



MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Quarterly News

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June - September 2021

Topics

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Hello dear friends,

Welcome to the second edition of the deacon's quarterly newsletter! I hope the past few months were filled with summery smiles and a bit of sunshine. Certain aspects of life have been returning to normal and it is such a joy to begin seeing some of you again in person.

After being fully virtual last summer, it was delightful to offer our annual **Vacation Bible School** as an in-person event. This year our kids and volunteers all masked-up for fun and a mess-load of games, crafts, and stories! With social distancing in mind, the sanctuary was decorated and transformed into a castle-like fortress where the kids imagined themselves as knights and learned about what it means to put on the full armor of God. While reading foundational Bible stories like David and Goliath, Paul and Silas in Prison, and Jesus Walking on Water, they learned about righteousness, peace, faith, God's truth, and how He is mighty to save. That is, of course, in between lots of glitter glue, science experiments, relay races, paint, and even a snowball fight.

Another fabulous event this summer was the return of the **Delaware County Suicide Prevention & Awareness Task Force 5K**. In years past Marple Pres has supported and participated in this event and early September provided great weather for the race this year. We had a great group of people join us this year and even had a few congregants win medals for being so speedy! If you haven't had a chance to participate in this event in the past, we would love to have you join us next year. Running is not a requirement. You can walk and spend time catching up with a friendly face while strolling in the sunshine. You can even sit under a tent and hand out water, cookies, and snacks.

It would be remiss not to mention that this summer Marple Pres has taken several opportunities to gather and volunteer for the local charity, **Kids Against Hunger Philadelphia**. These evenings have proven to be a great time of fellowship while sorting, measuring, and packing meals for those in need in our community and around the world. During one of these events, a group from our congregation helped to pack nearly 9,000 meals that were delivered to hungry families in Haiti. More dates to volunteer will be opening up soon so keep an eye on the weekly bulletin if you'd like to join the crew for an upcoming event.

I think it is also important to mention that our church is so wonderful when it comes to gathering resources for donation to community agencies in our area. The annual school supply drive for the **Wesley House in Chester** was incredibly successful this year and we were able to provide backpacks and supplies for children staying in the shelter as school started and for some who would come into the shelter a few months into the year. Thank you all for your generosity! Another opportunity has come to us this fall and we are hoping to assist the **Domestic Abuse Project of Media**, a local shelter for women who are escaping abusive situations. Right now, they are in need of new bedding (Twin-sized blankets and sheets), laundry baskets, tote bags, and other items. Please see your weekly bulletin for the full list of needs.

Reflecting on the past few months, I realize that our church has been quite busy and I haven't even had a chance to touch on everything. Not only have there been quite a few fellowship events full of fun and relaxation, but several of our members have been completing cleanup and renovation projects in and around the church. Many thanks to all the individuals who have helped to improve our space, in big ways and small, for our congregation and community!

Since summer has ended and we all begin our new fall routines, be sure to check out your weekly bulletins for upcoming events and make note of some of the programs that are starting again after the summer hiatus. **Marple's Sunday School** program recently re-launched in its new-and-improved classroom space and kid's **Youth Group** returns in October.

We are so thankful for the wonderful opportunities we've had to safely connect over the past few months and hope you can continue to join us throughout the fall.

Peace in Christ,
Lesa Tanner

P.S. As we've mentioned before, the deacons would love for this little newsletter to serve as another way for you to stay connected to us and we are open to hearing your ideas or suggestions as the newsletter continues to take shape. If you'd like to offer feedback or contribute to the newsletter, please let us know! You can reach out to us by email at marplepresdeacons@gmail.com or call Lesa Tanner at 302-853-0174.



Prayers

One of the ways deacons help to care for the congregation is by praying. We pay special attention each week to the Prayers of the People during the service and pray continually for the church. We also encourage you to reach out to us if you have any additional praises or concerns that we can be lifting up in prayer. Feel free to email marplepresdeacons@gmail.com or even reach out to Pastor Karen and she will pass along your request.

Devotional

As you take time to deepen your relationship with God and continue your spiritual journey, we want to share some thoughtful devotionals that we appreciate and have found encouraging. Below is an excerpt from the Our Daily Bread devotional online. We thought it may be quite appropriate since World Communion Sunday is October 3, 2021.

Remember and Celebrate

[Jesus] took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19

Scripture & Insight: Luke 22:14-23

On December 6, 1907, explosions rocked a small

community in the US state of West Virginia, producing one of the worst disasters in the history of the coal-mining industry. Some 360 miners were killed, and it's been estimated that this horrific tragedy left behind about 250 widows and 1,000 children without fathers. Historians maintain that the memorial service became the seedbed from which the celebration of Father's Day in the US would eventually grow. Out of great loss came remembrance and—eventually—celebration.

The greatest tragedy in human history occurred when human beings crucified their Creator. Yet, that dark moment also produced both remembrance and celebration. The night before He would go to the cross, Jesus took the elements of Israel's Passover and created His own memorial celebration. Luke's record describes the scene this way: "And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me' " (Luke 22:19).

Still today, whenever we take communion, we honor His great, unflinching love for us—remembering the cost of our rescue and celebrating the gift of life His sacrifice produced. As Charles Wesley said in his great hymn, "Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?" – **By: Bill Crowder**

Upcoming Fellowship Activities & Events

October 9: Youth Group Trip, 1-9pm

October 18: Cooking for the Homeless,
To Be Announced

October 31: Trunk or Treat, 12:30pm

November 7:

All Saints Service, 10:30am

December 12: Christmas Cantata, 10:30am

December 21: The Longest Night Service,
To Be Announced

December 24:

Children's Christmas Pageant
& Candlelight Service,
To Be Announced



**Additional events will be coming to the calendar this fall so keep your eyes on the weekly bulletin for more information! We anticipate further activities to be announced like Kids Against Hunger, Yoga, Paint Night, Crafting Tutorials, Adult Youth Group, and more.*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

We would love to feature the special events of our members and friends in our newsletter. It is important, however, that we have your permission to share this information with everyone. So please, if you'd like to have the birthday or anniversary of yourself or a loved one included in this new section of the newsletter, please let us know. Feel free to reach out to **Lesa Tanner** or send an email to the deacons board at marplepresdeacons@gmail.com.

Altar Flowers

The deacons have resumed offering opportunities to purchase altar flowers each week. Order forms are available in the back of the weekly bulletin. The cost for altar flowers is **\$40/pair**. Altar flowers consist of two arrangements. You are welcome to take them both home or opt to have one or both donated to friends of the deacons. If you'd like to order flowers, but cannot make it in person, let us know and we can have the flowers delivered to you following the service. To place an order you can send an email to marplepresdeacons@gmail.com, or complete the order form in the bulletin and submit with your Tithes & Offerings, or call the church office at **610-356-1098**.