

The Messenger

July 2018

SUNDAY, JULY 1

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, July 1, 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 11

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, July 11, 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 8St. Peter's UCC
July 15 Emmanuel UCC
July 22St. John's UCC
July 29St. James Lutheran
Aug. 5 New Hope UMC
Aug. 12 St. Mark's Lutheran
Aug. 20 Mt. Zion UCC
Aug. 26 Cemetery Association

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

Scrip Card Fundraiser

Scrip Card Fundraiser orders are collected the 1st Sunday of every month. Order forms can be found on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions or would like to place an order please see Lisa Ceaser. The profit for the Scrip Card Fundraiser for June is \$ 3.35.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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From The Pastor's Desk

For our July Newsletter, I thought it would be appropriate to include this important pastoral newsletter found on the UCC website, UCC.org. As a minister, I do not preach politics from the pulpit, but I do feel it is important for us as Christians to allow our voice to be heard in government decisions. We, as a people, are affected by these decisions'

Condemning the unconscionable assertion that migrant children should be separated from their parents because of 'orderly and lawful processes that protect the weak and lawful,' — a Biblical statement used to justify U.S. immigration policies — United Church of Christ National Leadership has issued this pastoral letter, urging the people of the denomination's almost 5,000 congregations to take action now! First, by contacting their Congressional representatives, and then by providing funds to keep families together. Money to be used to support the people sleeping in the streets at the borders of this country, or those parents and children separated upon entry!

"Still, when God saw the trouble they were in and heard their cries for help, God remembered God's Covenant with them, and, immense with love, took them by the hand. God poured out God's mercy on them while their captors looked on, amazed."

Psalm 106:44-47 (MSG)

Friends, once again we stand at the brink of a moral precipice in our society and the question before us is will we choose to act in covenant with God on behalf of God's people or will we sacrifice our soul. The United Church of Christ has long been a supporter of migrant families seeking refuge within our borders from intolerable and unsafe living conditions in their homelands. As people of God committed to the sacredness of all creation and the sanctity of every life, we are compelled to heed the cries of families now being violently torn apart at our borders for political expediency and profitability. Such violent acts are unnecessarily punitive and place at risk the physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and developmental stability of hundreds of families who now find themselves separated, caged, and commodified in a strange land.

All of our sacred texts, no matter the faith, identify the disregard of the humanity of the vulnerable as sin.

And God hears the cries of God's people. The plight of black and brown migrant families whose children are ripped from their care cannot be the policy of a civilized land. We've been here before. Our nation's history bears witness to a legacy of lost love. We separated the children of Native people from their families. We separated the children of enslaved people from their families. We separated the children of Japanese people from their families. Many of these families were never made whole again. This legacy of white supremacist ideology is idolatrous and leaves an indelible mark of evil that can only be redeemed by a conscious act of spiritual repentance and repair.

We must resist the evil of dehumanization enacted upon the vulnerable among us. The United Church of Christ strongly condemns the dismantling of families, the criminalization of the quest for freedom, and the caging of those whose only crime is to seek shelter from harm. How we treat those who seek shelter in our midst is a direct

reflection of how we treat God. We call upon our 5,000 member churches to write letters to your representatives in Congress as an act of worship this month. Remind Congress there is a law that supersedes partisanship and political bantering, and that is the sanctity of all people of God.

Faithfully yours,

The National Officers of the United Church of Christ

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries

The Rev. James Moos, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries

The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ



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. We are still waiting for some of the Silent Auction payments to be collected and will have an update of the profit as soon as it becomes available.

Old River Church Services

Worship begins at 6:00 pm Sunday evenings beginning July 8 and continues to the end of August. If you can help with refreshments for July 15 when we are host, please see Cindy.

- July 8 St. Peter's UCC
- July 15 Emmanuel UCC
- July 22 St. John's UCC
- July 29 St. James Lutheran
- Aug. 5 New Hope UMC
- Aug. 12 St. Mark's Lutheran
- Aug. 20 Mt. Zion UCC
- Aug. 26 Cemetery Association

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NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the Messenger is Monday, July 24. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

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.

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

Members of Emmanuel UCC are shown remembering the fallen at the Memorial Day ceremony which also featured several area American Legion Posts, color guard, choir,

rifle squad and taps by Al Finn of the Mountain Top American Legion Post 781.

Aaron Kleger is "READY TO GRADUATE" and also shown performing 'LITTLE WONDERS' with classmate Megan Wood a song by American singer-song writer Rob Thomas, during Crestwood High School graduation ceremony on June 10th.

2018 VBS PROGRAM

Come out for a great camping trip at our Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is SonRock Kids Camp, where kids build their lives on the Rock, Jesus! We will learn that we are **Accepted by Jesus,**

Protected by Jesus,
Saved by Jesus,
Forgiven by Jesus
and **Living for Jesus.** There are cool songs, spirited games, nature crafts, sweet treats and rock-solid lessons, all with a camping theme. The Bible stories are based on the relationship between Jesus and Peter. Accepted: Jesus chooses Peter as one of his disciples. Protected: Jesus protects Peter when he tries to walk on water. Saved: Peter's confession that Jesus is Lord allows him salvation. Forgiven: Even though Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, Jesus forgave him. Living: Through the power of Jesus, Peter heals a lame man.

Registration sheets are on the table in the narthex and there are posters for putting up around the neighborhoods, too. If possible, would you pre-register your child(ren) so that there is less confusion on the first day? I am also asking all adult and teen volunteers to fill out a form since it contains contact information in case of an emergency. If there are no registration sheets, please ask me to make more. Thanks.

At our last meeting on May 25, we made some of our props for the different areas. We will need to complete them when we do the final decoration on **July 21.** We were so busy with decorations that we forgot

to set a date for our next meeting. I will try to get that publicized so everyone who wants to participate will know about it. That meeting will be to ensure we have all props for the skits and station areas so that decorating on the 21st will go smoothly. We also need a Mission Project. Please see me with any ideas. In the past, we gave to GoJoe, Janet Weiss Children's Hospital, and local families with children who had serious medical needs.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped clean up and out old VBS materials. I'm not sure who they all are, but they got things where they needed to be so that they could be gone through and sorted.

Denise

Youth Group News



** The Youth Group will be helping with refreshments at the Old River Church Service to be held on July 15th.

**A meeting will be held prior to the service the time is To Be Announced.

**The Youth Group will be going to Beech Mountain Lake Area on July 29th. They will meet at the church at 1:30 pm.

** Leah Dietrich, Brooke Rinehimer and Morgan Hodle will be going on the mission trip to Blue Knob, Pa July 8th – 14th.