A Message from the Pastor

What Happens Here Doesn’t Stay Here

There is quite a fuss about keeping secrets. We use the Internet to share all sorts of details in our lives and then cannot understand when others find out. A great example is the tag line for Vegas vacations: What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. Well, to some degree that is true but surprisingly we learn life tends to follow us wherever we go, Internet or not.

On June 11th members of UMC Madison provided a wonderful time of celebration for the ministry my family and I have shared with this church and community. It was a humbling experience and a great honor. I was so glad three of our four children could be there and of course Kathy who has been a partner in every way.

What I noticed that day was not only the families we have known over the years in Madison, but also members of churches and close friends we had served over the years and cherished as well. They come along with us.

The letters and calls we received simply provided an exclamation point to all of it!

We are not isolated in this world and we cannot cut off certain parts of our lives very well for we take ourselves along the way. And that can be a great experience because it helps determine not only the lives we will lead but the people we become.

For that I am grateful and can only offer thanks on behalf of our entire family.

Grace and Peace,

(from left to right) Sara Howard, Becca Shoaf Kozak, Robb, Kathy and Abigail Shoaf. Missing from the picture is their son, Ben Shoaf currently living abroad.

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

I hope you are staying cool this summer, and are enjoying time with family and friends!

Just a reminder, our Hero Central VBS is quickly approaching! The dates are July 19, 26, August 2, 9, and 16, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. If you have a child in 1st-6th grade who would like to attend please register them ASAP via the church website. Also we still need volunteers for VBS so any youth or adults willing to volunteer a night or two please let me know.

UMC Madison's Avalon Village trip is scheduled for Aug. 24-28. We have a couple spots left on the van so if you are interested in attending please let me know as soon as possible. Also, keep a lookout in the coming weeks, as we will be taking a collection for items on the Avalon Village Wishlist to take on our trip.

As this is my last newsletter entry as Assistant Pastor of UMC Madison, I want to thank all of you for your support of my ministry. I am proud of the work we have been able to do together, and Parker and I will always value our time here. Thank you for providing me with the time, space and community to grow and learn as a leader and as a fellow person of faith. May we all continue on this journey of faith together, and if you are ever in Philadelphia, be sure to look us up.

Thank you again for empowering us to serve this community. Parker and I continue to hold UMC Madison in prayer, and we will miss y'all dearly.

In Peace,
Chelsea

**News from our Student Assistant Pastor**

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**Staff & Elected Officers 2017**

- **Pastor**
  - Rev. Robb W. Shoaf, Ph.D
  - Assistant Pastor
  - Chelsea Jackson-Loesch, M.Div
  - **Director of Music & Organist**
    - Daniel Leguizamón, Ph.D.
- **Director of Christian Education**
  - Kathleen Keane
  - **Admin/Editor**
    - Natalie Dines
  - Sexton
  - Marlice Borecki
- **Chair, Church Council**
  - David Green
- **President, Trustees**
  - Vic Schumacher
  - Gordon Fleming
  - Vivian Bull
  - Mike McKinnon
  - Luke McKinnon
  - Nori Tadano
  - Dan Engel
  - Karen Jeisi
  - Bruce Galton

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**Program Facilitators**

- **Nurture Ministries**
  - Lisa Moro
- **Outreach Ministries**
  - Jeanne Eisele
- **Witness/Igniting Ministry**
  - Kris Pfiefer
- **Worship Ministries**
  - Lisa Carballo
  - Kathleen Keane & Chelsea Jackson

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**Trustees**

- Vic Schumacher
- Gordon Fleming
- Vivian Bull
- Shin-Ok Ha
- Karen Jeisi
- Bruce Galton

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**RALLY DAY**

September 10, 2017

8:30 am—early morning worship
10:00 am—family worship with church school and childcare
**Other News ...**

**Bits and briefs**

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**Backpack Project**

**Interfaith Food Pantry**

Last summer more than 600 backpacks were distributed. All standard school supplies are welcome. Distributions will begin on August 1, so if possible, your donations would be appreciated by July 30.

Items to consider include: Backpack, notebook, crayons & markers, paper, folders, rulers, pencils, erasers, pencil cases, pencil sharpeners, binders, safety scissors, etc. Thanks for help building better minds as well as bodies.

