



Chatham United Methodist Church

CIRCUIT RIDER

www.chathamumc.com

DECEMBER 2015

973-635-7740 ~ chatumc@optonline.net

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Alternative Gifts Fair

Gifts that Give Twice

Chatham United Methodist Church is proud to be hosting our annual **Alternative Gifts Fair on December 6, 2015**. The fair offers the opportunity for gift shoppers to learn about and support organizations doing charitable work locally and globally, while giving gifts that bring greater meaning to the giver and the recipient.

The merchandise at the fair will showcase our most popular vendors: Ugandan jewelry, baskets, and totes; fair trade coffee, tea, and hot chocolate and a variety of beautiful gifts from UMCOR's partner, SERRV. You can also choose honor cards for your gift recipients from organizations such as Heifer International, Jolin Food Boxes in conjunction with Family Promise, and A Future with Hope, the fundraising organization affiliated with the United Methodist Church to aid with storm relief.

Returning this year is the youth RISE team who will be taking orders for the famous "Sticky Buns" – a favorite treat to look forward to on Christmas morning!

If you haven't attended the Fair before, please come by and check it out. Visit the bake sale and enjoy a cup of coffee and some fellowship – all profits from the sale of refreshments are divided up among the organizations supported by our efforts. This is a wonderful time to embrace the spirit of giving, learn about some wonderful organizations and see friends, both old and new.

The Alternative Gifts Fair will be held **December 6, 2015 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**. We look forward to seeing you there!



Thanks to a fabulous AV crew, all of our Sunday services are recorded and posted on our website and Facebook page.

Please visit www.ChathamUMC.com to view or listen to any of CUMC's Sunday services.





The Pastor's Pen

Rev. Jeff Markay

revjmarkay@earthlink.net

“You broke the bonds
 And you loosed the chains
 Carried the cross of my shame
 Oh my shame, you know I believe it.
 But I still haven't found
 What I'm looking for.
 But I still haven't found
 What I'm looking for.”

-Lyrics by U2

Dear Friends

For my birthday a few years ago, my friend Michael Christensen brought me to a U2 Concert at Giant's stadium. Michael and I have been U2 fans for decades. They are one of the most successful and socially conscious bands in this history of Rock and Roll, and also committed followers of Jesus. (If you want to hear a faithful Christian vision, see lead singer Bono speak at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC in 2006: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUdrYDk8rVA>)

One of the highlights of the concert was to sing along with 80,000 to the above lyrics, “but I still haven't found what I'm looking for.” It was as tangible an expression of human longing, holy longing, and spiritual hunger as I have experience with such a large crowd. The youth of the Chatham UMC will be singing this song on the Fourth Sunday of Advent on December 20 at the 9:am worship service. This is poignant during the season of Advent. We know that Christ has come, yet we long for his coming again. We have chosen in life to follow Jesus, yet there is still an occasional restlessness that can only be satisfied by encounter with the living God. We are on the journey but have not yet fully arrived. To quote Augustine, 3rd Century Christian, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.”

Come to worship on Sundays in December. Come to Taize Prayer on December 9 at 7:30PM. Come to Christmas Eve Services at 5:00PM and 8:00PM. Come to New Years Eve Watch Night Service. Come to small groups that are meeting during Advent. Come to the Alternative Gift Fair on December 6 from 10:AM-12:30PM. You might catch a glimpse of what you are looking for, or perhaps catch a glimpse of the One, you are looking for.

It is in these holy days when we sing of the One described in the hymnal:

“The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”

May our Advent be Holy, and may our holy longing be fulfilled.

Jeff



From the desk of:

Rev. Sharon C. Yarger

Associate Pastor

scyarger@optonline.net

*For further information on Congregational Care Ministry,
please contact Associate Pastor Sharon Yarger
at 201-602-8823 or scyarger@optonline.net.*

Dear Friends,

The church's season of Advent is upon us! Advent is beautifully summed up in Charles Wesley's hymn we often sing at this time: "Come, thou long-expected Jesus." Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and lasts through sunset Christmas Eve. How wise were our forbears in the faith, recognizing that we need time to prepare for that most wondrous of events – God made human in the birth of Jesus. For Christians, Advent is a time of two expectations, neither of which is the sort felt by the secular world. Not the expectation of celebration, presents, and feasting, but rather the expectation of the simple yet extraordinary birth of a baby to a poor couple far from home. A baby who would change the world as none other. Our second Advent expectation is that the Christ born as that baby will one day return to earth to "bring an end to all that is contrary to the ways of God."

