

Chatham United Methodist Church

CIRCUIT RIDER

www.chathamumc.com

JANUARY 2016

973-635-7740 ~ chatumc@optonline.net

In this issue...

•	Lonton	Small	Grouns	n 5
•	Lenten	Small	Utrollins	ກລ

- ♦ Church Council, p.6
- ♦ Music Notes, p.10

Regular Features:

Pastor's Pen	2
Congregational Care	3
Lectionary	4
Spiritual Formation	4
Youth & Kids	7
Nursery/MMO	8
UMW	9
Community News	11



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.



WHITE GIFTS

Epiphany Sunday, January 3, 2016

Sunday January 3, 2016 is the Epiphany of the Lord. This year we will continue a long tradition here at CUMC by celebrating Epiphany with the Three Kings as they bring their gifts to Baby Jesus. And as a symbolic gesture, we invite you to bring gifts



wrapped in white paper to be laid at the altar and donated to the least, the lost, and the last among us.

This year CUMC has named Morristown-base Our Promise as the recipient of our Epiphany White Gifts Giving. In addition to monetary donations, there is a wish list of the following items which may be donated at the White Gifts Epiphany Service:

Adult Socks & Underwear, Gloves, Hats, Scarves, Rain Ponchos, Flashlights, Batteries—all sizes, Laundry Detergent (HE, Pods, Tossins, Packs), Hand Soap, Hand Sanitizer & Wipes, Shampoo & Conditioner, Shaving Cream, Feminine Hygiene Products, Deodorant, Toothpaste and Toothbrushes, Small and Large Garbage Bags, Large Contractor Garbage Bags, Paper Towels and Toilet paper, Reusable Shopping Bags. MOST WELCOME ITEMS – Wal-Mart Gift Cards, Food Store Gift Cards, Rite Aid Gift Cards, Guests are provided with the use of computers to assist them in their search for employment, housing and other day to day activities. These products will assist them. Copy Paper, Stamps, #10 White Envelopes.

Please bring the items above wrapped in white, or your monetary donations in a white envelope to CUMC or the White Gifts Service. All contributions will be safely and lovingly delivered at both the 9:00 and 11:00AM services.



The Pastor's Pen Rev. Jeff Markay revjmarkay@earthlink.net

"Jesus taught them this scripture,

'My temple shall be a house of prayer for all people.'"

- Jesus quoting Isaiah in Mark 11 -

Dear Friends,

As I write, much of the world seems under the threat of random and targeted violence and tactics of fear and intimidation. Beirut, Paris, San Bernardino, Kabul are only a few cities that have been victimized recently by terror perpetrated by fundamentalist, ideological, violent and immature young people who call themselves Muslim. Judaism and Christianity are not exempt from such violent misguided fanatics who discredit the name of our faith in our own traditions. The terror and violence caused by people over the years who have called themselves Christian is staggering as well. Evil rears its ugly head in equal measure from various religious expressions, when the belief system is rigid, unable to accept difference, and convinced of its own right-ness. I thank God that Jesus, never called his followers to be right. He called us to follow Jesus, as healers and peacemakers bringing compassion and love to a broken and hurting world.

The closer we become to Christ, the more naturally we open our hearts and temples to others. The more we are led by the Holy Spirit, the less fearful we are of those who are different than we are. If evil and rigid fundamentalism wants to divide by fear and distrust, then God is working to find people from all faith traditions who can be unwavering in our love for God and for neighbor, working together to care for the Common Good of all of God's people, and all of God's creation. I thank God to be serving in the Chatham UMC where this goal of bringing people together for the Common Good, is shared by so many in our congregation and greater community.

I invite you to invite your friends, especially if they are from another faith tradition, to come to Chatham UMC on Monday, January 25, 2016 from 12Noon-2PM for our Third Annual Interfaith Abraham Lunch. This is an opportunity for us as Jews of good will, Christians of good will, and Muslims of good will, to come together to enjoy a delicious lunch of Turkish food provided by the Peace Islands Institute. Salad and Kosher items will also be offered to make this luncheon accessible for all. Our three speakers from each of the Abrahamic traditions will discuss the topic: Peace-Makers in the 21^{st} Century from our Jewish, Christian and Muslim Traditions.

