

September 2017

Volume XX Issue 9

The United Methodist Church
in Madison
24 Madison Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940
“at the corner of Drew University”

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The Madison Methodist *Message*

A Message from the Pastor

Water, Water, Everywhere, and Not a Drop to Drink



One of the great challenges facing sailors in the “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” as they drift along surrounded by water- is an overabundance of what they need to thrive but provision for nothing they needed to live. How delicate the balance of having too little or too much. If only Harvey had been a minor storm that moved quickly to the west and kept moving north to put out devastating forest fires. If only there was less rain in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, and more in the Horn of Africa, what a difference it would make.

There is another saying *Life is fragile, handle it with prayer.* It is important not because it will solve all our problems or allow us to ignore the world around us. Rather it gives us a chance to stop, look and listen to what is going on around us; the forces over which we at times have no control. There is no doubt that we have much to learn from natural disasters and much to change in the future as we do our part adjusting to new realities. But in the midst of the challenges we face there are choices to be made. We can work together or we can work separately.

We can strive toward common goals or find ourselves working against each other. There have been signs of both. Criticism is in no short supply during these times and for some good reasons. But what seems to be lacking in such criticism is the driving force of compassionate love.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the Master of compassionate love. Jesus Christ was never short on criticism. He had plenty to say. But in the midst of the storms and floods of life he was always there to provide water for the thirsty soul and food for the hungry heart.

This coming year there is no doubt the people of Texas and other areas that have suffered will be in our hearts, prayers, and plans for the future. It is what discipleship is about- a journey that never ends yet provides new beginnings every day.

Grace and Peace,

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

Fall Schedule

Begins September 10, 2017

Rally day

8:30 AM Early Morning Worship
10:00 AM Family Worship (church school & childcare available)
5:00 PM The Gathering Worship Service



*“In worship, fellowship and service we seek God’s peace
as revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Looking within and
reaching out, we invite (you) to meet us where you are.”*



Staff & Elected Officers

Pastor

Rev. Robb W. Shoaf, Ph.D

Assistant Pastor

Scott Ostlund

Director of Music & Organist

Daniel Leguizamón, Ph.D

Director of Christian Education

Kathleen Keane

Office Administrator/Editor

Natalie Dines

Sexton

Marlice Borecki

David Green *Chair, Church Council*

Jeff Pfeifer *Treasurer*

Mac Cobb *Assistant to Treasurer*

Scot Guempel *Financial Secretary*

Alan Voorhees *Finance Chair*

Gordon Fleming *Facility Management*

Vic Schumacher *President, Trustees*

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Outreach Ministries

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Witness/Igniting Ministry

Kris Pfeifer

Worship Ministries

Lisa Carballo

Education/Youth

Kathleen Keane & Chelsea Jackson

Trustees

Vic Schumacher Gordon Fleming

Karen Jeisi Luke McKinnon

Shin-Ok Ha Vivian Bull

Dan Engel Nori Tadano

Bruce Galton

Ushering in the Fall Season



JOIN THE USHER CORPS!

SERVE ONE SUNDAY A MONTH

GREET OUR CONGREGATION

HANDLE THE COLLECTION PLATE

LEARN NEW TECHNICAL SKILLS

MANAGE THE THERMOSTAT DURING HEATING SEASON

MANAGE THE CEILING FANS DURING THE SUMMER

IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES,

CALL VIC SCHUMACHER @ 862-324-4275

OR

EMAIL VHSCHUMACHER@VERIZON.NET.



The United Methodist Church
of Greater New Jersey
New Disciples • Vital Congregations • Transformed World

A WESLEY CIRCLE CHURCH

We praise God for your 100% Shared Ministry Giving in 2016.

UMC in Madison

THANK YOU

The leaders of The United Methodist Church and the millions
of people that we helped together through Shared Ministry Giving.

M. Sardinas

Manuel Sardinas, Gateway North
District Superintendent

John R. Schol

John Schol, Resident Bishop

Robert W. Dietz

Robert Dietz, Council on Finance
and Administration



Other News ... Bits and briefs

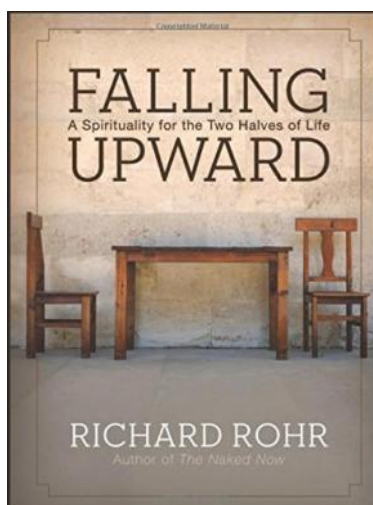
Annual Church Conference

Saturday, September 23, 2017

Venue: UMC Madison

Everyone is invited to attend as we celebrate the past year of ministry and look forward to the future.

