

# ECHOES

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GREENAWALDS

**JUNE 2018**

June is often the month of change from work or school routines, a change to outdoor activities, picnics, weddings and graduation celebrations. There are also changes in the church calendar for worship.

## *Summer Worship*

*9:30 AM*

*begins June 17*



Thank you to all who participated in the voting process for summer worship. The majority preferred that summer service be held at 9:30 am, beginning Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.



<b><u>SUNDAY, June 3</u></b> Holy Communion	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
<b><u>SUNDAY, June 10</u></b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
<b><u>SUNDAY, June 17</u></b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
<b><u>SUNDAY, June 24</u></b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>

**Hospitality for Fellowship time is one half hour prior to worship service.**

## **Fostering Church Vitality**

### **A note from the pastor – as the program year ends – looking to the future**

Since beginning my ministry here I have been observing how UCC Greenawalds does church. I have noticed that there is much to celebrate. I see a genuinely friendly and welcoming faith community committed to supporting one another in prayer and making a difference in the world by work and mission giving in the community and the world. I have also noted questions that are being posed that imagine what the church might become in the near and distant future.

#### **The Questions**

What is our mission? Why do we exist? What is God calling us to be and do?

What can we foresee on the horizon and how can we be flexible in a time of so much change?

Might we look at our bylaws, perhaps revise structures of boards and committees?

What are the best use of our resources for mission, outreach, and meeting budgetary obligations?

How do we create lively and joyful worship that is authentic in various seasons of faith?

How do we support people who are tired, who have continued past the usual term of office?

How do we invite other folks to step up and prepare them for leadership?

#### **The Opportunity – Vitality Days for the PNEC with Michael Piazza of Agile Church**

Early this year I was invited to become a part of a new working group of the Penn Northeast Conference. The PNEC Congregational Vitality Team was convened to address questions such as those listed above. Ours is not the only church facing these issues, and there are resources available to us. Over the past several decades churches have experienced dramatic changes in membership and patterns of attendance. But the era of the church as central gathering place for most or all community activities is long past. As a result churches are looking to redefine their place and role in society while living into the call of following Jesus individually and in community.

Michael Piazza spoke to those in attendance at the PNEC annual meeting. He is energetic, dynamic, and has led churches he served in the work of revitalization. Daylong workshops he leads will explore needs and offer tools for addressing them in the local church.

Session 1 - [Transformational Worship](#) - September 22, 2018

Session 2 - [Structure and Stewardship](#) - November 10, 2018

Session 3 - [Craft Church Evangelism](#) - March 23, 2019

Session 4 - [Vintage Church Renewal](#) - May 18, 2019

Participating congregations will send up to 10 representatives to each of the four daylong workshops. Participants may be the same for all workshops or may differ based on skills, congregational roles or experience, and interest. I would suggest a bit of both, some who attend all sessions and some who attend one or more based on their particular passion for church life and ministry.

#### **Volunteers Needed – We Need You!!**

**We need representation from a broad spectrum of church members!**

**Is there a particular ministry of the church you would like to explore and support?**

**Please speak to a member of the Ministry Council or to me.**

#### **Details**

In the near future members of the congregation will be asked to help in completing a brief congregational assessment tool. And yes, there is a cost to the congregation, but considering the value it is nominal. A total of \$1,000 will be paid by the church, half of it covered by the pastor's continuing education funds, as I see the workshops as essential to my ministry with you. Additionally, there will be a small cost for the catered lunch each day.

Next week I will attend training as a coach for churches involved in similar work. Over the summer I will be reading a variety of books that address church vitality. I believe this is work essential for the survival and flourishing of this and other faith communities. I will be talking and learning with and from others who are leading their churches into this new era of Christian work and witness.

In times of change it is common for people to be fearful, to long for stability, to ask: What shall we do? What is next? Will we survive? The prophet Isaiah had words for just such a time:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.

“Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland.  
The wild animals honor me,  
the jackals and the owls,  
because I provide water in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland,  
to give drink to my people, my chosen,  
the people I formed for myself  
that they may proclaim my praise.

Let us together see and discern what it is that God is doing among us.

***Pastor Judy***

**Breakfast with Pastor Judy on Sunday, June 24 at 9:00 in the kitchen.** Invitations have been sent, but there are still a few spots open to join Pastor Judy for breakfast on Sunday mornings. If you would like to attend this “get-to-know-you- better” breakfast meeting, please call Pastor Judy on her cell phone at 484-705-5710.



