

The Messenger

March 2007

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

EMMANUEL'S DAY OF PRAYER

The Wapwallopen Ministerium is celebrating Christian Unity with a weeklong prayer vigil. Emmanuel's day is Saturday, March 3. Whether you have signed up for a particular time of prayer or not, please pause for a moment on March 3 and offer a prayer that all Christians may live together in unity and peace.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

Hilda's Cardinals

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. For our sharing time during the Coffee Hour, Hilda Lewis will bring in her cardinal collection.

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

The Wapwallopen Ministerium will conclude our week of prayer for Christian Unity with a Worship Celebration at St. Peter's UCC at 3:00 pm. All leaders of our churches will participate in this special service.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

Our Girl Scouts will be participating in our Worship on Sunday, March 11. We have several young ladies of our church who belong to this Troop and they will express their faith through Scripture reading and greeting. Come see how our faith is growing in the lives of these Girl Scouts.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

This year Daylight Savings Times begins earlier than in past years. Please be sure to turn your clocks ahead and make sure your electronic equipment with automatic programming for Daylight Savings Time is properly updated.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 16 & 17

30 HOUR FAMINE

Our Youth and several adults are again starving themselves to help those around our nation and world who know the real meaning of starvation. Please support them. See page ____ for details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

This is one of five special offerings in which the UCC participates annually. Please turn to page ____ for details on how this offering helps people in our nation and around the world.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

GUEST SPEAKER

Come and welcome our own seminarian, Becky Broyan, as she leads us in worship on March 25. Becky will be presenting a slide show on her recent trip to Nicaragua and explaining how we, as part of the United Church of Christ, are helping to strengthen the faith of our brothers and sisters in Central America.

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Calendar Of Events

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

March 4

On Sunday, March 4, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion after which we will have our Coffee Hour. For our sharing time during the Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 4, Hilda Lewis will bring in her cardinal collection. She has many different items, including cross stitch pieces, figurines, pins, tableware, a wall hanging, and many other pieces which she has collected or been given as gifts. Come and hear the

stories behind her feathered friend collection.

CONSISTORY MEETING

March 15

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

TWILIGHTERS

March 14

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, March 14 at 12 pm for a covered dish luncheon.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays

Every Monday evening at 7:00 pm we invite women of our communities to come study the Word of God.

UPCOMING DATES

Apr. 1 Palm Sunday
Apr. 5 Maunday Thursday Service
Apr. 8 Easter Sunday

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INFO

March 21

The deadline for information for the April Messenger is March 21. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

We are experiencing our Lenten season together. It is a time of introspection and reflection into the great gift of salvation achieved through much suffering in the death of our Savior. As a beginning of this time, Margie was pleased to be able to preach at the Ash Wednesday service. She will be preaching on March 11 again.

As part of this time, there will be a Community Unity Prayer Service at St. Peters, on Sunday, March 4 at 3:00 P.M. We hope to see many of you there. I will have a small part in the service as well.

Margie had her final interview with the licensed ministry committee on February 20. They voted unanimously to recommend her for licensing. She needs to go to the next meeting of the board of directors of the PNEC, which will be on April 11, for their approval. She will not be licensed finally until she has a call to a specific church.

The confirmation class continues to be a source of joy for us. They will travel to the Lehigh Valley on April 20 for a confirmation trip. It is planned by the Susquehanna Area Missions Council of which Emmanuel is a part. I will accompany them on the bus. The cost for the trip is \$17.00. We spoke to the students about it. If the fee is a hardship for any of them; we told them to approach us privately and we would pursue other avenues to get the money for them to join us. We do not want the expense to hinder anyone's participation. The excursion sounds well organized and worthwhile.

We will be attending the "Come to the Well" event on Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28. It will be in Allentown. We would recommend the event highly to any of you who would be able to fit it into your schedule. They have great activities for the youth also. We always benefit from any of the workshops, services, and every detail of the weekend.

Peace,

Pastor Ted

Our Condolences

We offer our sympathy to Gary Eigenbrod and his family on the passing of his grandfather, Lester Betz. Our prayers and concerns go out to you in your time of mourning.