I hope you will pray for this event, that God might use it to be a glimmer of light in the darkness, an expression of hope in the midst of despair, and a warm welcome to all people, in the midst of fear and distrust.

Please let me know if you would like to help our Chatham UMC Board of Church and Society in helping provide hospitality and welcome at this event. The sign up sheet for lunch is across the hall from my office. We have room for 100 people. I hope you can come.

Wishing you and the world, Peace, Shalom, Salaam,

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.

When you read this, the celebrations of Christmas and New Year's will be drawing to a close. A new year, with all its promise and hope, lies before us. So too, however, do the dreary days of winter. Sometimes we experience the days and weeks following the holidays as a let-down, leaving us feeling empty, dreary, and cold on the inside.

In my daily devotional reading I've encountered grace-filled words from the book *Prayer* by Mother Frances Dominica: "We think of God in the dramatic things, the glorious sunsets, the majestic mountains, the tempestuous seas; but God is in the little things too, in the smile of a passer-by or the gnarled hands of an old man, in a daisy, a tiny insect, falling leaves. God is in music, in laughter, and in sorrow too. And the grey times, when monotony stretches out ahead, these can be times of steady, solid growth into God." If grey, monotonous days seem to stretch out ahead for you, may they be such a time – "of steady, solid growth into God."

New Year's Blessings to you,

Sharon

"Thoughts on Time" (based on those found in some recent Official United Methodist Program Calendars)

As we look at our 2016 calendars we see mostly empty spaces. When we arrive at year's end, will those spaces show us to have been good stewards of the time with which God gifts and entrusts us? Many of us keep our past calendars as a reference for events that sometimes slip from our memories. They also may be seen as an investment record: Where did I invest the days God gave me in the past year? What lives did I touch? What words of hope did I speak? In what ministries did I participate? The psalmist encourages us to "count our days that we may gain a wise heart." (Ps. 90:12) So we invite you to look back at 2015 and "count your days." As we prepare to receive the gift of these new days from God, may we be granted a wise heart. We will make choices and decisions that will determine what will fill the now-blank spaces. May we prayerfully consider the following questions on the use of time:

Will time set aside for speaking and listening to God and reading God's word be an unbreakable appointment?

- Will worship and learning as part of the faith community be a priority?
- What will we do/not do to make our time, talents, and treasure available for ministry?
- What will we do beyond the walls of the church building that will show we are disciples of Jesus Christ?

Time is a treasure. May we all use it wisely and well!

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Taizé Prayer Wednesday, January 13, 2016 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.



Weekly Noontime Bible Study on Acts Resumes on Monday, January 4, 2016 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Whether you're brand-new to the Bible, or know it inside and out, you're welcome to join co-facilitators Pastor Sharon and Su Jung Shin in a lively and thought-provoking look at the New Testament Book of Acts. We're following 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 bag lunch or snack, and a friend! We meet each Monday from noon — 1:30 pm in Room 7.

Questions? Contact Associate Pastor Sharon Yarger at the church office or at scyarger@optonline.net.



Lectionary for January

January 1, 2016

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

January 3, 2016

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (*UMH 795*); Ephesians 3:1-12;

Matthew 2:1-12

January 10, 2016

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29 (UMH 761); Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17, 2016

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10 (UMH 771); I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 24, 2016

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19 (*UMH 750*); 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a;

Luke 4:14-21

January 31, 2016

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6 (UMH 794); 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Special Church Conference

Rev. Manuel Sardinas, District Superintendent of the Gateway North District, has authorized Rev. Jeff Markay to preside over a Special Church Conference on January 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The sole purpose of this meeting is to have the SPRC presenting Sooah Na and Seongsoo Kim to be approved as candidates for ordained ministry. No other business is authorized to be considered.



Lenten Small Groups - You're Invited!

Lent – already?? Yes, believe it or not, the holy season of Lent 2016 begins with Ash Wednesday on February 10, and will be here before we know it! We're excited to again offer the opportunity to grow in faith and deepen our relationships with

God and one another by being part of a small group. More information will be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, we encourage you to prayerfully consider participating in a Lenten Small Group.