### **On Our Hearts with Concern**

Mary Christman – Devon House  
Robert & Dorothy Foulds – at home  
Phyllis Meckes – Blue Mountain Nursing & Rehab  
Doris Nissen – at home

Michael Saeger – at home  
Naomi Thomas – at home  
Bernice Ziegler – Country Meadows

## **Rededication of Fellowship Hall Pentecost – May 20, 2018**

Generous God, we give thanks for this church and the places in which we gather. Our lives and community have been blessed throughout the years by our forebears in faith who envisioned this space as part of the life and mission of this church. For all in generations past and those today who build up the beloved community by gathering and working together here.

**We give you thanks and ask a blessing for their work.**

For those who created and renew this space with wood, glass, and concrete blocks; with hammer, nails, flooring and varnish; with paint, brushes, fabric, and thread making a place of function and beauty.

**We give you thanks and ask a blessing for their work.**

For teachers, musicians, and pastors who make of this a sacred space in Sunday school and vacation bible school with stories, poetry, and song; in worship, prayer, and communion; with dramatic readings and plays; with paper, markers, and crayons learning about life and God.

**We give you thanks and ask a blessing for their work.**

For those who grew up here, boy and girl scouts and their leaders, who bring joy in planning programs, projects, and campouts while practicing skills and activities that will inform their lives for years to come.

**We give you thanks and ask a blessing for their work.**

For those who nurture families with family gatherings to mark life's beginning and its end with parties, reunions, and funeral receptions celebrating joys, honoring the departed, comforting the bereaved.

**We give you thanks and ask a blessing for their work.**

For planners, decorators, cooks, and cleanup crews who bring community with breakfasts and penny parties, with games and talent shows making a welcome place where friendships are built and renewed.

**We give you thanks and ask a blessing for their work.**

For youth and adults who bring their visions with fundraisers rocking the night away, and with workers sharing mission experiences, inviting others to contribute to the work of compassion. And for committees planning for tomorrow bringing homeless families to this space with other churches as partners.

**We give you thanks and ask a blessing for their work.**

**And so, today we people of faith see this as holy space enlivened and inspired by the past with hope for the future in study and worship, in communion and prayer, in fellowship and service. O God, we rededicate this space to the mission, plans, and future dreams of this community of faith. As we have been blessed so lead and guide us in your vision of abundant life to share what we have received. We dedicate our whole selves; our talents and treasure, our body, mind, and spirit, to your work in this place. Amen.**

**Thank you to Pastor Judy for her creativity in the service and in the writing of this Litany.**

**An Invitation to Contribute:** You are invited and encouraged to contribute to the work of the renovation of Fellowship Hall with a special offering. We are working to repay the remaining cost of the new flooring. Envelopes are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Your gift is greatly appreciated.



**Congratulations to all Graduates, who celebrate their accomplishments and enter into a new beginning to the next venture in their lives. Best Wishes especially to those in our church family!**

**Brianna Holtzer, daughter of Ray & Sue Borger will graduate from Whitehall High School on Monday, June 4. Bri plans to attend DeSales University in the fall, pursuing a degree in Elementary Education, with a secondary in Special Education. Congratulations, Bri!**

### **New Members and Covenant**

Please join us Sunday, July 1 as we welcome Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates and her husband, Steve Vulcheff, as members of UCC Greenawalds. Steve is retired from the University of Cincinnati. We receive Bonnie and Steve with joy and thanksgiving.

Bonnie's work as our conference minister most often takes her to one or another of our sister congregations on Sundays. Yet the United Church of Christ believes all work of ministry in the church originates in the local setting. It is for this reason that Bonnie searched for a congregation that would welcome her into the life of their church and pray for her work in conference leadership. The Ministry Council met with Bonnie in May and entered into a 4-way covenant that will support and hold accountable Bonnie, the conference both as her employer and as holder of her standing as an ordained minister, and the congregation. Please come and be part of this day of celebration.

### **Love of Neighbor... FISH MEALS are back!!**

Sue Sawyer has agreed to lead a team of UCC Greenawalds members who are willing to make and deliver meals and/or basic groceries to other members needing short term meal assistance due to illness, injury or family circumstance.

