

April 2015



New Light

A Metropolitan Community Church

Newsletter

www.newlightmcc.com

Sundays – MORNING SERVICES – 10:30 AM

Wednesdays – BIBLE STUDY – 7:00 PM

**Our Weekly Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
(doors open at 6:30 PM)**

Thursday, April 2 – MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE – 7:30 PM

Friday, April 3 – GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – 7:30 PM

Sunday, April 5 – EASTER SERVICE – 10:30 AM

Sunday, April 12 – GOD BLESS US, EVERYONE! – Noon

Our monthly congregational workshop to help us understand our past, our present, and our future here at New Light MCC.

Sunday, April 19 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 12:00 PM

Board Members:

Arlene Leon – Moderator

Harold Gress – Treasurer / Secretary

Terry Schildt – Building Management

Bruce Brooks – Lay Delegate

This is an open meeting and all interested persons are welcome to attend.



Lectionary Readings

April 5 – April 12 – April 19 – April 26

Co-Transitional Pastors:

Rev. Kelly Crenshaw / Rev. Sherry Miller

240-500-0481

April Events

Sundays
10:30 AM - Services

Wednesdays
7:00 PM - BIBLE STUDY

Thu., April 2
7:30 PM -- MAUNDY THURSDAY
SERVICE

Fri., April 3
7:30 PM – GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Sun., April 5
10:30 AM – EASTER SERVICE

Sat., April 11, 25
9:30 AM – Food Pantry
Food & Friends

Sun., April 12
Food Pantry Donation Sunday
12:00 PM -- God Bless Us Everyone

Sun., April 19
12:00 PM – Board Meeting

Visit our Website,
www.newlightmcc.com for our calendar
of events.

Visit us on Facebook for
up-to-date notices:

www.facebook.com/NewLightMCC

GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE
-Tiny Tim

Our Sixth Congregational Workshop Sunday, April 12, 2015 – Noon

Join us as we look at our “Past, Present, & Future” here at
New Light.

(Hint: We’re in the “Present” now)



We'll be taking a special offering for The Global Justice
Institute on Easter Sunday, along with our regular offering.

In 2015, with the help of this year's offering, GJI plans to:

- Further develop a partnership in Costa Rica to shelter marginalized populations and reintegrate them into society
- Partner to establish the first satellite location of the Global Justice Institute in Kenya, giving us a working base in Africa
- Revive the work of GJI and MCC in Jamaica
- Expand outreach and develop small groups offering support in China, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan
- Develop contacts in Argentina
- Expand partnerships between local MCCs and GJI projects

**The Reverend Sherry A. Miller, M. Div.,
will be installed as Chaplain at Frey Village,
A Diakon Lutheran Senior Living Community,
on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.**

1020 North Union Street, Middletown, PA 17057.

A reception follows.



iGive.com™
Change online shopping for good.

Help **New Light Metropolitan Community Church** every time you shop:

<http://www.iGive.com/NewLightMetropolitanCommunityChurch>.

We are still taking used ink cartridges so we may recycle them at Staples for their Rewards program and continue to pay for our new printer cartridges thru that program.

We saved \$25.00 on office supplies last month.

Automated Tithing

If you wish info on how to do automatic withdrawal for giving we have info that you can pick up or email us and we'll send you the information.

Our **Recycling Ministry** is headed by Rosalie Jones. Rosalie takes our used paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminum to be recycled. The aluminum she takes to get cash for and it benefits the Food Pantry / Pastors Discretionary Fund. She would like to ask if anyone in the congregation would like to bring in their aluminum for our recycling fundraising, please contact her when you may be bringing in your cans. Also, if anyone would like to help Rosalie, please see her.

Continue to use your Leitersburg Cinema Movie Fund Fundraising Card when you buy each movie ticket at Leitersburg Cinemas. We will receive \$1.00 per ticket bought. This fundraiser will end June 31, 2015.

Easter Basket Raffle

Our Outreach team raised \$330.00 with our "**Easter Basket Raffle.**" This fundraiser raised money for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which is a fund which goes to where the needs are in our church community.

Winners are: Andy Statler (1), David Brechbiel (1), Sandy Snyder (1), Cheryl Evans (1), Charlie Kline (2), Harry Brubaker (3), Michaela Crenshaw (2), Bruce Brooks (1), Robert "Dusty" Thompson (1), David Kempton (2), Gayle Cooper (1). (*) represents baskets won.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 19 – Christopher Larkin



**Please join us in wishing these fine folks
a Happy Birthday!**

If your or another member's birthday or anniversary does not appear please email newlightmcc@hotmail.com and help us update our information.



Share your Prayer Requests!

newlightmcc@hotmail.com ...

