

February 2017

Volume XXI Issue 2

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

#### Seeking the Good Life

What is the ‘good life’? Well, doesn’t it depend on who you talk to? After all, we are all different and that makes life interesting. But the foundation of our faith and culture is not in the specifics but rather general proclamations. The pursuit of *life, liberty and happiness* or *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you* are examples or guidelines for how we are to live.

So we are concerned that the *powers and principalities* that shape our world may be aligned to prevent people from reaching the *fullness of life*. Some forces we cannot control. Others we can. There is concern for *fairness* and *opportunity*.

So imagine a time when all is going well. The economy is growing and trade is expanding. More money is being devoted to the military and people feel safe. Well, at least some of the people. As so often happens there is a growing gap between the *haves* and *have nots*. Those with much...well they get more. Those without are finding it more difficult “to make ends meet”.

This is the situation in Israel in the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. It is where the prophet Amos, not a prophet himself but a “gardener”, is called by God and begins his proclamation. You may recognize his most famous words - ***But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. 5:24***

**LET JUSTICE ROLL**  
...DOWN LIKE WATERS, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS  
LIKE AN EVER-FLOWING STREAM

What is the meaning of justice? In Amos’ proclamation it called attention to God’s judgment, first upon the neighbors of Israel and then upon Israel herself. We might say *It was the best of times and it was the worst of times*.

So what does it mean for us today? Well, seeking to understand what that means will be our theme for Lent: ***Let Justice Roll***. We will be using some of the music from Drew composer Mark Miller in our worship as well! This should be an interesting time as we move into the Lenten discipline of self reflection and preparation.

I look forward to seeing you!

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.”***



### Staff & Elected Officers

#### Pastor

Rev. Robb W. Shoaf, Ph.D

#### Student Assistant Pastor

Chelsea Jackson-Loesch

#### Director of Music & Organist

Daniel Leguizamon, Ph.D

#### Director of Christian Education

Kathleen Keane

#### Admin/Editor

Natalie Dines

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Marlice Borecki

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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

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Shin-Ok Ha Nori Tadano

## Summer Camp

Fairleigh Dickinson University have camps to offer over the summer vacation. Click [link](#) for more information.

### Camp Discovery



• **Summer Fun Day Camp** for Children Entering Grades 1-7  
• **Leader in Training (LIT) Camp** for Pre-teens and Teens Entering Grades 8-9  
With activities in science and nature, art, theater and sports



June 26 – August 4, 2017

Florham Campus  
(Madison, NJ)  
Metropolitan Campus  
(Teaneck, NJ)

## Help needed....

Drew M - Div student needs the following items.

- crib sheets
- queen size bed sheets and pillow cases
- book case approximately 4 ft high and 18/24 inches wide

If anyone should have these items please Contact Vic Schumacher at 862-324-4275 or at [vhschumacher@verizon.net](mailto:vhschumacher@verizon.net)

## Parent/Kids Night Out—March 3

We will be piloting a Parent/kids night out on Friday, March 3rd. The program will be for 1st grade through 5th grade—6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. We will have activities and a meal to keep the kids busy and happy. A flyer will be coming out soon. In the meantime, please pass on to family and friends.



## Other News ... Bits and briefs

### Lenten Series Begins March 12

This years Lenten Series will take place on March 12, 19, 26. In the next few weeks we will be sending out a SignUpgenius link for items to contribute towards the luncheons. More information on speakers and topics will be sent out soon.



### Youth Council Meeting

**YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING** Sunday, February 5th after the 10am service. All are invited, and youth and parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!

### Super Bowl Bake Sale



The youth and church school are hosting a bake sale and will also prepare small plates of appetizers to sale for Super Bowl parties.

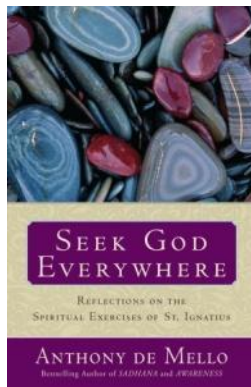
Proceeds will benefit Blink Now.

**PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR YOUTH**

### 2017 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2017 are in the Library for you to pick up. If you have not been assigned offering envelopes and would like to start using them for your weekly giving, please contact the church office. Your use of envelopes is greatly appreciated by our counters!

### New Book Study Begins



Join us on Wednesday's at 10:30 AM as we begin our study and discussion of *Seek God Everywhere* by Anthony De Mello. The book study will be lead by Rev. Shoaf, and will meet weekly in the Church Library. Please let Robb know if you would like to attend and need a copy of the book.



**MARCH 1st**

We'd love to see you!