Our Christian forbears also showed wisdom in acknowledging that we need more than **one day** to celebrate Christmas. For the church, Christmas is not just a day, but a **season of twelve days!** The season begins on Christmas Day and ends on Epiphany, January 6, with the celebration of the arrival of the Magi. Thus, the Twelve Days of Christmas. Try and celebrate the birth of Christ in a simple but special way on each of the twelve days – have fun, use your creativity, and see if it doesn't make your Christmas celebration even more joyous and meaningful.

And speaking of celebrating the birth – "Whose birthday is it, anyway?" One prominent United Methodist pastor challenges us to "Quit acting like Christmas is YOUR birthday!" Isn't that the truth? In so many ways Christmas ends up seeming a lot more like OUR birthdays than Jesus'. This pastor also recounts an incident from the first time he challenged his congregation to give the same amount of money to Christ's work in the world as the amount they spent on Christmas gifts. One congregant had already booked a cruise for his entire family for Christmas. One of his young children held him accountable to the Pastor's challenge, and he ended up doing just that to the tune of thousands of dollars! What do you think - could God be calling us to follow the same principle? However we do it, let's remind ourselves and the rest of the world, "Whose birthday is it, anyway?"

May you know the *true* blessings of Advent and Christmas –

Sharon

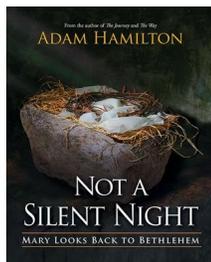
SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Taizé Prayer

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

7:30PM in the Asbury Room

All are welcome to enjoy a brief time of worship, scripture, singing, prayer, silence and community at our monthly Taizé Prayer. The Taizé style of praying reflects the practices and customs of the early Christians, which is being practiced and rediscovered throughout the world, by seekers, and people of various Christian traditions. Come, let us seek God together, in ancient and new ways.



There's Still Time - You're invited! Advent Small Groups

This year we're again offering the opportunity to grow in faith and deepen our relationships with God and one another during the season of Advent by being part of a small group. We're using the book and DVD *Not a Silent Night* by Rev. Adam Hamilton: "This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary. Focus your gaze on the Savior she knew as her own son. In this Advent study, Hamilton paints fresh and moving portraits of mother and Messiah."

**Small Groups Will Meet for Four Sessions as follows:
(beginning Sunday, November 29)**

Sundays 10:15 – 11:00 am in Room 6, facilitated by Janice Szarko

Sundays 6-7 pm (concurrent with music rehearsals) in the Wesley Room, facilitated by Pastor Sharon & Seongsoo Kim)

Mondays 12:00 – 1:00 pm in the Wesley Room, facilitated by Sue Maher & Melda Pike

Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm in the Wesley Room, facilitated by Micah Coleman Campbell

Signup sheets and books are located outside Pastor Jeff's office. For further information contact Associate Pastor Sharon Yarger at the church office or at scyarger@optonline.net.



December 6, 2015, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79 (*UMH 208*); Philippians 1:3-11;
Luke 3:1-6

December 13, 2015, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephariah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 20, 2015, 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55 (*UMH 199*); Hebrews 10:5-10;

Luke 1:39-45

December 24, 2015, Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96 (*UMH 815*); Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2015, Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98 (*UMH 818*); Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

December 27, 2015, 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148 (*UMH 861*); Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

December 31, 2015 Watch Night/New Year

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8 (*UMH 743*); Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46

DECEMBER 24, 2015 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 PM Family-Oriented Worship

8:00 PM Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols



Two Hour Pilgrimage
Thursday, December 17, 2015, 10:AM
Christ Church, Summit (indoor)
Meet at the Chatham UMC.
All Friends are Welcome

For hundreds of years, Christians in Europe were unable to make the long pilgrimage to Jerusalem, so architects and Christians began building labyrinths into church architecture. These labyrinths, often in the floors of cathedrals such as Chartres, Reims,

Amiens, became a metaphor for a longer spiritual pilgrimage. In the last 20 years, labyrinthine spirituality has captured the attention and spiritual hunger of mainline Protestants and seekers throughout the US. In fact there are many churches that open their doors and labyrinths to visitors and pilgrims who wish to walk, and pray, and seek.

We will meet at the Chatham UMC at 10:AM for a brief time of devotions and spiritual preparation. We will then carpool to Christ Church where we can together walk and seek communion with God. Dress warm! Friends and seekers are most welcome to join us. We'll go out for lunch after our labyrinth walk to enjoy the community that the Holy Spirit will certainly create.