Subject: Prayer Request

If you feel a need to talk to
a pastor please call
240-500-0481

New Light MCC will be at 4 Prides this year ... Hagerstown Hopes, Saturday, May 16 ... Frederick Pride, Saturday, June 27 ... Panhandle Pride, Saturday, July 11 ... Harrisburg Pride, Saturday, July 25. If you would like to help see Rev. Sherry, Charlotte Ashton or David Brechbiel.



On April 23 Café del Sol will host our first Dinner Out as a group, "Out and About in Hagerstown" (O-AH!). More info will follow.

Everyone has their own story of why they came to New Light. Some people continue to worship here and some move on. Here is one story.

Every Sunday morning for more than two years I chatted online with Harold Gress, via gay.com. Each conversation usually involved me asking "So, what are you doing today?" His standard response was "Going to church. Would you like to go along?" My response was usually "no thank you ... some day."

I remember going to church with mom. The choice each Sunday was, "get ready for church or spend the morning doing chores for dad." I begrudgingly went to church. Church meant sitting in the pew, uncomfortable in my suit, and wandering if I was the only one that was hiding their true identity ... a gay boy who didn't know what that was yet.

I'd sit in church, sweating from the "hell and brimstone" that we usually got each week. Later, as ages broke down into classes for Sunday School I'd witness confessions of teenage sexual bragging and wondering if that was appropriate for church.

When I moved out of my parents' home I considered myself free from going to church. I still would get the occasional hint from my mom about going to church. She said she didn't care "where I went ... just so I went." I tried other friends' churches. Still sat thru the services wondering if anyone could tell I was "different." I felt I was being judged without anyone even saying a word.

Then the unthinkable thing happened ... dad passed and then mom passed 5 years later. Due to their advanced ages I had a routine of helping them go thru this part of life. It wasn't fun. But, I'm glad I was the kind of son that helped their parents.

Suddenly I had "no routine." I'd wake up on Sundays, launch gay.com, and chat with friends. I avoided the sexual exchanges and bothered my friends. That's when I started my "routine" with Harold. "So, what are you doing today?" "Going to church. Would you like to go along?" ... "no thank you ... some day."

One Sunday, searching for something to do ... and hungry ... I stopped by "Moe's Southwest" in Hagerstown. While ordering my "gaydar" went off and I turned around and there sat Harold with two other guys. They asked me to join them. I noticed they were wearing comfortable clothes, including shorts. I asked if Harold skipped church that day. He said no, in fact they just came from church. At that point I knew I had to check it out.

So, next Sunday, in comfortable clothes and shorts and sneakers, I met Harold in the parking lot at New Light MCC. I wasn't quite sure what to expect.

Going in, what do I see, but at least 8 people I have known from the bars in the past. Friends who never invited me to the church, who never told me they went to church. Only one did ... Harold ... although he didn't tell me it was a mostly gay attended church.

Sitting there I felt at home. No one judging me. I knew their stories and they knew mine. Sweet relief.

The pastor was a charming English man. Great delivery and stories. He introduced himself during the social hour. I asked him if it was okay to bring food from the bakery I worked at. You would have thought I was his new best friend. I told him who I came in with, Harold and his friend Chad. He said he "felt sorry for me" in his English wit.

The more I came to church, the more comfortable I felt being there. And, I felt I had a talent that could benefit the church. Something that I did for 26 years but recently, due to an off-shore buyout, had ended. Typesetting and printing. I asked the pastor if I could help him with the bulletins, freeing him to do visits, and work on his many projects and sermons. He finally felt comfortable "letting go."

As peoples' lives change, the pastor moved back to the UK. Sad. I was hired by the board to continue to do office work.

I still find an incredible peace coming to church here at New Light MCC. No matter who preaches, I still feel the inner peace that I'm amongst friends. I love hearing the stories from the Bible that I'm hearing in a more peaceful, relaxed delivery ... not the "hell and brimstone" of my youth. I love trying to figure out my own version of the parables of Jesus.

Some of my friends that I saw at New Light MCC that first day have moved on. Lives change. Still Harold is there. And, I no longer chat with him on gay.com ... it changed to Facebook. He continues to be someone who is helpful at the church as we move forward. It's his dedication, and others that inspire me to stay and help us with our next step as a congregation.

David Brechbiel

On March 29, 2015 two new members were received by Rev. David Smith on behalf of New Light MCC. Welcome our newest members, Gayle Cooper and Rev. Kelly Crenshaw.



If you wish to become a member please see Rev. Sherry Miller or Rev. Kelly Crenshaw to arrange a membership class.



***New Light Metropolitan Community Church
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301-797-5698 * 240-500-0481***