As the leaves begin to turn and life picks back up for so many of us, I am extra aware that this is a season of new beginnings. For however fraught new beginnings can feel as we wrestle with the painful realities of change — new beginnings are also a time to spot the hopeful signs of new possibility all around us.

As children head back into a new school year, we hope in the possibility that what they learn will develop them into future leaders and productive citizens. As many of us find our routines, we hope that we will find new rhythms of balance, productivity, and accomplishment. As many students head off to university for the first time, we hope that the difficult challenges they face will equip them with knowledge and passion to change the world.

As I look around at our church in this season of new beginnings, I also see signs of possibility all around us. As I continue to meet with many of you, I am astounded by the enthusiasm, energy, and new ideas for ministry that you have been sharing with me, as well as your heart for mission and service. I am blown away that in just a little over one year, our 5PM Sunday worship opportunity — The Gathering — is averaging an attendance of double what it was when it started.

This past week we reached 17 students and offered them a place for a meal, worship, and community! Each week, we are seeing new visitors in Sunday AM worship and in the coming weeks we will be celebrating a baptism and 2 membership transfers.

I have spent time with some of our members who have spent their whole lives here, they spoke heartfelt hopes that our church would be a place for intergenerational relationship building, and that we would welcome young people of all ages with open hearts and minds of hospitality. The staff and our lay leadership has been working tirelessly this summer to ensure that our fall Rally Sunday and Kick Off is one to remember. And I am so encouraged when I speak to our youth and see that they are being raised and formed in ways that make them thoughtful, conscious lovers of people and the world around them. I can’t think of more hopeful signs of new possibility in this season of new beginnings!

I hope that as we enter this new season, you will also keep your hearts opened and your eyes peeled to where new life is springing up around us. If you notice something, share it with me, and with one another as a way of encouraging us all as we journey together. You are each a vital part of this community, and I am praying daily that in this new beginning we will hear the Spirit of God calling us all into deeper and more transformative acts of love and service in the world.

Grace & Peace, my friends,
Kate

“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.” - F. Scott Fitzgerald
Ushering in the Fall Season

JOIN THE USHER CORPS!
SERVE ONE SUNDAY A MONTH
GREET OUR CONGREGATION
HANDLE THE COLLECTION PLATE
LEARN NEW TECHNICAL SKILLS
MANAGE THE THERMOSTAT DURING HEATING SEASON
MANAGE THE CEILING FANS DURING THE SUMMER
IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES,
CALL VIC SCHUMACHER @ 862-324-4275
OR
EMAIL VHSCHUMACHER@VERIZON.NET.

News from the Trustees

Stepping forward:
The work on several entry steps on the school building (Acorn) is moving along despite the weather’s best attempts to cause delays. The steps leading from the building to the playground are done and those in the courtyard should be done by the time you read this. Hand railings will be installed once the concrete has had sufficient time to cure. The next part of the overall process involves replacing the entry walk leading to the front porch of #22, the entry steps on the Drew drive side, correcting water flow at the exterior door leading to room one, new blacktop entry driveway leading from Madison Ave. while at the same time redoing the drainage canal parallel to that driveway. Yes the driveway will be closed from time to time to get this done. Entry to the church parking lot will be by using the Drew driveway right next to the church on the west side.

Vic Schumacher
Other News ... 

Bits and briefs

Mark your calendars
Annual Church Conference
Saturday, November 3, 2018
Venue: UMC in Chatham at 12:30 PM
Everyone is invited to attend as we celebrate the past year of ministry and look forward to the future.

Small Talk Sessions
Pick a day so we can meet you!

