

The Messenger

January 2016

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on January 3 followed by our coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a delicious delectable to share and have a relaxing morning with us.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on January 13 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.

2016 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 the 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

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFERING ENVELOPES

For those members who wish to receive a box of envelopes, they are on the table in the narthex. Please take a box and sign on the sheet next to the number of your box so that Connie can ensure your offering is properly recorded. If you have decided not to take a box and will be giving on a monthly, semimonthly or biweekly schedule, Denise can provide you with labels for your envelopes to help you track your giving.

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Rev. Ken Newhook
Interim Pastor

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From The Pastor's Desk

2016.... A New Year with New Challenges and Wonderful opportunities!!.....

As we begin 2016, I have a sense of anticipation. God has wonderful things ahead for our church family.

Be encouraged by the words of the Apostle Paul:

"If God be for us, who can be against us.?" Romans 8:31

Is not that the Gospel Message? The GOOD News??? God is for us!! God loves us!! God will never give up on us!! (Read the whole chapter; Romans 8)

God has a plan for each of our lives and for Emmanuel Church. We need to seek His heart and move into 2016 with fervent Thanksgiving for all He has ahead!!

Much love, Pastor Ken



Thank You

Allen and Pauline Dennis would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts they have been given and prayers said for Pauline's health. You have been so generous and thoughtful.

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 91st birthday.

Phoebe Ministries 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 cards thanking us for the turkey dinners, personal care kits, Christmas gifts for children and Giving Tree presents.

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

We received a Christmas card from St. Joseph's Center wishing us happiness in the Christmas season and in the coming year. Our Vacation Bible School mission project this year supported St. Joseph's Center.

The Amigos of Guatemala thanked us for participating in the October gathering of donations for the new clinic. We raised \$30 additional in October to add to the \$193.63 our Sunday School project gathered in April for a total of \$223.63. Thank you to everyone who cares

about our brothers and sisters in this developing country. Your generosity will provide the education and buildings needed to improve their health and wellbeing.

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

Don Eroh

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

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 Sunday, February 7. 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.



The Candles of Christmas

Our Christmas program centered around the Advent Candles. The candles play an important role in our preparation for Christmas. Each Sunday we light another candle signifying a certain feature of our preparations. Our traditional worship assigns the first Sunday as the Candle of Hope; the second is Peace; the third is Joy; and the fourth is Love. On Christmas Eve we light the center candle – the Christ candle representing God with us.

Our program took another track which some churches celebrate. The first candle, portrayed by Leah Dietrich, stood for Prophecy. Brooke Aton's candle represented the city of Bethlehem. Morgan Hodle portrayed the Mary candle. The Angel candle was represented by Kelsey Rinehimer. The play began with Christina (Becca Biddinger) decorating her home for Christmas, which included bringing out the Advent candles. As Christina is busy with her decorating, the candles come alive. But instead of encouraging the preparation for the Christ Child, they bicker among themselves as to who is the greatest candle. Prophecy insists that without the prophets' foretelling, people would not have looked for the hope of salvation. Bethlehem asserts that it is most important because shepherds outside the city were the first to worship Jesus. Mary is proud of being the mother of the Savior and believes that makes her most important and sings the Magnificat, Mary's song. Angel claims to be most important because no one would have known where to find the baby without the angels' proclamation to the shepherds. All these were reinforced by scenes portrayed as the candles made their claims. Robert Duffy, III, read the prophecies after which the Chancel Choir sang *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*. Brayden Belanchik, Rowan Dietrich, Matteo Belanchik and Sabian Bunnell were the shepherds of Bethlehem who sang of finding Jesus through the song *The World Was at Peace That Night*. Angles Becca Biddinger, Scarlett Severson and Cindy Myers proclaimed the angels' song, *Glory to God in the Highest*. When all the candles had their say, Joseph (Robert Duffy, III) and Mary (Paige Ceaser) came forward humbly repeating God's promise of salvation through their son, Jesus. All the cast joined in singing *Jesus Is His Name*. After that, Christina brings out the center candle, the Christ candle,

represented by Baby Jesus. Upon seeing the baby in the center of them, the Advent candles realize the most important part of Christmas is Christ and acknowledge their foolishness in arguing among themselves. We ended with the cast and congregation singing *One Candle Is Lit*.

I am very thankful to 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



Christmas Offering

CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE CHALLENGE

As many of you know, Dave and Sharon Horensky issued a challenge to us. Our annual benevolences include donations to OCWM, Bethany Children's Home, Phoebe Devitt Home and Lancaster Theological Seminary. Last year, we did not send our donations because of financial constraints. This year, the Horenskys matched every dollar donated and to see just how much we are willing to give. As of December 27, \$702 was given in the Christmas Offering envelopes. Some of you would have donated to these benevolences without the extra incentive and the receiving organizations are extremely grateful for your continued support. For those who just began giving to the Christmas Offering, the following is a summary of the organizations that benefit from your generosity.