New Book Study



Starting September 20th!

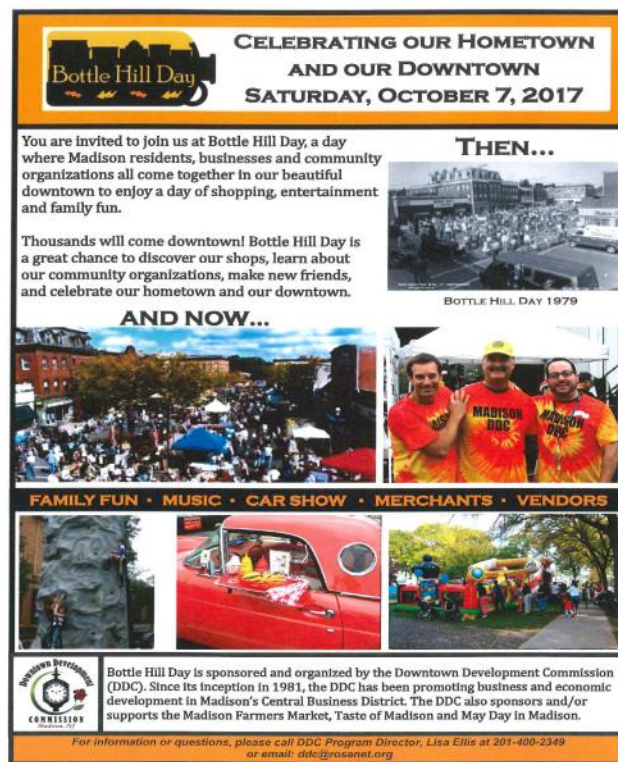
On Wednesday mornings Robb will host a book study on Richard Rohr's book called "Falling Upward". If you are interested please contact the church office to put your name down and pick up a copy of the book. All are welcome to attend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

-----MAKES A-----
DIFFERENCE

Sunday, Sept. 10 at 10:00 am service

- Welcome Back
- Church School Begins



Capital Campaign

Reminder to all that the Capital Campaign is nearing the end as of December 31, 2017. Let's all complete our pledges by this date. Thank you!

Chancel Choir Rehearsals Begin

Chancel Choir rehearsals begin on Thursday, Sept. 7 at 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our first official Sunday will be September 10, with a rehearsal at 9:30 a.m. before the 10 a.m. service. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Daniel Leguizamon at music@umcmadison.org.



September 2017



FALL
SCHEDULE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8 pm AA	2
3 9:30 Family Service 10:30 Coffee hour on the lawn	4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	5 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting 8 pm AA	6 6:45 am Men's Breakfast 8pm AA	7 8 pm Chancel Choir	8 8 pm AA	9
10 RALLY DAY 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Worship/Ch. School 5:00 pm The Gathering	11 8 pm AA	12 7:30 pm Church Council 8 pm AA	13 6:45 am Men's Breakfast 8pm AA	14 8 pm Chancel Choir	15 8 pm AA	16
17 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Worship/Ch. School 5:00 pm The Gathering	18 8 pm AA	19 8 pm AA	20 6:45 am Men's Breakfast 8pm AA	21 Newsletter Deadline Farmers Market 8 pm Chancel Choir	22 8 pm AA	23 Annual Church Conference
24 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Worship/Ch. School 5:00 pm The Gathering	25 8 pm AA	26 8 pm AA	27 6:45 am Men's Breakfast 8pm AA	28	29 8 pm AA	30

October Newsletter Deadline: September 22

From the Student Assistant Pastor

Hello everyone! As a new member of the staff I just want to say how excited I am to partner with you in ministry. We have so many great opportunities in front of us and I look forward to collaborating with you on them.

