

March 2017

Volume XIV Issue 3

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

church@umcmadison.org
www.umcmadison.org
Tel: 973.377.1231 Fax: 973-377-0093



The Madison Methodist *Message*

A Message from the Pastor

Rolling On Instead of Rolling Over

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24

We live in “interesting times.” It is safe to say this is an understatement. It is hard to adequately describe what is going on in our country and world right now. For some it is a time of great joy, for others a time of great despair. Ironically, what is shared in common are the divisions between us. Yet what divides us is always smaller than what may unite us. Our divisions are composed of likes and dislikes, fear, pride and ego. In proper measure they all serve a purpose but once out of control they lead us down paths that pull us away from our common humanity.

What unites us is a belief in a power greater than our own. For us, as Christians, this Power is personal, this Power has a name, a face, and is known in One solitary man. And yet we are prone to wander, gathering in groups or “tribes” of our own making.

Eight centuries before Christ, a simple gardener from Tekoa in the Northern Kingdom was called to speak harsh words to Israel about injustice and impending judgment. Within a generation, the Northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrians. The challenges that faced Amos, confront us today- among them two tendencies best described as “rolling over.” The first is the loss of a sense of God’s call for peace and justice, when the needs of many are ignored because of the wants of the few. It becomes a way of life and over time a great obstacle on the path becomes no more than a bump in the road.

The second is a sense of despair, a loss of hope and the decision to just “roll over” and give up. That as well means at least one thing—the world will not get better on its own.

Amos has a vision though, a greater vision, of a greater force that will overtake us—a force of God’s righteousness and justice. The questions are *What will that look like?* And *What part will we have to play?* This continues to be our question today.

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

Our theme for Lent will be **Let Justice Roll**. We don’t propose a simple answer to the challenges we face but rather a firm belief in God’s righteousness that enrolls us not in simple living but a great and ongoing quest. It is a quest that has us asking ourselves and each other *What part am I to play? How can we work together toward a vision of God’s peaceable Kingdom?*

Through Lent we will provide different opportunities to share together, to learn together and grown together. If you have some ideas, let me know. For the path is before us and clearer when we travel side by side.

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

Sexton

Marlice Borecki

David Green *Chair, Church Council*

Jeff Pfeifer *Treasurer*

Mac Cobb *Assistant to Treasurer*

Scot Guempel *Financial Secretary*

Vivian Bull *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

Dan Engel Luke McKinnon

Shin-Ok Ha Nori Tadano

Interfaith Food Pantry



What's new at the Interfaith Food Pantry?

The Food Pantry started a new program in February - the Healthy Choices Mobile Pantry. This program was developed as a way to address the food insecurity issues of residents who

live in the more distant parts of Morris County and are unable to get to the IFP distribution sites in the Morristown area. The Interfaith Food Pantry is partnering with smaller pantries in those areas to provide them with a steady supply of fresh produce. As the program grows, other items will be included. Currently Butler, Netcong, and Mt. Olive are participating in Mobile Pantry Program. One of the first steps to get the program started was to purchase a refrigerated van to facilitate the delivery of the food. Thank you to **The Jones Fund** of our church through which a generous grant was given the Food Pantry to help purchase the van. What a help the van will be to get healthy food to neighbors throughout Morris County!

Donations of food are always needed. They can be left in the hallway by the library. Current items especially needed are:

Dry milk, parmalat, evaporated milk, peanut butter, low sodium soups, canned fruit, canned beans (pork & beans, pinto, red, white, black), tuna fish, Boost or Ensure, Glucerna, Enfamil infant formula, and Stage 1,2,3 baby food

Katy Galton

United Methodist Women

Please join the Naomi Circle on FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017, at 12 noon, when we will attend a performance of Bach's Contata No. 170, featuring Mezzo-soprano Patricia Ruggles, at Grace Episcopal Church. We will meet in the Church parking lot at 12 noon and will walk to Grace Church. There will be a sandwich lunch after the concert at a cost of \$6. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Our circle will be partnering with the Heart and Hand group in assembling health kits on Saturday, March 25 at Kathy Shoaf's home. We will also contribute to the cost of the supplies from our Treasury, or let me know if you wish to make an individual contribution.