OUR BENEVOLENCE OFFERINGS

OCWM stands for Our Church's Wider Mission. Through contributions to OCWM, we provide funds for national and local programs, resources and tools needed to keep local UCC churches strong, effective and growing. We also provide relief through UCC Disaster Ministries, guidance to people who are called to ministry, and print and digital information about our denomination. **Bethany Children's Home** provides care and supervision to youth who are at risk or in difficult home situations. They provide shelter and help develop social skills so these children can have a good future. The youth attend local schools for their education and participate in programs at Bethany to expand their abilities. In 2010, Bethany became the first DPW Sanctuary® Certified Agency in Pennsylvania.

The Phoebe Devitt Homes are a part of Phoebe Ministries. There are varying degrees of care provided from assisted living to complete dependency. Phoebe is guided by its mission to provide compassionate care to residents of its communities, regardless of their ability to pay. According to the Fall 2015 *Phoebe Messenger*, "Charitable care is part

of Phoebe's promise to our residents. In 2008, \$5.2 million of charitable care was provided to those we serve. Now, only seven years later, that number has nearly tripled to over \$14 million."

Through our offerings to **Lancaster Theological Seminary** we provide money which enables the Seminary to close the gap between tuition revenues and the actual cost of educating a student. Their newest offering is a revised Master of Divinity which has estimated tuition, living expenses and books of \$32,000 per student. This new version of the MDiv provides the usual "Day track" for students studying full time and a new "Weekend track" for students pursuing a ministerial degree while still employed, allowing them to balance work and school.

SCRIPT GIFT CARDS PROFIT REPORT

January	\$17.20
March	28.15
May	60.25
June	32.41
September	36.87
October	94.31
November	36.70
December	107.88
TOTAL	\$413.77

Forms to order the gift cards from Script are on the table in the narthex. This is an easy way for you to donate to our church. Just mark how many cards you want and give the money to Jim. Script gives to the church a discount on purchasing the cards and the difference is donated to the General Fund. There are over a hundred stores from which to choose – fast food from Burger King to Wendy's; restaurants from Applebee's to Ruth's Chris Steak House; sporting goods like Dick's and Cabela's; department and clothing stores from Aerie to Wet Seal; kid's stores like Toys "R" Us and Babys "R" Us; auto shops; pharmacies; and so much MORE!! Grab a form and get some cards – you're going to shop at these stores anyway, so why not help your church while you do?

YOUTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our Youth have been showing off their mental abilities – just check out these honor rolls.

Crestwood Middle School

Principal's Honors: Samantha Kotarski, Brooke Rinehimer

Honors: Keirsten Whitmire, Nathan Kamowski

Crestwood High School

Principal's Honors: Kristen Kania

High Honors: Michelle Bernetski, Aaron Kleger

Honors: Morgan Rinehimer, Brad Kotarsky, Hunter Rinehimer

CONSISTORY MEETING

The **Consistory** will meet on **Thursday, January 14**, at 6:30 pm, not January 28 as noted on the January calendar.

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

The December 13 Christmas Concert featuring We Three is pictured with Michael Stair leading a rousing rendition of *Here Comes Santa Claus*. The trombone trio delighted all who attended.

Paige Ceaser and Morgan Hodle are pictured playing the candy cane game at the Sunday School Christmas Party on December 12. After wrapping presents for the children who come to the McKinney Clinic, they enjoyed some games and a pizza lunch. Dress rehearsal for *The Candles of Christmas* was then held and the picture shows Morgan, Matteo Belanchik, Brayden Belanchik, Sabian Bunnell and Rowan Dietrich rehearsing their lines.

Jennis Bunnell is among the students of Diane Shuleski who presented an Autumn Recital at the Darte Center of Wilkes University.

UPCOMING DATES

Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday

Mar. 27 Easter

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Jan. 3

Greeters: Gloria Schreyer and Diana Decker

Liturgist: Jim Rinehimer

Jan. 10

Greeters: Mary Eroh and Lois Eigenbrod

Liturgist: Jill Bernetski

Jan. 17

Greeters: Camille Daniels and Barb DeLuca

Liturgist: Brooke Rinehimer

Jan. 24

Greeters: Nelson Horwath and Donnie Myers

Liturgist: Jim Stewart

Jan. 31

Greeters: Carol Duffy and Judy Cybulski

Liturgist: Sharon Moyer

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave Myers

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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