

# THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2014

## **SPECIAL PRACTICE DATES**

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES**

Special practices have been set for the cast and Christmas Choir. Please see the article inside this issue for when you practice.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**

### **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

The Annual Meeting will be held on December 7, 2014, immediately following our worship service. Please see inside this issue for more details.

### **COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR**

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated during our worship service on December 7, followed by a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a delicious delectable to share and have a relaxing morning with us.

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Our Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 13, from 11 am to noon. This will also be the last day to drop off "care packages" for the McKinney Clinic. Please see inside this issue for more details.

### **DRESS REHEARSAL**

Dress rehearsal for our Christmas Program will be at 12:30 after our pizza lunch. This will be a very important rehearsal and **all cast, crew and choir members are asked to attend it.**

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program during the worship service on December 14. Please mark it on your calendars and show our children and youth how much you appreciate and support their efforts to tell the story of our Savior's birth.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

On Christmas Eve, we will begin our celebration of Christ's birth with special music at 7 pm. Our Candlelight Service will begin at 7:30 pm and will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We hope that everyone will come to worship our new-born King. Come, let us adore Him.

## **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.

## **Emmanuel United Church of Christ**

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

[www.emmanuel-ucc.org](http://www.emmanuel-ucc.org)  
[emmanuel\\_ucc@hotmail.com](mailto:emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com)

Rev. Penny Dollar  
15 Old North Road  
Mountain Top, PA 18707  
(570) 706-6476  
[preacherdollar@yahoo.com](mailto:preacherdollar@yahoo.com)

### **Inside this Issue**

Annual Meeting	p. 3
Bethany Christmas List	p. 4
Christmas Caroling	p. 4
Christmas Eve Service	p. 1
Christmas Offering	p. 4
Christmas Photo Fundraiser	p. 3
Christmas Program	p. 3
Committee Meetings	p. 4
Congregational Corner	p. 4
From the Pastor	p. 2
Gift Card Fundraiser	p. 2
Giving Tree	p. 4
Picture Perfect	p. 5
Pork Dinner Report	p. 3
Sunday School News	p. 4
Twilighters	p. 2
Volunteer Schedule	p. 5
Youth Accomplishments	p. 5

## *From the Pastor*

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. Our Advent scriptures are often filled with foreboding shadows, but never without a glimpse of the promise of light. The ultimate reality is to communicate that, even in the midst of lengthening night, the elements of our faith (hope, peace, joy, love) offer light to our lives and to our world. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait for Christ's coming in all fullness into the darkness of our world. As we watch and wait let us do so remembering the promises of God with prayer.

November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent which continues through Christmas Eve. We will be looking inward and upward as we ready ourselves for the coming of Christ. We will see the candles on the Advent wreath lit each Sunday symbolizing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love and finally the Christ candle – the light -- which will be lit on Christmas Eve. Members of our church family will be lighting the candles which is a very meaningful time for them. Let us pray earnestly to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming into our hearts and lives.

Another tidbit about Christmas wreaths. *The wreath is of course a circle - reminding us of the perfection and eternity of God. Many wreaths are decorated with evergreen branches. The evergreen, like the circle, is a symbol of eternity - but also of life. Holly is sometimes used instead of - or with - the evergreen. The sharp points of the leaves of the Holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns. The red berries remind us of his blood. There is a story that holly berries were white until Christ's blood fell on them - causing them to be red ever since. And the candles that are used with the wreaths? -- Christ is, of course, the light of the world - hence the candles.*

During this time of year when all is hustle and bustle and shopping and holiday get-togethers are in the forefront of minds -- just take a few minutes every day to lift up your voices in thanksgiving to God for all that we have been given and keep a smile on your face and in your heart.

Merry Christmas to all!  
Pastor Penny



We have Gift Card Fundraiser through Great Lakes Scrip Center and includes tons of cards – from Advance Auto Parts to Wet Seal (young women's clothing). By purchasing the gift card through Great Lake Scrip, our church earns a percentage of the sale price. With this newsletter is a copy of the list and more copies are on the bulletin tables. Just write in the quantity of the cards you want and give the list and the amount due to Jim Rinehimer. He will order them and distribute them as they arrive. If you have any question, please see Jim. If more lists are needed, please tell Denise.

## *Twilighters*

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, December 10, at 12:00 pm for lunch and fellowship. If you would like more information, see Lois Eigenbrod or Mary Eroh.

Guess who is turning 90!! **ESTHER HELLER** will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on **December 2, 2014**. Let's all wish her a happy birthday by giving her a card shower! Look! It's raining birthday cards!



## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, December 7, after our Worship Service. The proposed 2015 Budget was approved by the Consistory for distribution in the weekly bulletins and extra copies are available on the table in the Narthex.

**NOTICE TO ALL COMMITTEES, TEAMS AND ASSOCIATIONS:** In accordance with our Constitution Article 10, All committees should have a report prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

**“Article 10. ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIETIES.** All organizations and societies of the Congregation are subordinate to the Consistory and shall make an annual report (Activities and Financial) to the Congregation.”

## Pork Dinner Update

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS  
A VERY SUCCESSFUL DINNER!!**

**This was a great fundraiser that  
we haven't had in many years.**

*It really will help with our expenses and  
we can all be proud of the way we work together!*

### 2014 FALL PORK DINNER REPORT

Income:		
Ticket Sales		
Door		
Adult 134 @ \$10.00	1,340.00	
Children 3 @ \$5.00	15.00	
Advance		
Adult 245 @ \$10.00	2,450.00	
Children 1 @ \$5.00	5.00	
Surplus	236.50	
Donation	40.00	
Total Income		4,086.50
Expenses:		
Milk & Bread	48.30	
Pork, Paper Products, Sugar, Flour, Punch Mix	303.48	
Pork and Potatoes	208.32	
Total Expenses		-560.10
<b>TOTAL PROFIT</b>		<b>\$3,526.40</b>

## Christmas Photo Fundraiser During Advent

One of our “Photographers in Residence”, Sharon Moyer, is offering to take photos of you and your family following Sunday Worship during Advent, November 30 through December 21. With our church decorated for Christmas, you will have a beautiful keepsake. She will put together a 5” x 7” collage of the pictures she takes which will cost \$10 for two copies. All money will go to improving our church finances. Please see Sharon if you would like some memorable pictures for the holidays.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Our Christmas Program this year is “Christmas – by the Book” and will be presented during worship on December 14. We will hear the prophecies that foretold Jesus’ birth, starting at the beginning, Genesis, and continuing throughout the Old Testament. As we celebrate Christmas, it is especially important to recall that this event was predicted ages before it took place. How many prophecies can we remember offhand? Usually Isaiah’s comes to mind: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. But there are many more and we will hear several of them as the children and youth present the story of the Nativity during the course of their program.

If you would like to be a part of our program, please see me. We also welcome anyone who would like to be part of the Christmas Choir.

Practices for the Christmas Program are scheduled for the following dates:

Wed., 12/3	6:30 to 7:15 pm	Christmas Choir
Fri., 12/5	6:30 to 7:30 pm	Speaking Parts
Wed., 12/10	6:30 to 7:15 pm	Christmas Choir
Fri., 12/12	6:30 to 7:30 pm	Speaking Parts
Sat, 12/14	12:30 to 1:30 pm	ALL CAST & CHOIRS
Sun, 12/15	9:00 am (during Sunday School)	ALL CAST & CHOIRS

Everyone involved in the program is urged to come to practices. We need just an hour here and there and this will be a great program.

Thanks to all who volunteer to make our program possible. You are a great bunch of kids and adults and I am always so proud of the way you make our programs come to life.

Denise



### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will meet after Worship on December 14 for caroling. We'll raise our voices and spirits as we sing songs of the season to residents of our local nursing homes and to our homebound. Come with us and sing glory to the newborn king!



Anyone wishing to present music prior to the Christmas Eve Early Service is asked to see Denise Dean. We will begin at 7:00 pm and conclude at 7:30 pm. If you are more inclined to read a poem or selection, that would be very welcome also.

## Sunday School News

THANKSGIVING DINNERS – Thank you for being so generous. We again were able to provide meals for ten families thanks to you.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 13

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 13 from 11 am to 12 pm. We are asking all the kids to bring a piece of fruit for the baskets for our shut-ins and a new or "gently used" stuffed animal or toy to be wrapped for the children of the McKinney Clinic.

We are also collecting care packages for distribution to the people served by the McKinney Clinic. Bernie, the director of the clinic, continues to need more men's packages. She says that they minister to more men than women and so there is a greater need for men's gifts. The packages should include: new white socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, comb, razor, hand lotion and a candy cane. If you would like to add anything else, please feel free (only nothing with alcohol in it). Also appreciated are gift cards from Walmart and K-Mart. A freezer bag holds the items very well. Attach a card signed by your family and send it with your child(ren) to the Christmas party or drop it off in the narthex under the Christmas tree before Saturday, December 14. Thank you for all your generosity. When making your care package, please talk with your child(ren) about how wonderful it feels to know you will make someone's Christmas brighter by giving!

