

The Messenger

February 2012

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

COMMUNION

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on February 5.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

The soup pots will be out again to collect your donations for Souper Bowl Sunday. The Youth Group will use this money to help restock the Wapwallopen Ministerium Food Pantry at Emmanuel. Thanks for supporting our youth and the Food Pantry.

SCOUT SUNDAY

The Scouts of Cub Scout Pack 433, Boy Scout Troop 434 and Girl Scout Troops 3340 and 33369 will join us in worship for Scout Sunday. They will be participating in such roles as greeters, readers, ushers and acolytes. After our service, they are hosting a meet and greet in the Fellowship Hall and invite everyone back for refreshments.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Right after our fellowship time with the Scouts, the Youth Group will hold their meeting. Josh Cronce will lead the devotions. All youth over the age of 10 is welcome to stay and help with plans for Mardi Gras and other events.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on February 8 at 12:00 pm for their monthly meeting. "Admission" is one pot-luck dish to share. We welcome you to come and join us for lunch.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETING

Pastor Penny will meet with the members of the Confirmation Class and their parents after worship on February 12.

FEBRUARY 19

MARDI GRAS BRUNCH

Get out your beads – it's Mardi Gras time!!! The Youth Group will serve a Mardi Gras brunch after worship on February 19. Come on out, ya'll, for some delicious fixings. Sign-up sheets are on the tables in the narthex and next to the Fellowship Hall doorway.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

SUPPER AND SERVICE

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22, we will gather for supper at 6 pm and service at 7 pm. If you would like to prepare a light supper, please choose a date on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



OPERATION SNOWFLAKE

If our Worship Services need to be cancelled due to bad weather, please tune in to radio stations WARM, Magic 93, 97BHT, 97.9X, or JR93.7.

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Inside this Issue

Committee Meetings	p. 4
Congregational Corner	p. 3
Condolences	p. 2
Easter Offering	p. 4
From the Pastor	p. 2
Kids Choir	p. 4
Lenten Supper & Service	p. 3
Mardi Gras Brunch	p. 4
Picture Perfect	p. 4
Soup Sale	p. 3
Team Roster Sign-Up	p. 3
Thank You's	p. 3
Treasurer's Report	p. 3
Twilighters	p. 3
Valentines for Vets	p. 2
Volunteer Schedule	p. 5
Youth Group	p. 4

From The Pastor's Desk

One month gone already of 2012. Today is Feb. 1. Archie and I have been married nine years today. "There is no feeling more comforting and consoling than knowing you are right next to your loved one."

Our anniversary got me thinking about time and how we use our time. Once time passes, it is gone. Whether we waste it or use it wisely it will never return. We may have more to come but there is no guarantee. Ben Franklin said, "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of."

There is much about time in the Bible – Ecclesiastes 3 is the first that comes to mind – a time for this and a time for that. (read it again) Then we know that Jesus tells us we do not know when the time will be that our end will come - so live your life accordingly.

I came across this quote that lays it all out for me. It is from Richard Baxter, an English Puritan Divine from the 17th century:

"Spend your time in nothing which you know must be repented of;
in nothing on which you might not pray for the blessing of God;
in nothing which you could not review with a quiet conscience on
your dying bed; in nothing which you might not safely and properly
be found doing if death should surprise you in the act."

Lent will be upon us very soon – Ash Wednesday is February 22. Lent is a season for reflection and taking stock, meditating on how we use our time. It is a time to pull away from the busyness of the world and take some quiet time for soul-searching, repentance, and prayer. It is a preparatory time for Easter, when we -the faithful - rededicate ourselves to serving God.

Use your time wisely and may God bless you in the doing!

Pastor Penny



Our Condolences

We offer our sincere sympathy to Jeff Shuman and his children at the passing of his grandfather, Preston N. Shuman, on January 13 and his grandmother, Marla June Shuman, on January 24. May our thoughts and prayers give you comfort and support in your time of grief.

Valentines for Vets

A box is in the bell tower for your Valentines for Vets. These Valentines are appreciated very much by those who are residents at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center. The last date to deposit your Valentines will be February 12. Remember those who served.

