

# The Messenger

**January 2015**

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 4**

### **COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR**

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on January 4 followed by our coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a delicious delectable to share and have a relaxing morning with us.

### **JESSE AND FRIENDS CONCERT**

Jesse Fink and his band of friends will present their inspiring music on January 4 at 2:00 pm. A love offering will be gathered and refreshments will be served afterward. Anyone who can help with preparing sandwiches or providing chips and snack items, please call Cindy. Bring your friends and family for an enjoyable and inspiring performance.

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 10**

### **SOUP AND HOAGIE SALE**

We are selling chicken noodle soup, chili and Italian or Turkey hoagies which will be ready for pickup on Saturday, January 10, from 11:00 am to noon. Please see inside this issue for details.

## **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**

### **TWILIGHTERS**

The Twilighters will meet on January 14 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.



### **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.

## **2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Whether you receive a full box of envelopes, a partial, use the pew envelopes or electronic giving, Emmanuel UCC depends upon your support to be a vital influence to our members and our community. Please remember your church and its programs throughout the year. Your gifts are important to continuing work of Christ through your church. **Consistency is the key.**

**Generous people plan**

**to do what is generous,**

**and they**

**stand firm in their**

**generosity.**

**Isaiah 32:8**

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## From The Pastor's Desk

How encouraging it was to see so many folks at our Christmas Eve service. I thought it was a nice service and several others commented on how meaningful it was for them.

Christmas Day Archie and I went to Lancaster to take Kirk out to lunch and then on to Richmond to spend a few days with Charlie and Lisa. I went to the Presbyterian Church that I attended several years ago while there. I saw several old friends from years gone by. Archie and I are now back in Sunbury waiting to celebrate Christmas with his kids and grandkids tomorrow which is Tuesday. It should be fun visiting with them. Thanks to those of you who gave me Christmas gifts this year. I appreciate them very much. I found these words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta and thought they might be ones you could consider as your New Year's resolutions:

"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good, Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

Just some words to consider as you enter a new year. 2015! It's hard to believe. Enjoy yourself and be good.

Love God and do good!

God bless you!

Pastor Penny



### *Thank You*

Esther Heller thanks the Sunday School for the fruit basket given to them for Christmas. She also greatly appreciated the card shower in celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Phoebe Ministeries sent us a Christmas Thank You card. Our gifts to Phoebe help them care for elderly members in their facilities who often have no financial support of their own.

Bernie Baluta sent a card thanking us for the Thanksgiving meals for ten needy families and the Christmas gifts and Giving Tree presents.

The Youth and Staff of Bethany Children's Home sent us a Christmas card with beautiful artwork depicting children bringing home a Christmas Tree.

TEAMeffort also sent a Christmas postcard. This is the organization which coordinates our Youth Group mission trips.

Our thanks to all of our church family for your generous Christmas gifts. We sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Dwain Straight

Jennis & Brad Bunnell

Denise Dean

I would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas gifts to the McKinney Clinic to be passed out to the children whose families need to use the services of the clinic. The gifts you provided from the Giving Tree were also delivered and distributed to those whose needs are so much greater than ours. Thank you for supporting the Sunday School.

Lisa Rinehimer

The Wapwallopen Crossroads Ministerium was presented with a gift from the Sons of the American Legion to help defray the costs of the food bank and assist those who use the food bank with their expenses. We are sincerely grateful for their donation and continued support of the Ministerium's mission of caring for others in our communities.

**Hoagie  
SALE**



## Hoagie/Soup Sale

There's nothing like a hearty soup and satisfying hoagie on a chilly Saturday, so we are taking your orders



for a delicious lunch. We're selling Italian or Turkey hoagies for \$5.50 each, Chicken Noodle Soup for \$5.00 per quart and Chili for \$7.50 per quart. They will be ready for pick-up between 11:00 am and noon on Saturday, January 10. If you would like to place an order, please call Allen at 570-868-5120 or the Church Office at 570-868-5675. The last day to order is January 4.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

I would like to thank you for the donations and outpouring support as I ran in the New York City Marathon with Team Leckey for Ryan's Run 5. As a team, this year we raised a grand total of \$310,888! Over the past 5 years, Ryan's Run raised more than \$1.2 million for the Allied Services Foundation, which supports adults and children with disabilities who live in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania. This was my first marathon I ever completed and was for sure an experience of a lifetime. I finished the race in a time of 3 hours and 45 minutes. I would like to thank you all again for your support and donations.



God Bless,  
Barry Myers

## CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

### TWILIGHTERS LUNCH

The Twilighters will meet on January 14 at 12:00 for lunch. Come join us for food and fellowship.