New! Weekly Noontime Bible Study on Acts Mondays 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Whether you're brand-new to the Bible, or know it inside and out, you're welcome to join Pastor Sharon and Su Jung Shin in a lively and thought-provoking look at the New Testament Book of Acts. We'll follow the movement of the Holy Spirit and the actions of the disciples as they spread the word about Jesus from Jerusalem to "the ends of the earth," and encounter remarkable challenges and rewards along the way. There's no homework for this study, so any and all are welcome whenever you can be there. Feel free to bring a friend!

For further information contact Rev. Sharon Yarger at the church office or at scyarger@optonline.net.

Advent Gathering at the Parsonage

Sunday, December 6, 2015 4:30-6:00pm

48 Elmwood Ave in Chatham

Dear Friends in the Chatham UMC,

Julie, Matthew, Elizabeth and I would like to invite you to the parsonage for a time of fellowship, refreshments, conversation, singing, and prayer. We hope you will bring an Hors d'oeuvre to share. We'll have some hot apple cider on the stove, punch on the table, a fire in the fireplace, and the Christmas décor up. We'll enjoy some good food, informal conversation, and each other's company. At about 5:30 we'll light some Advent Candles, have some brief Advent devotions, and sing some songs around the piano. We'll be finished about 6pm which will give everyone time to finish homework, get ready for Monday, and get to bed. We hope you can come.



Peace,

Jeff Markay, (Julie Yarborough, Matthew and Elizabeth)



An Easy Way to Support Chatham UMC

So the Alternative Gifts Fair is over and you still have a few Christmas presents to buy? If you're going to order from Amazon.com, the AmazonSmile program is a simple way for you to support Chatham United Methodist Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device, search for "Chatham United Methodist Church" and select it as your charitable organization. Then, every time you shop at Amazon, start at smile.amazon.com; you can even add a bookmark to make it easier.

You'll find the same prices, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Chatham UMC. It can really add up!



From everyone at CUMAC and the families we serve, thank you for participating in our drive this year. Your generosity, along with other groups, helped equip almost 400 students with the tools they need for a year of study.

—Leigh Ross



CUMAC needs help with food for the upcoming holiday season. Please help fill up our stairwell, so they too can have a happy holiday. We thank you for all the help you have given in the past. So let's keep on giving for CUMAC!—Ruth Maloney

News for Youth & Kids

youthchatumc@optonline.net * 973.908.4474



As the Sunday School and Youth Groups were making plans for the Christmas season, I ran across this song (see youtube link below). What a great reminder to make room in our busy holiday schedules to focus on the coming of the Christ Child.

They journeyed far, a weary pair,
They sought for shelter from the cold night air,
Some place where she could lay her head,
Where she could give her Babe a quiet bed.
Was there no room? No corner there?
In all the town a spot someone could spare?
Was there no soul come to their aid?
A stable bare was where the family stayed.

Do you have room for the Savior?
And do you seek Him anew?
Have you a place for the One who lived
and died for you?
Are you as humble as a shepherd boy,
Or as wise as men of old?
Would you have come that night?
Would you have sought the light?
Do you have room?

by Shawna Belt Edwards
<https://youtu.be/jR7lo9ycKBA>



We Give Thanks for our Bible! In November, five of our 3rd and 4th grade students were presented with Bibles from their church family. During the ceremony, recipients heard how the Bible is an ancient treasure trove of stories more precious than gold.

Left: James, Quinn, Mia, Lily (not pictured: Emma Jane)



EACH ONE OF US IS
AN INNKEEPER WHO
DECIDES IF THERE IS
ROOM FOR JESUS.

Youth Opportunities

- Dec. 6 — Alternative Gifts Fair
- Dec. 6 — 4:30pm Advent at Pastor Jeff's: JYF/SYF and families meet there
- Dec. 9 — Taizé Prayer (*come take some time out of the holiday stress to center yourself*)
- Dec. 13 — Cookies4Life event
- Dec. 13 — RISE Sticky Bun assembly
- Dec. 20 — RISE Sticky Bun distribution
- Dec. 20 — Caroling or Christmas movie? Stay tuned!
- Dec. 27 — No JYF/SYF, enjoy time with family

Looking ahead:

- Jan. 3 — White Gifts, Youth Usher Sunday
- Jan. 13 — Taizé Prayer (*a good way to start the new year!*)
- Jan. 18 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
- Feb. 9 — Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (RISE fundraiser)



NURSERY SCHOOL

It's the most wonderful time of the year.....

