

LINK 'N' TOWER

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

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September 2017



I was recently listening to a program entitled “ALL IN.” It is about stewardship and generosity and I’ll focus more on that in a few months as we move toward planning for our financial future as a congregation. For now I want to talk about how it really got me thinking about being “ALL IN” for God” and being “ALL IN” for Jesus. What would that look like?

When I got married I made a covenant with Pat and with God that I was “ALL IN.” I knew that there would be amazing and wonderful times in our life together, as well as tough times, too. Being “ALL IN” means that I’m willing to give it my ALL because I love her that much.

When I was ordained to Christian Ministry, I said to God and the church that I’m “ALL IN.” God has me hook, line, and sinker, so to speak. I’m hooked on God and I’m a willing and passionate follower of Jesus Christ. I knew it was going to be an amazing journey, and that the good would always outshine anything not good. God hasn’t disappointed me yet. This incredible journey continues as we embark on a new fall season with our amazing Collenbrook family.

There’s a lot going on that you don’t want to miss! Please join us for worship, check out the website and facebook page, and post your calendar on the refrigerator. Join us for whatever you can! Being together, as the Body of Christ is the most important thing we do, and ministering to and with each other and God’s people is the most transforming thing we experience. I’m ALL IN! Are you?

Shalom
Melanie

AUTISM SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

September Mission of the Month

Autism is a serious developmental disorder that impairs the ability to communicate and interact. There is a huge range of autism from a child rocking repetitively without ever talking to a surgeon who has no idea how to interact with others. This is called Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and it is estimated that 1 of every 88 children show up on the spectrum in the United States. One shoe does not fit all.

The Autism Society of Greater Philadelphia is a non profit organization and has been in existence since 1977. Its mission is to promote lifelong access and opportunities for persons within the autism spectrum and their families, to be fully included, participating members of their communities through advocacy, public awareness, education and research related to autism. For more information and to check out movie events for people with ASD, please visit their website www.asaphilly.org

HURRICANE HARVEY

Last week the city of Houston, TX and its environs were devastated by Hurricane Harvey. With a record amount of rainfall with this slow moving system, thousands of people have been displaced from their homes and have lost everything. What can we do to help? Go on over to www.ucc.org or and go to their Harvey page. There you will find opportunities to give financially as well information on immediate and long term needs of the victims. You can also donate at www.pcusa.org as well. One way we can help right now and be **ALL IN** is to start a **cleanup bucket ministry**.

NEW MINISTRY – CLEANUP BUCKETS



A parishioner called the church this past week to talk about what we as a congregation could do now to help those people who have been devastated by Hurricane Harvey. He suggested cleanup buckets. After doing some research to see if there was truly a need I found that Church World Service only had 1,800 buckets left in the facility after dispersing 8,000 buckets to victims of Hurricane Matthew. So yes there is a need...a great need.

UCC has a \$250 matching grant to churches who can raise \$250 for these buckets so we can make more buckets. The closest CWS depot is in New Windsor, MD which is just a short hop so we can actually deliver the completed buckets ourselves. This is a wonderful way for us to do something tangible for those people who need it the most. So, by collecting monies for large scale purchasing (more bang for the buck), taking donations in kind (from the list of items) and getting together every 3rd or 4th Saturday of each month for some fellowship fun and putting the buckets together. We here at Collenbrook can make a huge difference for those who need our help. I see this as an ongoing ministry because there is always a need somewhere for these buckets. We will need a coordinator for this ministry but for now Pat and I will take this on to get it started. Look for our first Saturday on **September 23rd at 6 pm and be ALL IN!** Shalom, Melanie

New Men's Breakfast Ministry

Starting on **Saturday, September 16th at 9am** in the fellowship hall Collenbrook men have a new place to eat breakfast and do some sharing, praying, talking, etc. This is a monthly event and open to all men or those who identify as male.

Sunday School Kickoff Breakfast-2017

It's back to School Time. Why should the Public and Private Schools have all the fun? Collenbook is going to join the fun on **September 9th at 9:30am** with its Sunday School Kickoff Breakfast-2017. We want **Students, Teachers and the Parents** to join us for the initial event of the 2017 Sunday School calendar.

We will begin with a continental breakfast including donuts, bagels, fruits, cereal, juice and a some other goodies. During the breakfast we will play "20 Questions Who I am, Bible Version". Teachers will be introduced and the curriculum will be briefly presented.

So please join us On September 9th at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. P.S. Don't worry there will not be a pop quiz.

Share your "Gift of Song" by joining the Collenbrook Choir!

We rehearse each Sunday at 9:30 AM
to prepare the music for that day's 10:30 service.

(A bit of advance practice might be slipped in also.)

No formal training in music is required...
but a sense of humor is essential.

Speak with our *Bill Lowden*, the director/organist, for more information...
or just come out next Sunday.

You and your church will be blessed!

CELEBRATING 300 YEARS – Philadelphia Presbytery

Please join in the celebration of the historic happening. There will be several of us singing in the choir and we would love to have a large group represent Collenbrook. The worship service is Saturday, October 7 starting at 10 am at the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church. If you would like to attend please speak with Pastor Melanie as soon as you can and look for flyers with more information.

