

July-August 2018

Volume XVIV Issue 7

The United Methodist  
Church  
in Madison  
24 Madison Avenue  
Madison, NJ 07940  
*“at the corner of Drew University”*

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www.umcmadison.org



The Madison Methodist  
*Message*

Join us on  
**RALLY DAY**  
SEPT. 9

**NEW**

A Message from Pastor Kate

**“Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.” - Soren Kierkegaard**

At about the time you'll be reading this, I will have already been here at UMC Madison for a whole month! And what a busy month it's been. July tends to be one of those months that flies by — with vacations and summer schedules and getting all the sunlight we can before we head back into our fall routines. In church transitions — it can sometimes feel like things are moving at lightening speed.

So before we get to anything else, I want to introduce myself for the people I have not been able to meet or have an extended conversation with yet. My name is Kate Hillis, a born and raised Buffalonian — which first and foremost means that *YES*, I can survive arctic conditions and *YES*, I can tell you where all the best chicken wings are located in NJ and beyond. My husband Wren and I moved to the Garden State when I decided to attend seminary at Princeton seven years ago. Wren recently graduated from Drew Theological School and is also a United Methodist pastor. We have served in ministry together for almost our entire married life — and this year, Wren will be a PhD student at Drew. I would also like to pursue PhD work in the future — which means we both might be a little crazy. We have a dog named Simba, who much like many of the children I know and love, runs our household and gives me attitude when I'm in “his” seat.

I love ministry. I love people. And I love the Church. In my lifetime, I have felt a divine Spirit... a spark... a light... a flow... a breath of God at work in the world and it seems to me that human beings are always trying to find ways to tap into it.

We call it one thing or another — we use different methods. But if you dive deeply into just about any faith tradition, we find that radical acts of love, justice, and mercy have always been at work in the world, transforming people's lives.

I believe that church communities are in a unique position to become places where this transformation can happen; where people can find community, hope, and healing. And let's be honest, in our changing and challenging culture, a lot of us could really use that right now. I am not sure the Church has always been this type of place for everyone - but I'd certainly say historically, there have always been local communities bearing witness to a Love in the world that can transform us.

Our religious and philosophical forefathers and mothers tended to be pretty wise people. So whenever I am tempted into anxiety about a changing present or an unknown future, I always look to them for a little help “talking me down off the ledge.” Kierkegaard believed that the past is a thing to be honored. It is the vehicle that has carried us to who and where we find ourselves today. Our pasts may be filled with moments of joy and disappointment — but in the end, they make us who we are and how we see the world. I also find that it is in my past where I can see God at work most clearly and honestly, it often eases my mind about my present and future worries.

*continued on page 3.....*

*“In worship, fellowship and service we seek God's peace as revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.”*



## *It's been a busy month!*

It has been one month since Rev. Kate Hillis (Lead Pastor) and Rev. Taylor Bean (Associate Pastor) joined our church family.

They have been busy bees acclimating to the church and to Madison. We could not be happier to have them here with us. As you can see Scott is a perfect balance and has been a solid platform in welcoming our new pastors. It is quite clear that Kate, Taylor and Scott are forming great friendships here at UMC in Madison—the future is bright!



... cont. "a message from the Pastor"

As I have begun to learn about your individual pasts and the past of UMC Madison, the thing I have been most struck by is the ways God has been moving here. From the generosity of Drew University who gifted us with the land upon which our church sits, to the amazing ministries and talented people who have graced our doors over the years, it is clear that God has always been up to something at the UMC in Madison.

I think Kierkegaard would also want us to celebrate the present. In speaking with members of the staff and congregation — like Blair, Vivian, May, Vic, Jeanne, Natalie, Maria, Karen, Kathleen, Daniel, Scott, and Taylor, just to name a few — and in experiencing our various ministries — it seems that so much of what we are already up to is preparing us for a future that, while unknown, is bound to be incredibly bright.

All of these things have made me very excited about embracing a future of tremendous possibility here at the UMC in Madison. If this very positive time of transition is teaching me anything, it's that I am confident that our past and present has equipped us for such a time as this, and for any new challenges that come our way. This is an amazing community. I know that if we continue to commit ourselves to it and to the work of God in the world — we will find an exciting future ahead of us.

I am excited to be your pastor and I believe that God is already here with us. So I invite each of you along for the journey — and let's see what God can do!

*Pastor Kate*

## Staff & Elected Officers

### Lead Pastor

Rev. Kate Hillis

### Associate Pastor

Rev. Taylor Bean

### Assistant Pastor

Scott Ostlund

### Director of Music & Organist

Daniel Leguizamon, Ph.D.