The collection for The Neighborhood Center of Camden, New Jersey, supported by United Methodist Women and the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, is ongoing. 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



Other News ... Bits and briefs

Heart & Hand

On Saturday, March 25 we will be gathering to assemble health kits, please join us for a fun morning out at the parsonage. We will meet at 8:30am. Please contact Kathy Shoaf or Kirsten White should you need more information. A light breakfast will be serve. All welcome!
nursekbs93@optonline.net
kerstinwhite7@gmail.com



Order Easter Flowers by April 7

To order flowers for Easter Sunday in honor or in memory of a loved one, please complete the order form on page 8 and submit it to the church office by April 7. Thank you!

Youth Bell Choir

The youth bell choir is working on some exciting and challenging pieces, but in order to do them we need NEW MEMBERS! If you are in grades 2–9 and would like to be in the handbell choir, it's not too late! If you aren't sure if bell choir is for you, that's okay — just come to a rehearsal and try it out! New ringers are always welcome!

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 6-7 PM.

Let's continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Daniel Leguizamon



We'd love to see you!

6:00 PM—Pizza Feast

7:00 PM—Worship service

T-shirt orders (important)

Hi— I have set up a ordering page for UMC t-shirt orders. It is set up so that people can enter their individual billing info instead of us having to collect the \$. **The deadline is tight** in order to get them here a week before the End Hunger 3.6 Event. They will have to all be ordered by **March 6th**. Can you please use this link for ordering: <https://www.createmytee.com/JoinOrder/46580>
 You will be able to view the design and place an order.

Please note our order deadline date of **3/6/2017** to receive our shirts before the End Hunger 3.6 Event so we can wear them. Pricing is still tbd. You will not be charged until everyone orders, as the pricing is based on quantity ordered. So talk it up to get our price down. Here is an estimate on pricing:

~15= \$16.99 per SM-XL

~20= \$13.94 per SM-XL

Youth shirts will cost less than adult.

Also, please note all 2XL and up garments cost more. The unit price for 2XL and up will typically be between \$2.00-\$5.00 more depending on the garment.

Please contact Kris Pfeifer kpfeifer@verizon.net if you have any questions about ordering.

Kris Pfeifer

Did you know... UMC Madison has a Facebook page? Search "[United Methodist Church in Madison](#)," and see more photos from events during the year.

**Reminder: Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 12**



March 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering			1 6:45 am Men's Breakfast <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6pm Pizza 7pm Servcie	2 Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	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 Trustees Meeting 8 pm AA	8 6:45 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 Book Study	9 Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	10 <i>6-9pm Kids night out</i> 8 pm AA	11
12 Lenten Series 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	13 8 pm AA	14 7:30 pm Church Council 8 pm AA	15 6:45 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 Book Study	16 Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	17 8 pm AA	18
19 Lenten Series 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	20 8 pm AA	21 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 8 pm AA	22 6:45 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 Book Study 7:30pm Cook- ing Demo	23 Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	24 7:30 pm Worship Service 8 pm AA	25 8:30 Heart & Hands End Hunger 3.6 @ Drew Cam- pus
26 Lenten Series 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	27	28	29 6:45 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 Book Study	30 Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	31 8 pm AA	

April Newsletter Deadline: March 22

Letter from Bishop Schol

Dear David,

Police officers in Delanco had their badges blessed by the congregation of Dobbins UMC because our first responders, much like our churches, are a vital link to our communities.

A homeless child in Atlantic City has warm socks because the Leesburg and Delmont United Methodist Churches in Cape Atlantic hold an annual Sock Rock to provide thousands of pairs of socks to the homeless each year.

Native American youth from our congregations were transformed by visiting reservations in North Dakota to deepen their faith and understanding of their heritage.

A young person in Camden is learning how to be an auto mechanic for Subaru at Respond Inc, a United Methodist social services agency which was birthed from Haddonfield United Methodist Church 50 years ago.

These ministries are just a tiny fraction of the ministry in Greater New Jersey that is being supported by your shared ministry giving. United Methodists are blessed to have the work of Church and Society through the conference and denomination to provide resources for ministries that align with our social beliefs.

Thank you and the congregation of UMC in Madison for contributing 100% of your shared ministry funds in 2016. Your service and your gifts help make sure that United Methodists are on the front lines of the ministry that is needed in today's world through the work of Church and Society, one of the many agencies that are supported by our shared ministry funds.

United Methodists are making a difference through the ministry of Christ as a result of your commitment to shared ministries.

Thank you.

In Christ,
John

John Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church
of Greater New Jersey

From the Youth Council

Hello Everyone!

As we look to the Spring, we have a lot of church events and programs we are preparing for!