LITURGISTS & USHERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

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

Alternative Gifts Fair 2015

We would like to extend a very big thank you to all of our vendors, volunteers, bakers and visitors for contributing to a successful Alternative Gift Fair on December 6. The spirit of Christmas was everywhere in Rodda Hall as people shopped and enjoyed some delicious items from the bake sale with friends. Even better, over \$4,500 was raised by the sale of merchandise or donations to aid the following causes:



Heifer International • SERVV HOCW • Jolin Food Boxes for Family Promise • St. Hubert's Animal Welfare • Benefiting Benjamin, our sponsored student in Rwanda • RISE These organizations have expressed their thanks as well for our support. With gratitude,

Barbara Babbitt and Bonnie Srygley

Church Council Begins New Year

Church Retreats

What does it mean to you to be part of a church community?

What is your vision of the church and of Chatham UMC in particular?

How do we move toward that together?

And how do you—personally—impact what we do collectively as a congregation?

These are profound and essential questions, but we have precious few opportunities to engage with each other about them.

There are many committees at Chatham UMC who make plans, lead projects, and keep our church running. Those meetings are important, but they're often already filled up with logistics and pressing decisions. The bigger questions must often be put off in order to deal with immediate needs and obligations.

What to do?

Let's eat some bagels.

On Saturday, January 23, 2016, come be a part of the conversation. From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., we'll meet in the Asbury Room for a mini-church retreat. Roll out of bed and come to the church for your morning coffee and a nosh and, while you're at it, let's have some conversation about Chatham UMC. This is a chance for each one of us to participate in shaping our church. Stay for the whole time, or come and go as you need. But whatever you do, please come.

Come be a part of it.

If you have questions, interest or wisdom to share, please contact the leadership of our Church Council: Barbara Babbitt, Futurist. Kate Davis, Church Council Chair. Alex Strunc, Church Council Vice Chair.

3RD ANNUAL INTERFAITH ABRAHAM LUNCH Monday, January 25, 2016 12:00pm-2:00pm Rodda Hall

You are invited to the 3rd annual Abraham Lunch. Come for this delicious lunch of Turkish food provided by the **Peace Islands Institute** and hear speakers discuss Peace Makers of the 21st-Century from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim Traditions. Please register online at ChathamUmc.com. If you don't have a computer, you can sign-up on the bulletin board outside Pastor Jeff's office.

News for Youth & Kids

youthchatumc@optonline.net * 973.908.4474



It's the start of a New Year—a perfect time to jump into our activities for youth & kids!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15am - classes for PreK-grade 7 on lower level, Confirmation and High School classes on upper level

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

Tuesdays with Kids in 3rd-5th grade

4:00pm - Kids Bells (led by Peter)

4:30pm - Kids Fellowship (led by Karen)

Sundays with Youth

4:30pm - Junior Youth Fellowship (gr. 6-8) in youth lounge with Karen and Micah

5:45pm - Youth Choir (gr. 6-12) with Peter, Karen

6:30pm - Youth Bells (gr. 6-12) with Peter, Karen

7:15pm - Senior Youth Fellowship (gr. 9-12) in youth lounge with Karen, Micah, Craig

All Sunday Activities Resume January 3

Thanks to all who made the Advent and Christmas season so joyous and meaningful to all the children and youth (and me!) this year: Sunday School Teachers, Children's Church leaders, Pastor Jeff, Pastor Sharon, Peter, Sooah, Micah, Craig. I hope you enjoyed the special activities in December and relaxed with family and friends between Christmas and New Year's. On January 3 we'll return to our Sunday School classes and the regular routine of our Sunday Night music and fellowship activities. Looking forward to seeing lots of you there!



Junior Youth at December's Cookies4Life mission where over 500 cookies were decorated. Kate, Hannah, Karen Berry, Anna, Katie Hill.



"Kids Can" Change the World!

Hey Sunday School Kids—We can change the world by bringing in all the coins we can find

and collecting it in our "Kids Can". The change will help our friend Benjamin in Rwanda, Africa go to school so he can change his life. Exciting stuff!

We raised \$265 already at the Alternative Gifts Fair, thanks to Anna's efforts selling handmade ornaments and jewelry. Thanks, Anna! Our goal is to raise enough to cover one term (\$860) so start digging in the couch cushions or asking neighbors and relatives for some loose change!