#### **To be a Fish Meal Volunteer**

Sue will collect the names of volunteers and organize based on availability and meal needs. You will be provided with name, contact information, allergies, preferences, and type of meal needed. Please contact Sue Sawyer (610 395-1571) if you are willing and able to assist.

#### **To Request a Fish Meal**

Requests for meals or basic groceries can be made through Sue Sawyer (610 395-1571), the church office (610 435-1763), or Pastor Judy (484 705-5710). The team leader will contact the member to obtain specific information of needs and organize the Fish Team according to availability.

*My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

*(Philippians 4:19)*



## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM MINISTRY COUNCIL: May 10, 2018**

*Next meeting June 9th*

- Devotions provided by Janine Hensinger, Speaking Truth with Love, Matthew 22:34-39
- Ministry Council offering given to UCC Disaster Ministries
- Special Guest: Rev. Bonnie Bates spoke with MC regarding the 4-way Covenant for her membership in a local church and also topic of Vitality Training
- Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports accepted with general discussion
- MC could not approve April Minutes or April financial reports due to lack of quorum
- New and different selection of reports provided by Joyce
- Final 1/3 of Bylaws review postponed until next meeting
- Plan of action reviewed for May action on the rental situation
- Reviewed additional use of building rental opportunities with Harvest Baptist Church, Piano Guild, and Moms Demand Action
- Safety Task Force additional work pending
- Music & Worship conducting vote on Summer Hours; report submitted
- Pastoral Relations met to review bylaw description and review committee model
- Pastor's Report - Special Pentecost service on May 20<sup>th</sup>, Sermon Series, Breakfast with the Pastor this summer, report on May continuing education, Congregational Vitality, vacation reminder for July
- Property had no report entered
- Social report submitted reminding us of Iron Pigs night, July 27<sup>th</sup>
- Christian Ed Report submitted recapping Sunday School program
- Employee Relations reported Custodian performance review
- Mission Committee is a continuation of last month's report; discussion regarding our assistance with Parkland sisters in need
- MC took the Church Assessment survey; to be distributed to entire congregation
- Cornerstone decision was to continue with line of credit in spite of costs
- Recap of Piano Recital use of building



**COME ON OUT TO COCA COLA PARK!**

**Friday, July 27, 2018 - 7:05 P.M.**

**Columbus Clippers vs. Lehigh Valley IronPigs**



We've reserved a block of seats for the IronPigs game on Friday, July 27, for UCCG (same section as last couple of years). Tickets are \$11 each and include a \$2 food/beverage credit. Fireworks included! **Deadline to order is Sunday, June 17.** Contact Sandy Lakatosh, 610.570.3421, [sjlakatosh@rcn.com](mailto:sjlakatosh@rcn.com), to reserve your tickets.



**Fresh and Delicious Blueberries**

***Eat your heart out while paying for Fellowship Hall Flooring!***

***And think of all the healthy antioxidants you get as a bonus!***

**Orders for Fresh Blueberries are being taken now!**

***Purchase direct from Whelan Farms, a New Jersey grower***

***The cost is \$30 for a 10 lb. box, payable at time of order.***

**Delivery date is Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Pick up your order at UCCG 4:00 – 6:00 pm**

***Deadline to place orders is June 24th***

*We are partnering in this project with Solomon’s UCC in Macungie. While 10 lbs. seem like a lot of blueberries, remember that blueberries freeze well, so you may need several boxes. You may also wish to share a box with family or friends.*

***\*Please place your order using the form below and deposit in the offering plate.***

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

QTY. (10 LB. BOX)	Cost: \$30.00/BOX	TOTAL	PAID
_____		_____	_____

Payment required at time of order. Check payable to UCC Greenawalds, marked Blueberries.

Deadline for orders is June 24<sup>th</sup>



## God's Work, Our Hands



### Cleanup Buckets & Hygiene Kits for Church World Service

Spring is a great time for cleanup, but when there is a disaster, the season to clean is immediately! Our church has been an active provider for Cleanup Buckets and Hygiene Kits to be shipped by Church World Service for people needing supplies when disaster strikes. As we approach another hurricane season, **our second offerings in May and June will purchase supplies to fill clean up buckets and hygiene kits.**

### **Packing Day is Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup> - 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall**

*Mission team will be purchasing the supplies, but extra hands are needed to help pack! Just come on June 28<sup>th</sup> to join in the fun to get the job done!*

**3 GREAT LOVES**



**LOVE OF NEIGHBOR!**



### **Is anyone interested in the experience of a mission trip?**

We are planning another Work Camp to West Virginia in September or October 2018! There has been continuing interest by some mission trip participants to do this again! Since our generous congregation has been very supportive of our last mission trip, we are fortunate to travel for a mission work camp another time, with little cost to the volunteer workers.