One of the programs I am most excited about is Vacation Bible School. Last summer our VBS attendance was 19 children, a huge spike in our numbers from the 4 students that attended in 2015. This year we are excited to once again hold a fun and inviting VBS program for kids 2nd-7th grade, as we explore the theme: *Hero Central, Discovering Your Strength in God!* VBS will be from 6:30-8:30, July 19th, and 26th and August 2nd, 9th and 16th. Sign ups for VBS open to the church on March 5th, and to the public on March 10th. You can sign up in person or online using the church's website.

Also, in addition to kids we desperately need volunteers to make this VBS successful! If you are interested in volunteering please attend our Volunteer Informational Meeting on March 12th after the 10am service.

As many of you know, this year UMC Madison is not personally hosting Stop Hunger Now, instead we are participating in the Rotary's End Hunger 3.6 event on March 25th. On the 25th, UMC Madison will take a volunteer team to Drew University's Simon Forum Gym to help package 150,000 meals! Our team is open to all ages, and there is both a morning and an afternoon shift so you can choose when you'd like to volunteer. If you are interested in being on the UMC Madison team, please contact me. If you cannot attend but would like to donate (UMC Madison is raising \$1250) please note that donation on your offering on Sunday mornings. Also, be sure to tell your family and friends about this event, and invite them to join the UMC Madison team!

During Lent UMC Madison is happy to host a *Dinner and Discussion* with Peace Islands Institute. We know this wonderful organization from the Lenten Talk they gave last year. This year they are back, as we join together for an interfaith event centering on discussion and education about our different faith traditions. This potluck will be the night of April 9th, and keep an eye out for more details to come!

Cont over page



Fair Trade Coffee Sale — March 5

During coffee hour in the church library

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Honoring God's gift of Jesus by sharing with others

Lenten Speaker Series

During the **2017 Lenten season**, the Outreach Ministry team is pleased to sponsor the **Lenten Speakers** series. Each topic will share a mission outreach seeking peace and justice. The Outreach Ministry team is working to schedule interesting speakers on topics of current interest such as Interfaith Peace and Justice, Environmental stewardship and how art and creativity can neighborhood alliances. Watch future announcements about the Easter Offering designation. Join us for the ever popular expanded coffee hour/brunch when you will have an opportunity to join in fellowship and to meet each speaker personally.

March 12 – Dean Nielsen from **Morrow Memorial UMC** in Maplewood, will speak about their experience in partnership to host a **Syrian Refugee family**. He will also share their continuing advocacy on behalf of immigrants and their outreach group, A Circle of Friends, which is seeking an opportunity to host another family.



March 19 – **Peaceworks** is a mission organization that has for many years provided reconditioned bicycles to Nicaragua along with other mission services. More info at <https://peaceworks.org/> Lisa Moro's annual bike swap supports this organization.



March 26 –Chesea Jackson-Loesch will introduce the **Avalon Village Project** - which is an Eco-Village in Highland Park Detroit. It is a community who has endured great struggle and disenfranchisement since the 80s. The neighborhood is seeking to become self-sustaining and empowering space for community members.

March 26 is also UMCOR Sunday, celebrating the global disaster relief agency and supporting the continuing disaster response wherever and whenever needed.

Be sure to join us following worship on these Sundays to enjoy coffee hour/brunch while sharing fellowship and conversation about our Lenten topics.

Our **Easter Offering** designation will be selected to support these projects as well as the general work of United Methodist Committee of Relief (UMCOR).

Other Outreach News

JOIN UMC MADISON'S END HUNGER 3.6 TEAM!

On Saturday March 25th the Madison Rotary will host **End Hunger 3.6**, a program similar to Stop Hunger Now. Meals will be distributed to local/domestic social service organizations. This event is at Drew University from 9 am-3 pm (volunteers choose one of two shifts). **UMC Madison** is taking a team of volunteers to help package meals, if you are interested in joining this team please contact **Chelsea**!

More information and registration:

<http://madisonrotarynj.org/>

AFWH- *A Future with Hope Update*

To date the results include completion of restoration of 254 homes complete, 15 homes under construction, 11,741 volunteers, 10 host sites, 300 person hosting capacity, more than 400 homeowners and families supported through case management. AFWH continues to work in communities across GNJ area.

