

The Messenger

November 2009

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Remember to sleep in for an extra hour! But only for one hour and then join us for Sunday School at 9:00 and worship at 10:30 am.

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, November 1, during our regular Sunday Worship Service which begins at 10:30 am.

CELEBRATING OUR STEWARDSHIP

Our Stewardship Campaign, **fearless giving IN FEARFUL TIMES**, will wrap up on November 1 with a celebration dinner in the Fellowship Hall after our worship service. All types of dishes are welcome, from main course to dessert, so pick your favorite and we'll share a wonderful meal.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

YOUTH GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Youth Group will be on November 8 at 6:30 pm at Pastor Penny's.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

TWILIGHTER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Twilights Christmas Party will be on November 11 at 12:00 pm at Stairville UMC.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Our community Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Pastor Penny will be the preacher with the other Ministerium pastors taking part in the service.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Come and join us as we prepare our homes and church, hearts and souls, for the advent of our Savior. The season of Advent begins Sunday, November 29. Come, let us adore him – the king disguised as a baby.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

7768 Blue Ridge Trail
Mountain Top PA 18707
(570) 868-5675

www.emmanuel-ucc.org
emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com

Rev. Penny Dollar
15 Old North Road
Mountain Top, PA 18707
(570) 678-5949
(570) 706-6476
preacherdollar@yahoo.com

Inside this issue:

Committee Meetings	p. 5
Condolences	p. 3
Congregational Corner	p. 3
CROP Walk Report	p. 5
From the Pastor	p. 2
Stewardship Campaign	p. 3
Sunday School News	p. 4
Sunday School FUN	p. 4
Thank You's	p. 3
Turkey Supper Report	p. 4
Twilights	p. 4
Volunteer Schedule	p. 5
Youth Group	p. 4

From The Pastor's Desk

Last Saturday, Oct. 24th, the Annual Meeting of Penn Northeast Conference was held in Nazareth, PA at St. John's UCC. What a beautiful facility St. John's is and the members did a wonderful job of hosting (including feeding us lunch) all of us delegates and visitors. There were 91 churches represented – a great turnout. Rebecca Broyan and I were your delegates along with Archie as an interested visitor.

The theme for the meeting was **SURVIVING OR THRIVING** which began with small group discussions. We were broken into laity, clergy, and clergy spouses. We discussed budgets (how money is spent compared to how money needs to be spent), what amount of time in our leadership meetings is spent on what kinds of issues (finances, property, personnel, evangelism, etc.). It was interesting to note that large churches and small churches are very similar in comparison on both of these issues.

We came back together for worship (the organ was spectacular) and a message from our Conference Minister, Alan Miller, better know that day as Uncle Al. We were presented several scenarios – from small churches merging to how young adults can be drawn back into the worshipping scene. Well – let me tell you – the meeting was about **CHANGE!** I realize, as did the presenters, that **CHANGE** is a very scary word to many folks but it must take place in order for churches to thrive and not just survive. We must be willing to look at our world today compared with the 1950's or even earlier and realize the world is changing around us and we must get on the wagon. We will have some of these discussions as we move forward.

This was a very good meeting but it was just the beginning. It will be continued at the Spring Annual Meeting which will be held on April 24, 2010. Won't you please consider going to this very important meeting. It is on my calendar with lots of room to include other names. I will tell you that even Archie stayed for the whole meeting without going to the car for a nap. That, in itself, was miracle! The content of the meeting was that interesting.

In a couple of weeks I will be going to Harrisburg to the Pennsylvania Pastor's Conference where Gil Rendle will be speaking. The theme for that meeting is *Living in Our Particular Wilderness: Being Healthy Leaders for Healthy Churches*. He will also be the featured speaker at the Conference Spring meeting so I will get a preview of his presentation. I am really looking forward to hearing what he has to say.

As we move into the future I pray that we can all work together for the change that needs to happen. To this point I am very happy with the way you have accepted me and some of the changes that have taken place thus far. Let's look to the future with **THRIVING** on our agenda.

God will be with us in our efforts just as has been promised. Exodus 13:21-22 "During the day the Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud to show them the way, and during the night he went in front of them in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel night and day. The pillar of cloud was always in front of the people during day, and the pillar of fire at night." God was with the Israelites as they traveled to a new land and God is with us as we explore new territory.

May God bless us all!

Pastor Penny

Our Condolences

Kristie Russell, daughter of former members Tom and Carrie Russell, passed away on October 28. Kristie had fought a long battle with cancer and we

pray for God's comfort for Tom and Carrie as they mourn their loss. Our heartfelt love and sympathy are offered to them.