Sept 18 @ 7:00 pm—Donna & Blair Conley
Sept 26 @ 7:00 pm—Lisa Carballo
Oct 3 @ 7:00 pm—Natalie Dines

Contact Natalie in the Church office on 973 377 1231 or email us at church@umcmadison.org

Chancel Choir Rehearsals Begin

Chancel Choir rehearsals begin on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our first official Sunday will be September 9, with a rehearsal at 9:30 a.m. before the 10 a.m. service. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Daniel Leguizamon at music@umcmadison.org.
<table>
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<th>Sun</th>
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| **2 Youth BBQ**  
9:30  Family Service  
10:30 Coffee hour on the lawn | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| **9 RALLY DAY**  
8:30 am Early Service  
10 am Worship/Ch. School  
5:00 pm The Gathering | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 8 pm AA | 7:30 pm Family Service  
10:30 Coffee hour on the lawn | 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting  
OFFICE CLOSED | 6:45 am Men’s Breakfast  
8 pm AA | 9:30 am Walking Group  
8 pm Chancel Choir | 8 pm AA |
| 8 pm AA | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 6:45 am Men’s Breakfast  
8 pm AA | 8 pm AA | 7:30 pm Book Study Begins @ Drip  
7:30 pm Church Council  
8 pm AA | 6:45 am Men’s Breakfast  
10:30 AM book study with Pastor Kate  
8 pm AA | 9:30 am Walking Group  
8 pm Chancel Choir | Newsletter Deadline | 8 pm AA |
| 8 pm AA | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 8 pm AA | 8 pm AA | 6:45 am Men’s Breakfast  
8pm AA | 9:30 am Walking Group  
Farmers Market  
8am Choir | 9:30 am Walking Group  
Farmers Market  
8am Choir  
9:30 pm Book Study Begins @ Drip  
7:30 pm Church Council  
8 pm AA | 8 pm AA |
| 8 pm AA | 28 | 29 | 30 | 8 pm AA |
| 8 pm AA | 8 pm AA | 6:45 am Men’s Breakfast  
8pm AA | 9:30 am Walking Group  
Farmers Market  
8am Choir  
9:30 pm Book Study Begins @ Drip  
7:30 pm Church Council  
8 pm AA | 8 pm AA |

**October Newsletter Deadline: September 22**
Hello September, friends!

It’s hard to believe that the fall season is upon us as we come out of the whirlwind of summer. I always love this time of year, as it reminds me of the beginning of new things… new school years, new classes, new friendships, even new football seasons for some of us. And as I’ve gotten to know so many of you and so many of the youth, I’m thrilled to begin one of my favorite seasons with you all in new ministries!

This month, the youth will begin meeting regularly again and will participate in serving our community through the Interfaith Food Pantry. I hope that our time together will deepen our relationships as we think of other ways to make our community a better place for all people. I’m also excited to get to see our youth in action as they participate in things such as marching band, orchestra, baseball, soccer, and cheerleading. They are a busy group, but the energy they bring to our congregation is a gift!

Also starting this month is Confirmation. Confirmation is such an exciting and important part of our faith journey, and I invite youth from 7th-9th grade to join us as we explore God’s call upon our lives to follow the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. As we walk through this journey, we will remember our baptism, we will learn about God’s abundant love for us, and we will be challenged with what that means for our lives as we serve one another and participate in the institution of the United Methodist Church. It will be a time where we get to know each other better, seek God uniquely, and get to ask some hard questions along the way. Our first session will be September 16th at 11:00 AM. I hope to see you there!

Blessings,
Pastor Taylor
OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

God’s Question—Who is my neighbor?
Honoring God’s gift of Jesus by sharing with others

What is Mission Central?
Mission Central is the mission warehouse located in Mechanicsburg, PA, and was established by the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2002. This regional warehouse supports: Disaster Response, Mission Outreach and Mission Education, in partnership with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). This special distribution facility provides resources from household goods, computers and medical supplies to assist emergency and disaster response materials. During the week of August 13, when torrential rains hit the East Coast, Mission Central was able to immediately distribute $50,000 worth of Cleaning Buckets to local communities to aid with flood relief efforts. This is in addition to a distribution of Cleaning Buckets in July of this year when $18,000 worth of Cleaning Buckets. Because of their regional location and the support of many UMC congregations, including ours, these much needed supplies are ready to help where they are immediately needed. UMC in Madison has been working with Skylands Outreach Depot at Andover UMC in Sussex, NJ, as a local supply center. When UMC in Madison assembles Cleaning Buckets, they are delivered to Skylands Outreach Depot and from there, volunteers will transport the completed kits to Mission Central in PA. Over the summer we have been collecting hand towels for inclusion in Health Kits. These are also very important for disaster and emergency relief. When individuals are forced out of their homes into shelters, the Health Kits provide basic hygiene supplies.

