

The Messenger

September 2006

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

September 17, 2006

A Congregational Meeting has been called for September 17, 2006, after the Worship Service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote whether or not to call Rev. Dale Sattizahn as our next permanent pastor. Please be sure to attend worship on September 17 and this important meeting. Rev. Sattizahn will conduct the Worship Service on September 17 and present his trial sermon. An open house to meet Rev. Sattizahn and his family will be held on the prior evening, Saturday, September 16, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School Classes Resume

Sunday, September 10

Our Sunday School will start up again for the school year on September 10 at 9:00 am. We are hoping to see many returning youth and adults as well as new faces. As always, we will have classes for all ages. Our Sunday School has always been a very vibrant and lively group and we are working to continue that attitude. Our mission with the McKinney Clinic, Bethany Children's Home, SPCA and various other outreach programs has been inspirational to many of our members and we are very grateful for their support in these activities.

In order to provide such a good program, we need to plan and organize how we accomplish what we want to do. So a meeting will be held on September 3 at 9:00 am for everyone and anyone who wishes to be a teacher, helper or otherwise get involved with our Sunday School. If you wish to know more about the part you can play, please call Sharon Eigenbrod. There's more to Sunday School than teaching, although that is an important job. We also need people who can help with parties, help plan and coordinate activities and who are enthusiastic about missions. Come to the meeting and see what you can do to further Christ's message and mission.

Also, you may have noticed that we are not planning a "Rally Day". Instead, we are planning a family picnic in October. We will have more details on this picnic as soon as possible, so watch for more info in the bulletins and next month's newsletter.

Church Worship Returns to 10:30 am

September 10

On September 10, we will return to our "normal" worship time of 10:30 am. Please pass on this time change to everyone you know.

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Calendar Of Events

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

September 3

The Worship Service on September 3 will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Coffee Hour will be held after the Worship Service.

TWILIGHTERS MEETING

September 13

The Twilighters will meet on September 13 at 12:00 pm.

CONSISTORY MEETING

September 14

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, September 14, at 6:30 pm.

OPEN HOUSE

September 16

We will have a "meet and greet" open house for Rev. Dale Sattizahn and his family on Saturday, September 16, at 6:30 pm. Please come out to meet with them at this informal gathering.

TRIAL SERMON

September 17

On September 17, Rev. Sattizahn will present his trial sermon for our review during our regular Worship Service at 10:30 am.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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Worship Service. This meeting will be to vote whether or not to call Rev. Sattizahn as our next permanent pastor. Please be sure to attend worship on September 17 and this important meeting.

UPCOMING DATES

Oct. 1 NIN Offering
CROP Walk
Oct 21 Turkey Supper
Oct. 29 Daylight Savings Ends

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INFO

September 18

The deadline for information for the October Messenger is September 18. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

August has flown by and September is upon us. Our prayers have been answered and there will be a trial sermon on September 17. You will have a chance to meet our ministerial candidate at the open-house reception, here at the church, on September 16. Our search committee has worked so hard and everyone is appreciative of its accomplishments. We extend special gratitude to all of them.

The Fall season brings us the Forty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ on October 21. Margie and I try to attend as many of those events as we can fit into our schedule. This year's theme will be "Baptized Wet and Witnessing." It will be held at the Jordan United Church of Christ at 1837 Church Road in Allentown. It is a handicapped accessible building. We have been there before and it is an easy place to find for us. The cost is \$15.00 per person, which includes the meeting registration and lunch; it applies to adults, youth and children. It would be marvelous to have as many people there as we could from our church. It is always a worthwhile day. We went to the "Come to the Well" program in the spring and it was super. The deadline for registration is September 25.

In addition to enjoying worshipping with you each week, Margie and I were so thankful for the opportunity to experience the Old River Church. It was a once in a lifetime chance to lead the service there; it was an honor to do it. In addition to the historical significance, we felt "the presence of Jesus surround us." The beauty of the sanctuary and the building itself were wonderful. It is so fortunate that the historical society had the foresight to preserve it. The fellowship after the service was especially beautiful also. We were together on the lawn and the summer breezes were just right. We notice that there are great cooks and bakers in this area. It was so nice to see so many of you there.

