

The Messenger

February 2020

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2



COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, February 2, during our regular Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 am.

VALENTINES FOR VETS



We are collecting Valentines for the residents of the Veterans Administration Hospital. Our veterans truly appreciate the cards and are grateful that someone remembers them and their sacrifices. There is a box in the bell tower for your cards until **February 2**. Cindy will then take them to the VA for delivery to our veterans.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Consistory Meeting following Worship Service.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

For the past year I have been participating in a new program sponsored by the Penn Northeast Conference called Communities of Practice. Developed by our conference minister, the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, groups of ministers in the conference meet once per month for a few hours. The facilitator of the group decides on the topic which is discussed after a very brief time of worship.

My group

consists of myself, Rev. Dr, Jane Hess pastor of Faith UCC in Hazleton, and Rev. Rick Dennison, former pastor of First United Church of Christ, now retired. It is very helpful to me in discussing ministry with two ministers who have over sixty-five years of pastoral experience between them!

Recently, our

discussion centered around the Serenity Prayer. In its entirety the prayer is as follows: **“God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, the courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.”**

The prayer was written by the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971). Niebuhr used various versions of the prayer widely in sermons as early as 1934. The prayer spread rapidly, often without attribution to Niebuhr, through church groups in the 1930s and 1940s and was adopted and popularized by Alcoholics Anonymous and other twelve-step programs. The Serenity Prayer has appeared in a sermon of Niebuhr's as part of the 1944 *A Book of Prayers and Services for the Armed Forces*, while Niebuhr himself first published it in 1951 in a magazine column. I have known of this prayer for quite a while, yet, discussing it in detail led me to a much better understanding of what it is saying to you and I. We as ministers asked such questions as, “What is Serenity?” “How can we accept things we cannot change?” Where do we garner the courage to change the things we can?”

This was excellent fodder for our discussion. But I won't give you the variety of answers we came up with. I challenge you to think these questions through, and answer them for yourself.

I see this prayer as something we can apply to our spiritual life as well as our daily life. Some questions you might ask yourself is what is the difference between Serenity and Peace? How accepting am I to change? Do we really have the courage to change the things we can? And finally, how do we live this prayer? No answer is incorrect. We are all unique individuals who will view this prayer and these questions from our own perspectives.

In a rapidly changing world, the church is running full steam ahead to catch up. Let this simple prayer them become a mantra as we face change, the courage to change and of course, the wisdom, which comes from God, to know the difference. Peace and Serenity to you, Pastor Lou



Thank You...

Mary Rinehimer would like to thank the Sunday School for the Fruit Basket during the Christmas Season and also an extended Thank You to Lisa Rinehimer for delivering the fruit basket and her extended visit. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

Friends Can Make It Happen Inc. sent us a thank you for all of the donations of new or gently used items for their clothing drive.

The Luzerne Foundation also thanked us for the monetary donation given to support The Edward & Mary Farley-Pane fund.

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the March Messenger is Wednesday, February 19. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

UPCOMING DATES

Mar. 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins

2020 OFFICERS AND CONSISTORY MEMBERS

President..... Harry "Butch" Peters, Sr.
 Vice President..... Lisa Ceaser
 Secretary..... Lisa Ceaser
 Treasurer Chris Dietrich
 Trustees..... Chris Dietrich & Joan Rinehimer

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CONSISTORY

**** The Consistory will be meeting at a NEW TIME and DAY.**

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on **Sunday, February 23** following **10:30 worship service.**

KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The next **Kitchen committee** meeting will be on Friday, February 14, at 9:00 am.

2019 Holiday Sauerkraut Sales

Income:		
Quarts Sold 90 @ \$4.50	\$405.00	
Donations	<u>\$189.00</u>	
Total Income		\$594.00
Expenses:		
Cabbage (Allen Dennis)	<u>\$40.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$40.00
TOTAL PROFIT		\$554.00

2019 Record of Giving

This is a list compiled by our Recording Secretary, Penny Smith, showing a breakdown of our member's offerings by how much they gave for the year. I hope that you will think about where you want your heart to be and the importance of your church in your life as you review this list. Thank you for believing in Emmanuel and our mission as a community of Christ's followers. Recording Secretary, Penny Smith

Amount Given Last Year	Number of Members Who Gave That Amount
0	0
1.00 to 49.00	13
50.00 to 100.00	10
101.00 to 500.00	18
501.00 to 1000.00	12
1001.00 to 2000.00	14
2001.00 to 3000.00	5
3001.00 to 5000.00	2
Over 5,000.00	1