

# Voice of the SPIRE

The Newsletter of Arch Street United Methodist Church, *A Reconciling Congregation*

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## Serenity House in 2019

*Carmen Francesco, ASUMC Community Organizer*



Great things are happening at Serenity House Community Center (CC). We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Open hours continue—Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. During this time, we will offer free case management services, free healthy food cooking classes by the Food Trust, an Easter Lenten Series, and—new this winter—a handwork skill-share group.

*More on our case management...* Our Case Management team at The Center–Philadelphia hosts two to four students in social service–related fields. Each semester, I oversee students from Alvernia University, Temple University, and Philadelphia Community College to provide community members at both Grace Café and Serenity House CC with resources and advocacy services to try to achieve participants' goals. This work includes applying for benefits, setting up vital appointments, developing computer

## Building Fund Gift

*Rev. Robin Hynicka*

The congregation recently received a very generous gift designated for the Building Fund with the instruction that the funds be used to make repairs and improvements on the properties held by the congregation, of which there are three: 55 North Broad Street (the church), 2116 Poplar Street (the former parsonage, now rented), and 1209 West Lehigh Avenue (Serenity House).

The Board of Trustees have developed a list of immediate uses for the gift that include the following: waterproof the cooling tower; caulk the church steps and apply antislip treads; install door

locking devices on the church doors; make repairs to the organ; engage a lighting consultant to suggest ways to improve the sanctuary lighting; replace the oil-fired boiler at Serenity House with a high-efficiency gas-fired furnace; install a fire protection system at Serenity House; and install new stair treads on the steps to Nichols Hall and the upstairs.

*literacy, connecting people with free legal services, and much more. Meet our case managers any Thursday at Serenity House CC or Sunday at Grace Café!*

*More on our handwork and art share group...* After many requests by community members and congregation members alike, Serenity House CC will embark in a handwork skill-sharing group. On a weekly basis, Serenity House CC will focus on skills that can be shared in an intergenerational therapeutic space. The group will explore skills including but not limited to knitting, crocheting, sewing, and cross stitch. Currently we are looking for skilled volunteers to help teach these skills each week. Additionally, donations such as knitting/crocheting/sewing needles, yarn, thread, and a sewing machine will be collected for the program. Please contact Kristi Painter or me at [serenityhouse@archstreetumc.org](mailto:serenityhouse@archstreetumc.org) before donations are made.

*Additional programs...* Serenity House CC will continue to be a space for groups to share. The People's Garden will resume in January as we begin planning for our fourth growing season, with hopes of more garden workers and a free and accessible farm stand. The Food Trust cooking classes will resume in the spring.

We're excited about the new opportunities to engage with our neighborhood and we look forward to having you join us in the New Year!

*Follow Serenity House on Facebook or Instagram for up-to-date info @serenityhousephilly. Subscribe to the church eblast for weekly event updates (sign up at [www.archstreetumc.org](http://www.archstreetumc.org)).*

The combination of such generosity and due diligence on the part of the Trustees makes it possible for the congregation to experience significant improvements.



## Minister's Message

*Rev. Robin Hynicka, Senior Pastor*

Robbie Roth, who lived up the hill, was my childhood best friend. Together, without much supervision, we learned what it means to share. It took trial and error, humility, and a whole lot of time together.

One late summer afternoon, Robbie and I (both around 8 years old) were playing outside. I brought out my football helmet and we started to share. I put it on and Robbie lightly tapped me on the head. We exchanged roles and this "sharing" went on until we were hitting each other pretty hard. Finally, Robbie hit me so hard, and I hit him so hard back, that we were both in tears. Robbie ran home and I threw the helmet to the ground and went to my room in a deep sulk. Even though it would take several days of reflection, separately we both came to realize that the helmet game—the process of interaction we devised—was not sharing.

That day, we failed at sharing in so many ways, but in his run home and my bedroom sulk we began the maturing work of developing the emotional and experiential intelligence needed to repair, restore, and recreate our relationship. What we both wanted more than to be the one to hit the hardest, was to be together to explore and enjoy life.

As I reflect on this experience now, I see how it rehearsed the primitive practice of wielding physical and empirical power to present a clear winner. But the opposite was true: our game yielded two clear losers. Well, maybe not complete losers because we did make up, and we did apologize, and we did move on to be more creative in our friendship. In fact, the next time we played with that football helmet, we used it to gather apples from our neighbor's tree. Oops! That, you might guess, taught us another of life's lessons.