## 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 8. Remember those who served.

## 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.



I would like to really, **really**, **REALLY** thank all the cast and crew of our Christmas Program, *Christmas – By the Book*. The Confirmation Class, Michelle Bernetski, Michelle Heller, Kristen Kania and Morgan Rinehimer, provided clear narration as the youth and children portrayed the nativity. Kelsey Rinehimer set the scene by singing *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, reminding us that our Lord Jesus was with God from the very beginning. Brooke Rinehimer, cast as Gabriel, wonderfully announced the virgin birth to a perplexed Mary played by Morgan Hodle. Morgan also presented us with Mary's song of praise, *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*. Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, played by Leah Dietrich, was superbly excited to see the mother of the Christ. Morgan Hodle and Nate Kamowski poignantly performed the lullaby *Joseph, Dearest Joseph*, in which Mary asks Joseph to help her care for the precious child and Joseph praises God for sending Jesus to save us. Keirsten Whitmire's Heraldng Angel announced the Savior's birth to the shepherds with all the angel hosts (Scarlett Sevison, Cindy Myers, Cadence Ring, Leah and Kelsey) joining in, singing *Glory to God*. Matteo Belanchik was the Lead Shepherd with his crew Brayden Belanchik, Wyatt Chalker, Rowan Dietrich and Sabian Bunnell. Aaron Kleger also portrayed an older shepherd and helped corral the littlest shepherds (literally in the sheep corral). Lead singers for *The Shepherds Knelt in Wonder* were Robert, Leah, Matteo, Brayden, Rowan and Sabian. Becca Biddinger launched all the choirs in singing *Do You Hear What I Hear?* Robert Duffy, III, played the Lead Magi. Robert, Matteo and Brayden pulled double duty as both shepherds and Magi. The program ended with a loudly rousing rendition of *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, in which the congregation was invited to join. Many people commented about how inspiring this year's program was and I have passed that on to the cast and crew. As I said at the beginning of this article, I thank everyone who helps make the Christmas programs possible – the children and youth, their parents, grandparents and guardians, Sunday School teachers, Kids and Chancel Choirs, people who help set up the scenes, and my sister, Donna, who keeps me on track and calm. Thank you for the most wonderful Christmas present – your love. Denise

## **PICTURE PERFECT**

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

**CAUGHT YA!!!** Look who was Caught Being Good. It's **Keirsten Whitmire**. Each month Rice Elementary recognizes students who are nominated by a teacher or staff member who saw them doing a good deed. Great, Keirsten – keep up the “good” work!

James Schwartz is one of the Boy Scouts of Troop 434 which meets in our Fellowship Hall. He is also the first member of Troop 434 to be awarded the highest advancement rank of Eagle Scout in a ceremony on November 29. James constructed a tree house for educational purposes at Nescopeck State Park and installed tree identification signs to teach children about the variety of trees in the park. James is the son of Thomas and Leslie (Kline) Schwartz. Congratulations, James.

Five Cub Scouts of Pack 433, which also meets in our Fellowship Hall, were presented with a very prestigious award. Noah Ceklosky, Scott Lenio, Keegan Behrens, Andrew Murawski and George Albright earned the Dr. Luis W. Alvarez Supernova Award for advanced study of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) related topics. The scouts are required to earn five academic pins; research famous scientists and learn about their innovations; speak with a teacher, den leader and STEM professional about the importance of science and math in daily life and their careers; design and execute a scientific experiment and report on it; and participate in a STEM activity with their Cub Scout Den or Pack, or a Boy Scout Troop.

The Cub Scout Supernova award is named after Dr. Luis W. Alvarez, an American experimental physicist, inventor and professor who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1968. Keep pushing the envelope, boys!!

### **CONSISTORY MEETING**

The Consistory will meet on **Thursday, January 15, at 6:30 pm.**

### **NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE**

The deadline for information for the February Messenger is Friday, January 23. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

## **UPCOMING DATES**

Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday

### **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

#### Jan. 4

Greeters: Carol Duffy and Judy Cybulski  
Liturgist: Brooke Rinehimer

#### Jan. 11

Greeters: Gene and Janice Broyan  
Liturgist: Sandy Kleger

#### Jan. 18

Greeters: Camille Daniels and Connie Davis  
Liturgist: Sharon Moyer

#### Jan. 25

Greeters: Barb DeLuca and Donnie Myers  
Liturgist: Camille Daniels

### **OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS**

Dave Myers  
Dwain Straight  
Josh and Caroline Cronic  
Jim Rinehimer

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

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