



The Messenger



Chalfont United Methodist Church * 11 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914-2810
Phone: (215) 822-2807 * e mail: office@chalfontumc.org

September/October/November 2022

CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT

Dear Friends,

In the United Methodist Church, the charge conference meets at least once a year and is responsible for recommending candidates for holy orders, establishing salaries for the pastor and staff, and evaluating the ministry of that parish church. All of these tasks were completed at the August meeting of the Administrative Council.

This year we are scheduled to participate in a joint charge conference with the following churches: Montgomery Square, Chalfont, Ambler Calvary, Jenkintown, and Telford Grace. Whenever there is a joint charge conference, then the actual work is done at the local church prior to the joint charge conference. The joint church conference is merely held to officially say that the work was done. The church council just submits a signed document to verify that the work has been completed. These type of charge conferences are usually a waste of time, and there is not much purpose for us to attend. Unfortunately for me, I have to attend. If anyone else is so bored that you also want to attend then let me know and I will forward you the information. **The joint charge conference will take place on November 12th.** Two of the reports that were submitted for charge conference (*the “Pastor’s State of The Church” report, and “Proposed 2023 Leadership Report”*) are both included in this issue of our Messenger newsletter. We continue to move forward in faith.

Love Always, Pastor Vicky

STATE OF THE CHURCH

At the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, Bishop Schol set as a goal; *“to grow the number of vital congregations from 25% to 35%.”* Vital congregations were identified as ones who meet three of the five markers unlined below. **Count on us to help the conference to meet its goal! As of July 31st, Chalfont meets four of the five markers, and we faithfully anticipate that we will meet all five markers by the end of year.** God keeps on blessing us! Chalfont members are responding to God’s call and are thus moving the church in a positive direction.

Disciples in Worship, worship attendance growth (*If the congregation showed growth over a three year period, by at least one worshipper. It achieved this vitality marker*) Attendance to worship increased at a steady pace over the last three years. Average attendance for years 2020 through the present year equals 44, 48 and 54 respectively.

Disciples in small groups: number of disciples in small groups; percentage of worshippers in small groups. (*If the congregation achieve 50%, it achieved this vitality marker*) Our average attendance to worship is 54. 40 out of 54 (74%) are engaged in small group ministries: 8 attend Thursday night Bible Study, 6 children attend Sunday School, 3 of our young worshippers participate in the youth group, 11 worshippers participate in the UMM annual hoagie sale, and 12 of our worshipers participate in UMW.

Disciples in hands on mission: number of disciples doing hands on mission. (*if 60% of worshippers engaged in mission, the congregation achieved this vitality marker*) **All of our mission work is done as seasonal or yearly events.** Our **vegetable garden ministry** grows and donates fresh vegetables to the patrons of the New Britain Food Larder each summer. Several times during the year we collect **donations for various groups.** (*Last year’s beneficiaries included United Methodist Neighborhood services, New Britain Food Larder, UMCOR, and a local clinic.*)

Our missional focus is to provide opportunities for the community to come together for healthy in person social interaction. In response to the pandemic lockdown, and the surge in the use technology to create online social media platforms, we began looking for ways to address the issues that stem from social isolation and the decline in face-to-face interaction. We organized three big **community events for children and youth** this year. Together with Montgomery Square, we hosted an Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween trail, and Substance Abuse Prevention event. (*Totaled together, these three activities attracted between 200–300 children.*) I can estimate that 33 out of our 54 worshippers (60%) hands on participated in making this mission happen. Chalfont members, from age 12 to 85 tend to show up full force whenever they are called on.

(continued on page 3)

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

New Address: The current address for **Nathalee Darde** is Hidden Meadows on the Ridge, 340 Farmer's Lane, # 320, Sellersville, PA 18960.

Condolences: To the family of **Betty Topley Jack** (who died on July 12). She was the wife of deceased member **Robert "Bob" Jack**.

Condolences: To **Kathy Wicks** and her family on the death of her husband, **Thomas Wicks**. Kathy was a member here for many years before moving.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the men at the church I'd like to extend a special thank you to the entire congregation for their strong support for this year's hoagie sale fund raiser. Your support is greatly appreciated. Also special thanks to everyone who helped. The turnout was very good as it usually is and the women who assisted were extremely helpful. Thanks ladies.

Here are the number of hoagies sold: 94 Turkey 139 Italian (233 total). Our profit was \$1381.00 which includes a number of donations (which really helped the bottom line). The proceeds will be put to good use as there are many projects planned for this year. Once again thank you very much,

Ed Schnell and the Men of CUMC

The Red Bird Mission thanks Chalfont United Methodist Church for their \$50.00 donation.

