

June 2016

Volume XXI Issue 6

The United Methodist Church
in Madison
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The Madison Methodist Message

A Message from the Pastor

Adapting to Jesus

I remember taking a psychology class in college that focused on an interesting experience we all have called our *adaptation level*. It is most simply understood in terms of everyday experiences. Why, when walking into a bakery or a restaurant do we at first notice the strong aroma coming from the ovens or the kitchen but after a while we are no longer aware of them? After all, the cooking didn't stop. No one turned off the ovens. No, it has to do with our sense of smell, sound and taste. Our senses adapt.

I cannot help but think of our day and age compared to that of the Apostle Paul. He was a Jew persecuting Christians until he had a conversion experience that turned his life around. He came to believe in Jesus of Nazareth as the chosen Messiah, God's gift of love, forgiveness and renewal offered to humankind. Overnight he went from the great persecutor to being the great defender of the Faith.

When Paul shared this *Good News* it was exactly that—news. Paul's ministry was carried out among Gentiles, those who never heard of a Messiah and certainly had not heard of Jesus. This was earth shaking! This was new news!

Summer Schedule

Beginning June 19 / Father's Day

Combined Family Worship 9:30 a.m.

Refreshments 10:45 a.m.

Church Office Summer Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.



In our day-and-age we hear about Jesus Christ and, like the smell of fresh baked bread, we have become adapted to it. It is part of our culture now. And there is a challenge for us. For if Jesus is just part of the culture, just part of our heritage, like so many other parts of our culture, then what is new about the *Good News*?

So we have our challenge. We need to find new ways of understanding what God's gift of Christ means for us. It is not so much a discovery as a re-discovery. As the old commercial for Corn Flakes proclaims *Taste them again for the first time!* We need to discover who Christ is *again, for the first time.*

June 12th is our last Sunday with two services. We have our Church Picnic following the 10 am service and will also officially say good bye to Susan McAdoo, our music director. I am encouraging people to invite a friend on the 12th. Have them join us before the summer begins.

I hope to see you there.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robb".

***“In worship, fellowship and service we seek God's peace
as revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.”***



News from our Student Assistant Pastor

Happy June Everyone!

I want to start off by thanking all who supported Stop Hunger Now! A couple weeks ago, on May 21st, ninety volunteers from both UMC Madison and the Madison Community packed into Madison High School's Cafeteria to package 20,000 meals in two hours. I want to thank all who participated in this project and helped make it possible. We could not have done it without the time, energy and financial offerings of the UMC Madison community as a whole! (pictures on page 8)

As we reflect upon events like Stop Hunger Now and other successful programs hosted this Spring, we also look ahead to what the summer holds:

The youth will have a Youth Council Meeting Sunday, June 5th. All are invited, and youth and parents are especially encouraged to attend as we reflect on the past year and plan ahead for next year. Youth will leave service with Chelsea after "Time With the Children" and all other parents and adults will join us downstairs after service to finish the meeting.

The following week, on June 11th, the youth will be heading to Soul Fire Farms in Petersburg, NY to participate in the farm's community work day, share a meal with other volunteers, and learn about food sovereignty. Any youth who have not signed up please contact me as soon as possible.

Lastly, with such a busy summer around the corner, it is important for us look back at this past year and reflect upon our community and all it has done. How have we grown individually and together? Where have we been and where are we going? It is my hope we continue to travel with intention and wisdom, as we walk with each other and with God.

*In Peace,
Chelsea*

Vacation Bible Study 2016

VBS is also approaching, and are scheduled for July 13th, 20th, 27th and August 3rd, from 6:30-8:30. This year's VBS theme is Surf Shack, and is open to children entering 2nd grade to those entering 7th grade. Children and parents alike will get a "Taste of VBS" at the Church Picnic on June 12th. At the picnic we will have craft and science activities for the children to participate, and will open VBS registration at that time. If anyone has questions about VBS or would like to volunteer, please contact me.

Staff & Elected Officers

2016

Pastor

Rev. Robb W. Shoaf, Ph.D

Student Assistant Pastor

Chelsea Jackson

Director of Music & Organist

Susan McAdoo, D.M.A.

