

# Wesley Window for September 2010

A publication of **WesleyChurch**  
A United Methodist Congregation  
2540 Center Street, Bethlehem PA 18017 [www.wesleychurch.com](http://www.wesleychurch.com)

## RALLY DAY!

Sunday, September 12

Join us on Rally Day as we celebrate our Ministry of Christian Education for the whole family.

8:30 a.m. **Pancake and Sausage Breakfast** begins in Fellowship Hall

8:45 a.m. **First Service** begins; Sunday School Teachers will be commissioned

10:00 a.m. **Education Hour** begins; Parents can register children for Sunday School in their classrooms

Adults can **Meet and Greet** with Pastor Tom and Pam Fries in Fellowship Hall and enjoy breakfast!

10:00 a.m. **Service of Word and Table**, in the Chapel. Scripture, prayers, Holy Communion.

11:00 a.m. **Second Service** begins; children age 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to go to Celebration Too! in Room 203.

### Childcare is available all morning

- ♥ Birth to 18 months in Room 201 all morning
- ♥ 18 months and older in Room 202 during the 8:45 a.m. service
- ♥ Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. in all the rooms!
- ♥ 18 months through 3 years in Room 202 during the 11:00 a.m. service; (older children are invited to go to Celebration Too! from the Sanctuary)

Please join us at  
Monday, September 13  
4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

3215 Schoenersville Road  
in Bethlehem



10% of all sales from this time will go to Wesley Church's Family Ministries.

You are welcome to call ahead, place an order, and pick up on your way home! Phone 610-264-4444.

Please sign up in the Atrium so the restaurant has a *general* idea of the amount of food to prepare.

or email [mkoch@ptd.net](mailto:mkoch@ptd.net) or [beckersflute@rcn.com](mailto:beckersflute@rcn.com).

You don't have to belong to Wesley Church! Invite a friend or neighbor! Eat at **saladworks** any time between 4:30 and 8:00 p.m. on Monday, September 13.

Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a wonderful and challenging summer. Let's recap a bit, and remember what we covered!

Our United Methodist Church has challenged congregations to "**Rethink Church.**"

So, our summer series asked: "**What Kind of Church Does the World NEED to See?**"

And our response to that question was: **The World NEEDS to see a Church That ...**

- Believes in ALL People
- Does Not Try to Pigeon-hole Jesus – Ever
- Does Not Refashion God in It's Own Preferred Image
- Can Balance Prayer and Action
- Interprets the Bible on 4 Critical Levels
- Serves the Poor
- Is Comfortable with Mystery
- Knows the Difference Between the Spirit of the Law and the Letter of the Law
- Embraces and Models Downward Mobility

We listened to Leonard Cohen's wonderful Anthem, which reminded us that 'there is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in.'

We watched Casting Crown's video, Does Anybody Hear Her? which reminded us to be on the lookout for those who search for the kind of love and acceptance that can be found in a congregation that takes Christ seriously.

We watched a video of Christ's agony and crucifixion, set to the music of Foreigner's "I Want to Know What Love Is." And we saw an example of the extent of God's love for us.

We talked about salvation as not something we earn, but something to which we awaken.

We pointed out that God loves us, not because we are good, but because God is good.

And so much more!

We'll carry these concepts with us, weaving them into future endeavors to Form Faith, Encounter Culture, and be International Welcoming. Thank you for your patience, support, openness, and encouragement! We are all looking forward to God's leading.

– Pastor Tom

We are back to regular church office hours:  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday

## News from the Outreach Depot

by Barbara Reimers, Relief Supply Kits Coordinator

Thanks to all of you who have donated supplies for the School Kits. We are putting them together now and will continue to do so as long as we have the items we need.

Throughout the year, we will set up displays in the Atrium focusing on the items needed for each of the various kits. We are hoping to make everyone aware of the specific items in each kit so that as you shop and see some of those things on sale, you might be moved to purchase supplies for us.

The need is ongoing. Two items seems to be always in short supply, and those are receiving blankets (these are used in 2 different kits) and fingernail clippers. Also, gallon sized Ziploc bags are used in packaging up many of the kits, and new bed pillows and brooms can be used by many of our local clients.

Please keep us in mind as you shop, and thank you again for your generosity.

## United Methodist Women News

from JoAn Steinberger

**The Mary Marthas** will be meeting on Wednesday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Library. Shirley Martin will give a presentation on **Deborah** from the Book of Judges.

All women of Wesley Church are welcome to be with us.

