

THE OPEN DOOR

United Methodist Church of the Open Door - Kennett Square

October/November Newsletter

Coming Up in Worship.

Oct. 15th - Hispanic Heritage Sunday & Flood Buckets for Hurricane Relief

Oct. 22nd - Baptism and Reception of New Members

Oct. 29 - Animal Blessing

Nov. 5 - All Saints Communion Brunch

Nov. 12 - Worship and Turtle Island trip

Nov. 19 - Native American Sunday

Nov. 26 - Worship and decorating after worship for Advent/Christmas season

Leadership Team Meeting - Wednesday Nov. 1st. 7 p.m. (via Zoom)

**Saturday - Oct. 14
Men's Group meets Creek Side Diner 7 a.m.**



State of the Church Report from Pastor Lydia

It has been my great privilege and blessing to be appointed to Church of the Open Door last July 2016. There are not many pastors that I know that can say with certainty that they have been appointed to the perfect fit, but I know that I can. UMCOD has been indeed a blessing to be appointed to and my great joy to consider myself part of the leadership of this beautiful community of faith. I am grateful for the dedication and leadership of UMCOD's leadership team and their willingness to follow where I feel God is leading us.

This year, UMCOD has been undergoing a process of change and transformation as we explore ways of fulfilling our vision and mission of being an intentionally diverse, multicultural, and inclusive congregation in the community of Kennett Square.

The first area that we have begun the process of transformation is in the area of our worship experience. This year we have begun to develop and implement a music and worship team to help lead the congregation in expanding our worship experience to become more emergent, exploring different modalities of rituals mixing ancient church with contemporary worship. We have also added

a strong component of global worship in order to help the congregation vision statement match its worship experience of being intentionally diverse and multicultural. This has been a stretching point to sing in other languages, and use other worship expressions. The congregation has been receptive to wherever the worship team leads it and willing participants in following the lead of the Spirit in our worship experience.

The second area we have been undergoing transformation is in our leadership structure. We have moved from the traditional structure of administrative council to the development of a Leadership Team and Common Table. Our leadership team is composed of everyone who is in leadership and representing ministries in the life of the church and the community. We use this structure in order to make the administration the ministry and witness of UMCOD.

Our Common Table is an opportunity for us to open the conversation with key community leaders so that we are aware of the communities needs. One of the ways that this has happened has been by participating in several community boards and organizations. Our leadership has presence on MLK Advocates, MLK Board, LGBTQ Equality Alliance, and LCH (La Comunidad Hispana). We are continuing to explore ways to expand this common table so that we can always have a pulse on the community and its voice.

The third area we have been developing is the area of discipleship and small group ministries. Working with retired clergy, Rev. Owen Owens, I have developed a training for facilitators of small groups that will begin to be implemented this October. This training is specifically designed so that small group facilitators can reach out their own neighbors and friends to come to an invitational, safe and no pressure space where they can explore topics relevant in their daily life and how they intersect with faith. These small groups are not for the membership of the congregation but specifically targeting unchurched and new people who do not know the ministry of UMCOD and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Both of our Deacons continue to serve faithfully at UMCOD with their gifts and graces. I am grateful for their gifts and graces. Deacon Deborah has shifted slightly her focus from outreach to focus on social justice ministries as we have committed to enter into Methodist Federation for Social Action Justice Seeking Congregation. I am glad that she is our liaison for this important program bringing us information and calls to action from saving the Affordable Care Act to advocating on behalf of DACA recipients.

Deacon Susan has spent some time in discernment, will be leading a ministry with persons in our congregation who are in a transition period in their lives such as retirement and older age. Transitional Life Stage Ministry will be offered not only for members of our congregation but also out in the community to engage them in this important time in life. We are grateful for the ministries that each of our deacons provide in our congregation and in our community and I am blessed to call them my colleagues in ministry.

As I observe the congregation throughout this year, some of the challenges that we face for growth is the following.