### Director of Children's Ministries

Kathleen Keane

### Office Administrator/Editor

Natalie Dines

### Sexton

Marlice Borecki

David Green *Chair, Church Council*

Mac Cobb *Treasurer*

Jeff Pfeifer *Assistant to Treasurer*

Scot Guempel *Financial Secretary*

Blair Conley *Finance Chair*

Gordon Fleming *Facility Management*

Vic Schumacher *President, Trustees*

## Program Facilitators

### Nurture Ministries

Lisa Moro

### Outreach Ministries

Jeanne Eisele

### Witness/Igniting Ministry

Kris Pfeifer

### Worship Ministries

Lisa Carballo

## Trustees

Vic Schumacher Gordon Fleming

Karen Jeisi Luke McKinnon

Shin-Ok Ha Vivian Bull

Dan Engel Nori Tadano

Bruce Galton



## Interfaith Food Pantry and Resource Center

We are collecting the following school supplies and donating them to the Interfaith Food Pantry to participate in their "We've Got Your Back" program, to distribute new backpacks and school supplies to local families in need.

In 2017, the Interfaith Food Pantry served on average about 1,300 Morris County households struggling to put food on the table each month. When families can barely afford food, the expense of back-to-school supplies can put a strain on already tight household budgets.

- Backpacks\*
- 1" Binders
- #2 Pencils (pack of 10)
- Crayons (pack of 24)
- Colored Pencils (pack of 10-12)\*
- Glue
- Erasers, Pencil Sharpeners
- Pocket Folders\*
- Single Subject Spiral Notebooks
- Packs of Lined Paper (120)\*
- Pens – Blue/Black (pack of 10)
- Composition Notebooks\*



\*Most needed



## Introducing... Pastor Taylor

Greetings to “y’all” in the name of Christ!

It has been a busy summer for me as I have moved my stuff, my dog, and myself from Sweet Home Alabama all the way up the East Coast to the great state of New Jersey. Though the “To-Do” list is long and keeps growing, it has been an extremely exciting time for me, energized each time we gather together for worship, fellowship, or meetings to discuss the upcoming year of ministry together. I am so grateful that, in the midst of a season of such great transition for all of us, you as a congregation have been so welcoming to me!

I look forward to getting to know you all in the coming months... what brought you to this church, what you love about this place of worship, and what dreams you dream about the future of this congregation. I also look forward to knowing about your families, where your children go to college, what you plan to do with your grandchildren when they come to visit, and your favorite places to show off to your friends when they come into town. So, as we get to know each other, I want to offer you a little bit of information about myself and let you know what some of my own hopes and expectations are for the coming year!

Though my accent may not be terribly pronounced, I have lived in the South all of my life. I grew up on biscuits for breakfast, PB&J for lunch, and a variety of “meat and threes” for dinner. There is no doubt that Southern culture made me the lover of food and fellowship that I am. Getting to know people over a delicious meal is one of my favorite things, because there is something sacred in breaking bread together. Needless to say, don’t be surprised if I request a one on one over a lunch break. I am the only child of two loving parents, and all three of us have degrees in music. Playing music together has been the thing that has strengthened us most as a family, so music is an important part of my personal life and my relationship with the Divine. I have pretty much always had a pet, so I will frequently ogle adorable dogs in public. I also really love to laugh, and quoting movies is one of my favorite (and probably most annoying) past times. This is certainly not the extent of who I am... but it’s a start for getting to know me.

One thing I am most excited about is that this is the year for Confirmation! We will be doing Confirmation over a 36 week period, starting on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and going through (tentatively) Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Once we start on the 16<sup>th</sup>, we can assess what days of the week and times work best for all our confirmands. If you are confirmation age (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade) or are new to our church and would be interested in learning about what it means to be a person of faith in the United Methodist Denomination, I would love to have you join me on this journey! I assure you, it will not be dry, dull, and boring... and if you read above, I can assure you that there will be food. Be on the look out for opportunities to sign up so we can get enough materials.

Scott and I will be working together with the youth this year and are looking forward to the Youth BBQ where we can hear from you all about what you guys want to do and learn this year. We are both super excited about all that is to come! UMC Madison... you make work fun!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Taylor 4



Hello UMC Madison friends,

We are officially into August and our staff transition is well underway!

I would like to use some of my space here to say how excited I am about the direction our church is headed. This is not meant to downplay how hard the transition has been. Instead I want to name two truths. 1) That this transition has been difficult work, full of goodbyes, confusing details, and unclear next steps. *And* 2) That we have reason to be excited about the future of this congregation thanks to the gifted leadership of Rev. Kate and Rev. Taylor.