6:00 PM—Pizza Feast  
6:45 PM—Service

### Coffee Hour Hosts 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. Volunteers are needed to host coffee hour on the following Sundays: MAR. 5 and APR. 9, 16, 23, 30.

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 and contact the coordinator, Natalie Dines ([dines007@verizon.net](mailto:dines007@verizon.net)) or, for your convenience you can go directly to the [link here](#) sign up. Thank you!





# February 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 7:00 am Men's Breakfast  10:30 AM Book Study	<b>2</b> 6-7PM Bell Choir  8 pm Chancel Choir	<b>3</b> 8 pm AA	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	<b>6</b> 8 pm AA	<b>7</b> 8 pm AA	<b>8</b> 7:00 am Men's Breakfast  10:30 AM Book Study	<b>9</b> 6-7PM Bell Choir  8 pm Chancel Choir	<b>10</b> 8 pm AA	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	<b>13</b> 8 pm AA	<b>14</b> 8 pm AA	<b>15</b> 7:00 am Men's Breakfast  10:30 AM Book Study	<b>16</b> 6-7PM Bell Choir  8 pm Chancel Choir	<b>17</b> 8 pm AA	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	<b>20</b> 8 pm AA	<b>21</b> 8 pm AA	<b>22</b> 7:00 am Men's Breakfast  10:30 AM Book Study	<b>23</b> Interfaith Council Walk  6-7PM Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	<b>24</b> 8 pm AA	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	<b>27</b> 8 pm AA	<b>28</b>				

**March Newsletter Deadline: Feb. 19**

# From the Student Assistant Pastor

**H**ello Everyone!

I hope 2017 has been good to you thus far!

As we continue into February I would like to remind everyone there is a Youth Council Meeting in Sunday, February 5th after service. All are welcome to this meeting, and parents and youth are strongly encouraged to attend.

Also youth will be collecting monetary and food donations for Souperbowl For Caring on February 5th and 12th. We will also be posting a bake sale. All donations collected from both Souperbowl and the bake sale will go to a local nonprofit on our community.

UMC Madison will once again host the Eco-Art Show this spring. The gallery will be open from Sunday, April 23rd to Sunday, April 30th. Keep an eye out for more details about this program and if you have an art piece you would like to submit please contact me!

Thank you all for your commitment to the UMC Madison Community. I look forward to working together this spring!

*In Peace,  
Chelsea*



## Morris County Interfaith Food Pantry

**T**hank you for your ongoing support of the Food Pantry through your donations of food items, and many thanks to Jeanne Eisele and others for transporting these donations to the Food Pantry's facility. An updated list of food needed is available at <http://www.mcifp.org/currentneeds.htm>.

# OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

*Honoring God's gift of Jesus by sharing with others*

## Lenten Speaker series returns



**A** Future with Hope (AFWH)

was formed with a vision from Bishop John Schol and the leaders

of **Greater New Jersey United Methodist Church** (GNJAC) following the devastation wrought by Super Storm Sandy in October 2012. This vision came with the realization that a long term recovery program was needed to help families and communities recover. AFWH was formed in partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). It is now more than four years into recovery programs and many families still are waiting to return to their homes. AFWH provides case managers, professional construction supervisors, and thousands of volunteers to work together to repair, rebuild, and renew along the Jersey shore.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, there was a lot of attention brought to the needs both financial and hands-on volunteering, but, of course, 4 years is a long time to hold that much attention. One of the early charitable funding organizations to assist

AFWH with recovery in New Jersey is the **Robin**



**Hood Foundation** which is New York's largest poverty-fighting organization, and since 1988 it has focused on finding, funding and creating programs and schools that generate meaningful results for the families of the region's poorest neighborhoods.

**The Robin Hood Foundation** ([www.robinhood.org](http://www.robinhood.org)) has reaffirmed their support for Sandy recovery and the work of A Future With Hope by allocating a new grant of \$1.45 million to



be split among AFWH and its partners: the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey (EDNJ), SBP (formerly St. Bernard Project) and the Affordable Housing Alliance (AHA).