“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!

Ballard UMC in Asbury Park Honors Memory of Beloved Missionary
As young member of their congregation, Margaret Barton made a life changing decision to join the Missionary Field. She was led to serve in Liberia, Africa, where she worked primarily with young women and girls as a teacher and life coach. She also worked with the General Board of Global Ministries in NYC and with UM Homes here in New Jersey. Following her death in 2014, the congregation sought to find a fitting memorial to honor her life work. They partnered with Charity Water, a non-profit organization which brings clean and safe drinking water to people in developing nations, realizing that there are 663 million people on this planet who don’t have clean water. The small congregation devoted gathered the needed funds to sponsor the $8,000 well-building project which is underway in Malawi, South East Africa. The congregation finds this a wonderful way to continue the devoted work of a devoted Christian to the people of Africa.

THANK YOU!!! Over the summer, through your generosity, over 120 pounds of school supplies were donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry Back-to-School backpack project. Each year the Pantry sponsors a Back-to-School supplies donation so that each child in the client families can have the necessary equipment to get a good start for the school year. Thanks for helping build better minds as well as bodies.

Distributions were held three Thursdays in August ahead of most of the school opening days.

Jeanne Eisele
Family Promise Update

Thanks to the volunteers who helped during the week of August 5 when St. Vincent’s Martyr Church hosted the families in their Social Ministry Center. The guests were made up of 5 adults and 6 children, ranging in ages 11 to 1 year. The families were cooperative and appreciative of the food prepared and the companionship and encouragement provided by the volunteers. The August week was our last time to help at St. Vincent’s in 2018. I will keep you posted on other upcoming opportunities, such as Volunteer Training and needs during the December holidays.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, November 8, is the date for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, which is always a good evening of fun and fellowship when Family Promise shows its appreciation to the countless volunteers who make the program possible. Further details will follow.

If you have any questions or need more information about the Family Promise program, please let me know.

Laurie Hagerich, Coordinator

Known Birthdays in September

- Ryan Cobb
- Noah Countermine
- Stephen De Pasque
- Natalie Dines
- Karen Fleming Speice
- Kelyn Wicke Howard
- Andrew Manz
- Cameron McIsaac
- Tyler McKinnon
- Maddie Merrick
- Arthur Skeen Robinette
- Erica Van Sciver

Coffee Hour Host Needed

The coffee hour and fellowship time after our Family Worship service is a vital element of our ministry. It’s not only enjoyable, but an important part of building community. The host brings a few items to eat, sets the table and cleans up afterward. Please consider if you can help on one of these dates. Please call 973 3771231 or click the link to the SignUpGenius site. Thank you!

Our Church Family

People we remembered in prayer

- Katie King
- Richard Reede
- Steve Faig
- Lucy Porter
- Ruth Kletz
- The Gauvin Family
- Stuart Harvett

Fair Trade Coffee Sale — Sept. 9

During coffee hour in the church library.

***JOIN US***
Early Morning Worship 8:30 a.m.
Family Worship & Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Childcare is available for infants and toddlers.
Coffee and Fellowship 11:15 a.m.
The Gathering Worship & Meal 5:00 p.m.

Coming Up:
September 4  Trustee’s Meeting
September 11 Church Council Meeting
September 6  Choir Rehearsals Being 8:00 PM
September 9  Rally Day/Church School Kickoff/Blessing of the Backpacks
October 7  Blessing of the animals

Staff Retreat

On Saturday, Sept. 1 the staff got together to connect, regroup and get to know each other. Pastor Kate put together a fun day of collaboration and learning. We met for breakfast at Pinot’s Palette in Morristown for our paint session followed by the second stage of lunch and team building activities. Thank you to Drew University who offered us a room, allowing us to work off site. (Missing from the picture are Marlise and Boris Borecki).