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**Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School Registration for summer 2017 is open! Our theme this year is "Hero Central: Discovering Your Strength in God!" Click here to learn more about this program and get your child registered! [HERE](#)

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**2017 Confirmation Class Received**

On Sunday June 4, the congregation was pleased to formally receive five Confirmation students as official members of the United Methodist Church. We joyfully welcome

- Brendan Cobb
- Julia Olesen
- Emily Pierro
- Grace Van Sciver
- Luke Voorhees

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**Church Conference 2017**

On Sunday June 10, 2017 we celebrated Robb and Kathy’s 25 years of dedication to our church. We couldn’t have been happier to see this spread (compliments of Karen Mancinelli) featured front page of the Madison Eagle on Thursday, July 3rd. (more pictures on page 8).

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**Reminder: Annual Church Conference Reports**

For anyone involved in submitting reports for the church conference, please remember to send in your reports to Natalie in the office by August 1st.

Thank you!
United Methodists in Greater New Jersey gathered together to rejoice in God’s faithfulness at the 2017 Annual Conference in Wildwood, N.J., May 21-23 with more than 1,400 people in attendance. Bold, forward-thinking visions were shared as we were called to step out on the edges of faith with joyful hearts and the Conference responded with bold actions.

Key Actions That Will Shape GNJ Future
Approved a $900,000 budget cut and a new Shared Ministry formula that will save money for congregations for years to come. The Shared Ministry formula uses a fixed percentage that will require the Conference to budget and spend Shared Ministry dollars based on the health and vitality of the congregations.

Approved a Next Generation Student Ministry plan that challenges GNJ leadership to:
Work with congregations to have 12 or more active youth engaged in faith formation and discipleship in the community.
Develop 10 college campus faith communities with 75 or more students. Reinvigorate a 21st century camping experience.
Grow the IGNITE Student Conference to 5,000 participants. Develop 1,000 leaders to lead student ministries. Approved a 10-year intercultural competency plan that will develop laity and clergy to be more culturally competent so that we strengthen and grow diversity, inclusion, and collaboration. Approved work to begin on a 2019-2023 strategic ministry plan.

Commissioning, Ordination and Retirement
This year’s Annual Conference session opened with a service to commission and ordain 22 clergy on Sunday evening. Bishop John Schol’s sermon encouraged life joy and hope in one’s leadership.

Leadership Addresses
In the Episcopal Address, Bishop Schol challenged Greater New Jersey to rejoice in our progress and our trials. He outlined the key challenges disciples face in the world, denomination, communities and congregations, and presented a path forward that includes four pillars: passionate faith, transformational leadership, vital mission partners and money. He encouraged GNJ to lead the way for the denomination to move to the edges of faith where hope and joy live. He promised to be the bishop for the whole church, rejoicing in diversity even if there are different understandings of the scriptures. Conference leaders shared their visions for a new strategic plan, a recommitment to adult baptisms, a bold, God-sized vision of a Next Generation ministry plan and a commitment to intercultural competence within GNJ.

Mission Fund Campaign
An offering for the Mission Fund was taken and more than $44,500 was collected to help eliminate death from malaria and rebuild homes for people struggling to get home following Superstorm Sandy.

GNJ Strategic Direction and Legislation Highlights
The body reaffirmed the direction of GNJ to recruit and develop transformational spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transformation the world with the GNJ Connectional Table resolved to lead GNJ in a process to develop a new strategic plan for 2019-2023. The 2018 budget and a new Shared Ministries formula was passed which will convert the formula to a flat rate of 16.3%. The flat rate will allow more resources to be used at the local church and will require the conference to seek outside funding sources through its vital mission partners to grow resources. A new student ministry plan was passed rebranding the GNJ Camping and Retreats Board into Next Generation Student Ministries and expanding its oversight to include all youth and young adult ministries including IGNITE and Campus Ministries. Additionally, a 10-year intercultural competence plan was passed so GNJ can lead the way as bridge-builders living into a calling to be a church for all people and nations to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Conference Workshops
More than 1,100 people attended five workshops inspiring spiritual leaders with creative strategies to think big and pursue excellence in the church. The workshops included a creative session on discovering the power of the narrative experience, creating new spaces and engaging vitality, developing a diverse community, leading congregations through change, and financial security.

Rise Against Hunger
More than 200 volunteers working in unison systematically and excitedly helped pack 30,000 meals in just an hour and a half to support Rise Against Hunger’s effort to feed people around the world with a bold mission to end world hunger by 2030.
Retired NJ Supreme Court Justice Gary Stein spoke about segregation within New Jersey School Districts and an effort to integrate public schools through magnet schools and other innovative strategies that are being used around the country. Bishop Schol asked the GNJ Board of Church and Society to follow up on this effort.

