

# The Messenger

*November 2019*



## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

### **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 3, followed by a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a delicious delectable to share and have a relaxing morning with us.

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 & 28**

### **Sauerkraut Sales**

We will be having a Sauerkraut Sale held on December 21 & 28 from 11:00am – 3:00pm. We will be selling quarts of sauerkraut for the Christmas and New Year's Holiday. Please see Allen Dennis or anyone from the Kitchen Committee for more information. Also please start spreading the word on the event to help make it successful.

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### **Inside this Issue**

Christmas Program	p. 3
Committee Meetings	p. 3
Gift Card Fundraiser	p. 3
Pastor's Corner	p. 2
Sunday School News	p. 3
Turkey Supper Update	p. 3

## Pastor's Corner

One of the appointed scripture lessons on the month of October was **The Parable of the Persistent Widow and the Unjust judge**. The main theme of my sermon was, of course, to delve deeper into this parable and relate it to our lives and the life of the church.

The parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge found in Luke 18:1–8 is part of a series of illustrative lessons Jesus Christ used to teach His disciples about prayer. Luke introduces this lesson as a parable meant to show the disciples “that they should always pray and never give up.”

The parable of the widow and the judge is set in an unnamed town. According to the Book of Deuteronomy, the judge presides over the town. This particular unjust judge has no fear of God and no compassion for the people under his jurisdiction. In the Jewish community, a judge was expected to be impartial, to judge righteously, and to recognize that judgment ultimately belongs to God. Thus, the judge in this story is incompetent and unqualified for the job. Justice was not being served.

A needy widow repeatedly comes before the judge to plead her case. According to Jewish law, widows deserve special protection under the justice system, a law also found in the Book of Deuteronomy. But this unjust judge ignores her. Nevertheless, she refuses to give up.

Eventually, the judge says to himself, “I don’t fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!” The widow gets the justice she was seeking. Then Jesus explains His point: if an uncaring, unfit, ungodly judge answers with justice in the end, how much more will a loving and holy Father give what is right to His children?

We do not always get immediate results when we pray. Our definition of swift justice is not the same as the Lord’s definition. The parable of the persistent widow demonstrates that effective prayer requires tenacity and faithfulness. A genuine disciple must learn that prayer never gives up and is based on absolute trust and faith in God. We can fully count on the Lord to answer when, where, and how He chooses. God expects us to keep on asking, seeking, knocking, and praying until the answers come. Disciples of Jesus are people of persistent faith.

The parable of the persistent widow and unjust judge is similar to the parable of the persistent neighbor found in Luke 11:5–10, another lesson in Jesus’ teachings on prayer. While both parables teach the importance of persistence in prayer, the story of the widow and the judge adds the message of continued faithfulness in prayer.

Jesus presents a final quiz on the matter at the end of the parable of the persistent widow and unjust judge. He asks, “But when the Son of Man returns, how many will He find on the earth who have faith?” Just as Paul stresses in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, continual devotion to prayer should be a way of life. The Lord wants to know if He will find any faithful prayer warriors left on the earth when He returns. Will we be among God’s people still praying at Christ’s second coming, “Your Kingdom come, your will be done?”

Faithful, never-ceasing, persistent prayer is the permanent calling of every true disciple of Christ who is dedicated to living for the Kingdom of God. Like the persistent widow, we are needy, dependent sinners who trust in our gracious, loving, and merciful God alone to supply what we need.

As your Pastor, I would like to stress that everyone is important to God, and His Son Jesus Christ. We at Emmanuel UCC feel the same way about each other and everyone in the community near and far. You are worthy of the love of God and Jesus, and worthy of the love we would like to share with everyone who walks through our doors. Feeling unloved? Unworthy of love? Want to learn more about your own spirituality? Want to get involved in mission near and far? Give Emmanuel UCC a chance. Remember, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

With Agape love, Pastor Lou



## 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. Lisa Ceaser will be taking orders **Sunday, November 3rd** and **Sunday, December 1st**, she will order them and distribute them as they arrive. If you have any question, please see Lisa Ceaser.

## Sunday School News

The Sunday School will be collecting monetary donations for \$5 gift cards to McDonalds. Deadline for donations is **November 24th**. If you wish to make a donation, please see Lisa Rinehimer. Their goal is to be able to purchase 30 gift cards.

The Sunday school will also be collecting women's hats and gloves for Ruth's Place again this year. They are in need of women's hats and gloves. The Sunday School kids will wrap them. **Deadline to donate will be December 6**. Their goal is to collect 30 sets of hats and gloves. Donations can be placed in the designated box in the narthex.

Thank you for supporting the Sunday School's missions.

## UPCOMING DATES

- Dec. 1 Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 15 Christmas Program
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Music and Worship

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### CONSISTORY

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on Thursday, November 21, at 6:30 pm.

### KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The next **Kitchen committee** meeting will be on Friday, November 8, at 9:00 am.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Sunday School children, youth and the chancel choir will be having a Christmas Program on December 15 during our worship service. Please mark this special service on your calendar so you won't miss our Sunday School's heartwarming presentation. **More details TBA in upcoming bulletins and December Newsletter for more information.**

## NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the December Messenger is Wednesday, November 20. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

## Turkey Supper Update

**THANK YOU TO EVERONE WHO MADE THIS A SUCCESSFUL SUPPER!!**

**Give yourselves a pat on the back, you deserve it!**

## 2019 FALL TURKEY SUPPER REPORT

<b>Income:</b>		
<b>Ticket Sales</b>		
<b>Door:</b>		
Tickets: 255 @ \$11.00	\$2805.00	
<b>Advance:</b>		
Tickets: 143 @ \$11.00	\$1573.00	
<b>Surplus</b>	\$152.50	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$4530.50</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Turkeys, Cabbage, Paper Prod., Veggies, Celery, Broth, Eggs (Allen Dennis)	\$1415.50	
Storage Bags & (2) 4 oz Dish (Steve Moyer)	\$34.56	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$1,450.06</b>
<b>TOTAL PROFIT</b>		<b>\$3,080.44</b>

