

# The Messenger

**July 2017**

**SUNDAY, JULY 2**

**COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR**

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, July 2, during our regular Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 am. We'll have our coffee hour afterward and hope you will join us and bring a goodie for everyone to share.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 12**

**TWILIGHTERS**

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, July 12, at noon for their monthly luncheon. If you would like to join their group or want more information, please call Lois Eigenbrod or Mary Eroh.

**SUNDAY EVENINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST**

**OLD RIVER CHURCH WORSHIP**

Our churches of the Wapwallopen Ministerium and the Old River Church Cemetery Association will begin Sunday Evening Worship at the Old River Church on Sunday, July 9, at 6:00 pm. The following churches will host the services on:

July 9..... Emmanuel UCC  
July 16..... St. Peter's UCC  
July 23..... Mt. Zion UCC  
July 30.. St. James Lutheran  
Aug. 6 ..... New Hope UMC  
Aug. 13.. St. Mark's Lutheran  
Aug. 20..... St. John's UCC  
Aug. 27 Cemetery Association

We hope everyone will find time to worship in this historic setting.

**Emmanuel  
United Church  
of Christ**

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## From The Pastor's Desk

I have always been interested, as a minister, in apologetics. The word could be deceiving, and has nothing to do with making an apology. On the contrary, Christian apologetics is a field of [Christian theology](#) that aims to present historical, [reasoned](#), and evidential bases for [Christianity](#), defending it against objections.

At times, I feel as Christians we have the right and duty to defend our beliefs. Currently, I am studying a book titled "Mere Apologetics: How to Help Seekers & Skeptics Find Faith" by Alister McGrath. According to McGrath, our mandate has been given by Christ in the Great Commission both with content for teaching and power for execution. Christ's word is what we teach and God's presence is what Jesus promised. That's why when we are about doing the Masters business never are we to think we're alone.

We are to understand apologetics as the reasoned defense of the Faith which must be practiced with gentleness and respect toward outsiders—even those who are our persecutors. Apologetics defends, commends, and translates the Faith to seekers and believers. When defending we must answer honest questions and be person relative. When commending we must show the wonder and splendor of the kingdom. And when translating, we must do so exegetically, hermeneutically and humanly explain terms so that a child can understand our meaning.

Christians wanting to grow in their faith need to and must find answers to their questions. They must mine the riches of the faith and get proficient at explaining it creatively without losing the substance of the gospel. How desperate we are for church goers to be gospel proclaimers, not just attendees to hear a message.

It all begins with each and every one of us studying and knowing the Word of God. One reason to study the Bible is to learn what it has to say firsthand. Whether one is a supporter or critic of the Bible, or perhaps just neutral or uninterested in the topic, history has demonstrated that the Bible cannot be ignored. Considering that the Bible is important to three major world religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – it is worthy of study. Also, the recent rise of hostile criticism towards the Bible itself and religion in general also makes it worthy of study. Sometimes the critics do not always quote the Bible correctly or in context. Knowing what it says firsthand and having some knowledge of the context is helpful in understanding not only current events, but key ideas the Bible addresses such as the nature and existence of God, the human condition, the biblical pattern of redemption and salvation and ethics.

We learn together, every Sunday, another wonderful lesson from the Word of God. My message is that we make apologists instead of the uninformed and lost critic. By taking a friend to church, we will continue to expand those who will finally find the truth in life, and help the lost.

We do this not just for our church, but for the community, and the greater community, our world. So, if you have some tough questions and need answers, that magnificent book, The Bible will help you along the way. Let's study it together, every Sunday!

Peace be with you, Pastor Lou



### 300 CLUB and SILENT AUCTION

THANKS to everyone who helped in any way to make this year's 300 Club and Silent Auction a fantastic success. Almost all the 300 tickets were sold, ensuring us a good profit. We also had additional guests who each donated \$15 to enjoy the great food and bands. After deducting the expenses, we cleared over \$7,000.

## Thank You

The Readler Family would like to thank everyone for their best wishes, cards, prayers and phone calls for Clifford Readler.

### Script Card Fundraiser Profit

The profit for the Script Card Fundraiser for June is \$41.01.

## Old River Church Services

Worship begins at 6:00 pm Sunday evenings beginning July 9 and continues to the end of August. If you can help with refreshments for July 9 when we are host, please see Cindy.

July 9..... Emmanuel UCC  
 July 16.....St. Peter's UCC  
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## VOICES AND

### INSTRUMENTS WANTED



It's summer and time for our choirs to be on vacation. But that doesn't mean that we want a vacation from music. Anyone who will sing, play an instrument or (if you're really talented) do both, is welcome to pick a Sunday to make a joyful noise to our God. Please see Denise Dean so we can fill the air with music on Sunday mornings.

### NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the Messenger is Monday, July 26. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

## PICTURE PERFECT

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

**Aaron Kleger** is shown amongst the Crestwood High School and Middle School students who participated in Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science state meeting. **Aaron** won Pennsylvania Science Talent Search Award.

**Sharon and Edmund Sieminski** are shown filling their plates at our annual family style spring turkey dinner on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Pastor Lou Aita** is shown participating in the Memorial Day service along with representatives of Ashley Post 673, American Legion Post 781, Sons of the Legion, the Ladies Auxilliary, Slocum VFW and Dorrance VFW Post 288.

**Emmanuel UCC** recently honored their confirmation class. Shown are **Kelsey Rinehimer, Kiersten Whitmire, Brooke Rinehimer, Samantha Kotarsky, Leah Dietrich, Morgan Hodle** and **Pastor Aita**.

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### July 2

Greeters: Judy Cybulski and Gloria Schreyer  
 Liturgist: Deb Dietrich

### July 9

Greeters: Carol Duffy and Ruth Polashenski  
 Liturgist: Jim Stewart

### July 16

Greeters: Barb Deluca and Diana Decker  
 Liturgist: Lynne Stewart

### July 23

Greeters: Mary Eroh and Lois Eigenbrod  
 Liturgist: Chris Dietrich

### July 30

Greeters: Diana Decker and Judy Cybulski  
 Liturgist: Deb Dietrich

## OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave Myers

Jim Rinehimer



1 Donald Myers	12 Nathan Kamowski	21 Jennifer Rinehimer
3 Gladys Readler	13 Irene Hoch	21 Judy Cybulski
5 Randy Grosz	13 Kyle Prelewicz	23 Rachelle Heller
8 Sam Dauber	13 Bonnie Silvetti	25 Sharon Moyer
8 Mary Eroh	14 Carol Duffy	25 Patricia Grosz
10 Janice Broyan	14 Ruth Polashenski	27 Denise Stein
11 William Sevison	15 Jo Ann Kotarsky	29 Connie Davis



July 1, 1998.....Mary and Nelson Horwath  
July 20, 2003.....Brad and Jennis Bunnell  
July 23, 1976.....Stan and Judy Cybulski  
July 30, 1983.....Jim and Lynne Stewart

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