

The Messenger

February 2006

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY

Most churches in our area have some kind of special event for Superbowl Sunday. In our case, the youth asked for a monetary offering which will be used to restock the Wapwallopen Ministerium Food Pantry which is housed at Emmanuel. For details see page 4.

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

“Emmanuel’s Got Talent” and “What’s Your Passion?”

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, February 4, during our regular Sunday Worship Service. A coffee hour will follow the Worship Service and everyone is welcome to bring a “goodie” to share. Plus, we are asking you to share more than goodies. Have a special talent? Or maybe you like to collect things? As a sequel to our “Bring in Your Nativity” in which many of us participated during Advent, we are inviting everyone to showcase their special abilities or collections during coffee hour every Communion Sunday. Perhaps you are a budding (or even successful) artist, or have a penchant for teapots (or thimbles, spoons, etc.). During coffee hour on February 4, we will view the angel collection of Margie Good. Please see Sharon Moyer or Denise Dean if you would like to share your talents and collections.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY

The Boy Scouts will be joining us for Worship on Sunday, February 11. After Worship, they are sponsoring a “Meet the Scouts” coffee hour. Come on back to the Fellowship Hall for some time to get to know our Scouts and their leaders.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

CONSISTORY MEETING

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, February 15, at 6:30 pm for their regular meeting.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

POTLUCK, MOVIE AND GAME NIGHT

Get your appetites ready for another delicious evening of food and fun.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

YOUTH GROUP BOWLING

The Youth Group is inviting everyone to go bowling with them after Worship on February 18. See page 4 for details.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Our service will be held at 7:00 pm. We will come together for a service of Communion which will include the imposition of ashes. Pastor Ted will be leading us in worship for this special service and Margie will preach.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

FAITH PROMISE SUNDAY

Loving God Back – What’s that about? See page 3 for more details.

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Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events	p. 2
Congregational Corner	p. 3
From the Pastor	p. 2
Sunday School News	p. 3
Thank You’s	p. 3
Twilighters	p. 2
Upcoming Dates	p. 2
Volunteer Schedule	p. 4
Youth Activities	p. 4
Youth Achievements	p. 4

Calendar Of Events

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

February 4

On Sunday, February 4, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion after which we will have our Coffee Hour.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays

All women of our church and community are invited to join this encouraging group to delve deeper into our faith from a woman's perspective. We meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm.

CONSISTORY MEETING

February 15

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, February 15, at 6:30 pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 21

We will gather on February 21 at 7:00 pm to mark the beginning of the season of Lent. This service will include Communion and the imposition of ashes for anyone who wishes them.

TWILIGHTERS

January & February

The Twilighters will not meet during the months of January and February but expect to resume meetings in

March. Any changes to this will be announced in the Sunday bulletins.

UPCOMING DATES

Mar. 2 World Day of Prayer
Mar. 4 Christian Unity Service –
4 pm at St. Peter's UCC
Mar. 11 Daylight Savings Time
Mar. 18 OGHS Offering

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INFO

February 19

The deadline for information for the February Messenger is February 19. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

The Annual Meeting went so well and it was great to have so many people stay for it. The covered dish dinner was another great one! Being a great cook must be a prerequisite in order to be a UCC. Enjoying fellowship together is one of the most wonderful experiences for our church family.

We will have our Ash Wednesday service on February 21, at 7:00 P.M. Margie will be preaching so we hope that we get a good turn out for it. For those of you who do not like my jokes, she charts her own course and does not tell them. She would like to preach on a Sunday in March so that would give her another opportunity. She has her final interview soon and would appreciate your prayers in that domain.

The confirmation class is continuing along nicely. We were pleased when Marc Davis brought copies of the Crestwood Middle School's newspaper. Our students were in it a lot. Denise was happy to get a copy of it and you can look at the youth news section of The Messenger to learn more specifics about it. The quality of the paper is excellent. In addition to such great articles showcasing the students' writing abilities, the color pictures were a superb element to highlight it as well.

There is a great hymn written by Carol Owens which is based on Matthew 10:8. Quoted in part it says "freely you have received, freely give." It is hymn No. 447 in the hymnal and the stanza goes:

He said "Freely, freely you have received-Freely give;.

Go in my name and because you believe, Others will know that I live.

Emmanuel stands on a steep mountain. Below, unless our steps are secure, the fall is sure. But above, on a rocky crag stands a cross where we can climb, with steps secured, to new heights, never to look back. With our Savior beside us, we can reach the top of the mountain where we will see new scenes and new visions.