Director of Christian Education

Kathleen Keane

Admin/Editor

Natalie Dines

Sexton

Marlice Borecki

David Green *Chair, Church Council*

Jeff Pfeifer *Treasurer*

Scot Guempel *Financial Secretary*

Alan Voorhees *Finance Chair*

Gordon Fleming *Facility Management*

Vic Schumacher *President, Trustees*

Program Facilitators

Nurture Ministries

Lisa Moro

Outreach Ministries

Jeanne Eisele

Witness/Igniting Ministry

Kris Pfeifer

Worship Ministries

Lisa Carballo

Education/Youth

Kathleen Keane & Chelsea Jackson

Trustees

Vic Schumacher Gordon Fleming

Mike Kroeger Luke McKinnon

Shin-Ok Ha Wade Merrick

JoAnn Van Sciver Nori Tadano

Dan Engel



Other News ... Bits and briefs

The Crossing



On Monday May 9, The Crossing program held their annual BBQ at the Parsonage in Madison. Students and tutors came together for a fun afternoon of outside games and fellowship.

Liturgical Dance Performance

Thank you to our talented church school kids for a lovely performance at Sunday's May 22, 10:00 AM service.



Newsletter Note: The July and August editions of *The Message* will be combined into a single issue. The deadline to submit information for inclusion is **June 20**.

Wanted: Sunday School Teachers

If you would like to do something different we would love to have you teach Church School next year! Teaching is fun and inter-active. No experience needed. Email Kathleen Keane at umcmseeds@gmail.com

Annual Church Picnic and a farewell to one of our best!



Be sure to join us on Sunday, June 12. We will begin by saying farewell to Susan McAdoo at the 10:00 AM service. And afterwards, the annual church picnic will take place. This is always a great time to get together before our summer plans take over. A sign-up sheet will be available online and in the office as we will be asking for help in providing side dishes. You may also email or call Natalie with this information at church@umcmadison.org / 973 377 1231

Amazing talent



On Sunday, May 22 members of our youth group played their instruments beautifully to "Amazing Grace" during our 10:00 AM service. (from left) Jake Antmann, Dylan Pfeifer, Katie Antmann and Katie Engel.



JUNE 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 AM Day time Book Study	2	3 8 pm AA	4
5 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	6 8 pm AA	7 7:30 PM Trus- tees Meeting	8 7:00 am Men's Breakfast	9	10 8 pm AA	11 Soul Fire Farm Day Trip
12 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	13 8 pm AA	14 8 pm AA	15 7:00am Men's Breakfast	16	17 8 pm AA	18
19 9:30 am Family Worship FATHER'S DAY	20 Newsletter Deadline 8 pm AA	21 8 pm AA	22 7:00 am Men's Breakfast	23	24 Family Promise at St.Vincents 8 pm AA	25
26 9:30 am Family Worship	27 8 pm AA	28 8 pm AA	29 7:00 am Men's Breakfast UMW Meeting	30		

Church Picnic/
Bring a Friend/
Taste of VBS/
Farewell to Susan McAdoo

Summer Schedule begins

BIKE SWAP

We are so proud of our very own Lisa Moro who started a community-wide bike swap seven years ago. Below is an interview between Amy Cobb and Lisa. (The entire interview, written by Amy Cobb, can be found on the church website www.umcmadison.org)



Q: What is the Bike Swap and how does it work?

LM: It's a Charity Recycling Event. It's not really a traditional swap because essentially everyone pays \$10 for a bike. Otherwise, we wouldn't make any money for the charity. But where are you going to get a bike for \$10? Nowhere. Basically, the night before the Bike Swap everyone who wants to help comes over and washes bikes, shines them up, pumps tires and to makes them look nice. The next morning we head over to Central Avenue School and line up all the bikes. We get there early because people start lining up by 8 am. We open at 9 am and we let in a few people at a time so it's not chaotic; I want the kids to try out the bikes and have space to ride around. It all happens very quickly, and people continue to donate throughout the morning, but it's all over by 11 am the latest. The best part is seeing the kids smiling faces when they get a new bike. Nothing is better.

Q: How did you get started with the bike swap?

