

The Messenger

FEBRUARY 2008

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, February 3, during our regular Sunday Worship Service. Please bring a “goodie” to share and stay for coffee hour after worship.

SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY

Most churches in our area have some kind of special event for Superbowl Sunday. Our youth will again be gathering a special offering for the Souper Bowl of Caring. On February 3 (Superbowl Sunday) and February 10, there will be baskets for your offering which will be used by the youth to purchase groceries during the 30-Hour Famine which will be held on March 14 and 15. Please give generously to this mission which helps to restock the food bank.

HOAGIE PICK-UP

The Cub Scouts will be making hoagies in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 3, which will be available for pick-up at 12 pm. Anyone who ordered, please remember to take your hoagies home with you (so you can have a great Superbowl snack).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

On Wednesday, February 6, we will begin the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm. We will celebrate the Last Supper and administer the imposition of ashes during this service of remembrance. Let us gather to look forward to the sacrifice of the cross and the hope of our salvation.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 & 9

FAMILY POTLUCK, GAMES AND SLEEPOVER NIGHT

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

CUB SCOUT SUNDAY

The Cub Scouts will be joining us for Worship on Sunday, February 10. 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.

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Inside this issue:

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

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

As we approach Lent we think more about what we may “take on” rather than “give up.” I have told you how I have a time of devotion each morning. This year I am using “The Upper Room” as my focus to begin it. It also includes a focal point for prayers for people who are looking for work, are depressed and other areas of need. I pray for everyone on our church’s prayer list, those of you who have requested private prayer, other congregants and friends with difficulties. I have certain folks who have long-term illnesses that I pray for as well. Naturally I include my family also. You may choose Lent of 2008 to set aside time for your own devotional time for prayer and reading books. An email just came as I was typing this that I want to share it with you. You can subscribe, online, for a Lenten devotional from the United Church of Christ. It is available at Daily Lenten Devotional on UCCvitality.org.

Margie is an avid reader and includes Christian themes in her reading, too. She just finished Ninety Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper and loved it. She liked The Five People You Meet in Heaven just as much. We are reading Gilead for our mentoring group. Some of her other favorite authors are Nicholas Sparks, Richard Paul Evans, Donna Van Liere, Beverly Lewis, Tracy Chevalier, Mitch Albom and James Patterson. She enjoys biographies and I’m Proud of You about Tim Madigan’s friendship with Mr. Fred Rogers caught her interest. Last night she purchased The Gift of Fear by Gavin De Becker that helps one to use their inner strengths more readily. She likes to read inspirational books and ones about self-improvement.

Reading a variety of books gives one lots to think about and even more to chat about with friends. Share with me your thoughts about how you like to do devotional and reading activities.

Peace, Pastor Ted

Thank You

We received thank you letters from Bernadine Baluta, RN, Clinic Coordinator of the McKinney Clinic. She wrote how grateful the clients of the clinic were to receive our personal care packages and gifts (which were from our Giving Tree). She also wrote to thank the Sunday School for their children’s gifts and told that on Christmas Day at their open house, they distributed all our gifts to over 150 people. She concluded her letter by affirming that these activities are only possible through the generosity of people like us. So, let’s keep up the good work!

We received a Christmas card from the children and staff at Bethany Children’s Home.

Phoebe-Devitt Homes sent us a letter thanking us for our annual pledge of \$1,000. Our generosity makes it possible for them to support residents where there is a shortfall between government subsidies and the cost of care provided. Residents in assisted living or residential

rooms do not qualify for any government funding and so our contribution provides charitable care for any resident as long as it is needed.

Ernie and Esther Heller would like to thank the Sunday School for the fruit basket they made for them.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness at the holidays, you folks are the best. Pastor Ted

We’ve had some repairs made and furniture rearranged at the church. Thank you to:

- Hilbert Eigenbrod and Matt Price for replacing the many stained ceiling tiles
- Lynne and Jim Stewart for cleaning out and moving furniture and equipment in the office area
- The cleaning crew for cleaning up after all our messes.

Our Condolences

We wish to send our sincere sympathy to Sam Atkinson and his children on the passing of his brother, Wesley B. Atkinson, Sr., on January 5, 2008. We pray for God's peace in your time of sorrow.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

TWILIGHTERS

There will be no meeting in February but we plan to resume meetings in March.

CONSISTORY MEETING

February 21

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, February 21, at 6:30 pm.

