



First United

Methodist Church of Lancaster

NOVEMBER
2016

Our Mission

Connect People to Jesus Christ
Grow Disciples
& Relieve Suffering

A Word from Pastor Joe DiPaolo

Sunday, October 23rd was a remarkable day in the life of First UMC. A delegation of more than 60 persons from Korea's Chungdong Methodist Church were with us! We were treated to stirring music by the 50-voice *Sitos* Choir, marvelous alto and soprano soloists, as well as the powerful organ pieces played by virtuoso Eun Hae Park. Pastor Se Hyoung Lee preached at the 8:15 service, and Senior Pastor Ki Sung Song, preached at 10:45. Both shared inspiring messages that weaved together our call to mission today with the inspiring story of Henry Appenzeller, the father of Korean Methodism. Afterward we dedicated a new relief statue of Henry in our chapel, the gift of our friends from Korea, and the work of artist Changgon Kim (who also fashioned the cross that is there).

The story of the Appenzellers is truly a remarkable one. Henry Appenzeller (1858-1902), was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and initially trained as a teacher at West Chester University (then West Chester Normal School). While there, he

started a prayer meeting and founded West Chester's YMCA. He later attended Franklin and Marshall College here in Lancaster, where he caught the Wesleyan fever, and joined First UMC. It was here, in our congregation, that Henry married, and was nurtured in faith, until he heard the call to missionary service. This is why our Koreans friends so revere our church, which supported his ministry for years, and gave the most money toward the erection of ChungDong's first church.

Henry attended Drew Seminary, and went to Korea in 1885. In 1887 he founded the first church there, Chong Dong Church, built by him as "Bethel Chapel" in 1897. It is the first western-style church in Korea and now a national historic site. Henry founded a school for boys in 1887, which is now PaiChai University, with more than 50,000 alumni. In 1890, he founded the Trilingual Press, and began publishing the *Korean Christian Advocate*, the first Korean-language Christian periodical. In 1886, his wife Ella helped to found Ewha University, which is now the largest

women's University in the world with nearly 20,000 students and over 140,000 alumni.

At the center of their legacy is the Korean Methodist Church, today numbering over 1.5 million members. The KMC has been sending hundreds of missionaries all over Asia and beyond, and many of those nurtured within its congregations have come to America – including our own District Superintendent, BumKoo Chong. Korea today has the largest single Methodist congregation in the world (Kumnan Church, with 100,000 members and a 10,000 seat sanctuary!) More Koreans now identify as Christian (Methodist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, etc.) than as Buddhist. Many are finding their way to America as immigrants; there are now hundreds of Korean congregations of various denominations in the USA. It is amazing what God can do when a person decides to dedicate his or her talents to Christ's service. Henry and Ella's story demonstrate that. And we can continue to demonstrate the same reality today, as we dedicate ourselves anew to serve the Lord in a new generation!

A Redbird Christmas

Oswald Campbell, aged fifty-two, lives in chilly Chicago and is given only months to live unless he moves South. Soon Oswald finds himself in a small Alabama town, where the residents are friendly and eccentric. Author

Fannie Flagg takes us on an emotional roller-coaster ride through the lives and hearts of an engaging crew of misfits and ordinary good-hearted folk, set against the natural backdrop of a mellow Alabama winter, along the riverside where birds and fish abound. Her enchanting story culminates

at Christmastide with surprises and a magical 'redbird' moment. You are welcome to join the discussion on Friday, December 16 at 9:30 in the church Library.

Tax Ministry at First Church

by Steve Franz

Our tax office is part of the largest, free, nonprofit tax preparation organization in the United States: AARP Foundation Tax-Aide**. It was fully staffed by 35,000 volunteers located in all of the 50 states in 2016. Our site at FUMC is the largest site in Eastern Pennsylvania and is among 5000 sites across the country. The national organization served 2.7 million taxpayers this year. Our volunteers are trained and IRS-certified each year to ensure that they know about and understand the latest changes in the tax code.

This is an FUMC signature mission that has been in continuous operation since tax year 2007, so next year is our 10th anniversary! Our volunteers prepare tax returns for local people in

Lancaster City and the surrounding area at no charge. This tax service is equipped to file electronically for Federal and State returns, and at the same time, prepare paper returns for the Lancaster County Tax Collection Bureau (LCTCB). We also provide either property tax rebate or rent rebate preparation for low income taxpayers who qualify. The wireless internet infrastructure at FUMC is critical to the success of this mission.

We need volunteers for the 2017 tax season. Researchers say that the best way to keep aging brains active is by challenging them! Preparing taxes certainly fits into that category. If you have basic computer skills and use a computer to prepare your own tax return, you are an ideal candidate. Our first training session is scheduled in November and will cover

basic computer navigation skills related to Windows 10 and Internet Explorer. We run as many as 10 computer input stations at First Church. We will train you in our tax preparation software in January for service during the tax season. We also staff satellite locations at Brethren Village, Woodcrest Villa, and Willow Valley retirement communities. Call Steve Franz (696-0353) or Tom Nesbitt (381-7972) or Jim Reindollar (393-8210) to discuss your interest and learn more about our program.

In addition, you can sign up at aarpfoundation.org/taxaide. You can also learn more about the scope of our tax office by reading our annual report that is filed on the FUMC web site under "MISSIONS-COMMUNITY."

[**Note: National statistics are sourced from the October, 2016 AARP Bulletin.

Changes in Membership

Douglas and Joyce Jerzycke transferred to Mountain Christian Church in Joppa, MD. Kenneth and Cynthia Patton will now worship at LCBC Church in Manheim, PA. Vance and Anita Renfro moved their membership to Amelia Plantation Chapel in Amelia Island, FL. Mark and Eileen Jones, with their children Katie, Chris and Jenna, transferred their membership to Lititz United Methodist Church, Lititz, PA. We pray that each one will continue to grow in their love for Jesus and continue to serve Him with joy in their new congregations. Sadly, Dennis Harlach, Stacy Pine and Betty Ann Roschel withdrew their memberships at First Church.

Our Youth Need Your Help!

by Kate Beiler

We are looking for adult volunteers, 20 years or older, with a heart for working with teens. First and foremost InsideOut (IO) Youth are looking for adults interested and able to go on a weekend retreat like the Sr. High Danger Retreat (November), Youth Rally (January), or 30 Hour Fast (April). IO needs assistant Sunday morning Christian Formation substitutes during the 9:30 hour. We are seeking a few adults to be present and disciple youth during IO Fellowship events. Book donations to expand the youth library, games for Nintendo Wii or Playstation 2, and monetary support for scholarships and supplies are all appreciated. If you are interested in going on an IO trip, help is always needed. Please contact Youth Minister Kate Beiler at youth@engagegodfirst.org with questions and to learn more about how to support our youth.

Sudan Rebirth Ministry Annual Fundraiser



Please come to the Annual Sudan Rebirth Ministry fundraiser on Saturday, November 12, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. In addition to a Silent and Live Auction, former White House Chef John Moeller will cater a sure-to-be-delicious African-inspired dinner. Cost is \$40 per person. This important ministry supports South Sudanese students in kindergarten through college, many of whom have lost one or both parents in civil war. Single-parent families and orphaned children have fled the country to escape violence and rebuild lives. Private school is the only education option and the student-teacher ratio is 117:1. Funds raised contribute to student education and living expenses – food, transportation, medical expenses – costing \$350 - \$2,200 per term. Help secure the future of a young country! Go to www.sudanrebirthministry.org to print your reservation form for this inspiring, fun event!



+ Intense Workouts + Refreshments + Snacks + Free Child Care + Raffle Prizes

FALL FIT FEST

Let's get fit before the holidays goodies arrive and winter hibernation hits! Fall Fit Fest is happening Saturday, November 5 in the Celebration Center gym from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. This Fitness Fundraiser is to help raise money for the First Church team heading out on the Korea Pilgrimage Trip next June. There will be a Yoga session and a Zumba session. Our very own staff member, Laura Miesl will be

leading the Zumba session. There will be child care available along with snacks, water, and a raffle drawing. The cost of the event is Pay-As-You-Wish, with the suggestion of \$20 a session or both for \$30. More information can be found on the church website, social media, and in the weekly bulletin. If you have questions or suggestion please contact, Kate Beiler at youth@engagegodfirst.org

Wedding Bells

On September 24, Jonathan Taylor and Ashley Higgins were married by Pastor Eddie Cameron at Sickman's Mill in Conestoga, PA . On October 1, 2016, Pastor Joe DiPaolo united John Paul Mockus and Emily A. Hewins in holy matrimony in the beautiful First Church sanctuary. May God's rich blessings fill their lives.

DECEMBER MUSIC EVENTS

Mark your calendars and join us! On *Sunday December 11th*, at 8:15 and 10:45 for the Christmas Cantata, "Appalachian Winter" by Joseph Martin done by the Chancel Choir, Soloists and Full Orchestra.

On Saturday December 17, at 7:30pm, Brian Norcross is conducting The Allegro Orchestra of Lancaster in "An Allegro Christmas, A City in Song." General Admission is \$25. Children 5 to 18 are Free, but still need tickets. Early purchase of tickets is encouraged! Go to www.allegrochamberorchestra.org. 10% of ticket proceeds goes to Anchorage Breakfast Program

PLANT IN THE DC PRESCHOOL LOBBY NEEDS SOME TLC!

The plant in the lobby near the Appenzeller Chapel needs a new pot to call home. If anyone is interested in repotting this plant, please contact Laura Meisl at lmeisl@engagegodfirst.org.

Light Up Christmas

by Kate Beiler

The Discipleship Team of First Church invites EVERYONE to The Annual Advent Celebration. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 4, 2016 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Celebration Center. Join us for a pot-luck dinner, making Advent wreaths, and caroling by candlelight following Mary and Joseph's



journey knocking on neighborhood doors in search of shelter. Discover along the way how hospitality and warm welcome transforms the lives, and all of us, as Jesus is welcomed into the world. Come fellowship, worship, and celebrate the Light of Christmas with us! Register on our website: www.EngageGodFirst.org/LightUpChristmas or look for a registration table in the Gathering Place. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Eddie, or Youth Minister Kate Beiler in the Church Office.

⚠ DANGER RETREAT

When: Friday November 18th @ 5:00 pm - Sunday November 20th @ 2:00 pm

Where: [Pocono Plateau/Skrmish](#) Paintball Facility

Who: Open to 9-12th graders and their friends!

What: Our Youth Fall Retreat is to Pocono Plateau. During the weekend the group will be stretched by challenging their personal comfort zones and faith. The group will have opportunities to boat, play gaga, worship, and enjoy campfires. Each youth can also choose to do high ropes or go paintballing Saturday afternoon. We do NEED 10 or more youth to sign up in order to run the trip.

Cost: Between \$120-160, includes lodging, 4 meals, and the adventure option selected by the youth. You can do a payment option or request scholarship assistance. The cost varies based on what each youth chooses to do.



Community Night!

On Thursday, November 17th between 5-9pm, Isaac's Famous Grilled Sandwiches (1559 Manheim Pike, Lancaster, Pa 17601) will hold a community night fundraiser to benefit the Anchorage Breakfast Program at FUMC. Twenty-five percent (25%) of your food and beverage purchase will be donated to our efforts to provide breakfast 52 weeks a year, 5 days a week to those in need. Complete the form below and use it to place a Dine-in, Take-out or Online order!

Altar Flowers

The time has come to sign up to order altar flowers for the year 2017! If you are interested in providing altar flowers beginning January 2017, the new sign-up sheet will be posted soon!

Liturgists & Acolytes

We are looking for more liturgists and acolytes to serve on Sunday mornings! Please contact the church office at secretary@engagegodfirst.org if you are interested in reading and helping with communion on Sunday mornings.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Anchorage Breakfast Program is participating in the Extraordinary Give! On **November 18th**, please consider donating by going to www.extragive.org. Your contribution as part of the Extraordinary Give can help leverage additional funds to help us to continue serving breakfast every weekday morning!

A Word from the Sacred Worth Team

by Joanne Foss

Bishop Peggy Johnson, in a recent blog, posed the question, "Do we welcome everyone in our churches?" She further wrote, "Our churches represent a wide spectrum of theological perspectives about sexual orientation and gender identity. But there is no law or Disciplinary paragraph that forbids us from showing love and hospitality."

Recently, members of Sacred Worth accompanied other members of Embrace to participate in Millersville University's annual Gay Pride Fest. We handed out information about Embrace's work in encouraging local congregations to welcome the gay community in joining us for worship. And we listened. We listened to those young people who were struggling to reconcile their God-given sexuality with their desire to still belong in the church in which they grew up. We listened to those who were thankful we were working for their inclusion in the body of Christ. And sadly we listened to those who wondered why any gay person would have anything to do with the Christian community which has shown them censure and rejection.

Again, quoting Bishop Johnson, "We are called to witness to our faith and to model ourselves after the example of Jesus. He sought out persons on the margins of life and offered them unconditional, fearless, healing love." How will we as the Church respond to these young creations of God?

The rest of the Bishop's comments can be found at: <http://bit.ly/OpenYourHearts>.

Hopeful Journey

Part I. Hope Deferred

by Devon Key

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life” (Proverbs 13:12).

One last look, one last kiss and that was it-I watched as they closed the smallest casket I'd ever seen with my baby boy still inside. In that moment, it was as if all of the air in my body left me at once! I leaned over my chair with the heaviest heart of sorrow weighing down on me. The Eulogy was so beautiful and life honoring, I only cried more. At one point, I turned around and was overwhelmed with the love my boy was shown by all the faces I could see. And then, it was time. I followed behind them knowing I'd never be able to hold my sweet boy again.

We laid him to rest in a wall filled with other little babies, and although I thought it would- that gave me no extra comfort. That was the end of Joseph's life here on earth, but the beginning of so much more. I am going to tell you a story. This story is one of strength, abandonment, love, brokenness, hope and above all, faith. This story, these words, are the account of one little life, making a difference for countless others. So be prepared to laugh and cry. Try to open your heart to change, hope and renewal. This story isn't a clean one, but it's a redeeming one, full of life and a journey in search of joy, through the peace of God.

Joseph was born on June 30, 2015, around 9:00pm. It was an emotional and painful 23 hours of labor, but when I heard his cry, something inside of me came to life! I was forever changed when they placed that little 6 pounder on my chest for the first time. My heart expanded and its rhythm completely changed its course; undoubtedly for the better. I was then and forever armed with a love so pure, so strong that protecting his life was almost primal.

Like all children, Joseph underwent “newborn screening” tests for 28 core conditions that have saved millions of lives since the 1960's. Unfortunately, he was not tested for leukodystrophy.

Alexander's Disease is one of many leukodystrophies that can also be identified during these screenings. Often times these diseases have progressed so far along that treatment is no longer a possibility. Although Alexander's Disease doesn't currently present with successful treatment of cure, the value of an early diagnosis is unmatched and crucial to the future of leukodystrophy research and quality of life.



Before he was sick, he wasn't. Before the shots and tubes, he was happy and healthy. He did what most newborns do and even excelled in certain developmental milestones. Joseph enjoyed being held all the time. If ever he was upset, the baseball game would calm him right down. He slept 2 inches from me in a Moses basket and had this insane mother who would change his diaper every hour.

It was an ordinary Friday, except it wasn't. Projectile vomiting, poor feeding and diaper habits, and developmental decline all led to an emergency visit to our Pediatrician. The end result: Me crying in the parking lot and my mom driving us to the emergency room. Driving to the children's hospital, I didn't realize we wouldn't return home for 120 days. This was a journey I had no intention of participating in. Labor day weekend came and went and my frustration with the doctors and nurses began to grow. It was now time for the waiting game.

I was losing hope. No answers, a sick baby, and a husband unable to cope, life was getting bad and fast. The next few weeks were filled with tests, theories and unraveling confusion ultimately leading to a fatal diagnosis. Joseph is one of the thousands of children who've lost their lives to a leukodystrophy. **On December 3rd, 2016** it is my dream to bring hope to children and families nationwide who are suffering from illness and death. It is my dream to raise awareness on the importance of newborn screening so that Joseph's story and his pain was not for naught.

You don't have to be a parent to understand loss. You don't have to experience loss to understand pain. And no family should experience the pain of losing a child. **Sounds of Hope** is a benefit concert to raise awareness, change lives & give hope. As I join local and regional artists on December 3rd here at First Church; I ask that you join us in the journey to save lives. Help us fulfill that hopeful dream through music, art, and dance! Purchase tickets at:

soundsofhopelancaster.eventbrite.com
donate here: **youcaring.com/teamjoseph**

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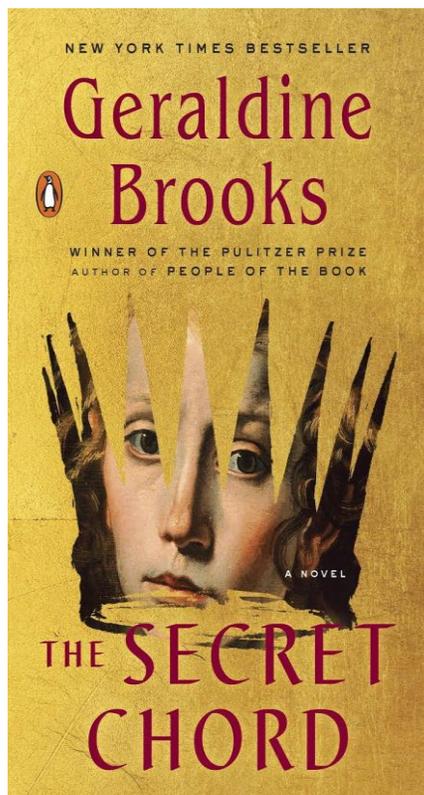
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Library Book Club

by Katherine Spear

Author Geraldine Brooks, in **The Secret Chord**, takes on one of literature's richest and most enigmatic figures: a man who shimmers between history and legend. Brooks traces the arc of David's journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage. *The Secret Chord* provides new context for some of the best-known episodes of David's life while also focusing on others, even more remarkable and emotionally intense. We see David through the eyes of those who love him or fear him—from the prophet Nathan, voice of his conscience, to his wives Mikal, Abigail, and Bathsheba, and finally to Solomon, the late-born son who redeems his old age. Brooks has an remarkable ability to transform characters from history. *The Secret Chord* is a saga of faith, desire, family, ambition, betrayal, and power. Join the discussion on Friday, November 18 at 9:30 in the Library.