With an estimated 4,000 families yet to complete their recovery in New Jersey, AFWH's steadfast commitment to seeing the recovery work through to completion has helped bring hundreds of families home over the last four years. To date the results include completion of restoration of 254 homes, 15 homes under construction, 10 homes in queue. Hosted 11,741 volunteers at 10 host sites with a 300 person hosting capacity. As a whole, these hard-working volunteers represent a labor value of \$7,864,725. Working in partnership with other organizations such as Catholic Charities in Ocean City recently welcomed home three families to their rebuilt residences in Ocean City

Other Outreach news

***United Methodist Advocacy and Action for Religious Freedom***

***and Protection of Persecuted Christians***

*The United Methodist Church has a long-standing commitment to religious freedom as a civic and theological right and to advocacy and action on behalf of persecuted Christians worldwide. This commitment has increased in recent years in response to escalating incidents of the denial of religious liberty and growing reports of the persecution of Christians. The focus of the latter has been on countries such as Pakistan and Nigeria and areas such as the Middle East, including Iraq, Palestine, and Syria.*

***A Forum on the Persecuted Church***, convened by Christian Churches Together, an ecumenical organization in the United States, will be held in **Newark, NJ, March 2-3, 2017**. The United Methodist Church participates in Christian Churches Together through the Council of Bishops Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships. The agenda for the forum has not been announced but will be posted online closer to the meeting dates. [christianchurchestogether.org](http://christianchurchestogether.org)

**Prayer is a major component** of United Methodist concern for religious freedom and for **persecuted Christians**.

Discipleship Ministries maintains a website of worship and prayer resources on persecuted Christians, and the General Boards of Church and Society (GBCS) and Global Ministries often issues calls for prayer for the general theme and particular situations. Prayer and advocacy on behalf of peace in Syria was a major Global Ministries theme in 2016. The agency joined two international humanitarian statements urging respect for a ceasefire and safety for the distribution of relief and medical supplies. On September 21, 2016, United Methodists joined with others in several prayer vigils as part of a Global Day for Peace in Syria. Part of the related advocacy efforts is to cut off the flow of arms into Syria and the wider region.

***In Christ's service,  
Jeanne Eisele***



On Sunday, February 19, the Family Promise guests will be arriving at

St. Vincent's Martyr Church and will be hosted for that week at the Church. UMC Madison will be helping with meals and companionship on Friday, February 24, and Saturday, February 25, during the morning. We are doing well with staffing the volunteers to provide Friday dinner and to stay on Saturday from 8 am to 11:30 am. We still could use several volunteers for the Friday evening hours from 7 to 9 pm.

**SAVE THE DATE: FOR FAMILY PROMISE'S VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER ON THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017, FROM 6:30 TO 9:30,** at Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph. I hope many of our faithful volunteers will be able to attend this inspirational event. It's always a good evening of food, fellowship and learning. Further details will follow.

Please call, email or see me in Church if you are able to help with our dates in February or would like more information.

*Laurie Hagerich*

## United Methodist Women

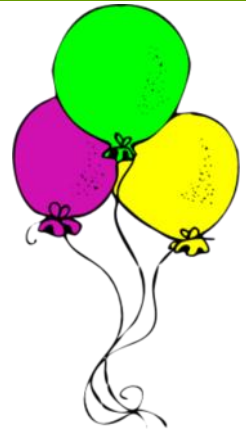
On Friday, February 10, 2017, the Naomi Circle of United Methodist Women will be attending a musical program of romantic songs and chocolate dessert in honor of Valentines Day, at the Chatham Senior Center. We will meet in the Church Library at 11:45, and will carpool to the Senior Center on Meyersville Road. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

**SAVE THE DATE;** Friday, March 24, 2017, at 12:15, when we will attend a performance of Bach's Contata No. 170, featuring Mezzo-soprano Patricia Ruggles, at Grace Episcopal Church. We will meet at Church at 12 noon and walk to Grace Church. There is no charge for the concert and we will stay for the catered sandwich lunch for \$6.

Our Circle is continuing 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.

*Laurie Hagerich*

## Known Birthdays in February



*Vivienne Camilla Bull*

*Megan DiNorscio*

*Drew Galton*

*Jennifer Hitchcock*

*Katie McCarter*

*Kristen Paddack*

*Aubrey Mae Pasciak*

*Katelyn Grace Pasciak*

*Emily Pierro*

*Emily Scaturro*

*Daryl Anthony Vanella*

*Jill Van Hook*

*Elizabeth Van Sciver*

## Our Church Family

### People we remembered in prayer

Cindy Manz

John Duetsch

Gretchen Surhoff

Steve Faig

Family of Dominic Cerere

Joyce Buchanan

Gary Harvett

Family of Grace Tripone



**Did you know...** UMC Madison has a Facebook page? Search "[United Methodist Church in Madison](#)," and see more photos from the annual pageant show mission trip and other up-



### Fair Trade Coffee Sale — Feb. 5

*During coffee hour in the church library*

# 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.**

**The Gathering** **5:00 p.m.**

## **Coming Up:**

**February 5**

**February 8,15,22**

**February 23**

**March 1**

**Youth Council Meeting**

**Wednesday Morning Book Study**

**Interfaith Council Walk**

**Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins**

*Check our website for more information: [www.umcmadison.org](http://www.umcmadison.org)*