

The Messenger

December 2019

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated during our worship service on December 1, 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 14

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 14, 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.**

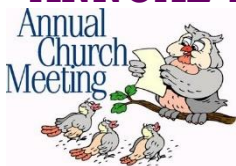
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program during the worship service on December 15. 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 22

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION



The Annual Meeting will be held on **December 22, 2019**, immediately following our worship service. Please see inside this issue for more details

TUESDAY, 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
emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com

Inside this Issue

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

From the Pastor

Another year is coming to a close. We at Emmanuel UCC are getting ready to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, children are practicing songs for the cantata planned for one of our Sunday services (watch for announcements!), and Sunday, December 1st, 2019 is the first Sunday in the Advent season.

For many Christians unfamiliar with the liturgical year, there may be some confusion surrounding the meaning of the Advent season. Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, and his first miracle at Cana. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

Each Sunday in the season of Advent we light a candle in the Advent wreath, culminating in the lighting of the Christ candle on Christmas Eve. This signifies the ushering in of the Light of the World, our savior Jesus Christ.

We would like nothing more than to share this light with our local community and the world. Emmanuel UCC has more to offer than ever before. That's because of our belief in the Light of the World to sustain us, heal us, and share joy with us.

So, don't hesitate in coming to worship in our sanctuary, and ushering in the season of renewal and birth.

My hope, as always, is that all find the peace on earth that only God could bring, and that everyone's Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas season be a joyous and healthy occasion.

Merry Christmas to all from me and my family to yours!

Pastor Lou Aita



THANK YOU...

Thank you to the Jankowski

Family for the beautiful

Nativity Set displayed in
the Narthex.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CONSISTORY

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

KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The next **Kitchen committee** meeting will be on Friday, December 13, at 9:00 am.



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 1st** and will distribute them as they arrive. If you have any question, please see Lisa.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, December 22**, after our Worship Service. The proposed 2020 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 1 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 15. 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

What's In a Name? The Names of Jesus Christmas Cantata

We have heard many names for our Savior. For our cantata this Christmas, our choirs will reveal many of the names used to describe Jesus. With scripture passages explaining the origin of the songs and hymns containing references to Jesus' many names, our choirs will bring to light our history of including such references as Emmanuel, King of kings, and Lion of Judah. Please come hear our cantata which will be presented on December 15 during our worship service.

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 14

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 14 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. The Sunday school is hoping to be able to collect 30 sets of hats and gloves. **Deadline to donate will be December 8th.**

Thank you for all your generosity. Thank you for all your support, Lisa Rinehimer

The Giving Tree

Christmas is the time for giving. This year we would like to again help to stock the shelves in the kitchen with paper products, cleaning supplies, and other useful products. We are also hoping to help provide office supplies like pens, paper, toner, ink etc. These consumables take up a large portion of a small budget each year. With your help we can use this season of giving to help Emmanuel. Stop by the tree today and grab an ornament or two!!! Items do not need to be wrapped! Simply leave them under the tree! Thank you!!! Giving Tree will be set up in the Narthex.



NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the January Messenger is Friday, December 20.

Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

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.

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 8th.**

ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The 2020 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.

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

On October 19 **Members** of Emmanuel UCC are shown preparing take-out turkey dinners in the social hall as **Megan and Mark Ceaser** were busy boxing desserts.



|