Emmanuel will be engaging in a stewardship drive in the very near future. You and I will be asked to consider increasing our faith by increasing our giving. The standard, of course is tithing, but realistically few can make this leap at one bound. However, we can make it in small secure steps.

A ten percent increase in overall giving would allow Emmanuel to stay in the black financially, have a full time ordained minister, and continue to provide the beautiful missions that it now does and beyond.

Margie and I have come to love this place and its beautiful people. Like most churches of our size we struggle and can continue in the struggle, successfully and fervently.

And, after all, we owe everything to Jesus who did freely give of his life for us and for all. Let's do our best, giving generously and freely.

Peace, Pastor Ted

Thank You

Thanks to everyone for their calls, cards and prayers and Pastor Ted's kind concern during my recent hospitalization and recovery. I was especially touched by the visit from the youth and Marc Davis before they went skating and the flowers from Mary Martin. I have a very caring church family. Mary Rinehimer

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, food,, cards and phone calls of concern as I recovered from surgery. You are all wonderful. Caroline Cronic

I wish to thank everyone for the beautiful fruit basket and lovely poinsettia. It is good to know that you care. Martha Myers

Thank you to everyone for the cards, prayers and help you gave us during and after my hospitalization. Thank you for caring about us. Lydon Bloss

I am very grateful for the wonderful, talented people who participated in last year's Christmas Program. It is a pleasure to work with you. I would also like to thank everyone for my Christmas gift. Denise Dean

We received a thank you letter from Lancaster Theological Seminary for our gifts. We forwarded their portion of the Christmas Offering plus our annual allotment amount as provided in the 2006 budget. Again, thanks to your offerings to the General Fund, we are able to keep our promises to support organizations affiliated with our church. The letter is on the bulletin board in the bell tower.

Our Condolences

We offer our sympathy to Dean and Brenda Kline on the passing of his daughter, Deanne Kline. Our prayers and concerns go out to you in your time of mourning.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

LOVING GOD BACK

Loving God Back – what a concept! That's the theme for our stewardship campaign this year. Together we'll explore how to use our *time*, *talent* and *treasure* for the good of the church in ways that love God back. Please join us in this endeavor as we lead up to Faith Promise Sunday.

—Sharon Moyer

VALENTINES FOR VETS

February 11

We will collect Valentines for the Veterans at the VA Hospital through February 11. Please remember these people who gave so much for us.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ALERT

As some of you may already realize, **Daylight Savings Time will begin on March 11** this year, the second Sunday in March – not on first Sunday of April as in the past. **This change may affect your computers, clocks, TV's, etc.,** - whatever electronic devices you have that are **supposed to automatically change** to Daylight Savings Time. Most devices are programmed to change on the first Sunday in April. You might want to check for updates to programming for your devices. Microsoft is supposed to have a patch for computers which run on Windows 2000 and XP, but you might have to check with the manufacturer with regard to other devices.

2006 RECORD OF GIVING

DOLLAR AMOUNT		NO. OF PEOPLE
FROM	TO	in 2006
\$0	0	33
1	50	57
51	100	22
101	250	32
251	500	18
501	750	11
751	1,000	5
1,001	1,250	5
1,251	1,500	3
1,501	1,750	1
1,751	2,000	2
2,001	2,250	2
2,251	3,000	4
3,001	3,250	1
3,251	3,700	1

From the Sunday School Superintendent

As I had announced some weeks ago, the Sunday School is conducting a "flip flop" drive. We are collecting flip flops and lightweight summer clothing for children in Africa. This is in response to a call I received from a friend who coordinates a mission to Africa. She was told of a need for flip flops to prevent a type of parasite from infecting children. The children step on the parasite in their bare feet and the parasite bores its way into their skin, infecting and sometimes killing them. She is collecting the items which will be shipped in a large container to those needy children. I hope that you will find it in your heart to help God's children in Africa. Thank you for all your generosity.

Love to My Christian Family, Sharon E.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

YOUTH GROUP GAME/MOVIE NIGHT

February 16

The Youth Group is inviting everyone to another Covered Dish, Game/Movie night on February 16. We have been having such a blast and want to do it again. By the way adults, remember your pennies!!

BOWLING OUTING

February 18

The Youth Group will go bowling after Worship on February 18. Everyone is invited to come along. The Youth Group will pay the bowling admission for any youth, but adults are on their own. We will stop at Wendy's for lunch and then go to St. Mark's in Freeland.