Olive Faux, sister of Nora Cybulski and Fern Taney, passed away on February 25, 2007. Our thoughts and sympathy are with their families in their time of sorrow.

Thank You

We received a thank you letter from Phoebe Devitt Homes for our gift. We forwarded 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.

EMMANUEL – CONGREGATION WITH A HEART

Over the past year, the members of Emmanuel have shown their support for a multitude of charities and concerns. I have compiled a list of most (although I am sure not all) of the missions we have supported: Wapwallopen Ministerium Food Bank, the Pack for Back Drive (Backpacks with school supplies), Flip Flop and Summer Clothes for African children, Christmas presents for the McKinney Clinic, Christmas presents for Bethany Children's Home, Thanksgiving Dinners for the McKinney Clinic, vegetables for the Mountain Top Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Halloween Canned Food Drive, Soup-er Bowl Sunday donations, 30 Hour Famine Support, Scholarship Fund, Christmas and Easter Special Offerings for Bethany, Phoebe-Devitt and Lancaster Theological Seminary, Aluminum cans for the benevolence fund, OGHs, OCWM, NIN, Strengthen the Church, Poinsettias for our Shut-ins, CROP, VBS donations and much more which is only possible through your generosity.

Also you have shown your love through your offering of time: choir members and organists, church supper volunteers, clean up day volunteers, consistory members, Sunday School leaders and helpers, janitors, committee members, youth group advisors, kitchen helpers, those who care for our building and fix up around the church, snow and ice clearing, grass cutting and grounds maintenance...Who have I missed? Probably many. You are so unselfish and give so totally of your time and talents.

I just thought it was time to take a good look at who we are and feel good about ourselves. Denise

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

LOVING GOD BACK

On February 25, we wrapped up our Stewardship Campaign with the offering of our pledge cards. These cards will be used to provide a more accurate estimate of our financial abilities in the future. If you have not returned your pledge card yet, please consider how you can best support your church and its ministries. As Pastor Ted pointed out, not everyone is able to tithe, but most of us can increase our giving by maybe 10%. That would be an increase of \$1 if you currently give \$10 or \$2 if you give \$20. This might not seem like much, but when added to everyone else's gift, it is like drops of water which gather into a well which benefits everyone.

EASTER FLOWERS SIGN-UP

There are sign-up sheets on the tables in the narthex and next to the Fellowship Hall doorway for lilies and yellow tulips for Easter. Please carefully indicate whether the flowers will be in honor of or in memory of someone. You may pay Lois Eigenbrod or Mary Rinehimer.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Rice Elementary Honor Roll:

Honors: Rachelle Heller, Justin Rinehimer

Crestwood Middle School Honor Roll:

Principal's Honors: Alecia Myers

High Honors: Kelly Madigan, Jared Yakscoe, Marc Davis, Meredith Martin, Jacob Mylet, Kathryn Rosser

Honors: Courtney Kania, Samantha Dauber

Crestwood High School Honor Roll:

Principal's Honors: Stacy Prelewicz

High Honors: Jordan Pickering, Barry Myers, Derek Stein, Courtney Day, Robert Madigan

Honors: Matthew Farrell, Travis Grosz, Brian Deluca, Gary Eigenbrod, Chelsea Myers, Kyle Belanchik, Michael Daniels

You may have noticed that there are not as many names for the elementary honor roll. That is because only 6th grade is recognized. There would be many more names if they were recognized from 4th grade and above (which is when the students are graded in all subjects) as was done in previous years. Prior to 4th grade, some subjects are graded as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. In 4th grade, the subjects are graded on the A to F scale.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

30 HOUR FAMINE

Let's hear it for the youth and adults who are starving themselves so others can eat! The 30 Hour Famine is a project which helps people here and around the world make their lives better. During the fast, we will play famine related games, watch DVD's, read related scripture, make a banner and a table-top journal, have joys and concerns and much more. And add to all that, Becky Broyan will be our Guest Speaker! The youth and adults will start fasting at 8:00 am on Friday morning. This, of course, means that they will not be eating lunch even though all the other students and co-workers will. We hope that this will raise our participants' awareness of what it is like to go hungry while others have more than enough (like most of us in America). Hopefully, the people who they sit with at lunch will also notice their commitment to the fast and will be interested in their efforts. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm on Friday night and will end the event by going shopping at Mr. Z's with your donations from Soup-er Bowl Sunday and then go for pizza. **Parents – please sign your child in on Friday and out on Saturday.** This is to ensure that all children are accounted for and safe, and I want to thank you for allowing your child to participate in this Mission Event.