Priority Registration for 2016-2017 will begin in December for alumni families, church members' families and MMO families. Open Registration will begin on January 1. If you would like registration forms or more information about our program, please call our Registrar, Katie Bealer at 973-635-6538. Tours are available by calling Director Sue Maher at 973-635-5261. If you are interested in the Kindergarten Enrichment Program for next year, please call Carlye Koehler at 610-223-6750.

The Three Year-Olds and Fours will be working on Christmas projects this month. The classrooms are filled with art work that sparkles with the joy of

the season. The children enjoy learning to sing traditional holiday songs. As the weather turns cold we look forward to playing in the snow in our playground.

Fours Fall Friday Enrichment classes filled with so many interesting activities. The children had fun learning about Bees, Buildings and Blueprints, Bones, Rocks and especially enjoyed cooking at their final get-together. Winter Enrichment classes will begin again after the holidays.

Kindergarten Enrichment which is open to current kindergarteners and reinforces the kindergarten curriculum by working on upper and lower case letters and number recognition, rhyming words, patterns,



art activities, and writing activities. The teachers look forward to additional growth in the New Year.

Christmas is a very special time for children filled with magic and wonder. We try to be as low-key as possible during the month of December to provide the children with a haven from the hustle and bustle of the season.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Nancy Monahan



Mother's Morning Out

The Mother's Morning Out students are settled into school and thriving! We are celebrating turkeys and more turkeys in our art projects. Did you know you can make a turkey out of your footprint? You can only imagine the fun we have had painting our feet for craft time. December is a short month for us, we will be thinking about evergreen trees and winter animals. Our circle time will be filled with instruments and the bells are one of our favorites!

Recently, MMO was represented at a Preschool Open House, and I have already

begun giving tours to families for next year. The good news of our program has been spreading, thanks to all of you who recommend us to your friends and neighbors. We will begin registration for the 2015-2016 school year January 1st.



Amy Crandall

Director, MMO
anbc@optonline.net

Winter Upcoming Events



By Diane Van Patten, UMW Co-President

Advent Luncheon
Wednesday, December 16
Rodda Hall - 11:30 a.m.



Please bring a wrapped Christmas ornament or decoration valued at no more than \$10 for our gift exchange.

All women are invited to be part of UMW. Join a Circle or just come to UMW gatherings. Whatever level of involvement you want to have, you are welcome!

Chatham United Methodist Church

Blue Christmas ~ a Worship Service of Comfort and Hope

Saturday, December 5th, at 3:30 pm

A Blue Christmas service is a time to acknowledge the “blue” feelings that surrounds Christmas for some of us, a time to remember the reason for those feelings and a time to offer those feelings to God. This service offers a haven for people who desire a special touch from God during the holidays, and promises to be a time of quiet meditation and worship, candle-lighting, contemplative readings, singing, and prayer. We invite you to join us this Christmas season for a time of comfort and rest.

Our Blue Christmas Service will be followed by light refreshments and shared fellowship. Our prayer is that you will find peace and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Please join us, bring a friend.



Stephen Ministers Care



The Sarah Circle will meet on **December 1 at 9:30 am** in the Asbury Room.

The Rebecca Circle will meet for a Christmas Social on **December 2 at Priscilla's**

Cookies4Life!

When: Sunday, December 13, 2015 4:00 -7:00 pm. Come anytime for as long as you like!

Who: Young children through senior citizens; All are welcome!

What: Receiving and decorating cookies for inmates and staff of the Morris County Correctional Facility as part of their annual Chaplaincy Christmas Gift Program

Where: Rodda Hall and Kitchen

Why: It's fun! It's a time for fellowship! It's a way of sharing God's love! And because Jesus told us to: "I was in prison, and you cared for me"

We Need: You! ... and ...**Lots of plain sugar cookies**, preferably home-made...**Lots of cans of white frosting...Lots of sprinkles, colored sugar, other cookie decorating items**

Questions? Contact Associate Pastor Sharon Yarger at 973-635-3105

MUSIC NOTES

by Peter Hill



Our fall season of music at Chatham UMC has been in full swing and as we enter the season of Advent we will continue with beautiful music! During the month of December, the Praise Band will lead music for the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 6th, the Covenant Choir will perform special music with the Wesley Ringers on Sunday, December 13th for both services, and the Youth Musicians will perform for the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 22nd. For our Christmas Eve services on Thursday, December 24th, our Youth Musicians will lead the family-friendly service at 5:00 p.m. and the Covenant Choir with Sooh Na as soloist and Ron Yarger on Flute will lead music for the 8:00 p.m. service of lessons and carols. Come and hear our fantastic music leaders of the congregation throughout

December and for our Christmas Eve services!