HANDBELL CHOIR RESUMES

Ok all you ding a lings out there! Hello! myself to make that wonderful joyful music, hands that can count to 4, hands and different. Hands that know that So, you, ding a ling....come to rehearsals



You! Yes you. I need you. I can't ring sound. I need hands! Hands that love that want to try something challenging doing ensemble work is so rewarding. on **Wednesdays at 7pm.**

EXCITING THINGS

COMMUNITY DINNERS are always a fun time and are growing. We fed over 100 people last month and are planning for that amount again. To that end we desperately need financial donations to help keep this ministry alive. If we can buy most of what we need in bulk we save money and it doesn't become a financial burden to just a few people. Also, it has always been the goal to serve as many outside community people as possible but our space is limited so we ask that if you are a member of Collenbrook to please allow our guests to sit and eat first. **Next Dinner is September 28th starting at 5 pm.**

HIKING/WALKING/RUNNING group getting underway. Debbie M. is spearheading this wonderful way to exercise, enjoy nature and get to know each other on a more personal level. All fitness levels are welcome. Group meets on **Thursdays at 7 pm** at different parks so be sure to contact office or Debbie for weekly locations.

MUSIC programs at Collenbrook include adult vocal choir (**Sundays at 9:30 am**) to handbell choir and ensemble (**Wednesdays 7 pm**). We also have so many talented musicians who help us in worship throughout the year from classical flute to folk guitar to African drums so if you love to sing or being a part of an ensemble or play an instrument, feel free to come to rehearsals (check calendar) or let Bill (organist/choir director) or Pat L (handbell director) know of your interest.

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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All articles and calendar events must be in to the editor no later than the 25th of each month. Please send items to collenbrookunitedchurch@gmail.com. Please note that this email is different than the church email. If you do not have email please give your articles/event dates to Pat Lawrence-Caldwell in legible form.

From the editor: if you are not receiving an email copy of the newsletter and would like to please send an email to the above email address so you can be placed on the newsletter email list.

COLLENBROOK UNITED CHURCH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:30 Choir 10:30 WORSHIP	4	5	6 7pm Bell Choir	7 7pm Hiking	8	9 Choir Retreat?
10 9:30 Choir 10:30 WORSHIP	11	12 7pm Council	13 7pm Bell Choir	14 7pm Hiking	15	16 9am Men's Breakfast 9am Choir Rehearsal 300 th ann. Abington Pres.
17 9:30 Choir 10:30 WORSHIP	18	19	20 7pm Bell Choir	21 7pm Hiking	22	23 6pm Bucket Ministry
24 9:30 Choir 10:30 WORSHIP 3pm Choir Rehearsal 300 th	25	26	27 7pm Bell Choir	28 5PM COMMUNITY DINNER 7pm Hiking	29 6:30 Choir Rehearsal 300 th mand.	30 Blood Drive

LEGEND

Sanctuary – S

Choir Room – CR

Fellowship Hall – F

Chancel – C

Off Campus – OC

Office - O

Downstairs Room - DR

Nursery - N

Remember we have non church groups that use our building during the week:

Ancona Montessori: Monday – Friday from 7am-6pm

Podowan: **Sundays @ 1pm; Fridays @ 7pm**

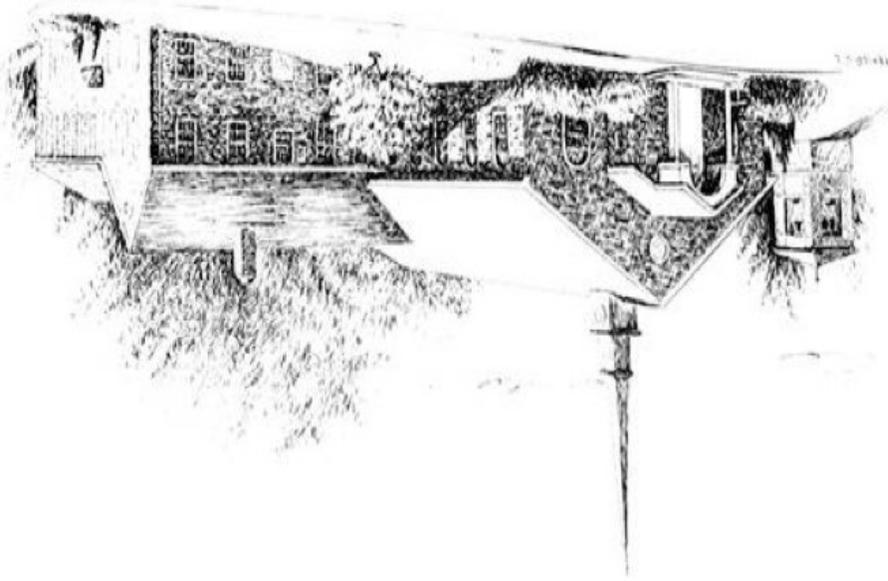
AA groups: **Sundays @ 7pm; Thursdays @ 7pm; Saturday @ 3pm**

Daisy Scouts: **every other Monday evening**

Civitan: **Wednesdays @ 5pm**

Yoga: **Tuesdays @ 7pm; Thursdays @ 6pm**

Charity Boot Camp: **2nd Saturday of the month (9th – pet goodies) @ 10am**



www.collbrook.org; info@collbrook.org
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FIRST CLASS MAIL