

The Messenger

January 2013

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on January 6, followed by a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a delicious delectable to share and have a relaxing morning with us.

INSTALLATION OF CONSISTORY

On January 6, our worship will include the service of installation for our 2013 Consistory members. Please support them as they give their time and talents to leading our church throughout the year.

EPIPHANY

Epiphany, the day we celebrate the Wise Men finding Jesus, is on January 6 each year. This year, it falls on a Sunday. Why not follow their example and come find Christ on Epiphany? It is a wonderful way to start the new year.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on January 11 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.

FUTURE DATES

January is a good month to reevaluate and renew. There's not much going on so there's time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. Some of the upcoming events for February are:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 & 3

SUPERBOWL SOUP AND HOAGIE SALE

The Scouts will be taking orders for hoagies. Sign-up sheets will be on the tables in the narthex. Also, we will be taking orders for soup. If anyone is willing to make a soup, please see Jim Rinehimer so we can get sign-up sheets made up for them.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

YOUTH GROUP MARDI GRAS

Yes, that time of year is coming fast. The Youth Group will again celebrate Mardi Gras the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. So get ready for some fine 'Luzianne cooking and NawLeans style celebrating after worship.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13

ASH WEDNESDAY

On Ash Wednesday we will begin our Lenten Suppers and Services. There will be a sheet on the Narthex table for those who wish to prepare a supper.



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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From the Pastor

First of all let me say, "Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift!" I will use it wisely or maybe with great abandon!

Archie and I had a wonderful Christmas. The Friday before, Archie's daughter and her family who live in Harrisburg came to Sunbury to have Christmas. Then on Sunday evening Kirk and Juliana arrived to be here until Christmas morning. We had our Christmas on Christmas Eve in the afternoon since there were two services to do on that evening and they had to leave early Christmas morning to go back to Philly to spend the day with her family. Then on Christmas Day after visiting with Archie's mom we left for Richmond to spend a few days with Charlie and Lisa. We were planning to stay until Saturday but after the weather report we decided to come back on Friday evening. That was a very smart choice! We would have been right in the middle of all that snow on the roads had we waited until Saturday.

Looking back on Advent and Christmas Eve it seems that church matters went off very well. I loved the Advent bulletin covers that the kids designed. They did such a good job on those as well as on the pageant. We have some very talented kids in our midst. Please encourage them by speaking to them on Sunday mornings so they will feel a part of our ministry at Emmanuel.

Thanks to everyone for all your hard work in 2012. It's hard to believe we are entering 2013 already. Right now as we look at the calendar things seem to be pretty quiet during January so just rest up because Ash Wednesday comes early this year and we get going on our Lenten suppers and services. The Youth also have a couple of things in the works for February. Stay tuned for further information.

Here is a beautiful prayer from **Christian Aid** for the New Year:

Ageless one, who created time
And is sovereign over its every passing moment –
Be near to us at this turning of the year.
Help us to look back and celebrate all you have done
And all you have accomplished through us
To build your kingdom of justice and peace.
Empower us to also face the disappointment
And holy frustration of the change we have yet to see
And the injustice that continues to rob so many of their future.
And above all, fill us with your Spirit
That we might look to the year ahead with hope, determination and love
For we need your perspective as we continue to work with you
For an end to poverty, and a future for all.
Amen

I wish each one a wonderful 2013! May God shower you with blessings!

Pastor Penny



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, and calls when Hilbert passed away. Your concern is greatly appreciated. Lois Eigenbrod

I am grateful to everyone who called, sent cards and cared when Lydon passed away. It is comforting to know that you care. Thank you. Orceil Bloss

We received a Christmas Card from Bethany Children's Home which is posted on the bell tower bulletin board. This card's illustration was created by Ferdie Kuzcala, one of the youth at Bethany.

We also received a Christmas Card from Phoebe Devitt Home which is on the bell tower bulletin board.

We received a shower of thank you letters for our benevolence donations. Please check the bulletin board in the bell tower for letters from: Lancaster Theological Seminary, Phoebe Homes, Ruth's Place, The Salvation Army, and three letters from the McKinney Clinic for the Thanksgiving Dinners; seasonal donations of blankets, thermals and coats; and the Christmas donations of "care packages", clothing and toys. Thanks to you, Emmanuel UCC is providing these ministries with funds and items needed for them to fulfill their mission to so many who are in need.



God Hears and Answers Prayers

We received a card from Rev. JP and Sue Duncan to let us know that their daughter, Kate Sinclair, and granddaughter, Eleanor, are doing very well. Kate and Eleanor have been on our prayer list since Eleanor's birth 2½ months early. They are both now home. Rev. Duncan served the Stairville, Faith and Slocum United Methodist Churches several years ago and still has contact with Donna Walck and her family. The card and a picture of a beautiful, very petite Eleanor holding Daddy Tim's fingers are on the front bulletin board.