TRUSTEES

This has been a very busy year for the recently formed Trustees. Floods in the basement have forced them to do considerable throwing out/cleaning up in the church basement. And two new sump pumps are being installed and fixes to the gutters are happening in order to help solve this problem.

The most visible job organized by the Trustees has been the sanctuary carpet. This has been done in two stages. The first, of course, was the area around the pews. Now when you return on September 11, the altar area is also carpeted, the railings and pews removed. What you won't see is the days of work put into rewiring the audio/video system and organ. Many thanks to those who have dedicated themselves to doing this complex work.

The Trustees are currently proceeding with new projects including the installation of new windows in the parsonage, a new roof over the office and Family Life Center and several smaller projects.

The Trustees are the unsung heroes of CUMC. When they call for help from the congregation during work days it is important for others to respond (if they are able) so that we can keep our church in tip top shape.

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

(formerly the United Methodist Women)

On September 17th, the United Women of Faith will hold their first meeting of the fall. It will be a breakfast buffet at 10:00 am in the Family Life Center. (please bring a dish to share, if you can; beverages will be provided.)

The meeting is open to all the women of our church, so please join us. We will be discussing projects and mission work for the year. Ideas welcome!

We would like to thank everyone who attended our tea on May 14th. We appreciate your support and donations allowing us to continue our work in missions. Free will donations were in the amount of \$775.00 plus \$100.00 from Tammy Hippel's display of beautiful dishes.

It looked like all who attended had a good time, including the ladies who prepared the delicious food. We all came together, worked together and had fun doing it. We are planning on doing it again next year. Onward and upward to our Chalfont United Methodist Church.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Last year, we prayed for the people of Ukraine each week. At the close of the summer, we will return to the practice of having a second prayer spot added to our weekly service. Each month we will pray for a specific issue that effects the broader local and/or global community.

For the month of September this spot will be used to pray for the church, which is the body of Christ. Churches everywhere are experiencing a shortage of pastors, as well as a shortage of laity. The UMC denomination is undergoing strife related to our recent divide over issues related to the LGBTQ community. There is a lawsuit pending against us from churches who wish to disaffiliate. In some instances, the church is not behaving as a body of Christians. Turmoil and hurtful conversations are currently underway. Needless to say, the church is in need of continuous prayer.

The month of October is undecided. We can pray either for the American election process, victims of violence. World peace, or any other concern that may come to our mind. Whatever we decide, we will pray for the subject for the entire month. (Your opinion is appreciated.)

CHOIR

Ever since the lockdown in 2020 our choir has not been singing in church on Sunday. Cris rehearsed the choir in the "spacious" sanctuary (with masks) so that we could have music on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.

Now, finally, we are starting back with regular rehearsals in the library/music room starting on Sunday, September 11th and will sing during service on the 18th. The "old timers" will be there for sure, but if there is anyone else who would enjoy singing, than Cris will welcome you with open arms.

STATE OF THE CHURCH *(continued)*

Making new disciples: number of professions of faith. *(If the congregation had one for every 20 worshipers, it achieved this vitality marker)* we met this goal last year when we received six members on Profession of faith. However, we did not yet achieve this mark for this year. ***We need three members to join on profession of faith to achieve this goal.*** I faithfully anticipate that it will happen. We continue to attract repeat visitors to worship. We have an increased presence of young adults in worship. Our fellowship continues to be exceptionally warm and inviting. And... God just keeps on blessing us!.

Generosity/Giving to missions: 18% of church total expenses *(excluding debt and capital payment)* is going to missions. *(If a congregation had 18% going to mission, it achieved this vitality marker)* **We continue to move towards paying 100% of our connectional obligation.** We are now paying \$1500/month *(up from \$600/month last year, and \$0 for many preceding years)* From January 1st through the end of July 2022, we had \$80,132 in expenses. We spent \$10,500 for connectional payments and \$4,093 for other missions *(including gifts to UMCOR designated for Ukraine)*. The total giving to mission was \$14,583 or 18.2% of our giving.

The UMMen hosted a very successful hoagie sale in April; the *UMWomen* hosted a free, spectacular, and scrumptious women's tea in May. *The Sunday school* fully resumed this year. Our *choir* will now be active again after a long hiatus that began at the onset of the pandemic. ***This year we experienced our first burial of cremains at our brand, new Memorial Garden.*** We newly welcomed an *Art Camp* for children in kindergarten through 6th grades in August. We added "at risk prevention" as a component to our *youth ministry* program. In March, we hosted a ***community wide Substance Abuse Prevention event for youth.*** Addressing this issue is often overlooked in the church. *(Three of our panelists grew up attending Methodist Youth Fellowship including one who was a "PK" turned big time drug dealer and cocaine addict, and one person who later became a pastor.)*

The *Finance Committee* has a new chairperson; and we have new counters on Sunday. We also switched our bank accounts over to a bank located in the Chalfont area. This bank also offers better service. We changed the list of people who are designated as signers on our bank accounts. The finance committee is meeting monthly.