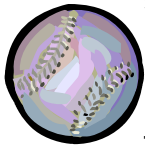
COME JOIN THE TEAM!!!



There are Team Roster sign-up sheets on the table in the Narthex and next to the Fellowship Hall doorway. We need some key players to take positions to



help our church. The teams we have listed, so far, are: Pastoral Relations, Building, Kitchen, Nursery, Stewardship and Cleaning. We also have a Fundraising Team but since this is such a diverse area, it is broken down into separate fundraisers – just pick one, or several, where you can play a part. Your participation would last for the “season” or the length of the event.



Teams such as Pastoral Relations and Stewardship would probably last a year, whereas, Suppers and the 300 Club would be only until the event took place. Just sign up for whichever team you would like to join and stay on as long as you like. When your “season” is up, you can wait until the next “season” or switch teams and just keep playing.



Let's build Emmanuel's winning teams!

LENTEN SUPPERS AND SERVICES

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. We will again prepare Lenten suppers prior to our services on the Wednesday evenings during Lent. These light meals will be shared in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm. We will then gather at 7:00 pm in the church for service. A sheet is on the table in the narthex for those who will volunteer to prepare meals. Our Lenten meals and services are open to everyone and we welcome you to come and join us. Whether you can come for supper or not, please gather with us for worship.

HOMEMADE SOUP SALE

SOUP'S ON!! Our next soup sale will be March 3. We'll be savoring Cindy's chicken noodle, Ron's chili and Pastor's vegetarian vegetable, plus another if anyone wants to share their favorite. They will cost \$5 per quart. Sign-up sheets are on the tables.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

TWILIGHTERS LUNCH

The Twilighters will meet on December 11 at 12:00 for lunch. Come join us for food and fellowship.

ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The chart for the altar flowers is on the table in the Narthex. The price is still \$12.50 per vase. Please pay Mary or Jim Rinehimer for the dates you sponsor.

Thank You

Letters expressing thanks for our continued support are on the bulletin board in the bell tower from Bethany Children's Home and Phoebe-Devitt Homes. They gratefully acknowledge our monthly donations so that they can continue to support those they serve.

Bernie Baluta sent a letter thanking us for our continued kindness and generosity for the toys, clothing and personal care packs we gathered for Christmas. She notes that our contributions really make a difference in the lives of the homeless people of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

EMMANUEL UCC

2010 TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$762.45
PLUS INCOME	<u>121,149.52</u>
	116,773.44
LESS EXPENSES	-118,621.77
ENDING BALANCE	<u>\$3,290.20</u>

BUILDING FUND

BEGINNING BALANCE	1,977.10
PLUS RECEIPTS	<u>40,243.24</u>
	42,220.34
LESS EXPENSES	-41,679.09
ENDING BALANCE	<u>541.25</u>

We would like to thank Frank Partington and Cliff Readler for auditing the financial books for 2010. It's always a daunting challenge and we are fortunate to have members who will take on such a project.

KID'S CHOIR

The Kids Choir will still practice at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays in March. We will just keep it moving so that we can be finished before the Lenten Worship Services begin at 7:00 pm.

YOUTH GROUP

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE!! That's what we are saying about our outing the H₂Oooh Water Park. What a GREAT time. Twelve kids and adults had fun splashing and splashing – just ask anyone who went. Want to get in on the action? Just come to our next meeting on February 12 after the Scouts fellowship time. We'll be making plans for decorating and serving up a great brunch for Mardi Gras on January 19 after church. Last year's brunch was really good and we all had fun dishing out the food. We've got lots of other stuff to do and plan, too, including our next mission trip.

What are you waiting for? A special invitation?
Well, THIS IS IT!!