Thank You



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Blood Drive on October 10. Our fledgling event brought in 12 units (unfortunately, as always, there were several people deferred). We also had several members who were refused because they had given recently and were not allowed to give until the waiting period of 56 days is over (the Red Cross is pretty strict on this). I was originally disappointed when I heard about only collecting 12 units, but one of the volunteers put it in perspective for me. She said "That's 12 more units than we had before we came." I thought that was a very good way to think about it. Jason Stec, the Team Supervisor, thanked us for hosting it and said that our church is a perfect location for drives. They will be calling us again and I will let you know as soon as possible when the next drive is scheduled. Denise

Our Silent Auction during the Turkey Supper was again a great success. I was very happy with how quickly our members responded and found or donated items to be included. We raised \$468 in a very short time. Thanks to all who gathered donations, donated items, helped with set up and sold tickets. A special thanks goes to the bidders and congratulations to all the winners. Pastor Penny

The Food Bank of the Wapwallopen Crossroads Ministerium has been restocked through the generous donations of our church members. Several of the Ministerium churches and their related organizations held Harvest Home celebrations and Fall Festivals. The Food Bank is housed at Emmanuel UCC and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment. All contacts are kept strictly confidential as we understand each person's need for privacy and self-esteem. If we can help you or someone you know, please call 868-5675 for an appointment and we will provide nourishment for you and your family. We are here to serve all people of our communities.

fearless giving IN FEARFUL TIMES

We have heard several members of our church relate their own stories and belief regarding stewardship and what it means to them. Frank Partington outlined the areas of giving, including our time and talents in addition to our monetary giving. I spoke about how my Dad, Don Eroh, influenced my idea of giving. As I

said, faithful giving is something you grow into and I wasn't always a regular giver. But after years of practice (practice, practice, practice), I have managed to become more faithful. Jeff Shuman read a story about how a rich man left a legacy for his town by building a church. When the townspeople were invited to view the finished church, they noticed that there were no lights. The rich man handed each family a light and pointed to brackets on the walls. His lesson was that when the family came to church, there would be light in the pew, but if they did not come, that area of the church would be dark. It is a very important concept – the church is everyone but without everyone there is an area of darkness; a place where God's work is not done. We also heard Archie's awesome voice singing, "Checking Up on My Payments to the Lord" and testifying through song that we should keep in mind the greatest sacrifice and check how our response measures up to God's ultimate gift of salvation.

The last several weeks have been thought-provoking as we reflect on how we serve our Lord with our time, talent and treasure. The aim of any stewardship campaign is to bring to light opportunities to show our reaction to Christ's action of love. How will we calculate our gratitude? Will we make a commitment? Do we have the courage? The pledge cards will be in our bulletins on November 1. What will our response be?

We will conclude our stewardship campaign with a special dinner after worship on November 1, celebrating our trust in God's overflowing bounty. It will be a covered-dish (potluck) dinner with every kind of dish welcome, from main course to desserts.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER CHURCH NURSERY

Our nursery for our children through age 6 has started. You can still volunteer to watch the children with the assistance of a teen helper. If enough parents sign up for this, you will only be in charge of the nursery once every two months. Parents and Teen Helpers are asked to sign up on the sheet in the Narthex for the Sundays they can volunteer.

TWILIGHTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Twilights Christmas Dinner will be held on November 11 at Stairville UMC at 12 pm. Please remember to bring your gift to exchange.

Sunday School News

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

BAKE SALE AT THE TURKEY SUPPER - Our bake sale during the Turkey Supper was very successful. I would like to thank those who helped run it while I was away. Thank you also to those who support this fundraiser which helps us to purchase our Sunday School materials.

BLANKET & COAT DRIVE – Thanks to everyone who cleaned out their closets or purchased new items for this drive. It is now over and I will be taking them down to the Clinic the first week of November. You are so generous in helping to keep others warm at this time of the year.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS - We will again provide Thanksgiving dinners for families of the Clinic. We would appreciate any monetary donations to help purchase the turkeys and if you would like to, you can donate some of the “fixings”.

Lisa Rinehimer

Sunday School Fun

FALL FEST

We had our Fall Fest on Sunday, October 25, and it was very well attended by adults and children. Our main dishes of hot dogs and pizza were complimented by a wonderful assortment of side dishes and desserts. The kids played games, like “swinging donuts” and dunking for apples. Those who dressed-up in costume were judged for prizes. The adults had a wonderful time hanging out with each other and watching the kids.

YOUTH GROUP

We had our first Youth Group meeting on Sunday, October 25. It was a great planning session. We decided to meet every 2nd Sunday of the month at 6:30 pm. We thought we would have one regular meeting every month and another fun event which the youth will plan. The next meeting will be on November 8 at Pastor Penny’s. Allison will offer the devotions and other members will provide snacks and drinks. We’ll be discussing more about how the youth will be more involved with running the group and organizing the things we want to do.