In an article that appears elsewhere in this edition of the *Spire*, Deaconess Darlene and I introduce the concept of Shared Leadership. I offered the story above to illustrate that true sharing is deep relational work that produces a community centered on equity, justice, and love. Some other stories that speak to the heartache of fierce competition and the heart-hope of faithful friendship are the following: Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1–16); David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1–5); Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 1:1–22) and Mary and Elizabeth (Luke 1:39–45); Jesus and Peter (John 21:15–19).

## Church Council—You're Invited!

*Phil Gressman, Chair, ASUMC Church Council*

Did you know? The Church Council (or "Administrative Council") is the committee within the church which is charged according to the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* with "planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church." In practice, this means the Church Council regularly meets to:

- Monitor our finances, endowment, and physical building
- Discuss broad issues regarding the staff and overall administrative functioning of our church
- Learn about and provide support for our congregation's many mission and justice ministries, like Serenity House, Grace Café, POWER, and the Nationalities Service Center
- Hear from community partners about the good things they do and ways we can engage in joint mission and advocacy
- Plan for special events in worship

Most of the church's other committees (Trustees, Finance, Staff–Parish Relations, Worship, etc.) have representatives on the Council who provide regular updates about their activities and needs.

Church Council meetings at Arch Street are always open for members and friends to attend. We have recently moved to a fixed monthly schedule: the first Wednesday of each month, immediately after the church's new monthly potluck dinner.

Our hope is to make the meetings more accessible to anyone who would like to have a new way to build community, get information, think about big-picture issues in the life of the church, be part of planning, find opportunities for volunteering, or just be more involved. If the idea of joining our monthly church dinner is appealing but you're not able to stay for the meeting, that's okay too—we are happy for you to join us in whatever ways make the most sense for you.

## Shared Leadership

Rev. Robin Hynicka and Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck

In 2018, ASUMC went from one full-time clergy, one full-time Global Mission Fellow, and a half-time Deaconess to four full-time Ministry Team members. We also created the pathway to bring our Deaconess from a part-time, uncompensated appointment to a full-time compensated position. This Ministry Team's collective knowledge, skill, experience, commitment, and desire for ASUMC to grow in all ways is amazing. At the same time, non-staff church leaders are committed to engaging deeper and sharing more widely with the congregation and the community why and how things happen and get done at ASUMC. They are focused on welcoming new people to share leadership and responsibility with the Ministry Team in shaping and implementing the mission and ministry of the congregation.

On the micro level, this shared leadership requires constant communication in many forms: staff meetings, email blasts, issues of the *Spire*, planning retreats, regular committee meetings, and training workshops. On the macro level, shared leadership requires the will and a strategy to dismantle and replace hierarchical and paternalistic systems of decision-making, control, and resource allocation. Sharing leadership and leaning into each other's strengths is liberating and healthy, and increases ASUMC's capacity to expand programming for children and families, care for our buildings, celebrate our amazing community, and come closer together.

Our biblical tradition tells us that God's image is imprinted in each of us. We are conceived to be co-creators with God and with each other. For that reason alone, shared leadership makes sense. Living into what it takes to truly co-create and share leadership is a matter of faith, justice, and building a sustainable congregation.

Trust, accountability, and open communication are essential elements of a sustainable congregation, and so is developing leaders who share and practice these elements. In her book *Emergent Strategy*, adrienne maree brown (lower case is the author's preference) states that "the fatal human flaw is a combination of hierarchy and intelligence. We are brilliant at survival but brutal at it. We tend to slip out of the womb, bloody, messy and surprised to be alone. And clever—able to learn with our whole bodies the ways of the world." She goes on to express a deep and divine hope that we can agree to soften that intelligence so that "we can align our behavior, our structures and our movements with our visions of justice and liberation, and give those of us co-creating the future more options for working with each other and embodying the things we fight for—dignity, collective power, love, generative conflict and community."

This co-creating vision is both inspiring and intensely challenging because it requires that we imagine and implement ways of relating, communicating, deciding, and doing that are nonhierarchical, equitable, and liberating. Shared Leadership models exist in many businesses and organizations, and so we are not inventing something new, just deciding to live into our own values. Shared Leadership can mean different things to different people, so in moving ahead, it is essential that the congregation adopt a shared leadership covenant. Here are a few characteristics of Shared Leadership gleaned from Claire Maxwell, Associate Director of Oasis School of Human Resources, that might appear in that covenant. Shared Leadership:

- Is not about delegation, but about taking responsibility
- Requires organizational mechanisms and processes to be aligned with approach and values
- Means that while everyone has the opportunity to lead, it does not mean that everybody leads all the time (situational leadership)
- Requires time, space, and the opportunity for people who have learned to comply and be silent, to learn to bring more of themselves to the work
- Requires groups to have the resources and freedom to meet, learn, plan, and reflect
- Requires a healthy relationship between responsibility and authority to act
- Is inclusive and participatory
- Requires people to be equipped with the tools and attitudes for effective human relations
- Requires a willingness to work with alternative approaches to power and authority
- Requires emotional, attitudinal competence

In very simple terms, Shared Leadership is an intentional model of learning to liberate ourselves from the social constructs of racism, ableism, sexism, heterosexism, and all forms of oppression that we currently swim in. Yes, that means swimming against the tide, and that is hard work, but the alternative is being swept away in careless complicity. Shared Leadership is a hopeful and faithful response. It is a posture that will bring great joy in the new community co-created with God and each other.

## Introducing Antuan Heath

Janis Moore Campbell, Chair, ASUMC Staff–Parish Relations Committee



Yes, lightening *can* strike twice, and yes, people *do* phone you just when you're thinking of them.

Imagine that you applied for a job at a nonprofit, were interviewed, and are invited back for a final round of interviews with the CEO, President, and VP of the board. You arrive at a beautiful old stone building on Rittenhouse Square and are ushered into the boardroom. Upon meeting the CEO, you each smile and begin to laugh uncontrollably. Who would have guessed it! This is the very person who for the past three years, you, on a first-name-only basis, have gotten to know well, by daily walking dogs and talking life together in Clark Park!

Whether or not you decide it's *coincidence*, that's exactly how,

in 2012, our newest sexton, Antuan Heath, came to join the Philadelphia Ethical Society as its building manager. After more than five years, a change in leadership at the society *coincided* with the death of Antuan's grandmother, presenting Antuan with the opportunity to renovate his grandmother's triplex at 42nd & Woodland. Antuan manages and rents the triplex to students from the University of The Sciences. Doing so, *coincidentally*, enables him to serve as a part-time sexton for Arch Street United Methodist Church!

Antuan is a proud native of West Philadelphia who attended high school at Penn Center Academy. Almost a brown belt in Karate, Antuan for several years also practiced some form of MMA, including 3 Sticks and Hand-to-Hand. Observing that life is complicated for many who cross the ASUMC threshold, Antuan stated he thinks daily of his deceased grandmother, who was an important force in his family's upbringing. She loved God and taught Antuan that the true self exists beyond gender, class, and religious denomination—only the body wears those labels.

In the few months that he has been at Arch Street, Antuan has been impressed with ASUMC hospitality and our social justice mission. Like everyone at Arch Street, he seeks to maintain positive communication and mutual respect with all. What a *coincidence*!

## Let Me Ask You Some Questions!

James Dell'Orefice, Musician, 8:30 Worship Service

In the last issue, I spoke to you about how music enhances our spiritually elevated experience, feeling at one with God at worship service. To gain the full benefits from our participation in organized sound that we call music, we need to feel the love we have for God in our heart as we sing.

Now let me ask you some questions. Is there a particular style or genre of music best suited to evoke this mystic oneness with God? Is there room for God in all styles of music? Does God have a preference?

I'm not sure there are conclusive answers to these questions. I am sure, however, that music needs more than one participant to

be called *music*. It needs the performer and the listener to complete the circle; otherwise it is only sound, whether it is organized or not.

This brings me to tell the story of one man, Alan Segal, who has dedicated his afterlife, after flatlining twice, to giving the wonderful gift of music we call *jazz* to people unlikely to experience it in a setting that brings us closer to God. Through an organization called "Jazz Sanctuary," Alan's mission is to bring jazz to houses of worship without financial burden to the fellowship. By bringing jazz to the community through free concerts, he hopes to promote not only an appreciation for jazz, but also an important social function that religious communities need to sustain their viability.

## Our History: Rev. Haney Revives Arch Street

Dale Shillito, ASUMC Historian

Rev. Haney understood that timing and location were essential to keep church programs active. Commuters did not want to stay late after Sunday night worship, so Friendly Hour was reintroduced after Sunday morning services. It consisted of fellowship and refreshments served by a lay committee. This continues, now called "Get Acquainted Time."

Instead of commuter-members coming back into town for Wednesday night prayer meetings, small prayer groups met in 12 individual homes and apartments scattered throughout the city and suburbs, increasing attendance 10-fold. Once reactivated, these groups joined together for a communal supper, prayer, Bible study, and educational and cultural programs.

To promote student and youth participation in the church, Rev. Haney started a campus outreach program under Chuck Yrigoyen, Jr., son of the former pastor. Summer activities were scheduled, including trips to Ocean Grove, New Hope, and Longwood Gardens. Local trips included the Art Museum, Fels Planetarium, Philadelphia Zoo, and picnic suppers in Fairmount Park. Many students were internationals. Rev. and Mrs. Haney led congregational tours of the Holy Lands in 1967 and 1969. In 1970, the Haney family went on a United Methodist World Peace tour to the Soviet bloc, to countries he had visited previously in 1963.

## A Way Forward...

*Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck*

What is “A Way Forward”? For the last 40+ years (nearly the length of its lifetime), the United Methodist Church has debated openly and behind closed doors the sacred worth of LGBTQIA members. The delegates to the 2016 General Conference passed legislation requesting the Council of Bishops to convene a commission to help the denomination find a way forward with the possibility of calling a special session of General Conference.

The Council of Bishops did so, and after 18 months of work, the Commission on A Way Forward recommended three plans (outlined by Rev. Herb Snyder below) to be debated and voted on at a special session of General Conference taking place February 23rd–26th in St. Louis. Pastor Robin, Kristi, Carmen, Pastor Herb, and I will be attending as observers and volunteers with the justice-seeking coalition called LYNC (Love Your Neighbor Coalition). Follow along for updates via social media on Arch Street’s Facebook page (@ASUMC) or at the Love Your Neighbor Coalition (@LYNCoalition). You can also follow UMC media at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org).

What can we expect out of the special session? My honest answer is: I don’t know. The UMC media offers hundreds of predictions. Church scholars from a range of theological perspectives have made clear predictions. I’ve worked at the denominational level for decades weathering multiple General Conferences—

anything is possible. Anyone who professes to know the answer isn’t doing justice to the complicated reality of General Conference.

General Conference is a legislative body not unlike a session of the US Congress. They typically meet once every four years and are the only body that can legally speak for the United Methodist Church. Their main responsibility is to serve as the denomination’s legislative branch. They create the church’s rule book; the *Book of Discipline*, our position on justice issues; and the *Book of Resolutions*. They also approve administrative structure, provide financial oversight, and determine Annual Conference boundaries. Delegates (elected by each Annual Conference) arrive ready to discern (debate), perfect (amend), and vote. Legislation is submitted months in advance and distributed in what is called the ADCA (Advanced Daily Christian Advocate). The debate on the floor, in the halls, and around dining tables moves quickly, much as you would expect in Congress. Things change rapidly—it is difficult for even the most politically astute to follow. In my experience, no piece of legislation is adopted without amendment.

Regardless of the outcome of this special session, we at ASUMC will continue to be justice-seeking people of faith making sacred change possible in our community and beyond.

## My Thoughts on LGBTQIA Inclusiveness as I Prepare to Attend Another General Conference

*Rev. Dr. Herbert Snyder*

The first general conference I attended was with Bishop Susan Morrison in 1992, so it looks like this special one in February is my eighth, and I have been asked to express my feelings as I go. I have participated, observed, protested, and even been arrested with 21 others for standing in front of the altar and holding conference in adjournment for four hours. I stood terrified as one lesbian woman attempted to fling herself from the balcony. I am ready for almost anything! I am normally a rather positive person so I beg your understanding if I come through as a bit negative.

I am hoping and praying for the best, but feel that the three positions put before our church by our Bishops are not the best our Church can and should do.

The first, the Traditional Plan, simply leaves everything as it is.

The second, the One Church Plan, is a compromise that will leave basic decisions on the inclusiveness of LGBTQIA persons up to each pastor, conference, and bishop, with the understanding that none will be penalized for “following their conscience.” An LGBTQIA person in a very conservative area will not feel welcomed in such an environment, not to mention the havoc and dissension it could cause among our conferences and churches. This is the plan, the easy way out, recommended by our Council of Bishops. My opinion is that it is simply “throwing LGBTQIA persons a bone.”

The third, the Connectional Conference Plan, would completely reorganize the church, creating separate Central Conferences and jurisdictions for LGBTQIA persons and their advocates. This reminds me so much of the “separate but equal” situation in the Methodist Church brought about as a way of reuniting our church after the 19th century split over slavery. Black members had their separate jurisdiction not based on geographic location, but on the color of one’s skin. Simply put, it was legalized segregation that existed until 1968. There is no way that I would want to resume this practice with LGBTQIA persons now the target of discrimination.

So as I prepare to go to another General Conference, my prayer is that all the negative statements in our *Book of Discipline* will be removed. I believe there is a strong possibility that our church will split, again over a justice issue, and if that is where God takes us, then so be it! A lifelong Methodist, I have been blessed by the Church in so many ways, but I feel that we must follow Christ and His way of love and grace for all people, even if it means dismantling a hierarchical, power-driven church for the sake of including just one of God’s children.

The cry for unity at any cost has no Christian or Biblical foundation. We need to be faithful today and know that the future of the church is in God’s hands.

## POWER's Year-End Message to Supporters



*POWER staff and leaders look on as Mayor Kenney signs the 21st Century Living Wage bill into law, capping a remarkably successful year for the organization.*

Dear friends,

Before we welcome 2019, a moment to say thank you for all the work you did this year to create a more just society. You have been diligent, and as a result POWER has celebrated many successes in 2018. We:

- Saw the election of a progressive district attorney in Philadelphia
- Eliminated cash bail in Philadelphia for 25 major offenses
- Reduced the prison population from over 7,000 to under 5,000 for the first time in many decades
- Saw Rep. Christopher Rabb introduce PA House bill 2501 to put 100% of school dollars through the fair funding formula, a bill that gained 28 cosponsors and the governor's support
- Formed the biggest rally yet on school funding in Harrisburg in June, which included a wide representation of Pennsylvanians
- Helped return Philadelphia schools to local control
- Forced Starbucks to change its nationwide bathroom policy, institute an all-day antiracism training, and issue a report on itself suggesting the company raise its minimum wage to \$15 per hour
- Held 20,000 live conversations in our voter engagement work in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties
- Saw PA Senator Art Haywood introduce a statewide \$15/hr minimum wage bill
- Stood with Marriott workers when they demanded fair treatment
- Helped pass the Fair Work Week bill to provide predictable hours to 130,000 Philadelphians
- Saw the introduction of a community solar bill in Harrisburg
- Created a statewide table of allies around climate justice
- Helped fight off the attacks on the Affordable Care Act
- And continued to expand our work in Pennsylvania, organizing in Philadelphia's surrounding counties and in Lancaster, York, Lebanon, Dauphin, and Lehigh Valley

On top of all of this, we finished the year with a major victory for economic justice in the passage of the 21st Century Living Wage bill! When the bill was first introduced, we were told it would be dead on arrival, yet on December 20th it was signed into law with the full support of Mayor Kenney and a unanimous City Council. Tens of thousands of workers will be affected. In addition, Jefferson Health System heard our call to "Lead by Example" and raised their minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

To learn more about POWER's work in 2018, listen to Rev. Greg Holston's Christmas Eve conversation on WWDB-AM's "Mark & Denise in the Morning," available at <https://wwdbam.com/episodes/mark-denise-in-the-morning-12-24-18/>.

We celebrate our successes—the result of your dedication—and look forward to greater work ahead in the new year.

*From "Successes in 2018, Thanks to You," POWER email distributed Saturday December 29, 2018. Reprinted with permission.*

## United Methodist Events and Other Observances

Sun Jan 20: *Human Relations Sunday*. Special offering strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth

Mon Jan 21: *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service*

Feb 22-26: *General Conference Special Session*, St. Louis, MO (see page 5)

Fri Mar 1: *World Day of Prayer*

Wed Mar 6: *Ash Wednesday*—Lent begins

Mon Mar 25: *Bishop's Spring Town Hall meeting*, East District

Sun Mar 31: *UMCOR Sunday* (previously One Great Hour of Sharing). Special offering supports worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace through the United Methodist Committee on Relief

## ASUMC Calendar

Please check the weekly "What's Happening" bulletin and the "Events" tab on our website ([www.archstreetumc.org](http://www.archstreetumc.org)) for the latest calendar activities.

United Methodist Women meet the second Sunday of the month immediately after the 11:00 AM service. The Native American Indian Awareness Group meets the third Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM. See the bulletin for exceptions to these dates.

