

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Community Church Serving Northeast Philadelphia

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THE STAFF

JANUARY, 2021

R*E*F*L*E*C*T*I*O*N*S

Only two specific men in the United States have had their birthdays observed as a national holiday. One was our first president, George Washington, and the other was Martin Luther King, Jr. On November 2nd, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill designating a federal holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., to be observed on the **third Monday of January**. The first official federal celebration took place on January 20, 1986, almost 18 years after he was assassinated by James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968.

To truly gain a finer appreciation of this inspiring man, I think it's important to reflect on his background and early accomplishments. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born January 15, 1929, in Atlanta Georgia, the second child of a pastor and former schoolteacher. Summarizing an article on History.com entitled *Martin Luther King, Jr., at the age of 15*, he was accepted at Morehouse College, where he studied medicine and law, having no intentions of becoming a pastor. King later changed his mind while under the mentorship of Morehouse's president (Dr. Benjamin Mays), an influential theologian and outspoken advocate for racial equality. After graduating in 1948, King entered Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree, won a prestigious fellowship and was elected president of his predominantly white senior class. He subsequently enrolled in a graduate program at Boston University, and earned a doctorate in systematic theology. In Boston he met Coretta Scott (a student at the New England Conservatory of Music), whom he married in 1953. They moved to Montgomery, Alabama, at which time he became the pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. They were blessed with four children.

You may recall the story of Rosa Parks, then the secretary of a local chapter of the NAACP, who was subsequently arrested after she bravely refused to relinquish her seat to a white male passenger while riding a Montgomery, Alabama bus on December 1, 1955. Her non-compliance was a violation of the city's racial segregation laws at the time. King allowed activists to meet in his church basement, and soon the "Montgomery Bus Boycott" was organized (which lasted for 381 days). Although King did not initially endorse the boycott, he was chosen as the official spokesman and leader of this powerful protest, which ended with a Supreme Court decision in 1956, that stated segregated seating on public buses was unconstitutional. An article on LegendsofAmerica.com entitled *Martin Luther King Jr. – Civil Rights Activist & Hero*, indicates that from that pivotal moment in time, King became the "inspirational proponent of organized, nonviolent resistance."

I am quite certain that most of you are familiar with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "*I Have a Dream*" speech, given on August 28, 1963, in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. After recently reading the transcript of that infamous speech, it reaffirmed that progress has been slow, and that some of the very principles he spoke of, are still being fought for today. Later that year Time Magazine named him "Man of the Year," and in 1964 he became the youngest person ever awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. "At the time, he was 35 years old and turned over the prize money of \$54,123 to the Civil Rights Movement." (LegendsofAmerica.com)

The History.com article perfectly summarized King's life: "*King sought equality and human rights for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged and all victims of injustice through peaceful protest.*" It is noteworthy that despite the fact that he was arrested 29 times (often on trumped-up charges), was stabbed in the chest by a mentally disturbed woman, and his house was fire-bombed, his life was exemplified by forgiveness, his dreams, and an "audacious faith in the future."

I believe that an article that appeared in the Bishop's Blog (written by Bishop Peggy Johnson and published on 1/18/17) entitled: *A Long, Long Way to Go*, perfectly summarizes what could very well be more than just a New Year's resolution, but rather a way of life by which we should conduct ourselves accordingly: "*May we search our attitudes and behaviors, examine our church practices of reaching out and welcoming in...Where can we be in better alignment with, and a better reflection of, the great love God has given to us through Christ Jesus, a love that we are to share with all our brothers and sisters? I pray that we all will strive daily to overcome hate and division and to embody what this "drum major for justice" called "a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. Amen."* - **Paula Direso, Editor**

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A  ?
During this coronavirus outbreak, please refer to our website (listed below) for updated cancellations and information, and share this notice with other members.

Are you the head of a committee or work group?
Are you planning a church event? Would you like information about your committee, group or event placed on the church website to be available to all members, neighbors and the world? If so, please e-mail this information to **our e-mail addresses which are as follows: webservant@umcgoodshepherd.org**. Our church website address is: **www.umcgoodshepherd.org**.



EDITOR'S CORNER

Thank you for your monthly contributions to the "Staff." In order to enter and edit your articles for each month's edition, **PLEASE**

submit your information by the **15th of each month by emailing your articles to: secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org**. You may also leave a phone message on: 215-632-1929. **If you prefer to receive an e-mailed copy of *The Staff*, please notify the secretary at the e-mail address listed above.**

During this coronavirus pandemic, we will do our best to stay connected as much as possible. The 10:30 AM Sunday service can be viewed online via Facebook or via the church website.

COMMUNION

We love sharing communion with you, but Good Shepherd Folks, it's cold outside! This means that we will not be holding services in our parking lot!! If you would like to have several months of communion elements delivered to you, please contact Robert Gurtcheff at: (215) -378-0026, Jeannette Cartwright at: (215) 539-7716, or Pastor Brown at (215) 632-1929. That way, we can get elements to you as soon as possible.

SUNDAY SERVICES

If you would like to join us in the sanctuary for the 10:30 AM Sunday service, we need to know that you are coming. The Bishop has instructed us to keep our attendance at 15 or less. Therefore, we ask that you contact Robert Gurtcheff at (215) 378-0026, Jeannette Cartwright at (215) 539-7716, or Pastor Brown at (215) 632-1929. If you let us know ahead of time, we can make sure that you have "a spot on a dot!"



The Wednesday afternoon Bible Study that meets in the choir room **at 1:00 PM remains cancelled until further notice.**

GOOD SHEPHERD OFFERS ELECTRONIC GIVING!

at: **www.umcgoodshepherd.org**

and scroll down to the **green GIVE NOW button** and follow the prompts to register. There is even an online tutorial and a contact number if you need help.

In order to position ourselves to continue doing the work of God in the future, and to make it as convenient as possible to be a cheerful giver to God's work, we have decided to offer online giving to you. Online offering has many benefits for the church. It allows us to more easily track contributions for budgeting. It saves us from manually tracking those contributions each week. It saves us from large fees on check processing and allows us to more accurately forecast expenditures and needs.

Many of you already pay for most of your purchases electronically, whether online or with a credit or debit card, so this service is a convenience for you, as well as us. You can set the donations to match your pay periods, and even send your one-time donations to the special offerings we may have from time-to-time. This service allows you to give any amount, at any time, from home or on the road, with your computer or even your mobile device. Now you can control how and when you give your tithes. We hope you will consider electronic giving in the future.



When services and activities are resumed, please consider joining us for **PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP** in The Upper Room on **Wednesdays in the sanctuary from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. It is an Essential Appointment.**

READING AND RELIGION

Contributed by: **Phyllis Brock**



Life and Other Shortcomings: Stories

By Corie Adjmi

Life and Other Shortcomings is a collection of 12 short stories about women that takes place from New Orleans to New York City to Madrid, and from 1970 to the present day.

The women in these stories make a number of different choices: some work, others don't; some stay married, some get divorced; others never marry at all. In each of these stories these women reveal specific truths about what it means to be a woman—in a relationship with another person, in a particular culture and era—and how these conditions affect their relationship with themselves. The stories show what it is and still might be, for some women in this country before the #MeToo movement. This book is a captivating window into women's lives.

LET US KEEP THEM IN OUR PRAYERS!

As the cases of coronavirus continue to escalate throughout this country, let us not forget to pray for the doctors, nurses, and other hospital personnel, as well as our brave first responders. While in prayer, please do not forget your family doctor, specialists, and their staff, the sanitation workers, the postal workers, grocery store employees, custodians, gas station attendants, pharmacists, drug store employees, and delivery service employees, etc., who deserve our praise and appreciation for their vigilance and dedication during this unprecedented time. Please pray for their safety, their families, their mental and emotional well-being, and remember they put their lives at risk while serving all of us!

PRAYER CHAIN



To put a joy or concern on the prayer chain, or if you would like to become one of the prayer team members, please email Joyce Cartwright at: dotgojoy1590@aol.com. For those who are not computer savvy, Betty

McLaughlin handles the telephone requests and notifications, so feel free to leave a message at 215-947-3317.



Since UMW has not been meeting, we still must meet our pledge for the year. We would appreciate it if you would kindly send your UMW offerings (that go to Missions) to: Liz Malloy at the following address: 1507 Huntly Drive, Warrington, PA 18976.

The Executive Board will meet in January to discuss the details and time for future UMW meetings.

IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY:
Thank you for all you do to keep us safe!



PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS!

*Christine Bader
Daniel Bader
Nolan Bader
Keith Busby
Mousa Dassama, Jr.
Evan Kuehl
Reilly Kuehl
Taylor Sestito
Ryan Sutch*

MISSIONS

The Missions Committee wants to extend a **HAPPY, SAFE, AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR** to all.

During November and December, we had two mission projects. During November we collected food for the Back-Lot families of Parx. We were able to donate several boxes of needed items. A special thank you to Robert Gurtcheff for delivering these items to them.

You are all aware that we go annually to Grace Café to cook for the homeless. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, this did not take place. Other groups are currently assisting with feeding the homeless. However, during December we did collect the needed clothing items to keep the homeless warm. We have an abundance of clothing that needs to be dropped off to Grace Café as soon as possible!

NEEDED: A DELIVERY PERSON TO DROP OFF CLOTHING ITEMS TO GRACE CAFÉ!
Please contact Betty McLaughlin at: 215-740-2097 or 215-947-3317.

Once again, thank you to all who helped in our mission work! – Blessings, Betty McLaughlin, Chairperson, and the Missions Committee

Happy Birthday

JANUARY

1 - Amelia Sango	9 - Robert P. Gurtcheff
10 - Mousa Dassama	11 - Joshua Calhoun
13 - Erin Kellogg	17 - Dwayne Hallman
17 - Walt Philippi	17 - Maurice Samuels
24 - Anna T. Strohm	30 - Joyce Booth
31 - Douglas Caristo	31 - Dorothy Meaney

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY

15th - Rob & Eileen Sattelmeyer
16th - James & Janis Jones

If you would like to include your name on the **STAFF BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY LIST**, please include your name and the day and month you were born, or your names and anniversary date and send an e-mail to: secretary@umcgoodshepherd.com.



Tom & Danielle Parker are conducting a **TENT** fundraiser to be used to continue community outreach. If you are interested in donating to this worthy cause, please contact Danielle at: 215-480-3398.

C*O*L*L*E*C*T*I*O*N*S

Do you know we collect the following items?

1. Aluminum Tabs – McDonald's House – Helps to keep the cost down for the parents of the children hospitalized.
2. Eyeglasses – Delivered to the Lion's Club.
3. Non-perishable food for our food bank. There are collection baskets for these items in the Narthex.