

# The Messenger

## July 2020

### **SUNDAY, JULY 5** **COMMUNION**

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, July 5, during our regular Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 am. It will be a no contact communion. Wafers and wine will be in disposable cup at the pews.

### **JUNE 27 – JULY 3rd** **OFFICE CLOSED**

The church office will be closed Monday June 29 thru Friday July 3. 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 July 6. Penny.

### **SUNDAY EVENINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST** **OLD RIVER CHURCH WORSHIP**

The Old River Church Cemetery Association has decided to cancel the Vesper Services for the summer of 2020. We are looking forward to resuming services next year.

### **Scrip Card Fundraiser**

Scrip Card Fundraiser orders are collected the 1st Sunday of every month. Order forms can be found on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions or would like to place an order please see Lisa Ceaser.

## Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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## From The Pastor's Desk

Yes, I did look this up! Here are ten bad things to happen in the US this year, in chronological order.

1. January: Over 100 troops are diagnosed with brain injuries; 2. January: Death of Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others; 3. February-June: Wildfires in California; 4. March-April: Tornadoes in the South; 5. May: Murder hornets; 6. January onwards: Most mass shootings in May since 2013; 7. January onward: Coronavirus; 8. May: Worst economic recession since 2008 ... brought on by coronavirus; 9. May-June: George Floyd's death, racism and police violence; 10. May-June: Declining press freedom.

So.. is there any good news this year so far? The answer is yes! Good news happens all the time, but rarely gets reported. It really doesn't sell newspapers or advertising spots. We have to look beyond the media, sometimes just in our own back yard.

I am sure you have heard of the Hope Center. They are a non-profit volunteer organization that has an extensive list of services they provide for those in need. The Hope Center has been behind 2 major food giveaways at Emmanuel UCC as well as other organizations in our community. Carone's market has been instrumental in our first giveaway as well as selling us food for our food pantry at what seems to be even below their cost. There is much more good news to report, and I am sure you have some good news stories of your own.

There is a reason why the Gospels of Jesus Christ are referred to as Good News.

The **Gospel** is **Good News** because it takes **us** from people who are dead in their sins and lost without hope, to people who are loved by God and adopted into His family. That's the **best news** there is! As long as we have the Good News of the Gospels on our side, we know bad news is only temporary and we as Christians have the ways and means to make the bad good again. That is as long as we continue to believe in God and His Sone Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:28 tells us, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." We feel our purpose is being met with each hand that joins us in giving and receiving.

The Bible also tells us in Luke 1:37, "For nothing will be impossible with God." What a powerful statement.

Make this a mantra for your days battling the bad and continue to see the good with every sunrise.

Always praying for you, Pastor Lou



### Old River Church Services

The Old River Church Cemetery Association has cancelled the Old River Church Services scheduled for this summer.

### NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the Messenger is Wednesday, July 22. Please get all information to me before this date.  
Thanks, Penny

# PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

Members of Emmanuel UCC and Mt. Zion are shown hosting a drive-up food give-a-way for those in need on Saturday, May 16 at Emmanuel UCC.

## Food give-a-way held at Emmanuel UCC

Emmanuel UCC and the Wapwallopen Ministerium Food Bank hosted a drive-up food give-a-way for those in need on Saturday, May 16 at Emmanuel UCC.

The prepackaged food bags were put into the cars for a no contact pickup while supplies lasted. There were no questions asked and the event was confidential.

Carone's Market in Mountain Top sponsored the event and donated food, Chapin Farms donated potatoes and the Sons of the American Legion Post 781 and others made donations as well.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

A car pulls up in back of the church to take advantage of the food giveaway.

Emmanuel church member Allen Dennis and other members of the Wapwallopen Ministerium saw a need within the area because of Covid-19 and decided to do something about it. Every-

thing came together nicely for the Saturday event and a big thank you goes out to Carone's Market and all those that donated food and volunteered their time to make the event possible.

# TAKE-OUT HAM DINNER

Emmanuel UCC will be holding a Ham Dinner **Saturday July 18th** from 3-5 pm. Cost is \$10. **This event will be PREORDERS AND TAKE OUT ONLY!! Orders are being taken now until July 11th.** To order please call Joan at 570-574-0626 or the church office at 570-868-5675, leave a message. Due to the pandemic it will be in a drive thru fashion. Menu includes: Ham, mashed potatoes, corn, apple sauce and bread.



Among the 226 Graduates of Crestwood High School Class of 2020, was a very familiar face. **Austin Douglas and Nathan Kamowski** received their diplomas and are now on their way to new futures.



**Austin Douglas**



**Nathan Kamowski**