



The Grapevine

FEB, MARCH, APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER
OF CHESTER BETHEL UMC



“Oh, For the Love of God!”

Rev. Kelly Conner

I have to admit that I’ve always hated Valentine’s Day. It’s a day to celebrate romantic love – the kind of love that I had been missing for so long in my life. But it may be unsurprising to those of you who met my new boyfriend, Edward, over Christmas that I find myself feeling a bit differently this year! Through Edward, God has now restored my faith that even I may be blessed with a romantic partner with whom I can share my life.

Since February is a kind of season of love, I invite us to remember the ways that love is described in the New Testament.

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Dates to Remember

- Feb. 9 - Souper Bowl Sunday
- 11 - Trustees @6 PM
- 12 - Admin council @6PM
- 16 - Guest preacher Tom Pasmore
- 23 - Guest preacher Chelsea Spyles
- March 2 - Mission meeting after church
- 5 - Ash Wednesday
- 5&7 - Bible study begins for Lent
- 9 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- 11 - Trustees @6 PM
- 12 - Admin Council @6 PM
- 30 - Joint Worship & fellowship here @ 11 am
- April 8 - Trustees @6 PM
- 9 - Admin Council @6 PM
- 13 - Palm Sunday worship at 9:30
- 17 - Maundy Thursday worship at MLUMC; 6:00
- 18 - Good Friday worship at CBUMC; 6 PM
- 20 - Easter Sunday!
 - 6:30 am Sunrise service at MLUMC
 - 9:30 worship at CBUMC



Preschool Building Update



Construction begins soon:
-it will take 2 weeks for outside, we plan to start when the weather breaks
-it will take 1-2 weeks for inside work, beginning the 2nd week of March

MISSIONS AND THRIFT SHOP MAKE END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS



Each year Chester Bethel Missions donates your contributions to area charities, helping to feed, clothe, and house those in need. In 2024 the charities assisted were NCC Habitat for Humanity, Claymont Community Center, The Salvation Army, the Food Bank of Delaware, Camp Pecometh, and the CBUMC Good Samaritan Fund (this is in addition to the funds collected on communion Sundays.) All these received roughly \$723 except the Food Bank got \$812.

That's nearly \$6,600 in donations not counting the food, socks, gloves and personal products donated and delivered by many hands.

The Chester Bethel Thrift Shop reserves part of its gross income for charities and this year \$5,500 went to nine organizations: Sojourners Place, The Ministry of Caring, The Salvation Army, Sunday Breakfast Mission, Claymont Community Center, Food Bank of Delaware, Neighborhood House, Phoenix Used clothing and Habitat for Humanity.

Church members and friends spent hours sorting, pricing and selling the many donations. In 2024 approx. 17% of the Thrift Shop's income kept the old church lit and heated; the rest came to the church's general fund and to area charities.

Over \$12,000 in 2024 went to charities from both these sources.

PEOPLE CHANGES AT CHESTER BETHEL



As of January 1, 2025 some new faces are taking on roles in work and worship at Chester Bethel. Here are their names; please welcome them!

Treasurer: Janet Barrowclough

Altar Guild: Yvonne Kaciuban (with Nancy Storer)

Lay Leader & member to Annual Conference:

Sylvia Illuzzi

Worship Leaders: Rich Kuc, Sylvia Illuzzi, Polly Brown,
Yvonne Kaciuban

SPRC: Sylvia Illuzzi, Dottie Renshaw, Barbara Coulbourn

Finance Chair: Still unfilled!