In October we will be meeting on Wednesday, October 6 at 1:00 p.m. in the Library. Our theme will be **Reaching Out in Mission**. Carol Totten and Barbara Reimers will explain to us how we can do something to help others by putting together "Kits" to aid the people who come to Wesley Church's **Outreach Depot** for assistance in their time of need.

## UMW District Fall Ingathering and Annual Meeting

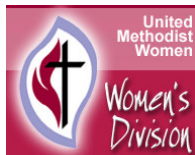
Saturday, September 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Epworth UMC on Oakland Road in Bethlehem

Marie Hoffman, of Wesley Church, will be the speaker, talking about her homeland of Haiti: **"What's Happening in Haiti?"** Bring a friend and bring your own bag lunch. Beverages and desserts are provided.

**Ingathering** items needed for Hazelton Enlarged Ministries & Asbury Thrift Shop Allentown Center City Ministries:

- Underwear and socks for infants, children and adults
- Infant, baby, toddler clothes and diapers
- Wash cloths and towels
- Men's Jeans
- Mittens, hats sweaters, nightwear

Connect with Marcia Hartman for information:  
[marciakay@rcn.com](mailto:marciakay@rcn.com) or 610-868-9376.



## Church-Wide Brunch Saturday

October 2, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

A Chance to be Inspired –

Meet Arlene Brown, in Mission for God

Sponsored by

United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men

By Cynthia Grieshaber

Arlene Brown is not your typical grandmother. Not content to retire and stay home, she asked God if there was not something else He had in mind for her. She had no idea that a mere 15 years later she would be Founder and Director of an International Organization that includes a home for 39 orphans and abandoned children in Rwanda, Africa. You can meet, greet, and be inspired when Arlene tells about her amazing life in mission during brunch on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Arlene's accomplishments through Hope Made Real and Urukundo Home for Children will inspire you to move out in faith. Perhaps you will have a chance to go to Rwanda and work in mission with Arlene. Traveling with Arlene on this trip is Lilliane Wishavura, a 14-year old girl whose life has been dramatically changed by this remarkable woman. Lilliane has been able to meet her American grandmother (aka sponsor) and sister (aka sponsor's granddaughter) who lives in State College, PA, near Arlene's former home in Williamport, PA.

In the five years since Arlene established the Urukundo Home for Children she has made quite an impact. One of her children placed first in a national essay contest for all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, many of her children rank first or second in their grades in school. In addition, the Rwandan national government has implemented new standards for institutions that care for children, based on Arlene's model. As a matter of fact, Arlene was recently presented with her new permanent visa from Rwanda that has "VIP" stamped on its front, a rare reward for a non-native of Rwanda.

Arlene's presentation will include slides of the children and adults she works and lives with, images of mission groups who have traveled to help with the work, and a question and answer period. Learn about the potential for you, whether you are young, old, or middle-aged, to help others in need, or to respond what God is asking of you. Who knows – maybe you will be among future mission groups who travel to Rwanda to help out at Urukundo Home for Children?

For more information contact Carol Totten/ UMW President ([totten.60@rcn.com](mailto:totten.60@rcn.com)), or Louis Williams ([will4comp@rcn.com](mailto:will4comp@rcn.com)) or Bill Whipple ([william.whipple@lvh.com](mailto:william.whipple@lvh.com)) UMM Presidents.

**Chancel Choir rehearsals** begin again on Wednesday, September 8. Come at 7:45 p.m. to the Music Room (find the drinking fountain off from the Atrium and go through the double doors near it.)

No one will ask you to audition! But you will probably be asked to sing la-la-la for the warm up! You are welcome!

## The Story of Wesley's Tomatoes

*from Jason Walters, Social Justice Ministry Team*

As the summer winds down and the harvest of vegetables begin, you may have taken notice to a basket in the Atrium overflowing with tomatoes, and wonder Where do they come from, and where are they going?

On Bread for the World Sunday, after the May 30<sup>th</sup> service, we gave congregation members tomato plants to grow. The idea was grow and nurture the plant, and when the tomato bears fruit, to bring it back to the church, and we would take it to the local food bank. To date we have collected approximately 50 pounds of tomatoes. We also had some members donate squash, cucumbers and watermelons from their own garden. The majority of the tomatoes have gone to New Bethany Ministries; however, some have also gone to the Clearview School's Family Resource Center.