I would like to say how proud I am to be associated with the Youth Group. Our outing to H₂Oooh Water Park was fun. What really made it especially fun for me was the conduct and behavior of our kids. They really represented our church with a positive attitude. I also thank all the chaperones who helped out with this event. I thank all our church members, too, for all your support which makes our events possible. Marc

MARDI GRAS BRUNCH

Our Youth Group is serving up a delicious Mardi Gras Brunch after our worship service on February 19. You can feast on Broccoli Quiche, Quiche Lorraine, chicken fingers, hash browns, genuine red beans and rice, fresh fruit and, of course, donuts. Our Fellowship Hall will be decked out with beads and baubles and the air will be filled with the vibes of zydeco music mixed with some Bourbon Street blues and Creole rhythms. There will be games for the kids *and adults*, too. Plus, we've got all the feathers, beads and glitter to create your own special, individual, one-of-a-kind Mardi Gras mask. All this fussin' is to raise funds for the Youth Group mission trip this summer. They'll be looking for your donation to help them on their way, so open up your hearts (and wallets and purses) to help them help others. *Y'all come join us and bring everyone you know to enjoy a bit of the Big Easy.* See y'all on Bourbon Street!

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the February Messenger is Friday, February 17. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

EASTER OFFERING

For many years our church has gathered a special offering for Easter which has been used to support our denomination's local institutions: Bethany Children's Home (\$150), Lancaster Theological Seminary (\$250) and Phoebe Devitt Homes (\$150). Any amount over the \$550 needed to fulfill these gifts is used to offset our offering to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) which we have budgeted at \$1,500. Please notice that this is a special offering which is in addition to our regular envelopes which support our General Fund or Building Fund. With that understanding, we hope you will give generously to our church and also to the organizations we support.

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front door bulletin board for these mug shots!

The Sons of the American Legion gave a wonderful donation to the Wapwallopen Crossroads Ministerium Food Bank. **Pastor Penny**, Treasurer of the Ministerium, is pictured accepting the donation from Joe Vetashick and Len Biel.

Who's that tickling the ivories? Must be **Leah Dieteich**, along with the other students of Michele Milington. They entertained the residents of Smith Health Care Center on December 22 with a Christmas piano recital. Keep plunkin' out those tunes, Leah!

CONSISTORY MEETING

The Consistory will meet on **Thursday, February 16**, at 6:30 pm.

CURRENT CONSISTORY MEMBERS

President	James Rinehimer
Vice President	Janice Broyan
Secretary	Jill Bernetski
Treasurer	Beverly Kramer
Trustees	Nelson Horwath Jeff Shuman

UPCOMING DATES

Feb. 5	Scout Sunday
Feb. 19	Youth Group Mardi Gras Brunch
Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday/Lenten Suppers Begin
Mar. 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar. 18	OGHS Offering Sunday
Mar. 31	Boy Scouts Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
April 7	Sunday School Easter Party

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE JANUARY 2012

Feb. 5

Greeters: Scouts
Liturgist: Scouts

Feb. 12

Greeters: Dave and Rosemary Myers
Liturgist: Mary Martin

Feb. 19

Greeters: Kimmy Bernetski and Connie Davis
Liturgist: Beverly Kramer

Feb. 26

Greeters: Judy Cybulski and Connie Myers
Liturgist: Jim Rinehimer

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler
Nora Cybulski

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
Give up worry — trust God to provide.
Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred — return good for evil.
Give up anger — be more patient.
Give up pettiness — become mature.
Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
Give up sin — turn to virtue.
Give up giving up — persevere.

—Author unknown

Old enough to serve

In a worship-committee meeting, much debate occurred about the minimum age for acolytes. "If kids can't reach the pulpit to place the Bible, then they shouldn't be allowed to carry it," some said. Others complained that young participants didn't carry the candlelighter straight enough or that their childish delight seemed irreverent.

The conversation seemed to overshadow the central question: "Who gets to serve?" Does God's calling have limits? Shouldn't our faithful, joyful hearts, not our talents or abilities, define the quality of our service?

Perhaps we can learn from the child standing eagerly in the back of the sanctuary, clutching the candlelighter and asking, "Can I help God?" I don't want to be the one to tell him no.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 1, 2003.....Pastor Penny and Archie Passmore
February 14, 1988.....Bob and Rhonda Madigan
February 15, 1991.....Brian and Priscilla Farrell

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