1. **Children and Family Ministries** - SPRC has been working hard at trying to respond to the needs of our children and families with young children.

It has been difficult to cover this ministry with volunteers primarily because the volunteers that we have are burned out since they have been doing it for several years without a break. We are intentionally trying to restructure our budget so instead of getting volunteers as the only resource we hire two children's coordinators that will engage with families to build up a volunteer team that supports each other and the ministry of the children of UMCOD, and can reach out to the children in our community.

2. **5 year strategic planning** - We began our year with a retreat to begin to put together a strategic plan moving forward. However, the reality is that there is still residual effects from the past that continues to surface among the leadership, and resistance to some of the change that needs to be made and a lack of trust in each other. This will continue to take time to work on in order to build a healthy leadership team. Some of that change includes some leadership needs to transition off in order to allow for new leadership to emerge.

3. **Developing a strong stewardship plan** - For a long time UMCOD had combined the trustees and finance team together because it was convenient since there was a smaller group of leaders. However, the problem is that then the Finance team is only working on resolving problems that arise as opposed to creating opportunities to enhance the giving of the community. I want the leadership team to work with the finance team in order to develop a plan of stewardship that will strengthen the finances of our congregation and engage in the community to discover other streams of income.

I am confident that we have the tools and the leadership to overcome these challenges because I know that all of the leadership of this congregation are committed and passionate about the mission and vision of UMCOD. God has called us to be a unique and alternative community of faith that challenges that statistics and the status quo and to be a witness of a beloved community and to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. I am honored to be among you.

Peace and Justice!

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage with Nosotros!

Once again we will be celebrating Latinos and their contribution to our diversity and strength. Come and join us for a great worship experience and opportunity to practice your Español and eat some great food. We will also be putting together some flood buckets for the ongoing effort to provide much needs supplies for the people of Puerto Rico and USVI. Join us on Oct. 15th

Here is the list of the things that are needed for the flood buckets:

Cleaning Kit Materials

- 5-gallon round bucket with resealable lid

- Buckets from fast-food restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned
- Do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner
- Advertisements on the outside are acceptable
- No square buckets (Only round buckets are used to ensure proper stacking during transportation)
- Liquid laundry detergent
 - One 50-oz. or two 25-oz. bottle(s) only
- Liquid household cleaner
 - 12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water
 - No spray cleaners
- Dish soap
 - 16-28 oz. bottle any brand
- 1 can air freshener
 - Aerosol or pump
- 1 insect repellent spray
 - 6-14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover
- 1 scrub brush
 - Plastic or wooden handle
- 18 cleaning wipes
 - Handi Wipes or reusable wipes
 - No terry cleaning towels
 - Remove from packaging
- 7 sponges
 - No cellulose sponges due to mold issues
 - Remove from wrapper
- 5 scouring pads
 - Remove from wrapper
 - No stainless steel, Brillo pads, or SOS pads (nothing with soap built in)
- 50 clothespins
- Clothesline

- One 100-ft. or two 50-ft. lines
- Cotton or plastic
- 24-roll heavy-duty trash bags
 - 33- to 45-gallon sizes
 - Remove from the box
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pairs kitchen dishwashing gloves
 - Should be durable enough for multiple uses
 - Remove from packaging
- 1 pair work gloves
 - Cotton with leather palm or all leather



