

THE OPEN DOOR

United Methodist Church of the Open Door - Kennett Square

Coming Up in Worship - Sermon Series: *Christ is Risen: Now What?*

April 15 Easter 3:

Strange Discoveries

April 22 Easter 4: ***Sheep!***

April 29 Easter 5: ***Got Fruit?!***

May 6 Easter 6: ***Communion***

Brunch - We are called

Friends

May 13 Easter 7: ***When God***

Prays

May 20: ***Pentecost!***

***Celebrate the Diversity of
the Spirit and the Birth of
the Church!***

Other News:

CHURCH WIDE WORSHIP AND PICNIC!

Let's get together at New Garden Park on **Sunday, May 27th at 10:30** for outdoor worship and then a fun picnic! Bring a great side dish and/or dessert, Open Door will provide the meat! Games for every age. Invite a Friend!

A Word from the Pastor

Happy Easter everyone!

Although throughout the commercial world, Easter is only a one day celebration full of chocolate bunnies and ham dinners, for the Church, Easter is a season

that last for 50 days until Pentecost. That means 6 Sundays of journey with the resurrected Christ and his doubt-filled yet willing disciples, who have been asking the same question for over 2000 years: Christ is Risen; Now What?

That is the name of our new Eastertide series and its one that invites us to have discussion around this entire resurrection theology that we proclaim. Questions like, what's more important, to believe that Christ physically was raised from the dead or for us to live like the living embodiment of the resurrected Christ in the world proclaiming life where there is death? Questions like, what if I'm more like Thomas than I think, full of doubts but really longing to see Jesus? We are not alone with any of these questions. They have been a part of the Christian debate since the inspection of house/dinner worship experiences of the 1st century. One thing is clear; this discipleship journey is always surrounded by more questions than clear absolute answers, more challenges than easy rides, more moments of trial than joys. However, if we are willing we might be able to see signs of resurrection everywhere. I mean, who would have thought that a group of young children, with acne filled faces and cracking voices would draw the worlds attention





Open Door is celebrating our Pastor's birthday with a special fundraising effort for the work of recovery in Puerto Rico. The Methodist Church is providing comprehensive care throughout the island but specifically with the most vulnerable, single mothers caring for children with disabilities and their elderly parents. We invite you to join us. You can donate whatever you can online on our website, on our Facebook page, via text or send in a check to our address. Our goal is \$5,000! Pastor Lydia will be delivering the money personally as she pays a visit to her beloved island May 1st for her birthday. Let's make her birthday wish come true.

Thank You in Advance
Sisters Angela Ogunde and Kim Dent

**Women for Women first
Saturday of every month.
Check with Sis. Angela
for more details on the
next upcoming meeting**

to the issue of gun violence in our country. Its a resurrection moment! Who would have thought that women around the world, would find the strength and courage to tell their story of sexual assault and harassment that rocked the work place. Its a resurrection moment! Who knew that an unknown, rarely seen Mayor from the city of San Juan would call out the powers in Washington, DC to point out the racism and indifference toward the people of Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Its a resurrection moment! And who knew that a movie based on a marvel comic would make history and raise the heads of young black boys and girls around the world! Its a resurrection moment!

Resurrection is happening every day! In the struggle, in the pain, in the call for justice, in the board rooms, in the school rooms, in the hospital beds, in the streets. The call for new life that values dignity and decency over dollars and profit is sounding everywhere and if you don't see it, it might mean that you have not been involved enough or have not been willing to walk alongside others who are in the struggle. I dare you to live into the resurrection, and as you do that share with us what you see and find. Christ is Risen — Yes, indeed because you are the proof!!

Easter People, rise Up!

A Word of Thanks

Thanks to all who participated in Family Promise, to those who have been working on the Justice Seeking Team, and for those who participated in the Deacon's collection of Hygiene kits for UMCOR.

Deacon Deborah



This is a reminder of the next gathering of Living the Autumn Years: Finding Meaning and Purpose in Retirement. Every second Friday of the month at Liberty Place.