The fellowship among our members and friends continues to be warm and cordial, thus maintaining a healthy loving family environment void of negative conflict. And... God continues to be with us. He keeps guiding, He keeps loving, and God keeps blessing! *I am most thankful and appreciative of the opportunity to be the pastor Chalfont and Montgomery Square United Methodist churches.*

Pastor Vicky

CUMC 2023 LEADERSHIP SLATE - MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP BOARD (*non voting members):

Chairperson - Bob Kurtz (2021)

Lay Leader - Ed Schnell (2021)

Lay Member to Annual Conference - Ed Schnell (2019)

**Recording Secretary - Lorraine Daniels (2020)*

Chairperson of Staff/Parish Relations - Bill Kokemor (2021)

Trustee Representative - Bob Kurtz (2021)

**Chairperson of Nominations & Leadership - Pastor Vicky Allen*

Chairperson of Finance - Nicole Scabarozi (2022)

Treasurer - Sue Walla (2016)

Financial Secretary - Jim Reece

Superintendent of Sunday School - Marcia Weikert (2021)

**Chairperson of Worship - Pastor Vicky Allen*

Members At Large: Keith Miller (2017), Louise Peardon (2019), Audrey Michener (2020),

*Helen Kokemor (2019), *Rev. Debra Neild, Deacon. Greg Ehrenzeller*

STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE: *Chairperson - Nicole Scabarozi, Treasurer - Sue Walla (2016), Financial Secretary - Jim Reece, Lay Leader/Lay Member to Annual Conference - Ed Schnell, Bob Kurtz, Doris Reece (Memorial Fund secretary), Pastor Vicky*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: *Chairperson - Jeff Warren, (Class of 2025) Jeff Warren, Jim Reece, Dave Hubler; (Class of 2026) Bill Kokemor, Deb Schaar, Sue Cody; (Class of 2027) Dave Cody, Bob Kurtz, Bryan Corelli; Pastor & Lay Leader - ex-officio*

STAFF PASTOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: *Chairperson - Bill Kokemor; (Class of 2025) Woody Hippel, Candy Kurtz; (Class of 2026) Edna Miller, Steve Belsky; (Class of 2027) Sue Cody, Doris Reece; Pastor & Lay Leader - ex-officio*

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: *Chairperson - Pastor Vicky; (Members) Cris Frisco, Marcia Weikert, Gail Schnell, Marion Kitty, Louise Peardon, Dawn Morris, Bob Kurtz*

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS/TECHNOLOGY TEAM: *Jim Reece, Dave Cody, Laura Romano, Ed Schnell, Keith Miller*

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CHALFONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11 Meadowbrook Lane

Chalfont, Pennsylvania 18914-2810

(215) 822-2807

Web Page: www.chalfontumc.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

REV. VICTORIA ALLEN	Pastor
REV. DEBRA NEILD	Deacon
CRIS FRISCO	Director of Music
LORRAINE DANIELS	Church Administrator

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, September 11

(First Service in Sanctuary; Zoom for those at home)

Saturday, September 17

(UM Women of Faith breakfast in FLC at 10:00 am)

Sunday, September 18

(Morning Worship Sanctuary and Zoom)

Sunday, September 25

(Morning Worship Sanctuary and Zoom)

Sunday, October 2

(Morning Worship Sanctuary and Zoom)

Sunday, October 9

(Morning Worship Sanctuary and Zoom)

Sunday, October 16

(Laity Sunday)

Sunday, October 23

(Morning Worship Sanctuary and Zoom)

Sunday October 30

(All Saints Sunday - Remembrance Service)

SEPTEMBER

6th (2 pm to 7 pm) Red Cross Blood Drive in FLC

10th (10 am) meeting with MSQ to plan/schedule new ministries of evangelism aimed at attracting younger families

11th Cris begins choir rehearsals after church

15th (7 pm) Thursday Bible Study resumes - FLC

17th (10 am) UW of Faith hold breakfast meeting

OCTOBER

2nd SLY youth group resumes

13th Sight & Sound "David" in Lancaster, PA

15th Annual Conference in gathering of United Women of Faith will be held at MSQ

16th Laity Sunday, "Focus on Laity Series"

29th Halloween Event (?)

NOVEMBER

6th All Saints Sunday

12th Annual Charge Conference via Zoom

13th Veterans Day Service

19th Hanging of the Greens

24th Thanksgiving

27th First Day of Advent