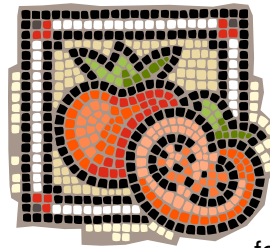
We first discussed the idea back in March with the team including Bill Arnold, Deborah Appler, Josh Bridges, Clarke & Ardis Chapman, Jaimee and Jason Walters. At that time we grew several plants from seedlings. Some of those seedlings grew into plants, but they weren't strong enough or sufficient enough to roll out to the congregation. Some of those plants made it into the plants we gave out, but the majority of the tomato plants came as transplants from Amore farms just up the road on Bath Pike. Bill Arnold was kind enough to acquire the tomato plants for us. One weekend the team got together and assembled the plants into the pots we gave out at service.

This week I took my son Tim to the New Bethany Ministries food bank to drop off the tomatoes. It was the first time he had seen a food bank. We talked for quite a while with one of the food bank's volunteer's named Fiona. She also introduced me to other volunteers, and some others at the shelter, everyone was busy stocking food on the shelves. Everyone was pleasant even in these difficult times. It was a humbling experience. Fiona was definitely excited to see our harvest. Fiona just returned from a trip back home to Ireland. She sighed and then she told me, that she's invigorated but frustrated. Why I asked? She said, "I need more help! Back in Ireland we don't have people who are homeless. Yes, we have poverty, but everyone has a place to live." She then told me a story of everyone who pitched in to help rebuild a historic theater back in Ireland. Everyone in the town pitched in, they each contributed by "purchasing a brick" and in no time the theater was rebuilt. I told her I would think about how we could further help as a church. But the lesson I learned, is that through helping, it may be the case that God is showing us or calling us to help more.

Now back to the tomato story. How did we start with the idea? Last spring when I attended a *Bread for the World Workshop*, I learned the importance of locally grown produce and how it intertwines with hunger and poverty issues. Steven Hogg was a presenter for one of the sessions, speaking for the Lehigh Valley Food Co-op. The co-op sells organically and locally grown produce. My wife Jaimee and I have for the last 2 years been purchasing a CSA share and have been receiving fresh

produce for about 18 weeks out of the year. For more information about the Lehigh Valley Food Coop visit ([www.lvfood.coop](http://www.lvfood.coop)). One of the seeds this experience planted in my head, was how could we make it so that those who are less fortunate than us still enjoy fresh, local vegetables.

At the same workshop, I attended another session by Chip Paillex on his idea to help the community, called *Grow-A-Row*. That effort involved a farm in Pittstown, NJ where a plot of farmland donated by a local farmer was tended by members in the community, including children, at risk teens, local churches and other volunteers. The harvest then was donated to local food pantries across the area. Through volunteering children learned responsibility, hard work, and where food comes from. However, the most important lesson as Chip said, "planting the seed for giving back." It was there I learned that taking a hands-on approach gave special meaning to giving. After all, anyone can write a check. But if you grow something, give it love and care, and then donate that; wow that's powerful!



I've never been much of a gardener myself, but over the last summer or two, Jaimee and I have been trying to grow tomatoes with some success. After all they are relatively simple to grow, and produce a lot of fruit. I also had a passion for creating a community garden.

When Bill Arnold and Deborah Appler met with the social justice team, we talked about those experiences, and how perhaps we could do something special for Bread for the World Sunday. That was when we came up with the idea that we could give out the tomato plants and have members bring back the fruit of those plants to donate.

The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive. A big thank you goes to everyone in our congregation for making this effort so successful. I especially want to thank everyone on the social justice team, and my wife Jaimee and son Tim. Without your help, this project would not have been possible.

Maybe next year we can grow a whole garden as a congregation!

The social justice team is looking for new members. Please contact Jason or Jaimee Walters at 610-625-2626 if you are interested.

*Hey everyone!*

*This is just a quick note. This Sunday's donation of Tomatoes has exceeded 40 pounds! This was the biggest donation yet. This brings our grand total to just about 100 pounds of tomatoes donated!*

*Thank you everyone!!!*

*Thanks,  
Jason*

## Ryan's Tree Serves Pizza

and you can help to pay for it. Ryan's Tree is a "guided peer support program for children and adolescents grieving the loss of a family member or friend."

This program offers six week sessions throughout the year where children or teens meet with staff and trained volunteers, as they face their grief and find a nurturing environment that promotes healing. You can learn more at [www.mystlukesonline.org/ryanstree](http://www.mystlukesonline.org/ryanstree).