This program season I have been talking to our musicians about a question: "how do you find the sacred in the secular?" As Pastor Jeff and I have been thinking about growing our congregation and reaching out to the community around us, I have been thinking about growing our canon of sacred music. A canon is a group of pieces that have meaning. And our canon of sacred music that we sing and perform in our sanctuary can grow and expand to include new music. Our Youth Musicians have been begun talking about popular songs in which they find the sacred and holy. I have also spoken to our adult musicians and the church council and we have discussed how this question can help us, as members of a Christian community, understand what the holy and sacred means for us in our world today. I invite you, as members of the

congregation, to listen to music, both sacred and secular, both in our sanctuary and outside it, absorb the text, and ask: "what about this music makes me understand the sacred and feel the holy?" Music is a medium in which we can "hear" many things: emotions, ideas, as well as our thoughts about God and how we fit in this church community and our world. Thinking about the music that we sing in our sanctuary is as important as how we sing it. As we continue our program season and enter the Spring, you will hear our musicians perform pieces that will be meaningful to us; I believe that you will "hear" the meaning for you as well.

All are welcome in our music ministry! If you would like to find out more about the ideas above or become part of our amazing group of musicians, please contact me at 530-574-7539 or petepiano@mac.com



USHERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Pastor Jeff's office, or contact Amy Ball.



THANK YOU KATE AND SHERI!

And everyone who worked so hard to make our Fall Rummage Sale Another Success !!!

All expenses are not in as yet, but it appears we will have cleared over \$6,500. UMW is able to help so many organizations with the funds received from our Rummage Sales.



Here are pictures from our recent **Sunday Afternoon Tea** where we were able to give a donation to *Jersey Battered Women's Service*.

JOIN THE CUMAC CONVERSATION

It's wonderful that CUMC supports CUMAC through our Missions budget, and that we're continuously collecting and delivering food. There are even more ways for us to partner with CUMAC in ministry to hungry families. Pastor Sharon and a group of CUMC folks will be meeting soon to discern and take action on how we can become more intentionally and actively involved with CUMAC. To join us, contact Pastor Sharon Yarger at the church office or at scyarger@optonline.net.



Chatham United Methodist Church**460 Main Street****Chatham, NJ 07928****RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

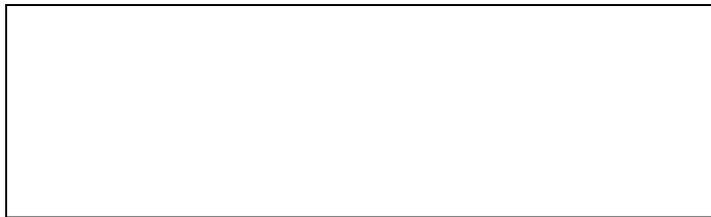
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**The CUMC Ministry Team**

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Lay Leaders: Loren Taylor & Peggy Melvin

Finance & Office Manager: Ana Wahidy

Youth & Children's Ministry: Karen Berry

Seminary Intern: Micah Coleman Campbell

Simpson Seminarian: Seongsoo Kim

Simpson Seminarian: Sooah Na

Music Ministry: Peter Hill

Organist: Yang-Hee Song

Secretary: Heather Stober

Communications Administrator: Sarah Mercuri

Sexton: Donald Underhill

Pastor: Rev. Jeff Markay

Associate Pastor: Rev. Sharon Yarger

~ OUR MISSION ~

To Celebrate the Good News by

Empowering all to follow Christ,**Equipping** all to do what is just,**Encouraging** all to show loving kindness,**Energizing** all to walk humbly with God.**Mark Your Calendars & Keep in Prayer****December 1:** Sarah Circle**December 1:** Church & Society Committee Meeting**December 2:** Rebecca Circle**December 5:** Blue Christmas**December 6:** Alternative Gifts Fair**December 6:** Advent Gathering at Pastor Jeff's**December 8:** Abigail Circle**December 8:** Church Council Meeting**December 9:** Taizé Prayer Service**December 13:** Cookies for Life**December 14:** Deadline for Circuit Rider Submissions**December 15:** Trustees Meeting**December 16:** UMW Planning Meeting/Luncheon**December 17:** Labyrinth Walk**December 24:** Christmas Eve Services 5:00 & 8:00pm**December 24-25:** Office Closed**December 27:** One Worship Service at 10:00 amThe **January Circuit Rider submissions** deadline is**Monday, December 14.** Please send all articles and

announcements to the church office:

chatumc@optonline.net.