SOUPer Bowl Sunday

I would like to thank everyone who made a monetary donation to this event. We were hoping to raise some cash to be used by the youth in restocking the Wapwallopen Ministerium Food Bank during the 30 Hour Famine. Your generous donations already total over \$100. Because of your quick response, I removed the offering baskets. I believe it is important for the youth to shop on a budget that is more in line with how much a family would really have to spend.

30 HOUR FAMINE

Instead of (and hopefully in addition to) giving to the SOUPer Bowl offering, I hope you will sponsor one of the 14 participants in this year's event which will be held in March. The sponsor packets have been distributed and the participants will be looking for your help in raising funds to "Starve Hunger", which is the theme for this year. During the 30 hour fast, we will have Bible study, discuss hunger issues and solutions, play games, and generally do anything to keep from thinking about food. Except, of course, that will be hard when we are shopping to restock the Food Bank with your generous SOUPer Bowl donations. Thank you for your support of our youth. You are their role models and a major influence for them.

SKATING OUTING

On January 14, several youth and adults went roller skating after Worship. We had lunch at Wendy's, stopped for a short shopping trip at Wal Mart and then made a visit to Mary Rinehimer, to brighten her day in the hospital. We skated from 2:00 to 4:30 pm, without any major injuries. We can be proud of the well-mannered way our youth conduct themselves and that they represent our church as decent young Christians wherever they go.

Marc Davis, Youth Advisor

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Rice Elementary Honor Roll:

Honors: Rachelle Heller, Kyle Prelewicz, Justin Rinehimer

Crestwood Middle School Honor Roll:

Principal's Honors: Alecia Myers

High Honors: Kelly Madigan, Jared Yakscoe, Sami Dauber, Marc Davis, Meredith Martin, Jacob Mylet

Honors: Courtney Kania

Volume 1, Issue 1 of the CMS Comet, the Student Newspaper of the Crestwood Middle School, debuted in December 2006. Among the contributors to this newspaper is "**Marc the Movie Critic**" Davis. (It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it.)

Marc is also a member of the White Team 8th Grade Gifted Class. While Marc is on the White Team, the Red Team has among its members **Meredith Martin** and **Jacob Mylet**. There seems to be a lot of brain power in the youth of our church.

"Bah, Humbug" was the Middle School play in which **Sami Dauber** played the part of Beth Cratchit. The play was thoroughly enjoyed by all who saw it. Sami was also chosen to act in the play, "Pippin", at the Wilkes College Conservatory. A new star is discovered!

Sports is the arena for **Courtney Kania** and **Taylor Farrell**. Courtney and Taylor are on the 7th & 8th grade girls' volleyball team and Courtney is on the 7th grade girls' basketball team. GO TEAM(s)!!

Doing just swimmingly, **Meredith Martin**, swam her way to the Districts in Philadelphia by meeting certain swimming time qualifications. Mere swims for the Wilkes-Barre YMCA Dolphins and will be entered in the 200 free relay team, free style swim stroke.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2007

Feb. 4 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Organist: Harriet Seward

Greeters: Forrest and Dillon Atkinson

Feb. 11 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Organist: Don Eroh

Greeters: Scouts of Pack 433

Feb. 18 – Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration

Organist: Orceil Bloss

Greeters: Connie Davis and Connie Myers

Feb. 25 – First Sunday in Lent

Organist: Wayne Mast

Greeters: Jayne and Rich Rotski

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers

Clifford & Gladys Readler

Marc & Connie Davis

John, Linda, & J.P. Jankowski

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S

1 Ronald Williams	11 Harold Rinehimer	18 Brenda Kline
3 Sarah Conrad	11 Arline Rinehimer	19 Joann Sabonas
4 Dave Horensky	12 Jared Yakscoe	19 John L. Walck
4 Donna Walck	13 Floyd Fenstermacher	19 Patsy Moratori
6 Richie Lenahan	13 Ethan Supkowski	20 Janelle Evans
8 Maria Storti	14 Roy Baker	21 Hazel Conrad
9 Phillip Aumick	14 Donald Eroh	23 Linda Jankowski
9 Bianca Oldershaw	14 Michael Heller	23 Thomas Russell
9 Becky Frey	16 J.P. Jankowski	25 Lisa Rinehimer
10 Olivia Palubinski	16 Brian Myers	27 Eric VanFossen
11 Taylor Farrell	17 Charles Kania	29 Jan Rinehimer

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 14, 1988Bob and Rhonda Madigan
February 14, 1971Bill and Linda Wallick
February 15, 1991Brian and Priscilla Farrell