### **Mission Trip Information Meeting - Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm in Conference Room**

We have been in contact with the Volunteer Coordinator for VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) in the West Virginia region and need to pick a date for travel and determine the number of people in our group. Please contact Donna or Grant Field if interested, 610-395-0821.

## **Church Bulletin Bloopers**

Bring your appetites to the annual all-church rot dog roast. Utensils and charcoal provided.





UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**URGENT HELP NEEDED FOR PUERTO RICO**

**Work teams needed in response to 2017 hurricanes starting June 1, 2018**

- ⇒ Organize a group of up to 15 volunteers and come ready to work and accompany the people of Puerto Rico. (Minimum age 16 years old.)
- ⇒ Help clean up and repair homes and church properties.
- ⇒ Anticipated work sites will be in the municipalities of Toa Baja, Ciales, and Humacao.

**To schedule your group, email: [uccdisaster.puertorico@gmail.com](mailto:uccdisaster.puertorico@gmail.com)**



Disaster Ministries  
United Church of Christ  
[www.ucc.org/disaster\\_puerto\\_rico](http://www.ucc.org/disaster_puerto_rico)



## Highlights of the May Core Meeting

- Jim Byrnes, former CEO of Allentown Rescue Mission, has been hired as Acting Director.
- Day Center Committee is searching very diligently for a suitable location. There are 13 host churches signed on.
- Fundraising Committee continues to promote a variety of activities at various locations. Anyone is welcome to help.
  1. Awareness Luncheon – June 9<sup>th</sup> at Jordan UCC 11 am – 1 pm to invite community minded individuals and business owners to be aware and become involved in the work of Family Promise.
  2. Iron Pigs is offering \$8 per hour donation for FP to anyone working in the refreshment stands during games. Please use Sign-up Genius to do this or contact Sue Roth for assistance.
  3. Celtic Fest - September 28-30, handing out wipes and soliciting donations.
  4. Gift Card Bingo – September 30<sup>th</sup> at St. Johns Laurys Station.
  5. Boscov's Days – October 16 selling discount coupons
  6. Thrivent members can donate Choice Dollars to Family Promise LC.
  7. Amazon – when shopping on Amazon.com please use Amazon Smile and designate to FPLC; Family Promise receives .5% of qualifying purchases.



## **YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING PEACE – SUMMER DAY CAMP!**

**July 23-27, 2018 9 am to Noon**

**First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Crest Blvd & Tilghman St., Allentown**

**Children ages 5-14**

*Stories, songs, games, crafts and learning on the broad topic of peace and justice*

*Peace Training for those who completed 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

*Sliding Fee: \$10-40 per child per week*

*Sponsored by Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern*

**Call 610-691-8730 for information and registration or [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)**



**Ladies in Faith Together**

***Annual Mini-Golf Outing - June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm***

*Spring Hill Miniature Golf, Sand Spring Road in Schnecksville*



**Women's Guild Summer Picnic**

**June 27<sup>th</sup> – 10:00**

***Covered Dish Luncheon at Dolly Smith's house***

Thank You from the ladies of the Women's Guild for your Chow-Chow orders! We will be making it again in September and October. Watch for sign-up sheet.

If you wish to recycle the pint jars, there is a basket in the Narthex to deposit them. (please do not leave jars in the kitchen and other places in the church)



**The large metal scissors used for table covering is missing from the kitchen!** It can be identified as WISS brand, black handle, marked "Kitchen" on the blade. If you have used it and know where it is, or found it, please return to the supply tray on the kitchen counter. Thank you!

### **Volunteers Needed**

**We are in need of Lay Readers, Greeters and Hospitality Hosts in order to continue our tradition of lay person involvement. If you are able to help in any of these areas, please use the sign-up charts on the Narthex bulletin board or contact Sue in the church office to offer your services.**

## FROM PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

### NOTICE TO ALL...

The Penn Northeast Conference Resource Center has ceased to exist over the last few years. There are many resources at the Conference Office that are free for the taking. If you would like to come and browse, please let us know, or if you are at the Office for a meeting, feel free to fill a box or two!