I feel both of these things deep in my spirit and I want to give you permission to feel both as well.

We are staffed to make a deep and wide impact on the Madison community. Local collaboration will be the name of the game as we consider what it means to be a church in our current time and place. Kate, Taylor, and I have already developed a collaborative energy and friendship in our work and I expect that this will translate far beyond our pastoral team. I want to invite you to ask questions as we enter the Fall and consider how you could participate in the direction of UMC Madison’s mission going forward.

One way my role will shift is in the youth context. I will still be involved with youth week in and week out but Taylor will be the primary coordinator for all things youth going forward. Alternatively, I will coordinate our adult spiritual formation and Christian education efforts. This includes: book studies, small groups, *The Gathering*, and work with students at Drew. I would love to hear your ideas on any of these topics.

In closing we do have some events I want to put on your radar. On August 30<sup>th</sup> we will host a table at the Madison Farmer’s Market, please let me know if you can volunteer for an hour or two. Also, we will have a kick-off barbecue for the youth group at the very end of the month. Our dates are still being solidified so if you haven’t sent me the times that work for you please do that immediately.

I look forward to this next season. Though it necessitates that we hold and experience multiple emotions at once, I am excited to see how we will be the church in this time and this place, for these people and this purpose.

Blessings,  
Scott



### Annual Conference highlights

#### *Miracles Everywhere*

"You are the God who performs miracles, everywhere" - Psalm 77:14

More than 1,400 people attended and six different languages were spoken and sung during the 2018 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference session, the largest attendance in GNJ history. The Conference also heard that we grew worship attendance in 2017 and several miraculous testimonies of God's wonder-working power through the United Methodists of Greater New Jersey.

#### **Desegregating N.J. Schools**

United Methodists affirmed joining a lawsuit coordinated by the New Jersey Coalition of Diverse and Inclusive Schools to bring a remedy to school segregation for 271,000 Black and Latino students who attend segregated New Jersey schools.

#### **Puerto Rico and Tanzania**

GNJ voted to create a partnership with Methodists in Puerto Rico and Tanzania as a part of the Miracles Everywhere Campaign. Bishops of The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico and North Katanga Episcopal Region, which includes Tanzania, celebrated GNJ's partnership and commitment to their regions through hurricane recovery work, starting new congregations, and training pastors to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

#### **GNJ Grows Worship Attendance and Completes 5 Year Strategic Plan**

GNJ grew average worship attendance in 2017 and through its 2013 strategic plan, over the last four years grew the number of people in small groups and hands-on mission, increased giving to mission, started more than 50 new faith communities, rebuilt 271 homes in response to Superstorm Sandy and launched five new resources to assist congregations, laity and clergy in achieving the mission.

#### **Miracles Everywhere Campaign**

GNJ committed to a new mission campaign - Miracles Everywhere, which will transform and deepen the lives and faith of the Next Generation, partner with Puerto Rico in hurricane relief, launch Hope Centers across GNJ and partner with the Tanzania Annual Conference to train new pastors, build new congregations, and build a Hope Center for mission engagement. The full campaign goal is \$5.2 million.

#### **Celebrations**

In other actions, we celebrated our A Future With Hope ministry which will complete its 271st house this June. We approved the 2019 budget which reduces shared ministry to 16.1% so more resources are available to local churches.

*Dave Green, Lay Member Annual Conference*  
[greendavid@aol.com](mailto:greendavid@aol.com)



## From the Trustees

This summer's projects are now underway albeit at a pace slower than anticipated, but underway never the less. Included are:

- the replacement of the failing steps leading from the education wing to the playground, the three in the Margaret King Courtyard, and the double door entry on the Drew side of the church
- replacement of the walkway that runs from the front porch of # 22 to the driveway
- modifying the concrete pad directly outside the door to Room 1 so that rainwater will no longer run into the room during heavy rain
- modifying the culvert that drains rainwater down the entry driveway and rebuilding the entry driveway

A timeline is in place and, if the weather cooperates, the work should be done by mid to late August. During this time there may be days when our entry driveway needs to be closed to traffic. Entry to the church parking lot will require use of the Drew driveway directly next to the church and circling around behind the church to the parking lot. We all managed a comparable situation several years ago when the church and tower roofs needed replacing. We'll undoubtedly manage this too.

The staff of the Acorn Academy, the Drew Department of Public Safety and the Madison Police Department have been informed that the decision to close our driveway will need to be made on a day by day basis given the nature of the work being done.