Please remember that we will return to having our Sunday school start at 9:00 A.M. and church returns to 10:30 A.M. on September 10. It will be good to return to that routine again.

Peace,
Pastor Ted and Margie

Thank You

Gladys Peters would like to thank everyone who helped her celebrate her 80th birthday with cards, gifts and attending her party.

I would like to thank all of you for your contributions to the Packs for Backs project. Every donation is an important part of the program and helps a needy child to be better prepared for school and life by having the necessary school supplies. The outpouring of love from you was so beautiful and I appreciate it very much. I know that the youngsters receiving the items will be very happy also. In Christian love, Margie Good

Thank you to those who help around the church:

- Jim & Mary Rinehimer for shampooing the rug in the Fellowship Hall
- Steve Moyer and Jim Rinehimer for trimming the bushes around the church.
- Hilbert Eigenbrod and Cliff Readler for hooking up the new dehumidifier.

And a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who works behind the scenes to keep things going!

Around Our Community

SINGSPIRATION

September 17, 2006

6:30 pm at Stairville UMC

Come for an evening of inspirational music at Stairville UMC on September 17. This event has always been very uplifting with choirs from our communities raising their voices in praise to God. There are also congregational hymns so everyone can join in making a joyful noise to the Lord.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

**Crestwood High School Honor Roll
for the 4th Marking Period:**

Principal's Honors: Courtney Day

High Honors: Barry Myers, Chelsea Myers, Mike Daniels, Stacy Prelewicz

Honors: Derek Stein, Kyle Belanchik, Bobby Madigan, Amanda Wallick

Excellent work!

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

TWILIGHTERS

September 13

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, September 13, at 10:00 pm. We will start making a project for the Hobbie Nursing Home residents and favors for the Christmas Dinner. We will also discuss when to have the Christmas Dinner. The lunch menu will include hotdogs, pork and sauerkraut. Please bring a covered dish to share.

Choirs Begin Practicing Again

On August 29, at 7:00 pm the Senior Choir began practicing for this year. Their first anthem will be sung on September 3. Anyone wishing to join this adult choir is warmly invited to come and sing to the Lord. "Make a joyful noise to the Lord. Come before his presence with singing."

The Sonrise Singers also resumed practicing after worship services on Sunday morning. We are a diverse group of adults and youth of all ages and sing a variety of music including traditional, contemporary, and gospel. Usually, we sing one Sunday a month with special holidays and occasions thrown in for good measure. To join us, just hang out after worship and open your lips in praise to God. "Open thou my lips and my mouth shall show forth thy praise"

I AM MY CHURCH

My church is composed of people like me. We make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith,
and a church with a noble spirit,
if I,

who makes it what it is,
am filled with these traits.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be.

From the Newsletter of Hope UCC, Allentown

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2006

Sept. 3 – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Organist: Orceil Bloss
Greeters: Dave and Rosemary Myers

Sept. 10 – Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Organist: Don Eroh
Greeters: Gary Eigenbrod and Alecia Myers

Sept. 17 – Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Organist: Orceil Bloss
Greeters: Connie Davis and Roy Baker

Sept. 24 – Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Organist: Orceil Bloss
Greeters: Matt Price and Richie Lenahan

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler
Marc & Connie Davis
John, Linda, & J.P. Jankowski

UCC NEWS

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

It's September – Must Be Time to Start Believing Again!

by Alan C. Miller, Conference Minister

In a society that historically professed itself as “Christian,” I am continually amazed at how “we Christians” put faith on the back-burner. Our efforts to make faith secondary often come in small subtle ways, spread over long time periods, so that we get slowly swept up in the tide of complacency. Let me retrace some of the changes (although this list will reveal my advanced age):

1. When I was a child I remember when American society remembered the Sabbath. Blue laws made sure that Sunday was a day of rest as stores and places of business were closed. But then an extra day to make and spend money became more important than Sabbath and the Blue Laws disappeared.