Annual Conference Firsts
First GNJ AC to break the 1,400 registration barrier
First GNJ AC to pack 30,000 meals in 90 minutes
First GNJ AC to have a NJ Supreme Court Justice speak (retired Justice Gary Stein)
First GNJ AC to have over 1000 participants in workshops
First GNJ AC to ordain a Haitian Woman
First GNJ AC to commission a Chinese Woman

September Newsletter Deadline: August 19
What’s happening at the Interfaith Food Pantry?

While summer is often a time for rest and relaxation, things are not slowing down at the Food Pantry!

Farmer’s Market at the Pantry - Thanks to the Community Food Bank and local produce donors the Food Pantry is offering a “Free Farmers Market” to IFP clients every other Friday. IFP clients love the opportunity to come and select fresh produce!

Healthy Choices Mobile Pantry – The Mobile Pantry is up and running. The Food Pantry is delivering produce to food pantries in Butler and Netcong. In addition, the IFP supplements 100 USDA senior food boxes we receive from the Community Food Bank with fresh produce, bread and other items and delivers the boxes and extras to low-income senior public housing units where residents have registered for the program. Senior facilities in Butler, Madison, Mt. Olive/Flanders and Oak Ridge are participating in the program.

Diabetes Education Program - In partnership with the Community Health Team at Morristown Medical Center, the Food Pantry is conducting a 9-month education program for clients with diabetes or pre-diabetic conditions to help improve their health through education. Participants come once a month for the education session followed by a healthy lunch and their regular shopping - which is supplemented with a bag of “diabetes friendly” items.

Come visit the IFP garden – The Interfaith Food Pantry will be opening their garden gates during the Morris County Park Commission and Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum “Open Gate Weekend”. Come visit the garden on Saturday July 15th between 9am – 1pm and see what’s growing in the food pantry’s garden.

Katy Galton

News from Family Promise

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the Family Promise families at St. Vincent’s Roman Catholic Church on June 23 and 24. Our time was lively and well-spent with hosting of 5 adults and 6 energetic children. The families were friendly and appreciative. For the comfort of the guests and volunteers, Family Promise has put into use 32 new rollaway beds for the Emergency Shelter Program using grant funds recently awarded.

Our final week for helping at St. Vincent’s in 2017 is the week of August 6. UMC Madison will be looking for volunteers on Friday, August 11, to prepare and serve dinner, provide companionship during the evening from 7 to 9 pm, and to stay overnight. On Saturday, August 12 volunteers are needed during the hours of 8 am to 11:30 to help with breakfast and provide companionship for the families.

SAVE THE DATE: For another Family Promise Volunteer Training scheduled at First Baptist Church in Madison. The details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, September 23, 2017
Place: First Baptist Church, Cook Avenue, Madison
Time: 10 am – 12 noon

The last training session, held at St. Vincent’s, was well attended and covered a wide range of issues. I hope some new people will consider coming to the training, which is so close to home, to find out more about this very rewarding program.

Family Promise has an ongoing need for toiletries, cleaning supplies, paper products and other items on their Wish List which I will post on the bulletin board in the Library. The latest Family Promise newsletter has issued a special TIME SENSITIVE request for donations to the Keys to Housing Program, which serves a vital role in helping clients on their path to self-sufficiency by locating, obtaining and retaining permanent housing. The goal is to raise $60,000 to provide up to 15 families with the initial one-time cost of move-in expenses of $3,000 per unit. Family Promise was awarded 15 housing vouchers for families to cover the cost of rent which will expire on September 30, 2017. More information on the Keys to Housing Program can be found on the Family Promise website, www.familypromisemorriscounty.org.

You can contact me with any questions or for further information.

Laurie Hagerich
OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

God’s Promise - a Sacred Journey
Honoring God’s gift of Jesus by sharing with others

You may be breathing a sigh of relief as school lets out for the summer, but I am hoping you’ll think of the families who are clients at the Interfaith Food Pantry as you begin preparing and gathering supplies for school in the fall. Each year the Pantry sponsors a Back-to-School supplies donation so that each child can have necessary equipment to get a good start for the school year. When those ‘come on’ ads appear this summer, consider adding some extra supplies to your shopping cart and donate them to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Items to consider include: Backpack, notebook, crayons & markers, paper, folders, rulers, pencils, erasers, pencil cases, pencil sharpeners, binders, safety scissors, etc. Thanks for help building better minds as well as bodies.

Last summer more than 600 backpacks were distributed. All standard school supplies are welcome. Distributions will begin on August 1, so if possible, your donations would be appreciated by July 30.