*Vic Schumacher, Chair*

## Children's Ministry News

Hope everyone is having a great summer! As I look to the Fall with mixed emotions of summer being over yet so much to be excited about, I can't help but think about seeing all of the smiling faces on all of the children in our church school. We have so much planned for the year! Church school will begin on **September 9th with Rally Day!** We will have the Blessing of the Backpacks, distribute Bibles to our third graders as well as anyone else interested in receiving one, have our first classes for the year AND celebrate with a Photo Booth again during Coffee Hour!! Our Bell Choir will begin in the early fall as well!

Planning ahead we are looking forward to **Blessing of the Animals on October 7th** as well as **visiting Pine Acres on October 28th** in our Halloween costumes during service.

Families, and any congregants interested in participating in church school this year, please watch for an email around mid-August that will contain a sign up genius with opportunities for parent and adult participation in our activities for the year. Please, check your email for acolyte sign ups.

Please feel free to reach out at any time!! [Umcseeds@gmail.com](mailto:Umcseeds@gmail.com)

*In care,  
Kathleen*

# OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

*Honoring God's gift of Jesus by sharing with others*

## God's Promise—a Sacred Journey



Re-HACE (Rebuilding Communities with Hope) is a community outreach program of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico. These projects are all under the Community Outreach mission of the Methodist Church of

Puerto Rico and has been granted funds by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

While ReHACE has brought outreach services to the communities of Puerto Rico for about 14 years, after the devastation of Hurricane María, the focus turned to recovery, restoration and rehabilitation to provide housing and essential services.

Bishop Hector Ortiz Vidal, Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico, is leading the work of the Conference and identified several special projects. Both projects meet health needs in isolated and very low income communities. Bishop Ortiz shared the following information to highlight the needs for support.

One of the project is in the mountainous town of Jayuya, an isolated area where the access by car is extremely difficult with one road in rugged condition. There are no dental facilities; no telephone lines have been repaired; there is poor access to data communications; there is limited power service and potable water. There is a high unemployment, low schooling levels and many elderly residents.

The Methodist Church in Jayuya had an office for Dental Health Services including all the dental equipment was devastated during the storm. The dental clinic was the only service the residents received.

Another project needing restoration is the Health Clinic in Vieques. The government run hospital was devastated by the hurricane, so the Methodist Church offered its facilities to provide health services to the population of the village. Again the community relies on this facility for their medical care provided by doctors who volunteer to provide medical services and who must travel to this remote location.

During our most recent Capital Campaign, the Trustees included an Outreach component as requested by Bishop Schol of the New Jersey Conference. This was a special initiative for Mission and Outreach to fund work within the Conference through A Future with Hope. A portion of the mission donations were designed to be retained by the congregation for use on a special Outreach project. The Church Council, leaders of our congregation and the Trustees have chosen ReHACE – Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico, as the recipient of the funds to be designated for the Dental Clinic restoration in Jayuya. What a wonderful opportunity to reach across the miles and share with our fellow Methodists as they extend loving care to this needy community. Prayers of thankfulness for your generosity as well as for the work of those in place to provide support to the needy.

“I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.” (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB)

### **UMCOR – Health Kit Supplies and Skylands Outreach Depot**

In collaboration with Skylands Outreach Depot, housed at Andover UMC, UMC in Madison will again collect standard terrycloth hand towels for the assembly of UMCOR Health Kits. Over the summer months, please contribute to this project. Hand towels should be from 15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches. (NOTE: DO NOT donate kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels). Many thanks!

*Jeanne Eisele*

## News from Family Promise



Please keep the following dates in mind for all volunteers and friends of Family Promise, the organization that has been helping homeless families in Morris County for over 30 years. Our next time to provide volunteers when St. Vincent's Martyr Church will host the families will be during the week of August 5. The guests in June were made up of 6 adults and 5 children, ranging in ages 11 to 1 year. Dates for UMC Madison to help are:

**Friday, August 10:**  
**2 or 3 volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinner from 5:30 pm to 7 pm;**  
**2 volunteers are needed to stay in the evening from 7 to 9 pm;**  
**2 volunteers are needed to stay overnight from 9 pm to 8 am**

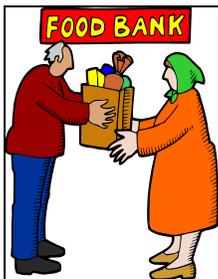
**Saturday, August 11,** 2 volunteers are needed from 8 am to 11:30.