## ASUMC Officers and Committees

Please speak with these church leaders if you would like to know more about what they do and the opportunities for volunteering.

Lay Leader: Cathy Simpson

Church Council: Phil Gressman, *Chair*

Staff–Parish Relations Committee: Janis Moore Campbell, *Chair*

Trustees: Russ Alexander, *Chair*

Finance Committee: Jim Bibber, *Chair*

Endowment Committee: Ken Bere, *Chair*

Mission and Justice Ministries Committee: Margaret Harris, *Chair*

Worship Committee: Open

Reconciling Ministry Committee: Michael Gilbertson, *Chair*

POWER Local Organizing Committee: Betsy Connor, Nancy Megley, Wilhelmina Young, *Co-chairs*

Recording Secretary: Nancy Megley

Church Historian: Dale Shillito

## Birthdays

### January

1 - Nikole Daniel  
 2 - Elizabeth Garcia  
 4 - Stacy Powers  
 5 - Diana Pearce  
 8 - Nathan Jefferson  
 10 - Dolores Farinre-Carey  
 11 - Shirlee Chambers  
 14 - Aaliyah Halliday  
 18 - Jazzmen Mclwaine Cuevas, Sam Starnes  
 19 - Melanie Beers, Jennifer Olree Collazo  
 22 - Mark McNeill  
 27 - Albert Crawford  
 29 - Bart Everts  
 30 - Opal Ripley, Seni Tienabeso

### February

2 - Nancy Cheng  
 4 - Sabrina McLaughlin  
 6 - Thomas Brislin, Carl Dargan  
 7 - Kate Buckley, Frederick Farmer, Jr.  
 9 - Lily Menaldi  
 11 - Kristen Johnson, Elaine Tara Petrossian  
 12 - Rachel Ternes, Wilhelmina Young  
 13 - Laura Long  
 16 - Angela Berry  
 18 - Cashor Farmer, Cathy Simpson  
 22 - Katie Hoch Mount  
 23 - Lori Timmerman  
 25 - Russ Alexander, Danielle DiLeo Kim  
 27 - Alice Farmer, Sarah McNeill  
 28 - Jack McGrath

### March

1 - Yvonne Perri  
 7 - Mary Allen  
 8 - Phil Dellinger, Denise McGiboney  
 10 - Emma Falcon Wing Walton  
 12 - Elizabeth Donnelly  
 13 - Valentine Moses Kleinberg  
 14 - Rhonda Moore  
 15 - Arthur Pershing  
 17 - Nancy Hahn  
 18 - Diannajean Giganti  
 23 - Betsy Connor, Nancy Megley  
 25 - Martin Williams  
 26 - Judy Claude, Evelyn Estrada  
 27 - Anthony Mastrando, Stephanie Ng  
 29 - Grace Regino  
 30 - John Gatter  
 31 - Thomas Fithian

Winter Issue  
Jan – Mar 2019

*Voice of the Spire*, the newsletter of Arch Street United Methodist Church, is published 4 times per year and distributed free to members and friends of the congregation.

To be added to our mailing list, please notify: Office Manager, Arch Street United Methodist Church, 55 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

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## Voice of the Spire

Arch Street United Methodist Church  
55 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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## Future Dates

Easter - April 21

Eastern District  
Conference & Native  
American Ministries  
Sunday - May 5

Mother's Day - May 12

Pentecost Sunday -  
June 9

EPA Annual Conference  
June 13-15

Father's Day & Peace  
with Justice Sunday -  
June 16

Read past issues of  
*Voice of the Spire*  
and follow events at  
our website:  
[www.archstreetumc.org](http://www.archstreetumc.org)

## Arch Street United Methodist Church



*(Photo courtesy of Warren Cederholm)*

Did you ever wonder how the Christmas wreath appears on the cross above the altar? Thank one of Arch Street's unsung heroes: Don Lathrop, better known as "Country," who willingly takes on a challenge that would make most of us cringe.

## In This Issue:

2019 at Serenity House	Page 1
Building Fund Gift	Page 1
Minister's Message	Page 2
Church Council Invitation	Page 2
Our New Sexton	Page 3
Jazz in Worship	Page 3
History: Rev Haney Makes Changes	Page 3
Shared Leadership	Page 4
News from The Center	Page 4
POWER in 2018	Page 5
A Way Forward	Page 6
LGBTQIA Inclusiveness	Page 6
Calendar, Birthdays	Page 7