Turkey Supper Report

The inclement weather did not deter the hungry people from coming to the Turkey Supper. It was a great success, thanks to everyone’s time and effort. For three days our members prepare everything needed,

from setting up tables to preparing stuffing, and from cooking turkeys to baking cakes. It all results in a delicious home-cooked meal. The wait staff and kitchen help were really hard pressed to keep up as Donnie kept those tables moving (can you say “Hot stuff for a new table!” three times within five minutes?). Whew!! And Dave and his crew really handle the take-out crowd. But, the reward is much more than raising funds for our church. It is the fellowship we had all joining together with a common mission and enjoying every minute of it. The result is that we served 638 dinners and made a profit of \$4,497.02. Thanks to everyone who helped!

TURKEY SUPPER

October 17, 2009

RECEIPTS

Tickets –			
Door - Adult	346 @ \$9.00		\$3,114.00
Child	4 @ \$4.00		\$16.00
Advance	288 @ \$9.00		\$2,592.00
Donations			\$70.00
Surplus Sold			\$149.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$5,941.00

EXPENSES

Keyco Dist	Paper Prod & Turkeys	\$904.48
Wal Mart	Sugar, Flour, Butter, Coffee, Margarine, Vinegar, Baggies	\$59.00
Maine Source	Eggs, Onions	\$20.00
Sunshine Market	Celery, Carrots	\$20.00
Carone's Market	Bread Crumbs	\$140.00
Tuzzi's Bakery	Bread	\$33.00
Chapin's	Potatoes	\$117.00
Burger's	Cabbage, Peppers	\$0.00
Furman Foods	Beans, Corn	\$122.00
Weis Markets	Milk	\$28.50

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,443.98

PROFIT \$4,497.02

UPCOMING DATES

Dec. 13 – Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Christmas caroling after worship service

crop walk

Thanks to everyone who walked or helped out with the annual CROP Walk. We had 24 walkers from 5 churches and raised about \$1,569. Donating to the CROP Walk will help strengthen our local resources

since a portion of the donations is returned to local organizations, in this case the Wapwallopen Crossroads Ministerium and the food bank it supplies. Thank you. Your generosity helps feed and strengthen people around the world and neighbors in our own back yard.

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the December Messenger is Monday, **November 16**. With Thanksgiving the last week, I will need extra time to get everything organized. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The **Budget Committee** will meet on Sunday, November 8, after worship to prepare the proposed budget for the Consistory's recommendation.

CONSISTORY

The **Consistory** will meet on Thursday, November 19, at 6:30 pm.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2009

November 1

Greeters: Dave and Rosemary Myers
Liturgist: Mary Martin

November 8

Greeters: Justin and Eric Rinehimer
Liturgist: Meredith Martin

November 15

Greeters: Connie Davis and Sharon Moyer
Liturgist: Jeff Shuman

November 22

Greeters: Alecia and Connie Myers
Liturgist: Paul Thomas

November 29

Greeters: Kyle Prelewicz and Sam Dauber
Liturgist: Devin Stein

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Carrie Russell	9 Morgan Rinehimer	18 Anna Mae Koons
3 Stanley Cybulski	10 Karl C. Kemmerer	18 Sharon Eigenbrod
3 Brenda Heller	10 Rich Rotski	19 Lynne Stewart
3 Terry Belanchik	11 Casey Eigenbrod	20 Janice Rinehimer
5 James Daniels	13 Jack Shafer, Sr.	20 Autumn Atkinson
5 Richard Supkowski, Jr.	16 Ellen Newell	21 Eric Hoffman
6 Pauline Dennis	16 Sharon Horensky	22 Stanley Stein
6 Lydon Bloss	16 Cristy Mulherin	25 Duane Stein
7 Elizabeth Sufrinko	17 Beverly Kramer	30 Dustin Harter
	17 David Cronic	

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 4, 2000.....Brad and Becky Frey
Nov. 11, 1950.....Cliff and Gladys Readler
Nov. 16, 1996.....Ronald, Jr., and Lisa Rinehimer

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2009

November 1

Greeters: Dave and Rosemary Myers
Liturgist: Mary Martin

November 8

Greeters: Justin and Eric Rinehimer
Liturgist: Meredith Martin

November 15

Greeters: Connie Davis and Sharon Moyer
Liturgist: Jeff Shuman

November 22

Greeters: Alecia and Connie Myers
Liturgist: Paul Thomas

November 29

Greeters: Kyle Prelewicz and Sam Dauber
Liturgist: Devin Stein

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler