

"HEARD ON THE HILL"

Issue 26

News from Willistown United Methodist Church

October 15, 2021

Welcome to "Heard on the Hill"! This is an "e-mail blast" to keep all our friends and members informed of all the activities here at Willistown UMC. Please let the secretary know of any team meetings or events of interest that we can pass on to both the church community and our neighbors in the geographic community.

Church is back for in-person worship! We will have a combined 10:30 service until further notice. Enjoy the contemporary and traditional music. We look forward to seeing you in-person if you are comfortable doing so! We will continue to update you on guidelines and plans for the re-opening of events and group meetings. **Update: Due to the increase in variant Covid cases, we strongly recommend masks, even if you are vaccinated.**

Bulletins and hymnals/bibles are back. There is a very low risk of Covid transmission through touch. Please consider the conservation of paper resources by recycling your bulletins after the service or using the projected slides if you are able. Prayer lists and newsletters are available on the back table. We also have **large print hymnals** available on the worship table in the back.

Willistown UMC Email has changed! Please note new email address is: willistownumc@gmail.com.



Joint Bible Study with Advent Lutheran Church meets on Thursdays at 10:00 am. It is live at Advent and available on Zoom (Meeting ID: 827 7547 8670 Passcode: Advent1967). Advent Lutheran Church: 1601 Green Ln, West Chester, PA 19382.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the blood drive and volunteered. We especially thank Gil Fell for his dedication to this important ministry.



Liturgists

- October 3 Lamont Satterly
- October 10 Fred Bachman
- October 17 Gil Fell
- October 24 Jim McNamara
- October 31 Sara Beam

Greeters

- October 3 Jane and Jim Van Zandt
- October 10 Kim Pierce and Dick Wright
- October 17 Agnes Tobin and Fred Bachman
- October 24 Barbara Fell
- October 31 Pat Roelofs and June Di Romualdo



- 2 Kit Riggs
- 8 Kristin Bolz
- 13 Janet Colburn
- 31 Ana Southern
- 31 Evan McNamara



Weekly Letter from Rev. Jeff



Hello Friends and Members of Willistown UMC:

There's a question Jesus asks time and time again in his ministry, one that is meant to spur solid consideration: "And who is my neighbor?" It's the question that sparks the famous "Good Samaritan" story. We think we know who our neighbor is, but when we take a good look, those who we least suspect may be there. To the people in that day, "Good Samaritan" was an oxymoron: something that makes no sense going together, like "Jumbo Shrimp," "steel wool," "working vacation," or "unbiased opinion." They were dirty and outcast, but that was the only one who recognized how to be a neighbor. Jesus wanted folks to see that we have opened our eyes around us to really find out what is happening because they are the folks we are called to serve.

In the coming days and months, we will take time to focus on the future of our church. The key in many ways is understanding that very question, for we are called to minister to the people around Willistown. Who is moving into the area? What are their needs, and how can we connect with them? What are the needs of the local schools? They all come back to the question of Christ and ways to faithfully answer the question. I invite you to keep that question in mind. How do we understand it, and how do we act on it? We'll need to decide that together.

It is a question direct from the Lord important to every era of the church. Who is my neighbor? Let's find out.

Blessings, Rev. Jeff

COVID Update

As of Wednesday, October 13, all of Pennsylvania remains in the "High" category of COVID transmission. I will continue to monitor the situation as it develops.

Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
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Source: CDC

Masks remain highly recommended for all church activities until further notice, as advocated by the CDC and Chester County Health. We have masks available by the main door should you not come with one. It is one of the most straightforward ways we can tangibly love our neighbor in the time of COVID.

All other means of abatement also continue. Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly. Stay home if you are uncertain about your condition or feeling ill in any way, and please get your vaccine (or the proper booster when appropriate) if you haven't already!

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Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Loaves & Fishes opened their doors in August 2001 at Prospect Hill Baptist Church. That's 20 years of continuous operation. **This year to date, they have distributed over 55,000 meals - nearly 200,000 pounds of food.** In addition, they also give out holiday hams, turkeys, and chickens.

Loaves & Fishes gets some food from the federal government and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's food purchase program, but well over 65% of the food they give is donated or purchased by the pantry using financial donations like yours.

All their clients have been interviewed and screened to determine that they fall within the U.S. government guidelines for poverty. They estimate that more than 80 percent of their clients fall significantly under the basic amount allowed.

Their clients come to them through the Department of Public Welfare, Children and Youth Services, numerous social service agencies in Delaware County, and through referrals by organizations, churches, and individuals throughout our area.

These are the elderly, the working poor, the disabled, grandparents raising their grandchildren, and single-parent households, among others. They estimate that about 35 percent of our clients are mentally or physically disabled and will never be able to work again. These people will always need Loaves & Fishes for food assistance. More than one hundred of their clients are seniors who cannot make it on pensions or Social Security, many of whom must make the monthly decision between purchasing food and paying for a prescription.

Loaves & Fishes is an all-volunteer operation with around thirty-five volunteers.

What Loaves & Fishes does is not rocket science. It is the simple act of helping people in need.

Today, because of the deepening problems in our economy, your help is needed even more. Thank you for helping us help our fellow brothers and sisters.

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Dear Friends and Members of Willistown UMC,

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we held multiple fall "Concerts For Those In Need" at Willistown UMC. These concerts support the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Prospect Park. Our last concert in 2019 raised over \$3,000 and 1,784 pounds of food for our neighbors. For more information about Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry and the incredible work they do, please visit their website at www.delcoloaivesandfishes.org

Due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, we will not be able to hold a concert this year. In conjunction with WUMC's Stewardship Season, we would like to encourage all of you to support Loaves and Fishes. There will be an area in the Great Room to accept your non-perishable food donations every Sunday from October 24th through November 14th, this will ensure that folks will receive the donations in time for Thanksgiving.

If it is more convenient, please consider making a financial donation. Donations should be made payable to "Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry," with "Concert for Those in Need" in the memo line. Checks can either be given at the church or sent directly to:

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
703 Lincoln Avenue
Prospect Park, PA 19076

A simple donation of food or finances can have a significant impact on our neighbors. Thank you for your ongoing support.

With gratitude,
Jay Gullo and Clelia Fiore

