

The Messenger

JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on January 6 followed by our coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on January 9 at 12:00 pm for their monthly meeting. "Admission" is one pot-luck dish to share. We welcome you to come and join us for lunch.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Whether you receive a full box of envelopes, a partial, use the pew envelopes or electronic giving, Emmanuel UCC depends upon your support to be a vital influence to our members and our community. Please remember your church and its programs throughout the year. Your gifts are important to continuing the work of Christ through your church. **Consistency is the key.**

Generous people plan

to do what is generous,
and they

stand firm in their

generosity.

Isaiah 32:8

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFERING ENVELOPES

For those members who wish to receive a box of envelopes and to ensure that your offering is properly recorded we are trying to keep the same numbers as last year. Please sign the sheet on the table in the narthex and a box will be available for pick up the following week. If you have decided not to take a box and will be giving on a monthly, semimonthly or biweekly schedule, Penny can provide you with labels for your envelopes to help you track your giving. Any questions please contact me at the office. Penny

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Inside this Issue

Altar Flowers	p. 3
Congregational Corner	p. 3
Consistory Meeting	p. 3
From the Pastor	p. 2
Picture Perfect	p. 3
Scrip Gift Card Report	p. 3
Thank You's	p. 2
Twilighters	p. 3
Valentines for Vets	p. 3

From The Pastor's Desk

How the Reformation Shaped the Church

From Reformation theology flows seven characteristics or identity markers of the church.

First, the church is doxological, it's oriented to the glory of God.

Second, the church is Word-centered. It's centered on the incarnate Word, who is Jesus Christ, and the inspired Word: Scripture. The church confesses sound doctrine—what it believes about God, Jesus Christ, and the Spirit.

Thirdly, the church is to be Spirit-activated. It's created, gifted, united, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Fourth, the church is covenantal. It exists in new covenant relationship with God, and together, the members exist in a covenantal relationship with one another.

Fifth, the church is confessional. Each member had a personal confession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Together the church confesses sound doctrine—what it believes about a triune God, Jesus Christ, the Son incarnate, and the Spirit.

Sixth, the church is missional. It's the body of divinely-called, divine ministers who proclaim the gospel throughout the world.

Seventh, the church is here, but not here. It's already, but not yet. We're sojourners, we're strangers. We're pilgrims in this world. We enjoy walking with the Lord and doing his will now, but we look forward to something greater in the future. Reformation theology gives impetus to these seven characteristics or identity markers of the church.

The above 7 characteristics of the church were taken from an article by Gregg R. Allison (PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School). Dr. Allison is professor of Christian theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The reason for including this in our newsletter is because I feel we embody all 7 characteristics at Emmanuel UCC.

We are sojourners, pilgrims in the world, walking with the Lord. In our little corner of the world we are helping to make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors around the world.

The year 2018 brought to us many joys, and a good share of concerns and sorrows. We weathered many storms together, and laughed in the sunshine together. It is the word "together" that makes such a difference if we step back and look at our church and each other. Our commitment to God and His Son Jesus Christ are exemplary. I firmly believe that on that premise alone, we will continue to succeed in anything we undertake, and be present in the life of the community and world for a long, long time.

I am coming into the year 2019 excited about continuing my ministry at Emmanuel, and am going to begin the process of ordination following Penn Northeast Conference guidelines. Thanks to all of you I have decided to continue my religious education and pursue this ordination track.

Again, in our togetherness we will remain strong and continue to uphold those wonderful 7 identity markers of the church.

Peace be with you and Happy New Year, Pastor Lou



Thank You

The hats, scarfs and glove you provided were delivered and distributed to those whose needs are so much greater than ours. Thank you for supporting the Sunday School. Lisa Rinehimer

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

TWILIGHTERS LUNCH

The Twilighters will meet on January 9 at 12:00 for lunch. Come join us for food and fellowship.

Valentines for Vets

A box will be in the bell tower for your Valentines for Vets. These Valentines are appreciated very much by those who are housed at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center. The last date to deposit your Valentines will be Sunday, February 3. Remember those who served.

ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The chart for the altar flowers is on the table in the Narthex. They are \$14 for 1 vase or \$24 for 2 vases. Please pay Chris Dietrich for the dates you sponsor.

2018 Scrip Gift Card Profit Report

January	-----	July	8.00
February	-----	August	2.90
March	37.45	September	24.00
April	48.15	October	7.48
May	45.90	November	93.98
June	3.35	December	186.10

Total Profit: \$457.31

Forms to order the gift cards from Scrip are on the table in the narthex. This is an easy way for you to donate to our church. Script gives to the church a discount on purchasing the cards and the difference is donated to the General Fund. There are over a hundred stores from which to choose – fast food from Burger King to Wendy's; restaurants from Applebee's to Ruth's Chris Steak House; sporting goods like Dick's and Cabela's; department and clothing stores from Aerie to Wet Seal; kid's stores like Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us; auto shops; pharmacies; and so much MORE!! Grab a form and get some cards – you're going to shop at these stores anyway, so why not help your church while you do?

CONSISTORY MEETING

The Consistory will meet on **Thursday, January 17**, at 6:30 pm

UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 6 Epiphany

Pork Dinner Update

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR DINNER!!

INCOME		
Dinner Income	Surplus Sold	394.00
	116 Adult @ \$11	1,276.00
	2 child @ \$ 5	10.00
	Advance 96 Adult @ \$11	<u>1,056.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME		2,736.00
EXPENSES		
Steve Moyer	Milk and Bread	-27.96
Allen Dennis	Pork, broth, potatoes, celery, carrots, corn	-742.42
Jim Rinehimer	Coffee, Juice, Iced Tea	<u>-42.39</u>
Donation	Cabbage & Apples were donated	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		-812.77
DINNER PROFIT		1,923.23

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

Irene Sabol and Shirley Eckrote are shown enjoying and evening with family and friends a great pork meal at our annual Pork and Saurkraut Dinner held on November 17, 2018.

Brayden Belanchik, 8, is shown with Maddy Young, and Josh Jakubowski working together on making an Express Bot at Mountaintop Family Church after school Clubs.

Cindy Meyers and Mikayla Walck are shown playing the snowball shake game at the annual Emmanuel UCC Sunday School Christmas Party