The latest Family Promise newsletter had some interesting and inspiring success stories about the families and volunteers:

- Former guest Marisol and her children were able to successfully transition to a permanent home, a 3 bedroom apartment, after being in shelter for less than 12 months.
- Keys to Housing campaign helped 18 families and individuals obtain permanent housing.
- Volunteer efforts of Liquid Church at Abigail House and Morgan Stanley at the Day Center brought about many upgrades and improvements at those facilities. Current needs for the summer months and on-going Wish List items are listed in the newsletter which can be viewed at the Family Promise website, [www.familypromisemorris.org](http://www.familypromisemorris.org)

If you can help with the dates in August or have any questions about the Family Promise program, please let me know.

*Laurie Hagerich, Coordinator*



The number of people coming to the Pantry continues to grow. Please continue to bring your food donations to church and put them in the baskets either in the narthex or by the library. Current items needed include: **Canned veggies**—regular and low sodium, **Par-malat** (Shelf stable 32 oz. size), **dry milk** (1 quart packages), **canned fruit** (lite, or packed in fruit juice), **cereal**, **heartly soups**, **low-sodium soups**, **peanut butter**, **tuna fish**.

*Katy Galton*

# Known July & August Birthdays



### In July

<i>Jack Anderson</i>	<i>Anna, Brianna &amp; Caroline</i>
<i>Robert Edward Bull</i>	<i>Hinrichs</i>
<i>Kaitlyn Buchanan</i>	<i>Victoria Elise Livshin</i>
<i>Alyssa Currey</i>	<i>Andrew Mearns</i>
<i>Christine Fleming McIsaac</i>	<i>Jared Scaturro</i>
<i>Elyse Grzymala</i>	<i>Julie Van Hook</i>
<i>Jennifer Guempel</i>	<i>Linda Yao</i>

### In August

<i>Alice Allen</i>	<i>Carl Liston</i>
<i>Madison Allen</i>	<i>Samuel Lozier</i>
<i>Kimberly Anthony</i>	<i>Braden Mellina</i>
<i>Addison Ayash</i>	<i>Cole Merrick</i>
<i>Isabella Bolstad</i>	<i>Ryan Pfeifer</i>
<i>Catherine Annalise Bull</i>	<i>Kenny Price</i>
<i>Megan Currey</i>	<i>Kathy Shoaf</i>
<i>Kaitlyn Engel</i>	<i>Allison Smith</i>
<i>Katherine Lillian Holzer</i>	<i>Paul Sung</i>
<i>Sara Howard</i>	<i>Mamie Tadano</i>

## Mark your calendars....

- 8/8—1st Small Group Meeting, Parsonage at 10am.
  - 8/10—Family Promise service at St. Vincent
  - 8/12—Town Hall Meeting after 9:30am service
  - 8/15—2nd Small Group Meeting, Lisa Carballo at 7pm.
  - 8/26—3rd Small Group Meeting, Scot Ostlund at 7pm.
  - 8/30—Farmer's Market (downtown Madison 2-7pm)
  - 9/9—RALLY DAY ! And Blessing of the backpacks
  - 9/9—Fall schedule begins
- 8:30am Early Worship  
 10:00am Family Worship  
 5:00pm The Gathering

# Worship Schedule



## Summer Schedule *(through Sunday, September 9th)*

**Combined Family Worship** **9:30 a.m.**

*No Sunday School; Childcare is available for infants and toddlers.*

**Refreshments Outdoors** **10:45 a.m.**

*(Weather permitting)*

**The Gathering Worship & meal fellowship** **5:00 p.m.**

### Coming up....

- 8/8 1st Small Group Meeting, Parsonage at 10am.
- 8/10 Family Promise service at St. Vincent
- 8/12 Town Hall Meeting after the 9:30am service
- 8/15 2nd Small Group Meeting, Lisa Carballo at 7pm.
- 8/26 3rd Small Group Meeting, Scot Ostlund at 7pm.
- 8/23 Farmer's Market (downtown Madison 2-7pm)
- 9/9 RALLY DAY ! And Blessing of the backpacks
- 9/9 Fall schedule begins
  - 8:30am Early Worship
  - 10:00am Family Worship
  - 5:00pm The Gathering

## Other News ...

### Bits and briefs



#### Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is a special time for us to gather and share with one another. Please use this [link](#) to sign up if you are willing and able to host coffee hour during the fall and winter months.

We are always grateful for everything our church families do to make these special moments happen.

Thank you!

UMCOR- Health Kit  
Support the  
Skylands Outreach Depot  
at  
Andover Methodist Church

**hand towel**  
15" x 25" to 17"x 27"  
kitchen, cleaning and  
microfiber towels not  
acceptable

*Monetary donations will help buy  
items and help with shipping  
cost for each assembled health  
kit*