

ECHOES

JANUARY 2019

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GREENAWALDS

NEW YEAR TO ALL!



Unknown

Each New Year, we have before us a brand new book containing 365 blank pages. Let us fill them with all the forgotten things from last year—the words we forgot to say, the love we forgot to show, and the charity we forgot to offer.

Peggy Toney Horton

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.

Gilbert K. Chesterton

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

As we begin a New Year, let's discard what was jaded. Let's put on in its place, the beautiful garments of Faith, Hope and Love.

Anusha Atukorala

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*I am grateful for all that this year has given me, including the lessons it has given to my soul.
This year I will be kinder and more compassionate to myself and to all beings.*

I will stop being so hard on me.

I will laugh more.

I will unplug more.

I will shift into my heart more.

I will make the time to connect to the Divine and feed my spirit.

I will let go of the small stuff.

I will surround myself with uplifting people and activities.

This is my truth and so it is. Amen.

Eileen Anglin



| | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| <u>SUNDAY, January 6</u> Epiphany Sunday w/Holy Communion | 10:30 AM | WORSHIP |
| <u>SUNDAY, January 13</u> | 10:30 AM | WORSHIP |
| <u>SUNDAY, January 20</u> Martin Luther King Remembrance | 10:30 AM | WORSHIP |
| <u>SUNDAY, January 27</u> Congregational Meeting | 10:30 AM | WORSHIP |

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

Lay Readers, Greeters and Hospitality Hosts

New signup charts for 2019 have been posted for Lay Readers, Greeters and Hospitality Hosts for the coming months. If you are able to help in any of these areas, please sign the charts on the Narthex bulletin board.

Sponsorships Available

Sponsor charts for Altar Flowers (\$35.00), Bulletins (\$15.00) and Echoes (\$15.00) are also posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Feel free to put your signature on the chart and payment in the offering plate.

Thank you to everyone for your commitment and dedication!



On Our Hearts with Concern

- | | |
|--|---|
| Mary Christman – Lehigh Center Rehab | Doris Nissen – at home |
| Robert & Dorothy Foulds – at home | Doris Shaver – Heather Glen Senior Living |
| Phyllis Meckes – Blue Mountain Nursing/Rehab | Naomi Thomas – at home |
| | Bernice Ziegler – Country Meadows |

In Sympathy

To Jerre Hebig, Anna Rosamilia and family on the passing of Jerre’s wife, Phyllis Hebig, on Monday, December 17, 2018 at the age of 91

To Randy Seyler and Chris Gilmore and family on the passing of Randy’s mother, Nareetah Seyler on December 28, 2018 at the age of 90

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From Randy Seyler: Thank you to all for your prayers, concerns and gifts. I know there are many prayers coming my way and am confident recovery will go well. I have been a member of several churches in the past, and this one is truly more than a place to go to worship. This congregation is family, and I love that and am also proud to be a part of that. Thanks again.

Love from Mary Helfrich: I want to thank everyone for the prayers, get well and Christmas cards and especially to the Fish Group for the meals. I really appreciate it all.

From the Pastor

Merry Christmas! Yes, it is still Christmas. In the Christian tradition, the celebration of Jesus' birth extends beyond the one day to the festival of the Epiphany on January 6. That is the day when we celebrate the visit of the wise ones with the infant Jesus. It is a day for us to consider how we are led to Jesus and imagine what we can give of ourselves as offering. In essence, it is a day for dedicating ourselves to the journey of faith in the year ahead.

Last year at Epiphany I introduced the new idea of having receiving a star word for reflection throughout the year. **Star Words** are an Epiphany tradition that has been spreading over the last couple decades as a tool to guide the faith journeys of Christians in this country and beyond. It has been championed by RevGalBlogPal Marci Glass and many others.

I have been following this star words practice for several years. This year I received the word healing. Healing has been such an important concept in my life and my life's work. From a very early age I knew I wanted to dedicate myself to being present with people in times of illness and brokenness. That has meant working as a nurse, chaplain, and pastor. Yet, like others, I also have been in need of healing, and as this year ends I am grateful for the healing the year has brought.

I celebrate one relationship healed and flourishing, another clearly on the mend. And there's more. You see, I am one of those who often find it hard to celebrate in December. Many of my personal griefs have anniversaries during the holiday season. But this year was different, there was hope and vitality. Perhaps it was being in a new place. Perhaps it was because several of you came to me to remember someone they knew was hurting during the holiday season, and you were willing to help share their burden. Perhaps it was hearing the stories of some who dared to be vulnerable with their own stories of sadness. Perhaps it was finding new ways to celebrate, like dedicating the singing of the Hallelujah from the Messiah: A Soulful Celebration to the one who taught me to sing. I believe it was all of the above.....and it was the openness of my heart created by my word for the year.