Our Condolences

It is with great sadness that we said good-bye and God bless to two of our long-time members.

We are truly sorry for Hilbert Eigenbrod's passing on December 3 and know we will miss him. We send our prayers and love to Lois Eigenbrod, Gary and Sharon Eigenbrod and family, Bruce Eigenbrod and his family, Joey Eigenbrod and family and Danielle Pallando. May God comfort you and bring you peace.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Orceil Bloss and her daughters, Eileen Buffone, Debbie Miller and Tammy Evans and their families. Lydon went home to the Lord on December 5. May God's love sustain you and strengthen you in your time of grief.

We also offer our condolences and care to John and JP Jankowski on the passing of John's mother who lived in New Jersey.

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, January 12, for a pot-luck lunch at 12:00 pm. Bring a dish and enjoy a good meal and great company. Call Lois Eigenbrod or Mary Eroh for more information.

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.

Mission Team Report

The members of the Emmanuel Mission Team are Lynne Stewart and Jill Bernetski. Their assignment is to distribute 10% of all fundraiser profits to charities. During 2012, the disbursements were as follows:

EVENT	PROFIT
March Soup Sale	\$885.44
April Turkey Supper	4,526.28
June 300 Club	5,917.10
June Silent Auction	2,048.50
August Hoagie Sale	738.90
October Turkey Supper	5,306.90
November Auction Food Sale	<u>1,168.43</u>
TOTAL RAISED	<u>\$20,591.55</u>
10% FOR MISSIONS	\$2,059.15

2012 DISTRIBUTIONS	AMOUNT
Youth Group	\$350.59
PNEC (OGHS/Tornado & Hurricane)	441.35
Relay for Life	81.18
Wapwallopen Ministerium	465.31
OCWM (Toby's Retirement Gift)	120.00
McKinney Clinic	80.00
Bethany Children's Home	120.24
Ruth's Place	120.24
Salvation Army	120.24
ReCreation Gift	<u>160.00</u>
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	<u>\$2,059.15</u>

We have certainly had a successful year thanks to the hard work and dedicated service of our volunteers. Let's keep working to show others the love and caring of our God and Father. We are the ones who represent him here on earth. Let's do our best to make him proud of his children.

Valentines for Vets

A box will be in the bell tower for your Valentines for Vets. These Valentines are appreciated very much by those who are housed at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center. The last date to deposit your Valentines will be February 10. Remember those who served and share a little love and appreciation for their sacrifices.

Member Directories

Copies of the December 2012 Directory of Members are on the bulletin tables. If they are all taken, please let Denise know and she will make more.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

But really, I can't take much of the credit for the success of this year's program. Since my voice decided not to cooperate, I asked Dwain Straight to direct it this year. He previously gave me a copy of the Christmas Cantata and we thought that would be the best idea.

If you missed the performance, that's really too bad. It was a wonderful experience as the children and youth "built" the nativity scene. Pictures of them showing their acting skills are on the front bulletin board.

Brooke Rinehimer made an amazed Mary as she questioned how people would respond to her son, and Nate Kamowski's Joseph wondered what to do, eventually deciding to follow God's plan. During the song "*The Friendly Beasts*", our farmer Ryan Shuman, assisted by his farm hands, Morgan Rinehimer and Michelle Bernetski, brought the animals to the stable. The angel, Morgan Hodel, told the shepherds the good news. The angel was joined by a heavenly host played by Leah Dietrich, Paige Ceaser, Keirsten Whitmire, Brooke Aton, Kelsey Rinehimer, and Tiffany Foust. Then, shepherds Robert Duffy, III, and Chris Harmon, lead the other shepherds, Emmy Lazo, Alyssa Shuman and Aaron Kleger, to the manger. The kings arrived to present their gifts, portrayed by Brad Kotarsky, Hunter Rinehimer and Josh Cronce. And as they say, last, but not least, Sabian Bunnell appeared as The Little Drummer Boy, complete with drum and sticks!

The choir and cast then raised the roof with a fantastic finale by singing with all their heart and voice "*O Holy Night*". It was an excellent performance with Dwain accompanying every song.

We are very happy for all the family and friends who came to see the program. It was wonderful to see you all and witness the joy the children, youth and adults had in telling the story of Christ's birth.

Sunday School News

We've had a busy holiday season. The Giving Tree was decorated with requests for clothing for the McKinney Clinic patrons. The first batch disappeared the Sunday they were put on the tree. A second batch had to be added and we are so glad for our people who take the time to purchase the items. It really shows the kids how to respond to people in need.

We also had our Christmas Party and wrapped toys for the children who visit the McKinney Clinic. They are so grateful to receive something for Christmas.