Thank you for all your support, Lisa Rinehimer

## The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree has been set up in the Narthex. Just take an ornament, purchase the item listed on it, wrap it, tape the ornament to the package and place it under the tree. You may also include a card from you and your family.



## Congregational Corner

### POINSETTIA SIGN-UP SHEETS

There are sign-up sheets on the tables in the Narthex and next to the fellowship hall doorway for you to purchase poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary. The last day to sign up is December 15.

### 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.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPE

Please be generous in giving to our church ministries supported by this offering:

Phoebe Devitt Home

Bethany Children's Home

Lancaster Theological Seminary

These organizations sincerely need and appreciate your support. Every penny counts with today's expenses, so please give generously. The "Christmas Offering" is a benevolence offering and is not used to build up the General Fund. **Your regular offering is still needed to support the General Fund and the local mission of your church.**

## BETHANY CHRISTMAS LIST

Copies of the 2014 Christmas Wish List are on the table in the Narthex. Please note that the children at Bethany are teenagers. Specific gift items are included on the Christmas Wish List or if you prefer, the children love to receive gift cards to department stores, craft stores, area malls, etc. Please choose age-appropriate gifts with consideration for parental warnings, modest clothing and safety. The gifts should not be wrapped since Bethany's staff will do that. Just drop them in the box wrapped in Christmas paper in the Narthex.



## Youth Achievements

Our youth are showing off their smarts again. Check out these Honor Rolls.

### Crestwood High School

Principal's Honors: Hunter Rinehimer

High Honors: Michelle Heller, Aaron Kleger

Honors: Brad Kotarsky

### Crestwood Middle School

Principal's Honors: Nate Kamowski, Michelle Bernetski, Kristen Kania

Honors: Morgan Rinehimer.

## Christmas Cards For Vets

There is a box in the bell tower for Christmas Cards for our local veterans who are residents at the VA Hospital. The last day to put cards in the box is December 21. Thank you for remembering those men and women who served our country.

## PICTURE PERFECT

**Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:**

Plenty of people enjoyed our Pork Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 15. A "full house" is pictured seated behind Shirley Shreve and Robin Burrige as they are featured appreciating the delicious dinner.

Cub Scout Pack 433 honored our veterans with a breakfast held in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, Nov. 8. All veterans enjoyed their meal for free as the Scouts showed their appreciation for them.

## UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 6 Epiphany

## NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the January Messenger is Monday, December 22. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on Thursday, December 18, at 6:30 pm.

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE DECEMBER

### December 7

Greeters: Gene and Janice Broyan

Liturgist: Sandy Kleger

### December 14

Greeters: Camille Daniels and Judy Cybulski

Liturgist: Brooke Rinehimer

### December 21

Greeters: Diana Decker and Carol Duffy

Liturgist: Wayne Mast

### December 24

Greeters: Barb DeLuca and Connie Davis

Liturgist: Jim Rinehimer

### December 28

Greeters:

Liturgist: Jill Bernetski

### OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave Myers

Dwain Straight

Josh and Caroline Cronce

Jim Rinehimer



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Ronald Kania  
2 Esther Heller  
2 Bonnie Shafer  
3 David A. Myers  
3 Aaron Kleger  
10 Michael Belanchik

10 Lorrie Slusser  
11 Susanne Kaminski  
15 Kelsey Rinehimer  
18 Sabian Bunnell  
20 Darlene Stein  
21 Mary Rinehimer

24 Lonnie Rinehimer, Sr.  
25 Anthony DiMaria  
26 Russell Koons  
26 Linda Byrnes  
28 Lonnie Rinehimer, Jr.  
31 Sandy Kleger

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Dec. 13, 1968.....Lonnie and Mary Rinehimer

**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE  
DECEMBER**

December 7

Greeters: Gene and Janice Broyan  
Liturgist: Sandy Kleger

December 14

Greeters: Camille Daniels and Judy Cybulski  
Liturgist: Brooke Rinehimer

December 21

Greeters: Diana Decker and Carol Duffy  
Liturgist: Wayne Mast

December 24

Greeters: Barb DeLuca and Connie Davis  
Liturgist: Jim Rinehimer

December 28

Greeters:  
Liturgist: Jill Bernetski

**OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS**

Dave Myers  
Dwain Straight  
Josh and Caroline Cronce  
Jim Rinehimer