

Briarcliff Newsletter

Oct 4th, 2009



What is Connectional Giving?

Last week we defined connectionalism. This week we examine the question, what is connectional giving? Simply defined, is it people coming together, combining their money to accomplish something bigger than themselves. United Methodists support apportioned and designated funds through their connectional gifts.

The General Conference establishes budgets for the denomination's general funds. These are divided among annual conferences, based on a specific formula. Each annual conference, using its own approved formula, divides these fund requests, along with conference administrative and benevolence fund requests, among local churches. In addition, individuals, local churches, districts and annual conferences may make monetary gifts to the designated funds, of which 100 percent goes directly to a specific project or ministry. Together, apportioned and designated funds represent our connectional giving.

By combining several smaller gifts into a larger amount, we can effect change across the world. Individual churches can minister to a small area; however, as a connectional church, we can do big things, all in the name of Jesus Christ.



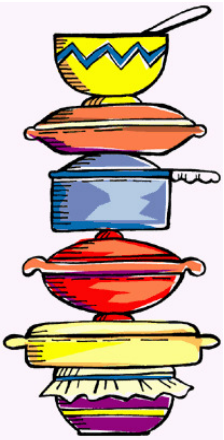
Today Christian churches are celebrating World Communion Sunday. It is a day when all Christians, of whatever background and theological tradition, are reminded that we are in fact one in Christ, and that the table from which we receive communion is God's table, not our own. In the Methodist tradition we celebrate our connection to all Christians and affirm the need to facilitate education in the world, *"Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning."* Proverbs 9:9. A collection envelope, Doors to Education, is provided in today's worship folder. Funds raised through this special collection are used to provide money for education for minority students in the United States & the world. Please give as you are able.





Special Appeal Offering, October 4th

The North Georgia Disaster Response Team has made a request for a special offering during October for victims of the recent flooding in Georgia. Donations can be made to the local church designated to Conference Advance Special – Fund #4390. Additionally, people can assemble kits and contact Mike Yoder, the Chairman of Disaster Response for pick-up arrangements. Visit <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/> for details on specific kit requirements.

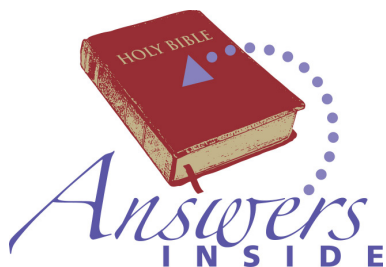


Covered Dish Lunch Today

Join us today following the 11 o'clock service for some delicious food at a covered dish lunch. Briarcliff surely has some of the best cooks in town. Bring a dish large enough to feed your family with extra to share among friends. Sit with some old friends & some new friends & fellowship with your church family. Please limit the desserts.



Come join the United Methodist Women, Tuesday, Oct. 6th at 10 am in the Bishops Room. Guest speaker is Billie Coleman, from Frances Virginia Tea Room. A tea luncheon to follow; wear hat, gloves or stole.



Charge Conference

This year's charge conference will be held on Nov. 19th at 7 pm in the church sanctuary. The Rev. DeDe Leetch will preside. All members of Briarcliff are encouraged to attend. Your presence is an important step in staying informed about the life and mission of Briarcliff United Methodist. All members of the church council have a vote, all others are welcome to attend.



Fall Festival News

This year's Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday,



Oct. 24th from 10 am to 2 pm and is slated as a mission fund raiser. There will be a host of activities available, including a cake walk, bake sale, children's crafts and of course pumpkins sales. Proceeds from the event will fund the mission programs at Briarcliff. Many hands are needed to make this event successful. Sign up sheets will be available in early October. Please reserve the date for this important event.



Future Calendar Items

- Oct. 13th Devo's
- Oct. 20th Charge Conference
- Oct. 24th Wesley Walk for Others
- Oct. 24th Fall Festival
- Oct. 31st Trunk or Treat
- Nov. 1st Covered Dish Lunch
- Nov. 1st Church Council Meeting
- Nov. 8th Coat & Blanket Drive
- Nov. 8th Trustee's Meeting
- Nov. 22nd Food Pantry Drive
- Nov. 26th Thanksgiving Day

