

The Messenger

March 2016

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

SUPPER AND SERVICE

Our Lenten Suppers are 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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

COMMUNION

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on March 6. After worship, come on back to the Fellowship Hall for some delicious desserts and a cup of hot coffee or cool tea.

OGHS SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

We will gather our offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 6. Envelopes are in the pews for you to contribute to this UCC sponsored offering.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on March 9 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.

MARCH 13

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS



It's time to turn those clocks ahead. So be sure you do and get up bright and early for service!

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

PALM SUNDAY

Holy Week begins with our Worship Service on March 20, Palm Sunday. Come celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY

Our Sunday School Easter Party will be on Sunday, March 20, during Sunday School (9 am). Each child should bring a basket or bag for the egg hunt. The Sunday School will provide the candy eggs. We will have a brunch with cereals, fruits and juices. Come out and bring a friend for a fun time!!

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER AND SERVICE

On Maundy Thursday, March 24, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm for a light supper. After our meal, at 7:00 pm, we will proceed to the Sanctuary for our service commemorating the Lord's Supper and reflecting on Christ's suffering and sacrifice. If you are unable to join us for supper, please still come for worship. **Everyone is welcome.**

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

EASTER!

Our Easter celebration begins at 6:30 am with our SonRise service, an inspiring ceremony to begin our most important holiday. After this service, we have a delicious breakfast in our Fellowship Hall. At 9:00 am, our children and youth will meet for a celebration of their own during our Sunday School time. Again we will celebrate the victory of our Risen Savior at 10:30 am for our Sunday Worship Service. Come –sing hallelujah! Praise the Lord! **CHRIST IS RISEN!!**

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Secretary's Notes

Hi – hope you're enjoying the spring weather. I don't think we've ever had such a warm February. And they're predicting March to be just as warm. At least that should make Easter on March 27 a nice temperature. Perhaps we won't have to cover up our Easter finery with a heavy coat. Just thinking about Easter makes me warm. It's such a great feeling to know that God loves me so much that he found a way to get rid of the sins that separate me from him. But what a price. To lose your only child so that you can gain another child who is not perfect (like your son was) is inconceivable. But then, as a parent, I can almost understand. Children often fall short of their parents' expectations. I'm sure that I didn't always do what my parents thought was the correct thing and would cause them grief. But my parents always loved me and accepted me, failures and all. How much like children we are still. How often do we grieve our heavenly Father? And yet He will accept us just as we are. His one condition is that we love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. That love can change our attitudes and actions tremendously. Think of it this way. If you love someone completely, can you intentionally do anything to hurt that person? Of course not. And so, by loving God unconditionally, we obey him completely. We are less prone to do things to disappoint him or to hurt others. (Remember, we are all God's children.) If we love Him, it makes it much more difficult for us to intentionally sin. We absolutely know that He loves us because He sent His Son to remove all sin from us. Through Jesus' death, our sin can die. All we need is to love just as God loves us – unconditionally and no strings attached. Doing this puts all the rest of our faith into motion – confessing Jesus crucified and risen, treating others right, living a life centered on God, serving God through all that we do, loving others as God loves us and so much more to make our lives whole and filled with God's love. During the remaining season of Lent, I'd like to challenge you to love as God loves. It's not easy and you might get hurt. There's no guarantee that others will respond to your love. But don't worry. There's someone else who understands rejection too – God. He will support you because He knows what it's like to not be loved back. We do it far too often to Him. But He always gives us the opportunity for a second chance at love. And third, fourth, fifth..... You get it.

Here's to love that lasts - **forever!**

Denise



Our Condolences

Long-time member Betty J. Montigney passed away on January 21. We offer our heartfelt condolences to her family, Carol Taney and family, Rich Fetterman and family, Margaret Fetterman and family, and Donna Chalker and family.