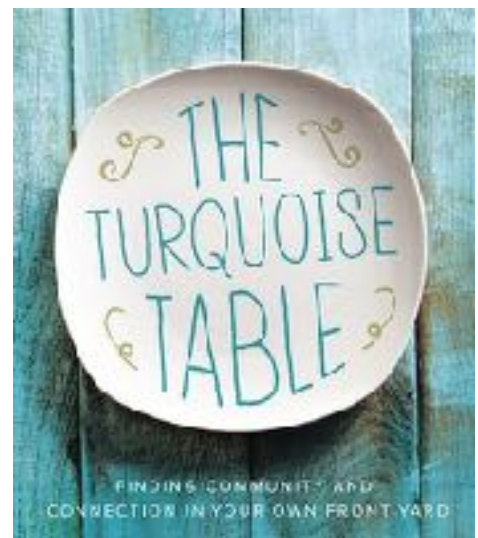
Animal Blessing - October 29

Bring your dog, cat, parrot, iguana...any of your pets for one of my favorite worship experiences! The Blessing of our Pets! Pets are like family. They love us unconditionally, they are the most loyal and faithful and they are a gift from God. When we take care of them we are expressing our love to God and our thanksgiving. As A. A. Milne said, author of Winnie the Pooh, "Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem! P.S. Just give a warning if you're bring-

ing a snake...yikes! All Creatures of our God and King

Developing small groups is one of the best ways for us to connect with our neighbors and to grow our community of faith. Starting this Sunday after worship you can come and learn how to be a small group facilitator and we will be using some of the material from the nationally acclaimed program called The Turquoise Table. This was developed by Christine McCormick who wanted to get to know her neighbors so she literally put a turquoise picnic table on her front yard and invited people to stop by. It changed her life forever. Come and join Pastor Lydia and Bro. Owen Owens as we go through some basic steps to develop small groups.

Oct. 8th, Nov. 5th





Church trip to Camp Innabah to celebrate with CoNAM (Committee on Native American Ministries) on Sunday Nov. 12th

CoNAM leaders will share recently acquired knowledge about the infamous Doctrine of Discovery and lead attendees in a participatory exercise titled "The Loss of Turtle Island." The provocative experience dynamically portrays the historic, troubling relationship between European, Christian settlers, convinced of their presumed superiority and sovereignty, and Indigenous nations who originally inhabited the land we now know as America. It all starts at 4 p.m. so we will leaving from Church at 3 p.m. We need carpoolers as much as possible.



Join us **November 19th** to celebrate the ministry and contributions of our Native American sisters and brothers! We will have special guest with us to remember the stories and to share a special gift that will go toward scholarships provided for Native American college students.

In the wake of the Las Vegas shooting, Politicians are once again saying,"their prayers and thoughts" are with the victims and their families. But hiding behind prayer while obstructing all meaningful effort to prevent gun violence is blasphemy.

As Christians we believe that prayers transforms lives, we must demand that our political and religious leaders take bold steps to tackle the national epidemic of gun violence.

http://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/vegas_prayers?referring_akid=1061.511737.51f1b1

Christmas Cards for Inmates project returns

Can you imagine how it would feel to be separated from your friends and loved ones at Christmas? Inmates who are incarcerated can find it difficult to maintain connections with important people in their lives. At holidays, their distance and the pain of absence can be felt most deeply.

Last year, thanks to your efforts, over 8,000 Christmas cards with brief handwritten notes of caring encouragement were provided to inmates in 10 correctional facilities in Eastern PA. This year, through a simple, signed Christmas card, you can again share the spirit of Christmas and a powerful message of God's love with persons who are incarcerated.

For more information, see Deacon Deborah.

- **Children's Ministry at Open Door is seeking to hire 2 children coordinators!**

Must be 18 or older, clearances and some experience (although we are willing to train)

Please contact church office for more information and how to apply

October/November Calendar of Events

Oct. 15 - Hispanic Heritage Sunday & Flood Bucket Hurricane Maria Relief

Oct. 22 - Baptism and New Reception

Oct. 29 - Animal Blessing

Nov. 5th - All Saints Communion Brunch

Nov. 12th - Worship and Loss of Turtle Island trip to Camp Innabah

Nov. 19th - Native American Sunday

Nov. 26th - Last Sunday before the beginning of Advent Season - Decorating the Church

We invite you to check out the updates we have made on our web page, follow up on FaceBook and now you can follow us on Twitter!!