

The Messenger

Rev. Frederick W. Rogers
Cell: 1 (610) 349-4552
Home: 1 (610) 863-9545
Church Office: (570) 868-5675

April 2006

Emmanuel
United Church of Christ
emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com
www.emmanuel-ucc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMMUNION

April 2

The Worship Service on April 2 will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Coffee Hour will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Our Wednesday Evening Worship begins at 6:00 pm. This contemporary service includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please join us and bring a friend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY

April 8

The Sunday School will hold its annual Easter Party on Saturday, April 8. See inside this issue for details.

GUEST PREACHER

April 2

On Sunday, April 2, Rev. John Dech will lead our Worship Service as we participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Rev. Dech is a retired pastor and currently chairs the PNEC Annual Meeting Committee. He is an active volunteer at the Penn Northeast Conference and works with the local Red Cross. He is also an accomplished woodworker and gardener. Come hear Rev. Dech's message and break bread with Christ. If you need Pastoral care, Pastor Rogers will still be available via his cell phone.

TWILIGHTERS MEETING

April 12

The Twilighters are meeting again and will have a covered dish lunch on Wednesday, April 12, at 12 noon.

CONSISTORY MEETING

April 20

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m.



SERVICES SCHEDULED

- April 9 10:30 am - Palm Sunday Worship Service
April 13 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service
April 16 6:30 am - Sunrise Service Outdoors,
Weather Permitting
10:30 am - Regular Easter Service

The Food Bank

is open from 9 am to 12 noon Monday thru Thursday by appointment. Please call the church office if we can help you or someone you know.

The **deadline to put information into the April Newsletter** is April 17. Please get all information to me before that date. This includes pictures and news articles which I would love to include. Thanks, Denise

UPCOMING DATES

- May 6 Church Clean-up Date
May 20 Ham and Chicken Dinner
June 19-23 VBS at Faith UMC



Set your clocks ahead for
Sunday Worship on April 2.

From the Interim Pastor's Desk

As I sit here at home with the church calendar in front of me on my messy desk, it is clear to me that the month that is before us (April 2006) is a very busy one in the life of our church. When this reaches you most likely we will be preparing for the sixth Sunday in Lent. The church has called that Sunday both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. This is a busy day for worshippers. We will gather in the social hall before worship so we can hear the scripture about the palms, have them blessed and then process into the sanctuary to hear more about Jesus' Passion. (If you have difficulty walking please go directly into the church. The rest of us will join you as we process.) We will have an opportunity to take part in the service as the passion story is read dramatically. The rest of the month includes other special days that lead up to the great celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Palm/Passion Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. We watch as our Lord is ridiculed, beaten, unfairly judged, and crucified. Following Palm Sunday is Maundy Thursday. We will have a service of Communion and Tenebrae that celebrates the pain of Jesus' life just before he is crucified. Again we will take part in the story as we hear it read and see the light of Christ get dimmer and dimmer until the church is completely dark, symbolic of our Lord having left us. The altar will be stripped of anything celebrative as we await the Easter altar when it will be adorned with bright beautiful flowers again.

Good Friday represents the day when Our Lord is crucified. Traditionally, from noon until three o'clock folk gather and meditate at this somber time in order to prepare for the highest holiday of our Christian Year, Easter. In many Christian churches there is a celebration on Holy Saturday when a vigil is celebrated to remember all that God has done from Creation to Easter.

We will celebrate Easter Sunday at an early "sunrise" service outside on the back lawn. We will receive communion by intinction at the early service. After the service we will return to the church for a

modified continental breakfast. Our second service will be at the normal time. (The message will be a bit different at each service so I hope that you will take the opportunity to fellowship with the rest of your Emmanuel friends on that special day at both services.) Please ask a friend who may not have heard the good news of the gospel to join us and receive communion together.

Certainly this month is a busy one but the more we take part in the drama of Jesus' Passion and victory the more we will understand what he has done for each of us through his death, burial and resurrection! May God bless you this Easter Season!

Peace,
Pastor Fred



I would like to thank the choir and congregation for their support during all the years I have played the organ. I also appreciate the flowers and monetary gift you gave me.
Harriet Seward

Thank you to all the wonderful folk at Emmanuel UCC especially for remembering my birthday. I really appreciated your thoughtfulness! May you all have a joyous Easter!
Pastor Rogers

Gloria and Elbert Myers would like to thank everyone for their kindness and prayers at the passing of Lucille Hoffman. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

NEWSLETTER NEWS!!