Thank You

We received thank you letters for some recent benevolence donations. On the bulletin board in the bell tower are letters from:

Bethany Children's Home thanked us for our donation of \$1,416.67 (\$1,000 from our budgeted annual benevolence and \$416.67 from the Benevolence Challenge). The money will be used to help not only provide basic needs of the children but also to build new life skills to overcome the trauma they have faced. Birthday parties,

Christmas gifts, Spiritual Life, Cottage Trips, Arts and Music Programs and Recreation are all possible thanks to your generosity.

We also supported Lancaster Theological Seminary through our benevolence donation of \$1,000 and Benevolence Challenge offering of \$416.66. Your generosity helps the Seminary to fulfill its mission of preparing future ministers and Christian leaders.

The Veterans and staff of the VA Medical Center truly appreciated the Valentines for Vets which were distributed to them. Their letter thanking us is on the bulleting board.

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, March 11, 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.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Questionnaires were sent out to gather information about the congregation and asking for what you want to see in our next called pastor. If you did not receive a questionnaire, extras are on the table in the Narthex. Please take the time for prayerful answers to the questions we ask. We all thank you in advance for your help and ask you to pray for the committee as we begin the process to call the next pastor to our church.

The deadline was set as March 4, but we realize that it may be more convenient for you to bring the questionnaire with you to church so Sunday, March 6, is now the deadline. You can hand it to any of the Search Committee members or Denise Dean, who will give it to the committee.

Members of the Search and Call Committee are Jim Stewart, Barb DeLuca, Jim Rinehimer, Bonnie Silvetti, Steve Moyer and Sue Kaminski. Please feel free to stop us after service if you have any questions about the search process.

Yours in Christ

MISSION OFFERINGS

The envelopes for the annual OGHS offering are in your pews. We will collect this offering through Easter Sunday.

Our Sunday School is also participating in the OGHS offering and the kids will bring their donations and we will put them in the "refugee tent" collection box.

During the year, there will also be envelopes for Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church and the Christmas Fund (for retired pastors and their families on very limited pensions). We also give to Our Churches Wider Mission through our fundraisers. That's 5 UCC missions each year. In addition to those, we can give to VBS Mission, McKinney Clinic, CROP Walk and, in past years, Disaster Relief (which we hope won't be needed this year). All these opportunities to give to these missions are provided because members have a "soft spot" for one or another, or perhaps all of them. We are encouraged to give to the ones that move our hearts and that we feel strongly about. These offerings are given "above and beyond" our regular envelope and plate offerings that are needed to support our church at Emmanuel and continue our local presence in our own back yards. Your generosity is appreciated here at home and around the wider world. May God bless you as much as you bless others.

YOUTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Luzerne County Community College:

Honors: Autumn Atkinson

MEETINGS

The Search Committee will meet on Thursday, March 10, at 7:00 pm

The next Consistory meeting will be on Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 pm.

UPCOMING DATES

April 16 Turkey Supper

May 14 Talent in Bloom

May 15 Pentecost Sunday

May 22 Trinity Sunday

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Mar. 6

Greeters: Camille Daniels & Barb DeLuca

Liturgist: Jim Rinehimer

Mar. 13

Greeters: Carol Duffy and Gloria Scheyer

Liturgist: Brooke Rinehimer

Mar. 20

Greeters: Judy Cybulski and Diana Decker

Liturgist: Lynne Stewart

Mar. 27

Sunrise:

Greeters: Mary Eroh and Lois Eigenbrod

Reader: Jill Bernetski

Regular:

Greeters: Donnie Myers and Nelson Horwath

Liturgist: Jim Stewart

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave Myers

Jim Rinehimer

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2	Jane Rinehimer	14	Devin Stein	27	Grayson Bunnell
3	Carey Hoffman	16	David DeLuca	28	Brian Heller
4	Mikayla Walck	18	Chelsea Lenahan	28	Samantha Kotarsky
7	Cindy Heller	21	Lisa Caffrey	29	Joe Huntzinger
7	Dorothy Hoyt	22	Garrett Chalker	29	Lois Huntzinger
9	Gloria Schreyer	24	Deven Kamat	31	Michael Supkowski
		27	Connie Miller		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 20, 1982.....Bob and Helen Heller

March 31, 1996.....Sandy and Brent Kleger

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