A number of things have begun as we enter the new school season. We recently kicked off *The Gathering* for this Fall as Drew students moved onto campus. This means that our evening service returned to its weekly schedule on Sundays at 5pm. We will also be integrating a meal into our weekly worship. The youth program (7th-12th grades) also resumed with a kick-off barbecue and began its bi-weekly meetings this month.

As we look ahead, a couple of other opportunities are beginning this month. First, in order to energize our relationship with Drew University we will be hosting Taco Tuesdays at the church for graduate students who are seeking a space to connect with others during the week. Second, on September 20th we will be facilitating a conversation for Drew Theological School students who are on the ordination track for ministry in the UMC. Right now a community does not exist for students who are getting ordained to reflect on their experiences, questions, concerns and process. By inviting experienced leaders from the broader United Methodist Church we will give Drew students another space for building community and learning. Finally, on September 24th the Madison UMC youth will also be helping the Interfaith Food Pantry collect donations at some of the area grocery stores. This is a great chance for our community to help this important Morris County organization as it responds to poverty and hunger in our area.

As always, don't forget that we will have a booth at the Madison Farmer's Market the last Thursday of each remaining month (August and September). If you would like to volunteer at the table please contact me by email and I will plug you in for a 1 or 2 hour shift.

I am looking forward to what is ahead at our church and I hope to connect with each of you. Whether you want to help with one of the upcoming events or just get coffee and chat, feel free to reach out to me.

Blessings,
Scott Ostlund

Message from our Music Director

Come to the table of Grace...

Dear fellow church members,

I hope your summer brought a great deal of rest, relaxation, and a chance to see loved ones. As we return from different activities, it is good to know that we can come to the table of grace to continue our journey. After all, it is in this assurance that we find the strength and courage to live in a world with multiple challenges.

Among the many experiences I've enjoyed over the past couple of months, I wanted to share my meeting with many church musicians from all over the country. We've shared experiences, learned from one another, and looked for common trends to better understand the direction of the church-at-large.

I'm excited to share that our music program will continue to grow. I'm really looking forward to a World Communion Concert this fall, a big collaborative choral effort with Drew University and our Chancel Choir. I'm also pleased to share that we will be expanding our Bell Choir. I encourage all children and youngsters to join in! More information regarding children/youth music activities will follow.

If you would like to participate in any of our music activities, please feel free to email me or see me in church right after the service. I'll be happy to talk to you about our music ministry. Lastly, it is my hope that you find in our Fall theme "*Come to the table*", an invitation to renew your spiritual journey.

May God's blessings be upon you and your loved ones.

Daniel Leguizamon

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

*God's Promise—ABUNDANT LIFE
Honoring God's gift of Jesus by sharing with others*

In a recent issue of United Methodist New World Outlook, the mission magazine, Thomas Kemper, General Secretary of The Board of Global Mission, was prescient in his praise of The United Methodist

Committee on Relief, UMCOR. In describing UMCOR's mission, he stated that this mission organization '*highlights the spirit of disaster response necessary for post-disaster restoration*' as a natural response to Christ's teaching to pour out our compassion for others in their time of need.



Hurricane Harvey descended upon the Houston, Texas, environs with monstrous force that feels Biblical in its proportions. It is difficult to image the devastation even though some of our members viewed first hand the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana as well as the results of SuperStorm Sandy here in NJ. With the preparation and continuing support for UMCOR, the church is ready to immediately respond to the desperate needs of the residents. About 20 churches in the Texas Annual Conference are acting as shelters, while many other church volunteers are assembling health kits and cleaning buckets in Texas, Louisiana and other states in the region. The Sager Brown Supply Depot in Baldwin, LA, which was so instrumental in coordinating recovery following Hurricane Katrina, has accelerated their effort shipping more than 900 cleaning buckets and cases of health kits and related supplies to be distributed throughout the storm soaked region where local depots act as distribution points. This is just the first step. Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) consisting of trained volunteers, will move in when the water has receded to begin the difficult and messy task of clean up which entails the deconstruction of wall board and any other water damaged interiors.

While there are calls for supplies, the immediately monetary donations will support the relief-supply effort by allowing the UMCOR supply depots and on-site teams along with partner agencies and non-profit organizations to begin triage, evaluating the needs of individual families and sending aide.