Youth Opportunities

Jan. 3 — White Gifts, Youth Usher Sunday Jan. 3 — JYF/SYF resume

Jan. 13 — Taizé Prayer (start your new year with some calming music and prayer)

Jan. 18 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Jan. 23—Confirmation Dinner event Jan. 31—Open Mic Night

Looking ahead:

Feb. 9 — Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (RISE fundraiser)

Feb. 10-Ash Wednesday Service

NURSERY SCHOOL



We wish everyone a very Happy, Healthy New Year. We are happy to be back in school and the children are excited to be back and playing with their friends. We always see so much growth in so many ways as the new year starts.

Registration has begun for the 2016-2017 school year. If you are interested in a personal or group tour please call 973-635-5261 and ask for Director, Sue Maher. If you would like more information and an application please call the registrar, Katie Bealer at 973-635-6538.

Registration for the Kindergarten Enrichment for the 2016-2017 school

years will begin this month to coincide with kindergarten registration. The program is designed to complement your Kindergartener's school day. The program provides opportunities to develop skills essential for lifetime learning. If you are interested in learning more about this program or if you would like a personal tour, please call Director, Sue Maher at 973-635-5261. If you would like an application please call Katie Bealer at 973-635-6538.

In January the classrooms are transformed into a winter wonderland with lots of fun art experiences. The rooms are filled with snowmen, snowflakes, hats and mittens.

The Fours look forward to inviting their Dads for the annual Fathers' Breakfast which takes place on Saturday, January 23. It is so much fun for the children to bring their Dad to school and play and work on a special project together.

The Kindergarten Enrichment program has been reinforcing the kindergarten curriculum by working on upper/lower case letters and number recognition, rhyming words, patterns, art activities, class book pages and high frequency words. We look forward to additional growth in the new year and it is so nice to see some of our alumni children return for this class.

Enjoy the beauty of the season!

Nancy Monahan

Mother's Morning Out

Happy 2016 from Mother's Morning Out! Snowflakes and snowmen are filling up our craft table this month. We will spend time on our playground if the weather allows. We love to get some fresh air but, if we can't be on our playground we will be upstairs running around in Rodda

nd the Hall is ready for

Hall. Thanks to Donald for always making sure the walkways are clear and the Hall is ready for playtime too!

We began registration for the 2016-2017 school year on January 1st. If you know anyone interested in a preschool environment that is loving and caring for toddlers 18 months to 3 years, we would love to have them. I am more than happy to answer any questions about our program or give a tour. Just send me an email! Also, you can find quite a bit of information on the CUMC website including registration materials.

Any Crandall, Director, MMO

anbc@optonline.net



By Diane Van Patten, UMW Co-President

United Methodist Women

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church has declared that "In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women" (The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008, 256.5).

Purpose of United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

How has UMW at CUMC been living out our purpose?

Circle Meetings, Advent Luncheon, Spring Salad Luncheon, Dessert Gathering, Afternoon Tea, Speakers, Rummage Sale, Supporting the following missions in 2015:

Drew Women's Scholarships (30th year)

Bristol Glen

UMCOR

CUMC Youth to RISE

Future with Hope

CUMAC/ECHO

Benjamin's Fund

Chatham Emergency Squad

Community Soup Kitchen

Interfaith Food Pantry

Jersey Battered Women's Services

Greater NJ District UMW

As we begin a New Year let us ask for God's presences with us so that we are able to continue to do the mission work to which we are called.

2015 The Giving Tree - THANK YOU

The CUMC Youth would like to thank the church for being so generous in giving for our annual *Christmas Giving Tree* for the children at CUMAC. This year we gave wonderful gifts for over 25 children ages 9 months to 14 years old. We were also able to make an additional donation to CUMAC for their use. It could not have be

an additional donation to CUMAC for their use. It could not have been accomplished without you! The generosity of this congregation is wonderful!

The church responded with your gifts, and donations which enabled us to give lovely items such as remote control cars, high chairs, learning toys, adventure toys, clothes, shoes, popular dolls, sports supplies, character action figures, gift cards and much more. These loving gifts enabled these 25 children to enjoy the gifts of Christmas – as we enjoyed the gift of giving Christmas! Thinking of others is what makes this congregation so special! **Thank you and God Bless You.**

The Middle School Youth and David and Becky Meyer

MUSIC NOTES

by Peter Will

The music program here at CUMC had a wonderful Fall and now we are looking ahead to the Winter and Spring! There is much to look forward to:

Sunday, January 31st at 5:30 p.m.: **Open Mic Night** led by our Youth Musicians and open to all who would like to sing, play, or share a talent with us! A light supper will accompany the performances: all benefits will go toward the RISE program.

