

The Messenger

June 2019

TUESDAY, MAY 28

VBS PLANNING MEETING

Our next Vacation Bible School planning meeting will be Tuesday, May 28, at 6:30 pm. We will continue to discuss decorating ideas and finalize our mission project.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, June 2, 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.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

300 CLUB AND SILENT AUCTION

We will hold our annual 300 Club on Saturday, June 15, beginning at 12 noon. There will be two bands, food and fun for everyone. Those who purchase a ticket are also entered in the hourly drawings. You can even bid in the Silent Auction. See inside for more information.

JUNE 17-21

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Monday June 17 thru Friday June 21. I will be on vacation, for immediate assistance or emergency situation please call Pastor Lou at 570-582-9550. Regular office hours will resume Monday June 24. Penny.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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

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

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From The Pastor's Desk



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.

Our relationships continue, especially with the young people in our church. Starting on July 14th, and ending July 18th, 2019 we will gather every evening for our vacation Bible school! We have many educational activities planned, and also time for fun. We will meet in our church social hall beginning at 6:30 pm and end at 8:30 pm. Enrollment forms are available at church or by calling the church office at 570- 868-5675. Our relationships continue, hope to see you there!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Lou



CONSISTORY MEETING

The **Consistory** will meet on Thursday, June 20, at 6:30 pm.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who came out on May 18 to lend a hand for our spring clean-up day. There was plenty to do and now our church looks shiny and new.



June 15 - 300 Club & Silent Auction
October 19 - Fall Turkey Supper

Above is a "Save The Date" for upcoming event for the rest of the year, cut this out and hang it on your refrigerator as a reminder. New events will be added as they become available.

Thank you, Penny

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the July Messenger is Monday, June 17. Please get all information to me before this date.

Thanks, Penny

Old River Church Services

Worship begins at 6:00 pm Sunday evenings beginning **July 7** and continues to the end of August. If you can help with refreshments for July 7 when we are host, please see Cindy.

July 7 Emmanuel UCC

July 14 St. Peter's UCC

July 21 St. John's UCC

July 28 St. James Lutheran

Aug. 4 New Hope UMC

Aug. 11 St. Mark's Lutheran

Aug. 18 Mt. Zion UCC

Aug. 25 Cemetery Association

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

**** THIS IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, ORDER OF HOSTS MAY CHANGE. I WILL KEEP EVERYONE UPDATED AS I RECEIVE INFO ** THANK YOU, PENNY**

TURKEY SUPPER **REPORT**

DINNER INCOME		
Door Sales		
	176 @ \$11.00	1,936.00
Advance Sales		
	181 @ \$11.00	1,991.00
Donations & Surplus Sold		158.00
TOTAL INCOME		4,085.00
DINNER EXPENSE		
Dave Myers		55.74
Allen Dennis	Turkeys, Bread Cubes, Veggies, Broth, Cranberry, Potatoes, bread, etc.	1186.58
TOTAL EXPENSE		1,242.32
	TOTAL INCOME	4,085.00
	TOTAL EXPENSE	-1,242.32
	DINNER PROFIT	2,842.68

300 CLUB and SILENT AUCTION

Only 300 tickets are sold for this "exclusive" Club!! Hurry up and get your ticket for our 10th annual 300 Club fundraiser!

Where else can you get great food, excellent entertainment and terrific cash prizes for two people for \$35!! **AT OUR ANNUAL 300 CLUB ON JUNE 15 FROM NOON TO 6 PM!** That's a bargain! And if you're not into the prizes, you can still come and enjoy all that food and music for only \$15 a person. There will be two bands: The Mud Pond Boys and Sundance. On top of that, every hour from 1:00 to 5:00 there will be a drawing for five **CASH** prizes ranging from \$25 to \$50. At the 6:00 pm drawing, we award the grand prizes of \$1,000, \$500, 5 at \$100, and the remaining \$50 and \$25 prizes. Plus, all during the event, you will be able to

bid on items for our Silent Auction which will be called at 5:00 pm. It's going to be a wonderful day with lots of excitement – so don't miss out!

SILENT AUCTION

We always need items for the Silent Auction. These need to be new items for a Silent Auction. Many items are donated by local merchants and businesses. If you have something to donate or think of someone who might donate, please take some of the donation memos on the table in the narthex. Fill in the person/business name, the date, and the item and its value and give it to the person/business for their tax records. Also note the value of the item for us so we can put that on the bid sheets for the auction. We've had some amazing items in the past, from kid's toys to kitchenware, hand-made clocks to fine jewelry, and everything in between. We'd like to have an even greater variety for this year's auction. So please see what you can find to add to our assortment. THANKS!!

2019 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL **Sonquest Rainforest** **July 14 - July 18**

Our first meeting was on May 7. We decided to hold our program **from Sunday, July 14, through Thursday, July 18**. We reviewed the materials and discussed preliminary decorating ideas. We have leaders for all the centers but for everyone who would like to help, assistants are needed for the snacks, crafts and PreK areas. The PreK leader is asking for one or two adults for extra hands for in-class projects. Please see Cindy if you can help with snacks or Pastor Lou for other areas.

Our next meeting will be on **May 28** at 7:00 pm. We will continue discussing decorating and what will be our mission. Each year, our VBS decides on a mission project. Our projects have helped children here locally and around the world. All ideas

are welcome and we will all decide then which | one is right for this year.