Each time they meet, they eat pizza together. Donna Giardina has been finding friends to offer help in the cost of the pizza, rather than using the Ryan's Tree funds. One week's pizza costs about \$65. Donations of any amount are welcome! You can make your check out to Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's and note Ryan's Tree in the memo. Donna Giardina will get your check to them, or you can mail it to: Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's, Attn: Development Office; 1510 Valley Center Parkway Suite 220, Bethlehem PA 18017.

## Wesley Church Retreat

Friday October 22 to Sunday October 24

Held at Camp Hebron

[www.camphebron.org](http://www.camphebron.org)

Theme: **The ME I Want to Be**  
from the book by John Ortberg

The purpose of Wesley Church Retreat is to give people the opportunity to deepen their faith and build relationships within their church community. By leaving the routines and comfort zones of home, we open the door to explore our faith in new ways.

Fees are less if paid by September 15, and more if paid by October 15. There is a \$40.00 (per household) non-refundable registration fee.

Please connect with Becky Graybeal at 610-867-0294 or [Beckersflute@rcn.com](mailto:Beckersflute@rcn.com) with questions or wonderments.

Prices are age related; includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals. Registration forms are on the Hospitality Table.

First Sundays are always Food Bank Sundays!

## SATORI's Gift of Music Program

**S** is for **SATORI**, and **S**axophones, **S**ousaphones, **S**trings, **S**ilver flutes, **S**hiny trumpets, and more . . .

SATORI would like to remind you that there are students in our area who hope to participate in their school music program but cannot afford to purchase or rent musical instruments. If you have a used band or orchestra instrument that could fill this need, please consider donating it to SATORI's Gift of Music program. It will be reconditioned and donated, at no charge, to an area music program for use by a needy student. Instrument donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged. For additional information, contact SATORI at 610-435-6036 or [www.satori-chambermusic.org](http://www.satori-chambermusic.org)

Thank you for giving the **Gift of Music!**

## Adult Faith Formation

### Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Meet and Greet with Pastor Tom and Pam Fries.**

September Sunday mornings (during the Education Hour at 10:00 to 10:50) to ask **any question** of Tom and Pam, so that you can begin to learn to know them, and they can begin to know you. Look for signs as to where: Fellowship Hall or Library or Sanctuary. Members of the Faith Formation Team Ministry will facilitate the discussions.

**FaithLink** discussions over coffee, occasionally. These are always timely and generate all sorts of expressed opinions! In the Library or Fellowship Hall.

**Clarke Chapman** teaching: **Voting, Faith and Politics**, the last two Sundays in October. It's a General Election on Tuesday, November 1. How do we make choices? In whose interest do we vote? Do we "render unto Caesar?" What does belong to Caesar?

### Weekdays:

**Ken Cragg** teaching, on Tuesday's at 10:30 a.m.

**Christians and Muslims: Potential Partners for Peace.** Begins Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

1. What are the basic problems between radical Islam, local Muslim people and the West and how should we be reacting? 2. Who was the Prophet Muhammad and what did he teach? 3. What are the key tenets of the Islamic faith? 4. What are the ideological and historical issues that motivate the Terrorist Movement? 5. What response options face the U.S.? 6. What active roll has the Christian Community in response to Islam and our Muslim neighbors?

(Ken will be teaching this class on Tuesday evenings at the Presbyterian Church next door!)

**John Colatch** teaching, on Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m.:

**Issues We Disagree About at the Dinner Table.** Begins Tuesday, September 21, 2010

This course will offer a brief survey of the Christian Social Justice movement in America, beginning with a look at the Prophetic Tradition, and proceeding to examine the evangelical reform movement of the nineteenth century, which gave rise to a fledgling feminist movement. This background will help us to discuss contemporary issues such as restorative justice (including the death penalty), environmental justice, euthanasia, and the Bible and homosexuality, and maybe more!

**Sue Moore** teaching, on Thursdays in October at 2:00 p.m. **Take This Bread**, by Sara Miles

The story of an unexpected and terribly inconvenient Christian conversion, told by a very unlikely convert, *Take This Bread* is not only a spiritual memoir but a call to action. Raised as an atheist, Sara Miles lived an enthusiastically secular life as a restaurant cook and writer. Then early one morning, for no earthly reason, she wandered into a church. "I was certainly not interested in becoming a Christian," she writes. "Or, as I thought of it rather less politely, a religious nut." But she ate a piece of bread, took a sip of wine, and found herself radically transformed. . . .

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