to get any monies collected to him. So, if you want to help, please drop off your monetary donation this week to the church.

Next month MOM is Church World Service Blankets

SHOUT OUT OF THANKS

On January 1st the church had its annual Agape Breakfast and Service. Unfortunately I was fighting a bug so could not attend but I heard about the selfless giving of time and talents of a few of our newest community members. Thank you Bill F. for your talent of hospitality and cooking

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1/21 Charity Boot Camp
- 1/25 Handbell Choir Resumes
- 1/26 Community Dinner
- 1/26 LGBTQA Meeting
- 1/29 Ice Skating Fellowship
- 2/5 Congregational Meeting
- 2/14 VALENTINE'S DAY
Council Meeting
- 2/19 MOM Meeting
- 2/23 Community Dinner

those delicious pancakes, a shout out of thanks to Chris and Bridget T. for the sausages and a huge helping of gratitude to MaryAnn and Kathleen for jumping in with both feet to help prep food and clean up. We want to let you all know how much we appreciate you. Thank you so very much for making the 2017 Agape Breakfast better than ever.

Melanie

One more thing...a huge thank you for the generous gift given to us from the church. Your love and generosity is overwhelming.

Melanie and Pat

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.

Maya Angelou,
Celebrations:Rituals of Peace and Prayer

October 2017 will mark the first production of Collenbrook's own theater troupe when a band of radical revolutionaries defy bigotry and injustice in the award wining musical **GODSPELL**. But this ambitious project will need help from anyone we can draft...from church members to friends to generous acquaintances. So, we are “preparing the way” in earnest to fill the positions below:

Here is a list of who it will take in addition to the cast for us to make this successful:

Producer: Michael Tovar	Rehearsal/Performance Pianist (paid)
Director: Len Hedges-Goettl	Volunteer musicians
Asst. Director: Barb Hedges-Goett	Props Person
Choreographer	Advertising/promotions people
Costumer	Set Builders
Lighting Person	Sound Person: Jeff Mycek
Stage Manager	Concession Staff
Ticket Person	Program Designer/producer
Ushers	

Tabitha Tarbutton is the volunteer coordinator so if you want to help out with any of the positions above please contact her through the church office. If you know of someone who loves theater and wants to volunteer please pass on this information. Let's join together and make this a ministry project to remember for years!

FELLOWSHIP SKATING PARTY – JANUARY 29TH

COST IS \$7 TO \$10 (INCLUDES SKATE RENTAL)

HAVERTOWN RINK

STARTING AT 12:15

Winter is here so it is time to break out those ice skates and wobbly legs to take a few turns around the ice rink. For those who have very weak ankles or just a fear of falling picture opportunities will abound so still please join us.

For more information please see Debbie M.

What if our loneliness is the result not simply of needing a partner but of needing people? We are made in the image of a relational God; it makes sense that we possess the desire to be together.

Debra Fileta, True Love Dates

JANUARY CHARITY BOOT CAMP January 21st

10 am Collenbrook Fellowship Hall

Winter Coat Drive

Chris Templeton is offering an hour that will get your heart pumping, your glands sweating and your legs jellying! It's an hour to help get you moving at your own pace and the only entry fee is to bring a gently used warm weather coat/jacket which will be donated to a local charity. Even if you cannot participate please bring a coat to donate.

A bear, however hard he tries, grows tubby without exercise.

A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

For more information see Chris or go to:

www.BeTheCHANGE-fitness.com

ONA/MORE LIGHT MEETING January 26th

7:15 after the Community Dinner

It is time once again to gear up and get together to plan for events to come, support and encourage each other and discuss the direction this group wants to move in this year. This meeting is open to all people but we especially invite those who identify as LGBTQA.

COMMUNITY DINNER

CHILI

Starts at 5 pm so put your boots and coat on and join us for some good food and great fellowship.

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.

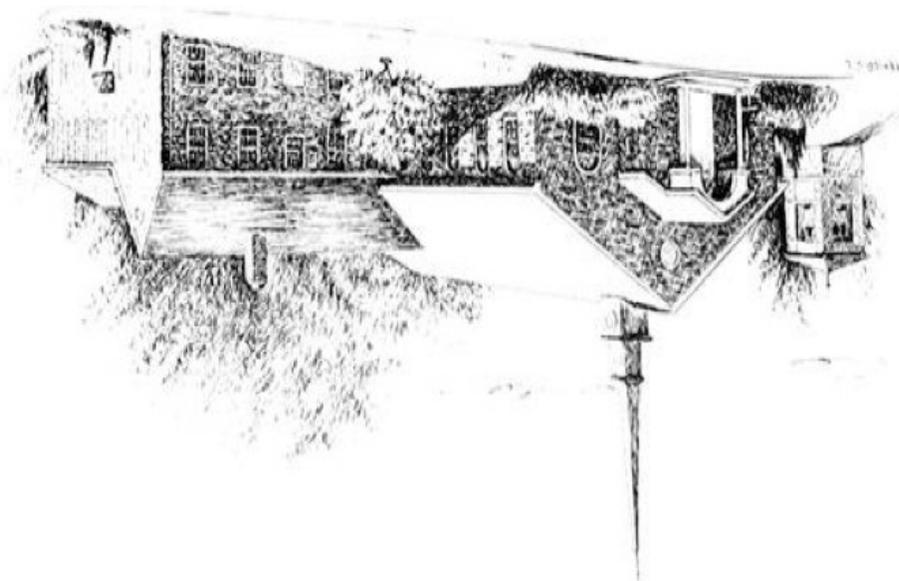
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COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH CALENDAR

JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 7pm AA	6 7-10pm Podowan	7 3pm AA
8 9:30 Choir 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	9	10	11	12 7pm AA	13 7-10pm Podowan	14 3pm AA
15 9:30 Choir 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	16	17 7pm Council	18	19 7pm AA	20 7-10-pm Podowan	21 10 AM Charity Boot Camp 3pm AA
22 9:30 Choir 10:30- WORSHIP 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	23	24	25 7pm Bell Choir	26 5-7 Community Dinner 7pm AA	27 7-10-pm Podowan	28 3pm AA
29 10:30- WORSHIP 12:15 Skate Party 1-7 Podowan 7:30 AA	30	31				



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