In Christ's service,
Jeanne Eisele

Cont from page 5

Lastly, UMC Madison is hosting its 2nd Annual Eco-Art Show on April 23rd-30th. The goal of this show is to, "creatively engage appreciation, stewardship and justice for the environment, and those communities most impacted by its devastation." All are invited to submit their work (using the link below) and be sure to spread the word to your fellow artist friends. I'm excited to see our sanctuary once again become a beautiful art gallery!

The link to submit artwork is: [HTTPS://GOO.GL/FORMS/NSGU8PHTTIJTFTXW1](https://goo.gl/forms/NSGU8PHTTIJTFTXW1)

As you can see we have a busy Spring ahead of us! However, this busy season also coincides with the important and reflective season of Lent. During the Lenten season, it is my hope we all take time to reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus, and center ourselves so we may better follow in his example.

In Peace,
Chelsea

News from Family Promise



During the week of February 19, the Family Promise guests were sheltered at St. Vincent's Martyr Church and UMC Madison provided volunteers to prepare and serve dinner provide evening companionship and stay overnight on Friday, February 24. On Saturday the volunteers helped with breakfast and stayed during the morning hours. The guests included 7 adults, 2 teenage boys, a 4 year-old boy and a 3 month-old baby. The guests were very appreciative and cooperative, and the beautiful weather was most welcome in keeping everyone happy. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped. The families will return to St. Vincent's during the week of June 18.

The Family Promise Appreciation Dinner will be on Thursday, MARCH 30, 2017, FROM 6:30 TO 9:30, at Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph. I will be glad to provide a ride for anyone who needs transportation. This year, in order to lessen the cost of the Annual Dinner to Family Promise, the organization is asking congregation members to consider sponsoring a volunteer or a table at the dinner. Below is Family Promise's invitation for this sponsorship:

Family Promise of Morris County invites you to sponsor a Madison United Methodist volunteer. On March 30th, Family Promise is hosting our volunteer recognition event for volunteers and community members who make our mission possible. We thank our volunteers for joining our mission to provide dignity and support to those facing homelessness in Morris County. By sponsoring a volunteer to attend the dinner, you enable them to join in our celebration.

1 volunteer - \$65

10 volunteers (full table) - \$500

All amounts are appreciated!

Thank you.

Please call, email or see me in Church to let me know you wish to attend the dinner or to sponsor a volunteer.

Laurie Hagerich

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:

- April 2
- April 16 (Easter Sunday)
- April 23
- April 30
- May 21
- May 28



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). Thank you!

Known March Birthdays



Oliver Dines

Emma Voorshees

Selina Joy Cicogna

Thomas Galton

Ryan Grzymala

Charlotte Lillard

Patrick McCormick

Courtney McKinnon

Blake Pierro

Justin Pierro

Benjamin Shoaf

Rebecca Shoaf

Travis Tumbleson-Pierro

Our Church Family

People we remembered in prayer

Gretchen Surhoff

John Duetsch

Steve Faig

Cindy Manz

Gary Harvett

Ferminish Family

Thank you

On Sunday, February 26, Christiana Zollner sang a solo "We Would See Jesus" during the 10:00 AM service. We couldn't have been more grateful for her beautiful voice on a special Anniversary Sunday.

Don't Forget ...
Daylight Saving Time
Begins Sunday, March 12



Worship Schedule



Worship Schedule

Early Morning Worship	8:30 a.m.
Family Worship & Church School	10:00 a.m.
<i>Childcare is available for infants and toddlers.</i>	
Coffee and Fellowship	11:15 a.m.
The Gathering	5:00 p.m.

Coming up:

March 1	Ash Wednesday –6 PM Pizza / 7 PM Service
March 5	Communications Meeting after service
March 7	Trustees Meeting 7:30 PM
March 10	Kids Night Out 6:00-9:00 PM
March 12	VBS Meeting after service
March 14	Church Council Meeting 7:30 PM
March 25	Heart & Hand kit assembly event 8:30 AM
March 25	End Hunger 3.6 Meal Packing Event at Drew (2 sessions)

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

Easter Flowers Order Form

Donations and orders are now being taken for Easter flowers to decorate the Sanctuary and provide the children with flowers for “Flowering of the Cross” on Easter Sunday. Each child will also be given a small plant to take home with them as a reminder of new life. Please send your contribution of \$20.00 or more, along with this form, to the church office or put it in the offering plate by **Sunday, April 7.**



Gift in memory of: _____

Gift in honor of: _____

Donor's name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to UMC-Madison, and note “Easter Flowers” on the memo line.