LM: I got sick of seeing bikes in the garbage. I was doing laundry one day and was thinking about all the bikes that get thrown away. Our culture is a throw away culture and only now are we beginning to think about recycling. I thought there is no reason not to do something like this. Why throw a bike away when all it has is a flat tire? We could go to the bike swap, pay \$10, and get a perfectly new used bike. I contacted the PTO at Central Avenue School, which is where my children went at the time, and said, "I have an idea that's a win-win. We can do a bike swap and I'll give half of the proceeds to you and the other half to PeaceWorks."

Q: What is PeaceWorks?

LM: PeaceWorks is a non-profit that sends household goods, including the leftover bikes that are not sold at the Bike Swap, to Latin American countries, most specifically Nicaragua. It was started by a guy named Jim Burchell. (Burchell founded PeaceWorks in 1990 to support Nicaraguan community organizations.) Jim has been an ardent supporter of the Bike Swap. He, along with Sal Piccolo from The Bike Shop, has been there every step of the way helping me. Sal donates bikes year after year and comes through when we have a shortage of bikes. Jim Burchell passed away two years ago; since then we now donate all the proceeds to PeaceWorks in honor of him and to carry on his legacy.

Q: How long have you been doing the Bike Swap? And how has it changed?

LM: It's been 7 years now and it's changed a lot. When I first started we had a lot more adult bike donations and we now we mostly have elementary school bikes. Also, sometimes a friend will donate a bike and we'll auction it off to get more money for the charity. Two years ago we gave half the money to Officer Dave Cuozzo, a local police officer in town who suffered from a rare infection and is paralyzed from the neck down. I thought the least we could do, as a community, is offer support to him and his family.

News from Family Promise



The Family Promise families will be coming to St. Vincent's Martyr Church during the week of June 19, 2016. The times our Church is responsible for are:

Friday, June 24, from 5:30 to 7 pm – 2 or 3 volunteers are needed to provide dinner, 7 pm to 9 pm – 2 volunteers needed 9 pm to 8 am – overnight volunteers

Family Promise held its 28th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, May 5, at Meadow Wood Manor, Randolph, NJ, which was jam-packed with over 300 volunteers, staff, Board members, corporate partners and clients attending. Board member Robert DiCostanzo gave a moving speech after receiving the Community Impact Award, and Director Joann Bjornson updated everyone on the impressive numbers of meals served and clients assisted during the year. A highlight of the evening was the personal testimony of Lynn, who told her story of surviving homelessness to now living in her own home with her own car and a new administrative job at a nonprofit company. With the help of Family Promise staff and volunteers, Lynn is now thriving and loving her life.

An innovative new program called **Keys to Housing** was announced at the dinner, which Family Promise hopes will make safe, affordable housing a win-win situation by providing education for tenants and cost-effective incentives to landlords. The latest Family Promise newsletter, which can be accessed thru the website, www.familypromisemorriscounty.org, tells about how John and Betsy recently found a home with the help of **Keys to Housing**. More information about this program will be posted on our Library bulletin board.

Laurie Hagerich

United Methodist Women

The Naomi Circle of United Methodist Women will have our last meeting before summer sets in on Wednesday, June 29, with a pot luck lunch on Paul and Yasuko Grosjean's deck, weather permitting. Please call or email me (973-377-9407/hagerl@optonline.net) if you would like to join us.

Our Circle continues to collect for The Neighborhood Center of Camden, New Jersey, which is supported by United Methodist Women and the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. We would welcome any contributions, which will go to support this center that helps with the needs of young adults, senior citizens, children and teenagers in Camden. Donations can be made by collection of quarters in plastic medicine vials (please use your own vial) or by placing a check payable to "United Methodist Women" in the offering plate. Please note "Neighborhood Center" in the memo portion of your check. If there are any questions, please let me know.