### PNEC Spiritual Renewal Partners Spring Retreat

June 23

9AM to 3PM at Jordan UCC, Allentown

No matter how strong our faith is there is so much happening in the world today that sometimes it can give us a sense of discouragement. **Join the PNEC Spiritual Renewal Partners on June 23, 2018 for a day long retreat: Rooted and Grounded in Love: Nothing Can Separate us from the Love of God** which will strive to turn whatever despair or discouragement you might be feeling into a renewed sense of hope. It is time to be uplifted! Discover your "roots" again in Christ. Because we are rooted and grounded in love. Be strengthened by the scriptures, quiet times of reflection and prayer, small group discussions and fellowship. **The day begins at 9:00am and will close with Holy Communion by 3:00pm. Bring your own bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Beverages will be provided. Location: Jordan United Church of Christ, 1837 Church Road, Allentown. Click on [pniec.org](http://pniec.org) for Registration Flyer.**



***Have you ever thought about this?***

***Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark!  
(But the Woodpeckers might have to go)***

1. *Don't miss the boat.*
2. *Remember that we are all in the same boat.*
3. *Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.*
4. *Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, you may be asked to do something really big.*
5. *Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.*
6. *Build your future on high ground.*
7. *For safety sake, travel in pairs.*
8. *Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.*
9. *When you're stressed, float awhile.*
10. *Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.*
11. *No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.*



**Summer is here – enjoy the outdoors!  
Sunscreen, a hat, and more Vitamin D!**

June 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offering for Church World Service School Kits</b>					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:00 AM – Christian Formation 10:00 AM – Hospitality 10:30 AM – Worship with Holy Communion	<b>4</b> Nursery School Camporee	<b>5</b> Nursery School Camporee	<b>6</b> Nursery School Camporee	<b>7</b> Nursery School Camporee  7:00 PM – Nursery School Board meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10:00 AM – Hospitality 10:30 AM - Worship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM – Music & Worship	<b>13</b> 9:00 – 3:00 PM – Quilters  6:00 PM – LIFT group Miniature Golf Outing	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM Ministry Council	<b>15</b> 4:00 – 10:00 PM – private rental of Fellowship Hall	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 AM – Summer Worship hour begins  Deadline to order IronPigs tickets	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 – 3:00 PM - Quilters	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 AM – Worship 7:00 pm – Mission Trip Meeting in Conf Room  Deadline to order Blueberries	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 – 3:00 PM - Quilters	<b>28</b> 4-6 pm Blueberry Pickup in FH  6:30 pm Packing Night for Buckets & Hygiene Kits in FH	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

ECHOES is a monthly publication of United Church of Christ, Greenawalds

Members, committee chairpersons leading a group and anyone with pertinent information are encouraged to submit information and upcoming events. Submit news by email to the church office at [churchoffice@uccgreenawalds.org](mailto:churchoffice@uccgreenawalds.org) or to Donna Field [dgfield67@yahoo.com](mailto:dgfield67@yahoo.com).



## **OUR STAFF**

Pastor Judy Brandon	484-705-5710 cell
<a href="mailto:pastorjudy.ucc@gmail.com">pastorjudy.ucc@gmail.com</a>	610-391-1078 home
Church Office/Main Phone	610-435-1763
Michael Huffman, Director of Music Ministry	610-433-6563 home
Susan Borger, Church Secretary	484-695-7954 cell
Robert “Sonny” Rinker, Custodian	484-524-2070
Nursery School	610-435-5467

[churchoffice@uccgreenawalds.org](mailto:churchoffice@uccgreenawalds.org)      FAX 610-435-0988

**Pastor Judy is usually in the office Monday – Thursday**  
She can be reached by phone anytime for emergencies or appointments.

**Church Secretary Office Hours are Wednesday & Thursdays, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
Volunteers are available in the office Tuesday & Friday mornings.

Hospital Code #439

### **Sponsorship Needed for the Echoes**

Communication to our members is an important part of our ministry. If you cannot attend church regularly, or do not use a computer, you can remain connected with the news, our mission and upcoming activities through this newsletter.

Sponsors for the Echoes help to support the ministry of UCC Greenawalds to all members. Please contact the church office at 610-435-1763 if you would like to sponsor the publication of the Echoes during a particular month in the year. You may also sign the chart in the Narthex, including your dedication information.

We offer 3 sponsorships per month. Cost is \$15.00 per sponsorship.