THE FUN WE HAD

On February 16, the youth and adults got together again for a potluck dinner and game night. Everyone had fun and the food was great. Every time we get together more people come. We'll let you know when the next one will be.

On February 18, the Youth Group invited anyone who wanted to go bowling to come with them to St. Matthew's Rec Center in Freeland. Dawn, Courtney and Kristen Kania, Denise and Glynis Dean, Gary Eigenbrod, Jim Rinehimer, Marc and Connie Davis and myself divided up into a "boys" team and girls team (Courtney graciously agreed to play on the boys team to make the teams even). For the first game, the girls beat the boys, but the boys returned the favor on the second game. We all had fun and hope you will join us the next time we have an outing. Marc Davis, Youth Advisor

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Who is my neighbor? Many of us recognize this question from the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus used this parable to show how we all should respond to those in need. Whether it is from the gulf coast

hurricanes, Asian tsunamis, war and violence, extreme poverty, unclean water, or chronic hunger, we are called to respond to our "neighbors". Since 1949 churches across North America have been giving to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering, expressing God's love to our neighbors – not just after the major disasters that saturate the media, but also to people affected by chronic disasters that repeat themselves each and every day. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support programs that help people build lives and communities that are healthy, safe and, most of all, sustainable.

By giving, you will join others in:

1. rebuilding communities ravaged by natural disasters
2. creating sustainable sources of food and water for rural villages
3. providing micro-credit so women can start poverty-escaping businesses
4. teaching trades and job skills to people maimed by landmines
5. offering children a chance to survive past the age of five and attend school
6. and so much more.

Your gifts enable the UCC to respond quickly and effectively in emergency situations by having supplies ready and available at a moment's notice. We also provide the UCC with the ability to make permanent and constructive changes in the lives of people who endure persistent hardships brought on by inadequate infrastructure, poor land management, or unstable and violent regimes. Jesus' response to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" set a standard that isn't easy to meet. By participating in OGHS, we join together to make a world of difference in the lives of our neighbors.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2007

Mar. 4 – Second Sunday in Lent

Organist: Don Eroh

Greeters: Gary Eigenbrod and Rich Lenahan

Mar. 11 – Third Sunday in Lent

Organist: Orceil Bloss

Greeters: Dave and Rosemary Myers

Mar. 18 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Organist: Orceil Bloss

Greeters: Caroline Cronce and Judy Cybulski

Mar. 25 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Organist: Wayne Mast

Greeters: Alecia Myers and Sami Dauber

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers

Clifford & Gladys Readler

Marc & Connie Davis

John, Linda, & J.P. Jankowski

MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

1	Richard Henry	12	Debbie Fine	24	Deven Kamat
2	Jane Rinehimer	14	Devin Stein	26	Brad Frey
2	Ashley Sabonas	14	Jessica Gittens	27	Connie Miller
2	Ron Day	16	David DeLuca	28	Brian Heller
3	Carey Hoffman	17	Ashley Deets	28	Samantha Kotarsky
5	Joseph Eigenbrod	19	Page Eigenbrod	29	Amanda Bickham
7	Jason Mellas	20	Bryon Conrad	29	Joe Huntzinger
7	Cindy Heller	21	Lisa Caffrey	29	Lois Huntzinger
7	Dorothy Hoyt	23	Hailee Smith	31	Gwen Sakowski
9	Reece Mylet	24	Ryan Pawlowski	31	Michael Supkowski
9	Gloria Schreyer	24	Jason Rinehimer	31	Bethany Newell

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 4, 1954Ray and Harriet Seward
 March 18, 1943Ernie and Esther Heller
 March 20, 1982Bob and Helen Heller