Laurie Hagerich

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

God's Promise - a Sacred Journey

Honoring God's gift of Jesus by sharing with others

When a disaster like Superstorm Sandy strikes, UMC brings Recovery

More than 10,000 volunteers have already come to New Jersey to heed the call to rebuild and restore the homes and lives devastated by SuperStorm Sandy. As we enter the fourth summer rebuilding season, teams are already lined up to continue the effort. A group of volunteers with International Relief Teams left home on Mother's Day to travel to New Jersey and help rebuild destroyed and damaged homes from Superstorm Sandy. This is their fourth time offering their time and skills to relief efforts in NJ. The 15-member IRT team of construction volunteers included skilled craftsmen from San Diego, its environs and around the United States who came to partner with A Future With Hope. **A Future With Hope (AFWH) is the mission arm of the United Methodist Church of Greater NJ dedicated to helping families with Sandy recovery and developing Communities of Hope resourcing for our congregations.** Our Greater NJ Conference remains active through AFWH providing resources and counseling to assist families who have still not been able to return to their homes. The goal is to complete ~400 homes and to date, 209 homes rebuilt, 17 homes are under construction, 8 homes in queue with more than 300 families working with case managers. 10 host sites and 266 person hosting capacity.

Volunteers from around the country are housed at the 15 Hosts sites including the Highlands Hosting Center where our congregation has provided meals for visiting volunteers. The Outreach Ministry team is planning to arrange a date to deliver dinner over the summer.

As always, there is a great need for household supplies for the hosting centers. Imagine if 30 to 40 people dropped in on you for five or six days. How many rolls of paper towels or toilet paper would be consumed? Each hosting center is a church or other church related facility with a congregation committed to making each stay pleasant and comfortable. The following **household supplies continue to be essential for the volunteers who come from across the country to work on restoring and rebuilding homes. When you shop for home, consider getting an extra item and donate it at church.**

Toilet paper/ boxed tissue / paper towels / large cans of Lysol spray / kitchen trash bags / bathroom trash bags / large trash bags / cases bottled water

Special moments with Outreach

Imagine No Malaria Event Marks Launch of Abundant Health Campaign

United Methodist members, leaders, global health innovators and an "American Idol" star took the stage on May 18 at General Conference in Portland, Oregon, celebrating the success of the Imagine No Malaria initiative. The event also marked the official kick off of The Abundant Health: Our Promise to Children campaign. The collaborative celebration debuted "Able," a song commissioned by Imagine No Malaria as a gift to United Methodists across the globe. Jeremy Rosado, a top 12 contestant on Season 11 of "American Idol" performed the song to more than 1,000 event attendees. Greater New Jersey has committed to raise \$1.7 million for Imagine No Malaria as part of the Bishop's Special Initiative.

Other Outreach News – Some highlights of The United Methodist Committee on Relief

UMCOR in partnership with **Global Medic** in response to a devastating earthquake in Ecuador, assisted in the installation of point-of-source water purification units to areas where thousands were displaced without access to safe drinking water. In addition they distributed individual water-purification units to 990 families.



UMCOR is partnering with the Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Service (LEADS), a local humanitarian organization, in Sri Lanka, to evaluate and establish effective prevention methods for an area that often receives the brunt of severe tropical storms. The goal is to reduce the potential for disaster thru community preparation and training, to avoid the excess clearing of trees and brush that form a natural barrier to storm surges, and create a risk assessment plan between the government and local communities.

UMCOR worked also with communities in Serbia to clean and maintain flood-control channels that were clogged with refuse and overgrown. These steps are critical to prevent a disaster from occurring when nature sends in severe storms to an area prone to flooding. This effort was part of a continuing effort by UMCOR to establish risk assessments and risk planning in developing nations where resources have been constrained.



Stop Hunger Now! And Interfaith Food Pantry

The Stop Hunger Now! Event on May 21st was a huge success.

Included in the many volunteers were Interfaith Food Pantry staff – Katy Galton (UMC member) and Doug McMahon – who lent

their able and willing hands to help package 20,000 meals.

Thanks for the partnership!

Jeanne Eisele



It was my honor to represent our congregation as lay member of the Greater NJ Annual Conference May 22-24 in Wildwood NJ.

The theme of our conference was Imagine:

“Enough light to see the hope of God’s call” – Ephesians 1:18. We imagined a new generation of disciples, vital congregations and a transformed world as more than 1400 people attended. Stories of transformation were shared as we were called to abandon security and embrace trust, boldly imagining and anticipating the great things God has in store for us.

The Bishop commissioned 13 clergy and ordained 10 on Sunday evening. Bishop Schol led the conference in imagining the church with a God-sized vision. He outlined our progress on Greater New Jersey’s Strategic Plan and addressed the church’s struggle with disagreements. His message of unity focused on the strength of our work together in mission and laid out a plan for Hope Centers which will spring out of our A Future With Hope ministries. Hope Centers will engage community leaders and the church in partnership for community development and human services. Bishop Schol called the conference to imagine 100 Hope Centers across GNJ.