Thank you for all your support, Lisa Rinehimer

YOUTH GROUP

Here's some of the stuff we have going on. Come and join us so we can plan bigger and more exciting ways to show what *real teen Christians* are like! If you're 10 years old or older, we'll be looking for YOU!!

1. **Mardi Gras** – This will be on FEBRUARY 10. Yes – Easter will be early this year so the Sunday before Ash Wednesday is the 10th. We need to plan the menu and decorations, NOW!! Come on and help out.
2. **Third World Country** – We are planning this for sometime after Souper-Bowl Sunday.
3. **This Summer's Mission Trip** – When and where to next???

Keep on believing

Marc, Lisa and Caroline



Remember to get your Weis and Carone's gift cards! This is a great way to support the Youth Group without spending anything extra. You're just going to spend that money at the grocery store anyway so why not give the Youth Group some help with their finances? For every \$1,000 worth of cards they sell, they make \$50.

YOUTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Crestwood Middle School Honor Roll is out and we have some smart kids on it.

High Honors: Michelle Heller

Honors: Brad Kotarsky and Hunter Rinehimer

The MMI Honor Roll includes Keegan Farrell.

You're all doing a great job so keep it up!

CONSISTORY MEETING

The next Consistory meeting will be on Thursday, January 17, at 6:30 pm.

UPCOMING DATES

Feb. 2/3 Scout Hoagie and Emmanuel Soup Sale

Feb. 10 Youth Group Mardi Gras Lunch

Feb. 13 Ash Wednesday – Lenten Supper & Service

SHARED RIDE PROGRAM

The Luzerne County Transportation Authority has a Shared Ride Program for residents 65 years and older. It provides a reduced-cost ride by sharing the vehicle with others traveling in the same area at the same time. The ride area is anywhere in Luzerne County, usually Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. This service can be used for anything from doctor's appointments to shopping to visiting with friends, or whatever else would get you out of the house. The cost is approximately 15% of the standard fare. For more information and an application, call the Luzerne County Transportation Authority Shared Ride Program at 288-8420.

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the February Messenger is Friday, January 25. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE JANUARY 2013

Jan. 6

Greeters: Camille Daniels and Diana Decker
Liturgist: Jill Bernetski

Jan. 13

Greeters: Frank and Joan Partington
Liturgist: Jim Stewart

Jan. 20

Greeters: Judy Cybulski and Connie Davis
Liturgist: Frank Partington

Jan. 27

Greeters: Gene and Janice Broyan
Liturgist: Sharon Moyer

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler
Nora Cybulski

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

Who's that with the pilgrim hat? **Sabian Bunnell** attends Mt. Top Kids and the celebrated Thanksgiving by dressing up.

Can you hear those ivories being tickled? The NEPA Music Teachers Association held its Honor Recitals at Wilkes University. Among the students who qualified was **Leah Dietrich**. She performed wonderfully for us, too, as she accompanied a group of our young singers as they presented "*The Little Drummer Boy*".

Hey – there's a young chick who celebrated a birthday recently. **Esther Heller** was 88 years young on December 2 and celebrated with her family. Happy Birthday young lady!! And many moooooorrrre!

Some of our Scouts are pictured serving refreshments to Carol Hobbs after she donated blood at our Blood Drive on November 12. Thanks to everyone who volunteered, members, scouts and parents alike. The Boy Scouts of Troop 434 earned their wilderness survival badge. Among other tasks, they had to build a wilderness shelter and then spent the night in it in the forest. Sleep tight, **Hunter**?

St. Paul's Lutheran Church was the setting for the Community Thanksgiving Eve service. Pastor Penny participated with Pastor Michelle Kaufman, Pastor Jim Shanley and Pastor Tom Miller in praising God for all his blessings.

What resolutions do you have for the New Year?



*"The harvest is plentiful
but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore,
to send out workers into his harvest field."
Luke 10:2*

Come build up the ranks of the Lord's workers.
Let's bring in the harvest.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Agnes Fornett	10 Tarah Slusser	19 Maegan Grosz
3 Matteo Belanchick	11 Eli Hoyt	20 Keegan Farrell
4 Kari Hoch	12 Taylor Thomas	22 Dorothy Heller
5 Sherri Hoch	13 Brad Bunnell	22 Mary Horwath
5 Dayton Adamczyk	13 Paul Thomas	25 Christopher Peters
6 Rowan Dietrich	13 Chris Dietrich	26 Ethan Hoyt
7 Kevin Price	14 Rhonda Madigan	28 Mildred Myers
9 Donna Aumick	15 Amanda Kemmerer	28 James Rinehimer
	16 James Cybulski	

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 1, 1960.....Dave and Barb DeLuca
January 14, 2005.....Bob and Carol Duffy

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