Technology has made it possible to circulate our newsletter via our WEBSITE at emmanuel-ucc.org! Two areas which are fully functional are the Messenger Newsletter and Monthly Calendar sections. Just download the Messenger and print it out. This method of distribution will enable us to reach a wider audience while at the same time reducing the number of paper copies mailed each month. A copy of the minutes from the Consistory meetings can be picked up from the table in the narthex as we will not include them in the newsletter. **Members who prefer to receive their Messenger by mail are asked to tell Denise and she will make sure your copy is mailed to you.**



Dear members and friends at Emmanuel UCC,

While reading a newsletter of a church who was also in the search and call process as we are here at Emmanuel I took note of a letter to their congregation written by their Interim Pastor and I think sharing some of it with you can be helpful as we continue in our search for a new settled pastor. (Credit needs to go to Rev. Charles Marshall Webster).

Rev Webster referenced a paper (author unknown) entitled "*If we has as much sense as geese*". I agree with him that God has a message of wisdom in the lessons that follow:

FACT # 1: As each goose flaps its wings it creates uplift for the birds that follow. By creating a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

LESSON: People who share a common direction/destiny and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and more easily

because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

FACT #2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird flying immediately in front of it.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those who are headed to where we want to go. And we are willing to accept their help and to give our help to others.

FACT #3: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

LESSON: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, we depend upon one another.

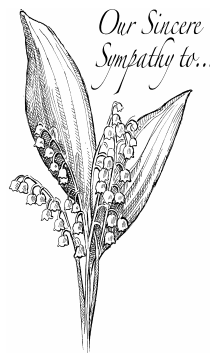
FACT #4: The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

LESSON: We need to make certain our "honking" is encouraging and not something else.

FACT #5: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation, or to catch up with the flock.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

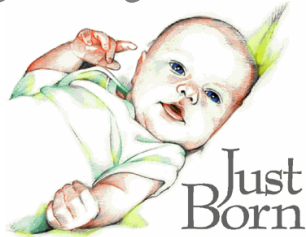
Frederick W. Rogers, Interim Pastor



Calvin J. Harter went home to the Lord on March 6, 2006. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Betty, and her children and their families.

Henry Grosz went home to the Lord on March 10, 2006. Our prayers are with Martha and her children and families in this difficult time.

CONGREGATIONAL



CORNER

Luke Mathias Peters was born on March 9, 2006, to Frank and Wendy (Moyer) Peters. He weighed 6 lb. 2 oz. and was 18½“ long Luke’s grandparents are Steve and Sharon Moyer. Congratulations!!

The size of Martha Myers’ family increased by two over the weekend of April 24 as she became a great-grandma again.

Deven Sanjay Kamat was born on March 24, 2006, to Sanjay and Rosanne (Myers) Kamat. He weighed 6 lb. 10 oz. and was 18” long. His grandparents are Dave and Rosemary Myers.

And Faith Elise Palubinski was born on March 26, 2006, to Michael and Jennifer (Rinehimer) Palubinski. She weighed 6 lb. 2 oz. and was 18” long. Her grandparents are John and Joan Rinehimer.

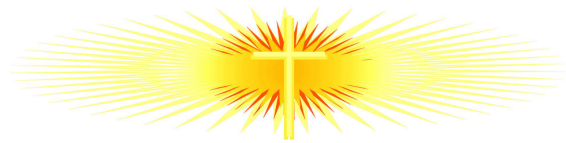


The TWILIGHTERS will meet on Wednesday, April 12, for a covered dish lunch at 12:00 noon.



Women’s Fellowship

The Women’s Bible Study Group meets every Monday at 7:00 pm at the Church. All women of our communities are invited to come and deepen their faith through exploring the wonders of the Bible.



SONRISE SINGERS

I have picked out some songs for the season of Lent and Easter. We will be singing “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” on Palm Sunday, “I Wonder Why” on Maundy Thursday and “Shout” at the regular Easter Sunday Worship Service. The Sonrise Singers includes all age groups (no age discrimination here). There is still plenty of time to join our practice sessions on Sundays after Worship. All we ask is that you have the love of God in your heart and wish to lift your voice to praise Him.

Make a JOYFUL NOISE!

Denise

From The
Sunday School
Superintendent

EASTER EGG HUNT!



hunt.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY – APRIL 8!!!!