Your contributions will join those of others to continue the much needed relief efforts of UMCOR. Contribute via check to UMC in Madison, NOTE: UMCOR Hurricane Relief. (UMCOR Advance # 901670)

UMCOR - Sager Brown Supply Depot turns 150

Sager Brown, the Supply Depot, located in Baldwin, LA, for United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR), is celebrating



150 years of service on October 21. Sager Brown, an UMCOR relief-supply distribution center, has a long history of serving its community and has made a tremendous impact on the surrounding area as well as around the world. UMCOR has the experience and skills to meet each disaster need. Sager Brown was instrumental in managing the rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina, and is always ready to distribute Flood/Clean Up Buckets, Health Kits, Birthing Kits and other relief supplies.

UMCOR International is also assisting displaced people in other global regions. South Asia, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, is experiencing unprecedented flooding. In Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo, severe flooding has caused massive mudslides and may have taken 1000 lives. UMCOR is providing assistance by distributing food, tents, and essential non-food items.



The UMCOR International Disaster Response supports work with displaced persons and refugees through funding to Advance #982450.

Other Outreach News highlights

Thank you for your generous support of the Back to School - Backpack project of the Interfaith Food Pantry. Our contribution was delivered in August with many backpacks, pencils, pens, highlighters, pencil boxes, notebooks and more!!! The supplies join those contributed by others and are already being distributed to the children of the Food Pantry clients. In 2016, ~600 backpacks with supplies were joyfully and thankfully received by these families. So pat yourselves on the back and give yourselves a big hug!



Outreach cont...

Get in the Game with Sandy Recovery

An estimated 4,000 people have not been able to repair their homes from the damage caused by Superstorm Sandy. Many of these people have not been able to return home more than 4 1/2 years. **A Future with Hope** (AFWH) volunteers are on the ground helping in the recovery. teams from 44 states plus DC.



Results as of September 2017

256 homes rebuilt, 15 homes are under construction, 300 families working with case managers. 10 host sites and 300 person hosting capacity. 11,810 volunteers.

Celebrate Grandparents' Day on September 10, 2017, with a donation to The **United Methodist Communities of New Jersey Foundation Fellowship Fund**. The UM Communities, which provide affordable and comfortable living for seniors, are supported by the churches in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC). The Fund helps fulfill the promise that *"No resident will ever be asked to leave due to inability to pay the total cost of care."* The Fellowship Fund meets its commitment to the communities by covering expenses not covered by health insurance and other sources. These include rent, meals, housekeeping, laundry service, medical supplies, prescriptions, and doctors' visits. Note *UM Homes of NJ* in the memo of your check to UMC in Madison or send directly to the *UM Communities Foundation, 3311 State Route 33, Neptune, NJ 07753, and Note UMC in Madison* on the check memo. Thank you for your continuing support of the Fellowship Fund and the United Methodist Senior Communities of NJ.

In Christ's service,
Jeanne Eisele

Coffee Hour Host Needed

The coffee hour and fellowship time after our Family Worship service is a vital element of our ministry. It's not only enjoyable, but an important part of building community. The host brings a few items to eat, sets the table and cleans up afterward. Please consider if you can help on one of these dates. Please call 973 3771231 or click the [link](#) to the SignUpGenius site. Thank you!

Known Birthdays in September



Natalie Dines

Ryan Cobb

Noah Countermine

Stephen De Pasque

Karen Fleming Speice

Kelyn Wicke Howard

Andrew Manz

Cameron McIsaac

Tyler McKinnon

Maddie Merrick

Arthur Skeen Robinette

Erica Van Sciver

Our Church Family

People we remembered in prayer

The Duetsch Family

Family of Dick Waters

Steve Faig

Walt Anderson

Jerry Elcock

Mary Anderson



Fair Trade Coffee Sale — Sept. 10

During coffee hour in the church library.

JOIN US



**RALLY DAY
SEPT. 10**

Early Morning Worship
Family Worship & Sunday School
Childcare is available for infants and toddlers.
Coffee and Fellowship
The Gathering Worship

8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

11:15 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

Coming Up:

September 5
September 7
September 10
September 12
September 23
October 7

Trustee's Meeting 7:30 PM
Choir Rehearsals Being 8:00 PM
Rally Day/Church School Kickoff
Church Council Meeting at 7:30 PM
Annual Church Conference at UMC Madison
Bottle Hill Day (sign up available, call Church office for time slots)

Check our website for more information: www.umcmadison.org

VBS 2017

VBS was held on five Wednesdays through July and August.

The kids were engaged, challenged and had a fun time being together. Thank you to all our volunteers for your help and dedication to this program.