Sunday, March 27th for both 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services the Covenant Choir and Youth Singers will combine forces to sing joyous music for **Easter Sunday**!

Sunday, May 1st at 5:00 p.m. Our fantastic organist, Yang-Hee Song will perform a **Recital of Organ Music**: solo organ, with keyboards four-hands, and Yang-Hee will play organ for two anthems sung by our Covenant Choir joining forces with the Masterwork

Camerata!

Sunday, May 15th for the 9:00 a.m. service the **Drew University Chorale** will travel to Chatham UMC to sing anthems in the service before they leave on their Spring Tour.

This Winter and Spring, I will also continue to explore finding the sacred in the quotidian things of life with our musicians: thinking about our daily routines, thinking about the music we hear on the radio, thinking about how we see the world, and connecting those things to the music we sing within the walls of our sanctuary. Barbara Brown Taylor said in her book, An Altar in the World: "Whoever you are, you are human. Whoever you are, you live in the world, which is just waiting for you to notice the holiness in it." The

sacred is all around us and the music that comes out of us is a way of opening up space to find it.

Our Covenant Choir,
Wesley Ringers, Youth
Singers and Ringers, Kid's
Bell Choir, Sunday School
Music, and the Kenaniah
Praise Band continue to
participate in services
throughout each month.
New musicians are always
welcome to join the music
program; for more
information contact me at
petepiano@mac.com. Join
our music community!

Cookies4Life THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who donated cookies and to the thirty-plus people who baked and decorated cookies at our *Cookies4Life* event on Sunday, December 13. Thanks to your faithful efforts we were

able to provide about **950 cookies** to the Morris County Correctional Facility Chaplaincy Program's 2015 Christmas Gift Collection. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Jesus said, "I was in prison and you came to me ... Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:36 and 40; *The Message*)



Save the Date!! Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Youth RISE team invites you to mark your calendar to celebrate **Shrove Tuesday** (the day before the 40 day fasting period in Lent) with a traditional **Pancake Supper!** There will be pancakes, of course, there will be **pancake races** for all ages, and Pastor Jeff will lead us in some rituals with palms that we'll burn to make ashes for the Ash Wednesday service. It promises to be an evening of

fun for all with teachable moments about **Ash Wednesday**, **Lent**, and some of our Christian practices during this season.

When: Tuesday, February 9, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Where: CUMC's Rodda Hall



Abigail Circle

Meets at 7:30pm the 2nd Tuesday of every month at church.

Contact: Helen Bryant, 973-377-4586 or email bryantpine@aol.com

Elizabeth Circle

Meets irregularly/ occasionally, usually at night (most of the group works during the day) and often with spouses.

Contact: Corkie Ziegler, 973-635-9667, corkiez@yahoo.com, or Sheri Omelczuk at msgomel@gmail.com

Rebecca Circle

Meets the 1st Tuesday evening of every month, sometimes in member homes.

Next Mtg:

Wednesday, January 6 at Anne's, for book review of *Little Women*.

Contact: Dot Dunn, 973-635-7599 or email dunn45@gmail.com

Sarah Circle

Meets at 9:30am on the 1st Tuesday of every month at church. *Will not* meet this month.

Contact: Nan Canfield, 973-635-2408, or email shipyard@verizon.net

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UNION, NJ
PERMIT NO. 1017

The CUMC Ministry Team

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation Lay Leaders: Loren Taylor & Chris Fillimon 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

January 5: Church & Society Committee Meeting

January 6: Rebecca Circle - meeting at Anne's

January 7: Nursery School Board Meeting

January 11: Deadline for Circuit Rider Submissions

January 12: Abigail Circle

January 13: Taizé Prayer Service

January 20: UMW Planning Meeting/Luncheon January 23: Nursery School Dad's Breakfast

January 23: Church Council Meeting

January 25: Abraham Lunch

January 30: Men's Group Meeting

January 31: Youth Musicians Open Mic Night

The **February Circuit Rider submissions** deadline is **Monday, January 11, 2016.** Please send all articles and announcements to the church office:

chatumc@optonline.net.