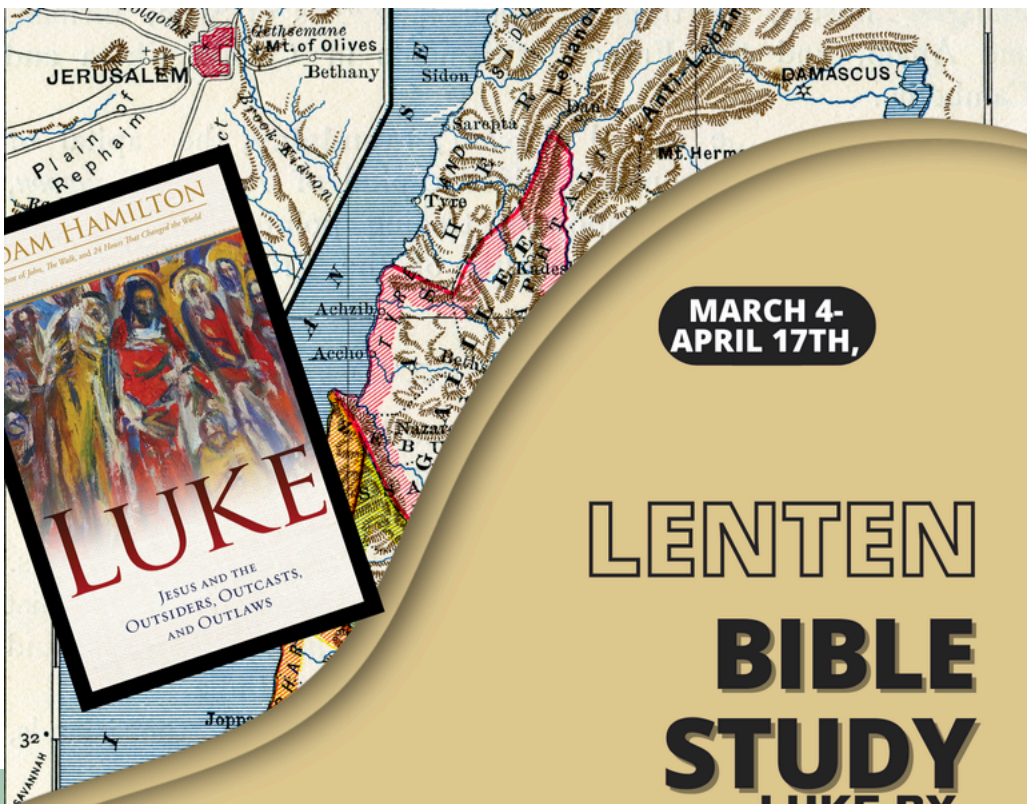
Please Pray for:

Joseph Glasgow (H); CA Wildfire victims (L); Linda Lyons (H); Jean Andrews (H); Andrew R.(O); Bill and Doreen Jones (H); Mary Ann Box (H); Darene Hazel (H); Ramona Harlow (LT); Jane Dean (H); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); DeBrock Family (O); Allison (H); Kim Nally; Amy (H); Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (H); Mabel Ladd (H); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); and all peoples impacted by war (LT)

Bible Study for Lent


Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it.

(Summary from Amazon)



**MARCH 4-
APRIL 17TH,**

**LENTEN
BIBLE
STUDY**
**LUKE BY
ADAM
HAMILTON**



**7 PM ZOOM ON
TUESDAYS; IN
PERSON 10 ON
THURSDAYS**



Oh, for the Love of God (cont.)

We don't just talk about romantic love as Christians – there are all kinds of ways to love others! Here are two types of love that we can find there:

1. Philos (pronounced fee-lohs), meaning “friend.”

This comes from the verb which means “to love or delight in a friend.”¹ Since

we're so close to Philadelphia, the “city of brotherly love,” we can probably

remember this one pretty easily. It's all about the kind of care and tenderness with

which we treat our friends and our siblings in Christ.

2. Agape (pronounced ah-gah-pay), meaning “charitable love, affection, or good will.”²

Christians generally understand that this term refers to the kind of unconditional

love, mercy, and grace that God offers us. John uses it a lot to describe the

sacrificial love of Jesus.

We see these words used most clearly in John 21:15-16. Jesus

asks Peter two times, “Simon son of John, do you love

(agape) me more than these?” Each time, Peter says, “Of

course – you know I love (philos) you!” Peter is answering a very different question than the one Jesus originally asked,

which proves that that he is missing the point. Jesus

doesn't just ask us to have good, friendly feelings for each

other. Instead, He asks his disciples to offer our very selves

in love of God and of one another. When we are called to

love our neighbor, this is the kind of unmerited grace and

mercy that Jesus means!