The party begins at 10:00 am and ends at 12 noon. As usual, we will be painting toast and hunting for eggs. All children and youth need to bring six candy eggs which we will hide for the egg

What Makes Someone Great?

“Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve.

You don’t have to have a college degree to serve.

You don’t have to make

your subject and your verb agree to serve.

You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.



The 2nd Marking Period Honor Roll lists are out for the Crestwood School District. Check out how many of our youth are listed:

Rice Elementary:

Principal's Honors: Jared Yakscoe

Honors: Taylor Farrell, Courtney Kania and Kelly Madigan

Middle School:

Principal's Honors: Marc Davis

High Honors: Jacob Mylet, Virginia Murphy, Meredith Martin, Jordan Pickering

Honors: Kelly Sufrinko, Travis Grosz

Crestwood High School:

Principal's Honors: Courtney Day

High Honors: Barry Myers, Chelsea Myers, Derek Stein, Stacy Prelewicz, Amanda Wallick

Honors: Kyle Belanchik, Michael Daniels

If you know of any of our youth who have outstanding qualities, please get the information to me so we can recognize them.



UCC CONFERENCE NEWS

This section is provided to inform you of our local Conference and Denomination's activities and projects so that we can better understand our role as members of the United Church of Christ.

COME TO THE WELL – April 30, 2006
2:30 to 7:30 pm

A time of renewal and worship with friends is the theme for this event which will be held at St. John's UCC in Nazareth. Worship will be lead by Valerie Tutson, storyteller. There are many informative seminars from youth ministry and Christian education to stewardship to caring ministries for families and older members. Registration brochures are on the table in the narthex and the deadline is April 23.

Tanglefoot Concert – The famous Canadian folk group, Tanglefoot, will be appearing at St. John's UCC, Laurys

Station on Friday evening, April 21, 2006 at 7:30 pm. Tanglefoot well-known in the Lehigh Valley, has performed all over the US, Canada and Great Britain. Tickets (\$15) can be secured by calling Tammy Bates (610-706-4546) or St. John's Church (610-262-8061) or by emailing office@stjohnslaurys.org.

PNEC DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM is planning a "Work Camp Week" for ages 15 and older, Monday, July 31, through Sunday, August 6, 2006. If you feel the call to respond to our work camp trip, please contact the Conference office at 610-826-3113 or Linda Lenhart at 610-434-4363.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE
FOR APRIL 2006

April 2 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Organist: Don Eroh

Greeters: Gary Eigenbrod and Matt Price

April 9 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Organist: Don Eroh

Greeters: Jayne and Rich Rotski

April 16 – Easter Sunday

Organist: Don Eroh

Greeters:

Early Service:

Regular Service: Lex and Anna Mae Koons

April 23 – Second Sunday of Easter

Organist: Orceil Bloss

Greeters: Bob and Gwen Hight

April 30 – Third Sunday of Easter

Organist: Orceil Bloss

Greeters: Holly Hoffman and Richie Lenahan

Our Cleaning Volunteers

Dave & Rosemary Myers

Clifford & Gladys Readler

Marc & Connie Davis

John, Linda, J.P. Jankowski

Our Custodial Crew needs additional elbow grease! Anyone who can help clean the church on a regular basis (approximately 7 times a year) is asked to see Dave Myers or call him at 868-3655.



LOLLIPOP SALES – We will be selling lollipops again to raise funds for our activities. See Marc and start selling!

CLEAN-UP DAY BREAKFAST TEAM – May 6
The Youth Group will be serving breakfast for all the hard-working people who participate in the all-church clean up on May 6. We need youth to cook, serve and clean up.

HAM AND CHICKEN DINNER – May 20
A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. We really need kids who are “brave” enough to: work in the dining room, wait on tables, run for vegetables, and help straighten up after the dinner.



The 30 Hour Famine was a success. Everyone made it. Fourteen kids participated and raised \$1,118.47, which will be matched by a U.S. Agricultural grant.

In order to pass the time (and to stop us from thinking about food), we read the Bible, played games, watched movies, shared joys and concerns and got to know each other a little better.

The trip to Mr. Z's was very instructive as we purchased food from the money donated on Souperbowl Sunday. This food was put in the food bank to help people in our own neighborhood.

The kids were fantastic and we can all be proud of their behavior and their faith. They presented themselves and our church as Christians who care about others in our world. We just have one thing to say to our congregation:

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING US!!!!

Worship Services at Emmanuel UCC:

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.