The conference reaffirmed the direction of GNJ to make disciples and grow vital congregations. It affirmed the nine goals and our continued resourcing through clergy coaching, PaCE groups, the Laity Academy, Team Vital, and Communities of Hope. It also affirmed continuing to start new faith communities and dedicated the sale of five discontinued churches to help start new faith communities.

The Rev. Dr. Jisun Kwak, our former District Superintendent, was endorsed as an Episcopal candidate with 65% of the vote. Her nomination will go forward to the Jurisdictional Conference scheduled for July. In an amendment to the resolutions presented about church closures, the body agreed to study how best to care for cemeteries associated with churches that can no longer care for them.

More than 875 people attended six workshops inspiring spiritual leaders with creative strategies to think big and pursue excellence in the church. More than 150 volunteers working in unison systematically and energetically helped pack 30,000 meals to support Stop Hunger Now’s effort to feed people around the world.

GNJ Delegates to General Conference shared highlights from the 10-day legislative gathering that ended on May 22. In the midst of difficult conversations about human sexuality and the future of the church, the delegates distributed a statement from the Council of Bishops which called for a commission to study the issue of human sexuality and come back with recommendations. In addition to human sexuality issues, the General Conference addressed issues ranging from the budget to pension fund investments, and episcopal areas.

We also celebrated 32 clergies who are retiring this year. Over 890 years of ministry was represented in the service of our retirees. With renewed hearts and minds, laity and clergy celebrated the work God is doing throughout the churches and attendees left challenged, equipped and inspired to envision the new, to take a risk and to live into what God has in store for Greater New Jersey.

*David R. Green
Lay Member of Annual Conference*



- Elizabeth Anderson*
- Jake Antmann*
- Katie Antmann*
- David Beland*
- Bryan Buchanan*
- Danielle Ciccodicola*
- Garrett Koep*
- Courtney McCormick*
- Amelia McIntosh*
- Jack Mellina*
- Kristina Mearns Mihail*
- Caroline Miller*
- Luca Shoaf*
- Cara Smith*
- Nina Tadano*
- Paul Thompson*
- Rachel Van Sciver*

Our Church Family

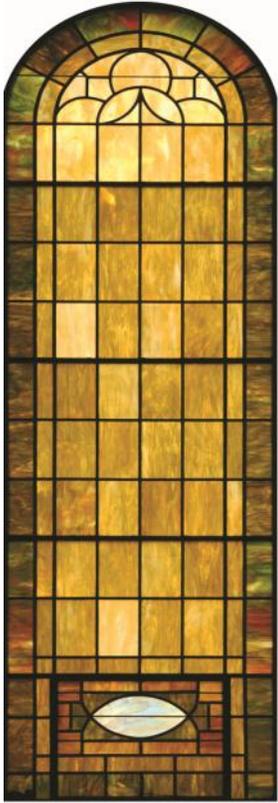
People we remembered in prayer

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Jim Samuelson</i> | <i>Wendy Greengrove</i> |
| <i>John Duetsch</i> | <i>Martha Anderson</i> |
| <i>Vidya Jain</i> | <i>Family of Frank Disporto</i> |
| <i>Noel Lobo</i> | <i>Joyce Grounard</i> |

Community News

Annual AAUW Used Book Sale is coming in June at a new location on the Campus of St Elizabeth College in the Mahoney Library- Lower Level. Drop off donations on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday- June 6, 7 & 8. Used BOOK SALE will be open June 9, 10 with \$5 Bag Sale days on June 11 & 12. See posted flyer on Church bulletin board for details.

Worship Schedule



Early Morning Worship

8:30 a.m.

Family Worship & Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Childcare is available for infants and toddlers.

Coffee and Fellowship

11:15 a.m.

Coming Up:

June 1

Day time Bible Study

June 7

Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm

June 11

Soul Fire Farms day trip

June 12

Church Picnic/ Bring a friend to church &

Farewell to Susan McAdoo

June 19

Father's Day /Summer Schedule starts @ 9:30 AM

STOP HUNGER NOW 2016