CONSISTORY MEMBERS FOR 2008

President Connie Miller
 Vice President Janice Broyan
 Secretary Jim Rinehimer
 Deacons: Barry Myers, Don Myers, Chris Dietrich and Ron Rinehimer Jr.
 Elders: Nelson Horwath, Connie Miller, James Rinehimer, Hilbert Eigenbrod, Lynne Stewart and Janice Broyan

2007 RECORD OF GIVING

<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>		<u>NO. OF PEOPLE</u>
<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>in 2006</u>
\$0	0	26
1	25	36
26	50	23
51	100	19
101	300	31
301	500	13
501	1,000	12
1,001	1,500	12
1,501	2,000	4
2,200	2,500	3
2,700	2,900	3
4,500	4,600	1

MILE MARKERS

This heading is being created to highlight achievements and records reached by our members. If you know of anyone who has received an award, accomplished something unique, or has been recognized for community service, etc., please let me know so that we can let everyone know.

David A. Myers received the Million Mile award from his employer of 23 years, Wise Foods. He has driven more than 2 million miles without having an accident. Thank goodness for conscientious truck drivers!

From the Sunday School Superintendent

Our February project has been to support the Valentines for Vets mission. Our children have written out many valentines and have made valentine projects which have been deposited in the box which is in the bell tower.

For our March project, we will be gathering donations for Easter candy for the McKinney Clinic and hope you will support us in bringing a little sweetness into the lives of the clients of the clinic.

We are planning the Sunday School Easter Party for Saturday, March 8, and I will have more details as the date gets nearer.

Thank you for all your support, Lisa Rinehimer

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

SOUP-ER-BOWL SUNDAY

On February 3, which is the Super Bowl, and also on February 10, there are football shaped offering plates on the table next to the Fellowship Hall doorway and in the bell tower. Your donations will be used as a learning experience during the 30-Hour Famine to show our youth that many people need to shop on a tight budget. The food purchased will be used to restock the Food Bank and help feed the hungry in our area. This event was started with a simple prayer offered by some youth as they gathered for a Super Bowl party: "Lord as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." That prayer inspired a nationwide movement, the Souper Bowl of Caring, in which tens of thousands of young people across the country participate each year. Thank you in advance for your support of our youth as they participate in this countrywide mission.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES (con't)

FAMILY GAME NIGHT/POTLUCK AND SLEEPOVER

February 8 and 9

Bring your appetites and games for an evening of fun and food on February 8. Beginning at 6:00 pm, we will have our potluck dinner. After that, we will play a variety of games including word games, Bible games, po-ke-no, plus whatever games you would like to bring. There will be a sleepover for the Youth Group members after the games are all played out. Youth Group members are reminded that they will need a permission slip in order to sleep over.

30-HOUR FAMINE **March 14 and 15** **be seen, be heard** **BE HUNGRY**

This year, our youth will participate in the 30-Hour Famine beginning on March 14. Youth who want to participate can see Marc Davis for a pledge folder. Each youth has been instructed that they are not to eat after finishing their breakfast on Friday, March 14. The idea is that their friends will see them not eating lunch and ask why. This will be a way for our youth to make others aware of world hunger and the part youth can play in combating it. The 30-Hour Famine started 16 years ago as a way for junior high, high school and college-age students to help save – and change – children's lives. By going without food for 30 hours and raising money to help needy children, young people gain a deeper awareness of the needs in our world and realize they can play a vital role in making a difference. The youth go without food but can drink plenty of water and juices so they experience true hunger and learn powerful lessons of compassion for those who live with hunger daily. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm on Friday evening. During Friday evening and Saturday morning we will play games, read Scripture, have devotions and learn about the difficulties children around the world face just trying to survive. We will also take our shopping trip during this time to purchase items for the food bank with your donations from Soup-er Bowl Sunday. (Think about shopping when you are hungry – how many impulse items do you add to the cart?) The youth will end their fast with lunch on Saturday at 1:00 pm and parents may pick up their children at 2:00 pm.

YOUTH BLOG SITE

A blog site has been set up on our website for everyone to check out. Just go to emmanuel-ucc.org and click on the blog. If you have a username and password, you can answer the questions and get a prize. If you need a username and password, or just can't remember the one you had, see Marc Davis.

Marc Davis

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Kyle Prelewicz is helping the Crestwood Middle School Ice Hockey team win their share of games. Check out the news article in the front door bulletin board.

UPCOMING DATES

Mar. 2 OGHS Offering Sunday
Mar. 7 World Day of Prayer
Mar. 14 & 15 – 30-Hour Famine
Mar. 16 Palm Sunday
Mar. 20 Maundy Thursday
Mar. 23 Easter Sunday

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INFO

February 18

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

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2008

Feb. 3 – Transfiguration Sunday

Greeters: Matt Price and Richie Lenahan

Feb. 10 – First Sunday in Lent

Greeters: Cub Scout Pack 433

Feb. 17 – Second Sunday in Lent

Greeters: Forrest and Dylan Atkinson

Feb. 24 – Third Sunday in Lent

Greeters: Jayne and Rich Rotski

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers

Clifford & Gladys Readler

Marc & Connie Davis

John, Linda, & J.P. Jankowski

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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