**For more info contact: Deacon Susan
rev.s.worrell@gmail.com**

Strategic Planning for Open Door

As we have reported in the past, the Leadership Team (formally known as the Administrative Council) has been embarking on a strategic planning journey since January of this year. We have been blessed with the presence of Dr. Hal Taussig who is a consultant for the Annual Conference as well as an international speaker and scholar on the development of the first century church, the New Testament and strategies for church development in the U.S. We are grateful because we cannot afford him, however he has been so gracious to practically donate his time to the Annual Conference and in particular to us.

So far we have had an entire retreat together to plan a process that will lead us toward a strategic plan and a working set of tasks for each of us in leadership to do, and we have already begun to draw an area of where we are and what is considered part of our community beyond Kennett Square proper. Since that initial retreat in January we have been looking more in depth at the demographics using a tool called MissionInsite that gives us a detailed look at who is around us, what are their lifestyles, and where might be possible target populations for us. We have committed to meeting every month for 2 hours to continue to look at these reports, which are very intentional and big! Part of our work, is going to be reaching out to each of you for more information and input. Be on the look out for some surveys that we will be preparing and other means of gathering information from you.

Lastly we want to say that the Finance Team and Trustees of the church are working on a proposal to consider another location for us as an interim while we continue with the strategic process. Our rent at this location is becoming a burden for us and our attendance and giving has decreased. Our heating bill has become astronomical and we continue to have ongoing issues with heating in this old and poorly insulated building.



Not to mention that we have always had an issue with parking. The Trustees and Finance Team agree that it is time for us to make some decisions if we are going to be good stewards of the faithful giving of UMCOD constituents. We want our giving to go to ministry and growth, not to a large overhead in building and heating. As we consider our options, your opinion is incredibly important. At some point, we will be having a church wide meeting to include a presentation on best possible scenarios and options as the Finance and Trustees continue to search and look for best choices for us.

These challenges should never be considered negatives, but rather opportunities. God is calling us to shift! Like Thomas we need to dare to leave the room that is locked whatever that circumstance is and step out, even if we are not sure or even if we are afraid. The truth is as our Brother Wesley said, "the best thing is that God is with us." Keep your leadership in your prayers and feel free to approach us and talk about your concerns and better yet your great ideas, we want to hear from you.

Moving Forward together



Thanks to those who participated in the A.C.T. Rally Against Racism in Washington DC!

From Deacon Susan!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17 - Intersections: Domestic Violence & Gun Violence St. Patrick Catholic Church at 7 p.m. 212 Meredith St.

April 18 - Finance/Trustee Zoom Meeting 7 p.m.

April 22 - Gun Violence Awareness Day following worship we will head out to Kennett Friends for an interfaith gathering at the T-shirt Memorial to the Lost and then have a community panel discussing ideas and perspectives on gun violence epidemic in our country. We start at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

April 29 - Leadership Team Meeting with Dr. Hal Taussig after worship.

April 30 - Pastor Lydia mission trip to PR for more information check out the pictures on the <https://www.facebook.com/methodistapr/> and an important video message from our partners at UMCOR

May 6 - Communion Brunch

Cinco de Mayo celebration - Casa Guanajuato they are looking for volunteers

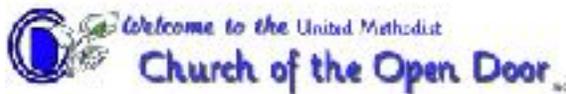
May 13 - Mother's Day

May 15-20 United Methodist Women Global Gathering in Ohio

May 20 - Pentecost!! We will have a special guest preacher..its a surprise!

May 27 - Church Wide Outdoor Worship and Picnic at New Garden Park

Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



An intentionally diverse, inclusive, welcoming and affirming congregation



Check us out on Facebook and our Website

Contact us at: office@umcod.org or call Pastor Lydia 215-687-1368