

The Messenger

November 2018



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Remember to turn your clocks back and sleep in for an extra hour! But only for one hour and then join us for Sunday School at 9:30 am and worship at 10:30 am.

COMMUNION SUNDAY

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated during our worship service on November 4, followed by a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a delicious delectable to share and have a relaxing morning with us.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING!!

The budget committee meeting is planned for November 10th. Anyone wishing to join the committee please see Lynne Stewart. We welcome additional volunteers to help plan this important aspect of our church life.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Pork and Sauerkraut Supper

We're holding our Pork and Sauerkraut Supper on November 17. Please check with Allen Dennis for all the activities that are necessary to have this be a successful dinner.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

7768 Blue Ridge Trail
Mountain Top PA 18707
(570) 868-5675

www.emmanuel-ucc.org
emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com

Inside this Issue

Christmas Program	p. 4
Committee Meetings	p. 3
Congregational Corner	p. 3
Condolences	p. 3
Gift Card Fundraiser	p. 3
Pork Dinner	p. 4
Pastor's Corner	p. 2
Sunday School News	p. 3
Turkey Supper Update	p. 4
Twilighters	p. 3

Pastor's Corner

What About Relationships?

At a recent meeting with my mentor, the Rev Dr. Jane Hess, we talked about our churches and what is important to us. I mentioned community and relationships. We both agreed that both are important and that relationships are just another gift the church has to offer. One reason why relationships are such an important part of the Christian life is because God values relationships. That's why we should value relationships as well.

God himself is relational

The Bible teaches that God has eternally existed as three persons in one divine being. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have been in relationship with each other forever. In Genesis 1:26, we read, "Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image...'" Notice that God says "us", not just "me". This is why the Bible can say that "God is love." God was able to express and experience love long before any created beings existed, because God encompasses three persons. Without going into detail on the Trinity, we need to understand that God is not a solitary being. The Father loves the Son and the Son, in turn, loves the Father. If God is relational, why should we think that we can go it alone?

The Old Testament shows that God values relationships

We can find many examples in the Old Testament scriptures that prove how important relationships are to God. For example, when God called Abraham (Genesis 12:2), he told him, "I will make you into a great nation." God wasn't content to establish a relationship with just one man. His purpose was to create a people – made up of families, clans, and tribes. God chose to bring redemption into the world through human relationships. Another point of data from the Old Testament is the special care God shows toward people who are alone in the world. In particular, God's heart is for widows and orphans. These are people who are the vulnerable and most subject to oppression and neglect, because they lack people who can provide a structure of support. So God told Israel in Isaiah 1:17, "Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows." And Psalm 68:6 says, "God sets the lonely in families..." Relationships are important to God!

The New Testament shows that God values relationships

To begin with, God created the church. While the people of Israel were all related to each other, the church encompasses people from every national and ethnic group. The church includes everyone who is united to Jesus by faith in him. As a result, we are all united to each other as well. The New Testament calls the church a family. It compares it to a living body. Metaphors like this emphasize our interconnectedness as Christ-followers. In light of this, the New Testament contains hundreds of verses that instruct us on how to live in relationships. There are dozens of "one another" statements that direct how we should live: forgive one another, be patient with one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, love one another, and many more. It is quite clear, then, that no one can be obedient to God's Word in isolation. God's design is for us to connect in relationships. That's why he told us how to do it.

God never called anyone to a purely individual salvation

The New Testament teaches that salvation places each of us into a web of relationships centered on Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:1-10 describes our salvation in individual terms. We were dead in our sins. God made us alive in Christ. He saved us by his grace, through our faith, for a life of good works. But the rest of Ephesians 2 describes the relational aspects of this same salvation.

Ephesians 2:19-22: So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the

Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. When you're connected to Jesus, you are also connected to his people. We are now members of a single family. We are citizens of the same kingdom. We are connected like stones in a house. In fact, as our lives are joined together, we become a temple. God lives among us by his Spirit – not individually, but in the unity of our relationships. Relationships are important to God. God's people are completely out of step with his values and priorities when relationships are not important to us.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Lou



Congregational Corner



We offer our sincere condolences to:

- * Betty Dickson and Family on the passing of Peter Dickson, on October 1, 2018.
- * Mary Rinehimer and Family on the passing of Lonnie Rinehimer, on October 5, 2018.

We pray that God's love and strength will sustain you in your time of need and sorrow.

Twilighters

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, November 14, at 12:00 pm for lunch and fellowship. If you would like more information, see Mary Eroh.

Gift Card Fundraiser



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. They make great gifts for Christmas. Jim will be taking orders **Sunday, November 4th** and **Sunday, December 2nd**, he will order them and distribute them as they arrive. If you have any question, please see Jim.

Sunday School News

We will hold a **bake sale during the Pork Dinner**. Please help us provide your children with a good Christian education by donating baked goods for us to sell. The bake sales are our only fundraisers and we rely on them to purchase the curriculum for our Sunday School program and provide them with fun times like Christmas and Easter parties. Thank you!!

Sunday school will not be collecting for Turkey Suppers. Instead they will be collecting monetary donations for \$5 gift cards to McDonalds. Deadline for donations is **November 18th**. If you wish to make a donation, please see Lisa Rinehimer. Thank you for supporting the Sunday School's missions.

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

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

UPCOMING DATES

- Dec. 2 Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 16 Christmas Program
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Music and Worship

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on Thursday, November 15, at 6:30 pm

Turkey Supper Update

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE
THIS A SUCCESSFUL SUPPER!!
Give yourselves a pat on the back, you
deserve it!**

2018 FALL TURKEY SUPPER REPORT

Income:		
Ticket Sales		
Door		
Adult 327 @ \$11.00	\$3597.00	
Children 11 @ \$4.00	\$44.00	
Advance		
Adult 280 @ \$11.00	\$3080.00	
Surplus	\$39.25	
Donation	<u>\$2.00</u>	
Total Income		\$6762.25
Expenses:		
Bread Cubes	\$265.00	
Turkeys, Cabbage, Paper Prod., Veggies, Celery, Broth, Eggs	\$1445.53	
Decaf tea & coffee, drink mixes, paper towels	\$29.13	
Bread	<u>\$45.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$1,784.66
TOTAL PROFIT		\$4,977.59

Pork Dinner

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

We'll be serving up a Pork Dinner, complete with homemade sauerkraut, corn, mashed potatoes, gravy, homemade applesauce, bread, dessert and beverage from 3 to 7 pm. Tickets are \$11.00 for adults, \$4.00 for age 6 to 11; 5 and under for free; or \$11.00 for a take-out.

POSTERS are on the table in the Narthex. Please take some and paste them up wherever you can. This supper will need some extra attention and we need to get the word out.

**TICKETS – Please see Allen Dennis or
Steve Moyer for tickets and sell, sell, sell!**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Sunday School children, youth and the chancel choir will be performing a cantata "The Songs of the Season" on December 16 during our worship service. Please mark this special service on your calendar so you won't miss our Sunday School's heartwarming presentation.