

# The Messenger

## December 2018

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

#### **COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR**

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated during our worship service on December 2, followed by a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

#### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Come and sing the songs of the season while delighting our homebound and nursing home members. We will begin our rounds by serenading our members and then go to local nursing homes. Please see Cindy for more information.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

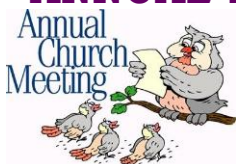
Our Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 15, from 10 am to noon.

#### **DRESS REHEARSAL**

Dress rehearsal for our Christmas Program will be from 1-2 pm 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 16

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



**The Annual Meeting** will be held on **December 16, 2018**, immediately following our worship service. Please see inside this issue for more details.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program during the worship service on December 23. 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.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 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.

## 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)

### **Inside this Issue**

Annual Meeting	p. 3
Bethany Christmas List	p. 4
Christmas Caroling	p. 3
Christmas Cards for Vet	p. 3
Christmas Eve Service	p. 3
Christmas Offering	p. 4
Christmas Program	p. 3
Committee Meetings	p. 5
Flower Sign Up Sheets	p. 5
From the Pastor	p. 2
Gift Card Fundraiser	p. 2
Giving Tree	p. 4
Picture Perfect	p. 5
Sunday School News	p. 4
Thank You's	p. 5
Twilighters	p. 2

## From the Pastor

The season of Advent begin the patient waiting and watching for the birth of Christ. Advent began on November 25th, 2018. We also began a new liturgical year, Year C. That means we get to explore more of the Bible as a congregation. This December, especially Christmas Eve, I plan on focusing on the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. Here is some further information about that important word "incarnation."

What is the incarnation of Christ and why is the incarnation important?

In Christianity, the word "incarnation" is used to express the idea of Jesus Christ coming to earth in human form. The word is a Latin term that literally means "the act of being made flesh." This Latin term was used in John 1:14, which speaks of Jesus who "became flesh and dwelt among us." Theologically, the humanity of Jesus is an important aspect of His earthly life. Jesus is divine (John 1:1; Colossians 1:16), yet also took on a human body to identify with humanity. He was born of a woman, ate food, slept, and experienced temptation. Like other humans, he could perspire and bleed. He also displayed human emotions, including anger, joy, and sorrow. In terms of His divine plan, Jesus also became human as part of His plan to die in our place as a sacrifice. Further, in order to resurrect, He first had to physically die, which required taking on a physical body. In fact, our salvation completely depends upon Jesus coming to this world in human form clearly states, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." His love was fully displayed in taking on human form and allowing this form to be destroyed as a sacrifice on our behalf. Unlike any other human, Jesus lived in a human body yet did not sin. Hebrews 4:15 shares, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." He resisted temptation perfectly, revealing both His full deity and full humanity. Also unique is the resurrection of Jesus. He raised others from the dead during His life, but only Jesus returned to life of His own power. His resurrection is only possible because He took on human form and first died. This resurrection surprised His followers, yet also compelled them to share His message with others. In fact, the apostle Paul called the resurrection a matter of "first importance" and wrote, "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins." He realized that apart from the death and resurrection of Jesus, Christianity's foundation would not exist. The incarnation is valuable for our study in many ways. In it we discover a God who loves us so much that He came to earth and took on a human form on our behalf, ultimately to give up His life to pay for our sins and offer us eternal life with Him. As John 3:16 declares, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

To find out more about the saving and healing power of God, join us! We are at Emanuel UCC in Dorrance every Sunday at 10:30 am. And of course, all are welcome.

Happy Holidays, Pastor Lou



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. **Lisa will be collecting orders Sunday December 2nd** and will distribute them as they arrive. If you have any question, please see Lisa.

### Twilighters

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

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, December 16**, after our Worship Service. The proposed 2019 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.”

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will meet after Worship on December 2 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!



## 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 16. Thank you for remembering those men and women who served our country.

## Christmas Eve

Anyone wishing to present music prior to the Christmas Eve 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.



## UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 6 Epiphany

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Sunday School students would like to invite you to a celebration of Christmas music. This year's Sunday School program will be all about the songs of Christmas. Our choirs will all join together to bring us the joy of the season. Each choir will be showcased in their own numbers as well as joining all voices in certain pieces. Short narrations about the songs will tell of their special place in our Christmas festivities. The Kids Choir will ring in the season with **Come On Ring Those Bells** and the Youth Choir will sing **The Snow Lay On the Ground**, encouraging us to come worship Jesus. There will be solos and duets mixed in the cantata giving our children the opportunity to showcase their abilities. The Kids, Youth and Chancel Choirs will also combine their voices in praise of our Savior's birth. The Cantata will be presented on **Sunday, December 23**, during our worship service. We look forward to spreading our Christmas cheer with you.

**Thank you** to all families who bring the children to practices. We couldn't have a program without your dedication.

Denise Dean

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

## CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 15

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 15 from 10 am to 12 pm. We are asking all the kids to bring a couple pieces of fruit for the baskets for our shut-ins.

The Sunday school will be sponsoring Ruth's Place this year. They are in need of women's hats and gloves. The Sunday school kids will wrap them. **Deadline to donate will be December 9th.**

Thank you for all your generosity. 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.



## 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 2019 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.

If someone could deliver the presents to Bethany, it would be greatly appreciated. I have a schedule of times and dates for deliveries in the office.

## NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the January Messenger is Monday, December 21. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

## FLOWERS SIGN-UPS

### POINSETTIA SIGN-UP SHEETS

There are sign-up sheets on the tables in the Narthex doorway for you to purchase poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary. The last day to sign up is December 9th.

## ALTAR FLOWER CHART



The 2019 chart for the altar flowers is on the table in the Narthex. The price is \$14.00 for 1 vase or \$24.00 for 2 vases. Please pay Chris Dietrich for the dates you sponsor.

### Thank you's:

The following letters are posted on the bulletin board in the bell tower:

**Doris Yurchak** sent an extra special thank you for the generous donation given to her after her home caught fire and was destroyed on September 15th.

## ***PICTURE PERFECT***

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

**Joan Revis** is about to enjoy a delicious turkey dinner at the annual Fall Turkey

Dinner at Emmanuel held on Saturday October 20th.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on Thursday, December 20, at 6:30 pm.