Avalon Village Project – the 2017 summer service project will take a team of 10 to 12 to Detroit, Michigan, where we will spend time and energy with the youth and volunteers at The Avalon Village, an Eco-Village in Highland Park district. Chelsea, during her ministry with our congregation, brought many worthy outreach projects to us to increase our understanding of the breadth of need as well as the breadth of innovative ideas for easing the lives of many who struggle economically, socially or emotionally. As her final ministry, she will lead the Outreach Work Team trip planned for August 24 thru 28. The group will be participating in the Avalon Village summer camp program for the neighborhood youth called Hood Camp – “Urban Survival for Today’s Youth”. This district of Detroit has found it particularly difficult during the economic down-turn in Detroit with the elimination of street lighting, closing of the local library, neighborhoods filled with abandoned homes and more. It is a community that has endured great struggle and disenfranchisement since the 1980s. The neighborhood is seeking to become self-sustaining and empowering space for community members. They are transforming one of the city’s most blighted blocks into a safe, functional, and beautiful space for the entire

Another exciting feature of the Avalon Village is our solar streetlight. The city’s streetlights were removed in 2011 due to outstanding municipal debts. So throughout a concerted effort they have the very first residential solar-powered streetlight in Highland Park, installed by the non-profit membership group Soulardarity in 2014. This light is symbolic of the energy and commitment of the founder of Avalon Village, Shamayim ‘Shu’ Harris, who has pledged herself to be the guiding light that always shines in the Avalon Village.

Get in the Game with Sandy Recovery

An estimated 3,000 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. 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, 256 homes rebuilt, 15 homes are under construction, 300 families working with case managers. 10 host sites and 300 person hosting capacity.

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 tissues / paper towels / large cans of Lysol spray / kitchen trash bags / bathroom trash bags / large trash bags / cases bottled water.

In Christ’s service,
Jeanne Eisele
2017 Graduates
Cara Smith
graduated from MHS and going to Saint Joseph’s University.
Lily Duetsch
graduated from Hanover Park HS and going to Rowan University.
Megan Currey
graduated from Hanover Park HS and going to Johnson and Wales in RI.
Sawyer Tadano
graduated from MHS and going to Middlebury College.
Sydney Fielding
graduated from MHS and going to Moravian College.
Ransom Silliman
graduated from MHS and going to Boston University.
Ryan Cobb
graduated from MHS and going to University of Maryland.
Allyssa Currey
graduated from University of the Arts in Philadelphia.
Katie Pivarnik
graduated from Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and going to Albany Medical Center for residency in ob/gyn.
Lisa White
graduated with a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Miami—heading to Chicago for a two-year post-doc at Loyola University

3rd Annual SCOTT-A-PALOOZA 5K to Kick ALS

Scott Flowering is a husband, dad, friend, and U.S. Marine Corps veteran who loves to run. One of his bucket list items is to run a race in every state. In 2013, ALS stole Scott’s ability to run, and now we must run for him. Join him at the
3rd Annual Scott-a-Palooza 5K to Kick ALS:

Date: Sunday, September 24, 2017
Time: 11:30 am registration; 1 pm race start
Place: College of Saint Elizabeth
Events: 5K Run, Wheelchair Run, and 1 Mile Family Fun Run ... Dogs welcome!
Run Race Day or Virtually
Our goal is to raise in Every State!
All the funds raised through Scott-a-Palooza — Every cent ... 100% — go directly to Scott’s care, now required 24/7. $71,000 has been raised to date!

www.runsignup.com/scottapalooza5k
HARK is recognized 501c3 organization. All donations are tax deductible. Visit www.harknj.org to learn more about us.

Our Church Family
People we remembered in prayer
Steve Faig
The Duetsch Family
Walt Anderson
Mary Anderson
Gerry Elcock

Thank you note from PeaceWorks

On July 1st Jeanne received a thank you note from Denis at PeaceWorks.

“Thank you so much for the generous donation from Madison UMC to support the ongoing work of PeaceWorks. I very much enjoyed having the opportunity to speak before your congregation and the Romero/El Salvador connection was serendipitous to say the least. Please share my gratitude with your pastor and congregation. All the best, Denis”
Worship Schedule

Family Worship  
Childcare is available for infants and toddlers.  
9:30 a.m.

Coffee and Fellowship  
10:45 a.m.

Coming Up:

July 19  Vacation Bible School—6:30-8:30PM
July 26  Vacation Bible School
July 27  Farmers Market 2—7pm (slots still available)
Aug  2  Vacation Bible School
Aug  9  Vacation Bible School
Aug 16  Vacation Bible School
Aug 24  Farmers Market 2-7pm
Aug 30  Chelsea & Parker’s farewell celebration
Sept  5  Trustees Meeting
Sept 10  RALLY DAY—Fall Schedule begins, 8:30am & 10:00am
with church school & childcare

Celebrating 25 years at UMC Madison