

The Messenger

January 2020

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on January 5 followed by our coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

2020 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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From The Pastor's Desk

Our Advent celebration during December was beautiful! Unfortunately, we missed the first Sunday of Advent as the weather did not comply, but I feel we made it up with three more dynamic worship services. We had families come forward to light the Advent candles of hope, peace, joy and love. On Christmas Eve during our service at 7:30 p.m. we lit the final candle, the Christ candle representing the ushering in of Christ both in our lives and the life of the church. We also had some wonderful music before the service featuring members of Emmanuel's congregation.

Throughout Advent, the writings of the prophet Isaiah assured us that Israel will receive a savior, a king that would lead the people from slavery and bondage to a new life. It is the incarnation of Jesus, the Word made flesh, that leads us from the bondage of sin to a new life in Christ and this is for all people, not only a select few.

Now, the opportunity arises for us to face another year as a faith family. Before us lies a road that is not straight, but contains curves and hills. I can't imagine traveling this road alone. Along this road we will learn more about God, Christ, and ourselves. Perhaps we can even continue to identify with the Holy Word and realize that wow, this was written for me!

Many of us relate the celebration of a new year with resolutions, a firm decision to do or not to do something. These resolutions range from self-change to helping others change, finding the ideal self. I have some personal ones but, I would like to share some resolution I have as a minister at Emmanuel UCC.

For our church: I am going to continue to lead a traditional and dynamic worship service Sunday at 10:30 a.m. My hope is that we continue to learn together more about God and the wonderful works he performs in our lives.

We are going to be treated to some new hymns as we are now in possession of a new projector and are able to place the words on a large screen for all to follow.

The rehearsing of our new praise band (yet to be named), will begin in January. This group will be available for special services throughout the year and give us and others another type of worship experience.

There will be more outreach to our family and friends residing at Smith's nursing home. I am planning to perform a worship service there the last Sunday of every month with communion and would love for anyone from our congregation who can attend this service come along. I surely could use your help!

And for all of us, me included. Tell a friend about Emmanuel UCC. Share with them stories of your church home and invite them to share in the banquet with you. I know I will! I am proud and elated to be working with you and feel we have much to offer as a church.

Finally, I am working toward ordination following the Penn Northeast Conference guidelines. Continuing to write papers and attend classes, there is hope that ordination will occur this year!

So, let's celebrate this New Year with a renewed vision for our church and the world, and let us keep Christmas in our hearts all year long.

Happy New Year from my family to yours, Pastor Lou



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 wish to sponsor.

UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 6 Epiphany

Thank You

The hats, scarfs and gloves and McDonald's Gift Cards 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

Thank You for the Christmas Cards for the Vets

Thank you to everyone who put Christmas cards in the box for the Veterans at the VA. This was the most we have ever seen, and the veterans really appreciate getting the holiday greetings. Cindy Heller

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 2**. Remember those who served.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONSISTORY

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

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on **Sunday, January 26** following **10:30 worship service**.

KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The next **Kitchen committee** meeting will be on Friday, January 10, at 9:00 am.

2019 Scrip Gift Card Profit Report

January	77.25	July	8.80
February	35.50	August	-----
March	-----	September	68.75
April	-----	October	-----
May	61.24	November	40.74
June	19.50	December	89.80

Total Profit: \$401.58

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. Scrip 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; 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?

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

Rowan and Leah Dietrich are shown as students of Michelle Millington presented a Holiday Piano Recital for the Residents of Smith Nursing Home in Mountaintop.