2. When I was a teenager school districts realized the importance of faith, so much so that Wednesday evening was known as “church night.” Homework was less on Wednesday evenings and there were virtually no school activities scheduled so that churches could have confirmation classes, Lenten services, and mid-week prayer services. But eventually “church night” disappeared.

3. When I became a young adult, churches began to question whether people really wanted to give 2 or 3 hours on a Sunday morning, so much so that some congregations stopped having a Sunday school hour. Everything was combined into 1 hour, Sunday school for the kids and worship for the adults. I guess the assumption was that you don't start worshipping God until you become an adult.

4. When I was a young pastor I suddenly found myself at odds each September with a whole host of confirmation class parents. No matter what evening I picked for confirmation class it always interfered with someone's scout meeting; football, basketball, baseball, soccer, karate, gymnastics, or swimming practice; clarinet or piano lessons; and one year even horseback riding lessons. There was always great pressure to do confirmation on Sunday mornings, taking away the confirmand's opportunity to attend Sunday school. But this pressure soon subsided as youth football and soccer leagues started having Sunday games. I soon became convinced that the parents wanted the kids confirmed but felt that the classes should be optional.

5. Later as a pastor, churches started believing that Sunday mornings interfered with summer. So, Sunday school was cancelled for the summer (this causes a dilemma for children based upon number 3 above) and worship services started earlier so people could get out and get going. Then in September everything started up again. “Startup Sunday” (sometimes known as “Rally Day”) was always the first Sunday after Labor Day, however recently this too has been pushed back as people began to realize that the first few Sundays in September were a good time to go to the beach. **Eventually I began to think that Christians only believe in God September through May, take the summer off, and then start believing again in September.**

Now I know that one does not have to be in church to believe in God. I have heard all of the stories about how people find God on the golf course (although with my game I find that hard to believe) or walking through the woods or walking along the beach. But corporate worship, Christian education, and finding ways to be in service strengthen one's commitment and help us keep faith on the front-burner.

If faith is believing in the One who has created us, given us this gift we call life, and promised to walk with us through this gift teaching us what it means to live as one created in God's image, then faith should be the priority that defines all of life's priorities.

What about you: is your faith in God the center that defines the rest of your life, or is it merely a Sunday morning school-year activity?

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Alecia Myers
2 John R. Walck
3 Devon Harter
3 Rachel Gittens
4 Matthew Farrell
4 Lois Eigenbrod
4 Kristina Walck
5 Martha Myers
5 David Harter
5 Maeghan Day
8 Rhonda Keller
10 Erin Walck
11 Brian A. DeLuca
11 Debbie Harter

11 Hunter Rinehimer
11 Frank Kastreva, Jr.
12 Helen Heller
12 Gary Eigenbrod, Sr.
14 David J. Myers
15 Bradley Kotarsky
16 Leah Dietrich
16 Deborah Mellas
16 Holly Hoffman
16 Peter Dickson, Sr.
18 Ivan Hoyt
18 Dawn VanFossen
19 William Schabener

19 Marc J. Davis
20 Michael E. Heller
21 Laurie Richmond
22 John Lesh, Jr.
23 Kristen Kania
23 Jim Dean
26 Theodore Arnold
27 Orceil Bloss
27 Eric Walck
28 Amy Polashenski
28 Martha Grosz
30 Mark Sufrinko
30 Brian DeLuca
30 Paula Rinehimer

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 3, 1997Fritz and Gloria Schreyer
Sept. 4, 1993Bob and Ellen Newell
Sept. 5, 1945Lex and Anna Mae Koons
Sept. 10, 1983Jeff and Tammy Dauber
Sept. 12, 1970Bill and Patti Heller
Sept. 14, 1973Tim and Connie Miller
Sept. 17, 1983Rob and Rhonda Brand
Sept. 20, 1975John and Linda Jankowski
Sept. 24, 1960Pete and Betty Dickson
Sept. 24, 1977John and Donna Walck
Sept. 24, 1994Jeff and Joann Kotarsky
Sept. 26, 1998David and Caroline Cronce
Sept. 27, 1975Rich and Jayne Rotski