I look forward to what possibilities my word for 2019 will bring. I invite you to come to worship this Sunday. Choose your word intentionally or at random. Keep it posted somewhere you will see it often, your refrigerator, your bedroom mirror, the dashboard of your car. Let it guide you through the coming months. If you cannot be with us on Sunday, the stars will be available on the bulletin board throughout January, or let me know and I will select a star for you at random.

Then consider this: *This word, my word, one of many, is just a word. What does it mean? If I reflect on it over the year, is there something in my life that will be made clearer to me? Is this word meant as gift for me, something to receive with gratitude? Is it something that I might find within myself to give away or to inform my actions and relationships?*

Use your Star Word as a reminder to be on the lookout for how God is showing up in your life. May your journey through the new year with your word be a blessing.

January 6, Epiphany Sunday we will also celebrate communion and a new ritual with a wreath and water, *Epiphany: Reflections of Advent Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*. I hope you will be with us for this special festival day in the life of the church.

Pastor Judy



Continuing in the New Year:

Except – 1/15 – Staff Holiday Celebration

Join me Tuesdays at the Parkland Diner for Out of Office Hours. Drop by any time between 12:30 – 2:30 PM for lunch or dessert, coffee or tea. Share what’s on your mind, voice your prayer concerns, respond to Sunday’s sermon, look at next week’s lectionary readings, discuss what’s going on in the community. I look forward to seeing you and finding where the Spirit leads.

Tuesdays

Parkland Diner



UCCG Book Club – Book Club meets the 1st & 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Watch bulletin for info on a start date and new book to peruse for the winter.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Griffith at 610-435-9901 or email at kgriff5@ptd.net.



Ladies in Faith Together – Breakfast Planning Meeting
Saturday, January 19, 2019 – 10:00 am at church

Join us for fellowship and new ideas for the coming year!
(open to all women of the congregation)



Women’s Guild meets January 30th at 11:00 am
Regular Meeting



The Lost and Found Box contains 4 umbrellas and a tan shawl

If any of these items could be yours, please check the gray bin in the Christian Ed entrance.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MINISTRY COUNCIL: December 13, 2018

Next Meeting January 10th – 7:00 pm

- Christmas Devotions were provided by Pastor Judy
- Ministry Council offering donated to Jubilee Breakfast Ministry
- Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports accepted with general discussion. Bill Tree will be put back up. Ministry Council made decision to allow Joyce to pay unpaid bills through the remainder of the calendar year.
- Congregational Meeting date set for Jan. 27th
- Reminder that Annual Reports are due to Sue by Dec. 15th
- Pastor Judy provided an update on Family Promise
- Discussion regarding the need for increased revenue in 2019: Rental opportunities, expanding E-giving, reviewing member giving levels, low-maintenance fund raisers; permission given to send letters to membership regarding E-giving and giving levels.
- Janet reported on the upcoming Youth Night plans Dec. 15th
- 6 Ministry Council members leaving at the end of January; much discussion regarding changing the model of MC
- Finance & Budget and Property - no reports
- Employee Relations - discussion with custodian scheduled for next week
- Christian Ed - Carla's report shared, update on classes and the confirmation class
- Mission Team - Janine shared report, Food Bank update, Bethany project, support of April Puerto Rico Mission trip, outline of 2nd offerings
- Music & Worship - Ben reviewed report, Advent season decorating
- Pastoral Relations - Jayne shared that Marie Harris would be replacing her as PR chairperson
- Pastor's Report - recap of Vitality Training, worship planning, book club, continuing Tuesdays at Parkland Diner, Family Promise board member
- Small Dining Groups will be re-shuffled for February
- White Elephant Gift exchange

➤ ***Annual Congregational Meeting is January 27th***

CONCERNS FROM MINISTRY COUNCIL FOR 2019

The following Ministry Council positions are open and available:

Vice Moderator/Employee Relations
Financial Secretary
Recording Secretary
Christian Education
Music & Worship

Evangelism, Social, Stewardship and Nominations have all been vacant seats this year according to our present operating structure. Numerous people have been asked and declined to serve.

This is an open invitation to all members to help solve the dilemma for conducting business in the coming year. Possible reorganization may take place but we currently need members to actively make important decisions. Please prayerfully consider how you could serve in a leadership position for your church. Questions may be directed to Mark Griffith.

God's Work, Our Hands
Mission Ministry

3 GREAT LOVES



LOVE OF NEIGHBOR!

Thank you for supporting "Bethany Children's Home Christmas Wish List"

Our generous congregation supported Bethany Children's Home to make it a joyous Christmas for the children who reside there. Janine Hensinger delivered the gifts that included games, umbrellas, gift cards and much more. Pastor Judy and the Mission Team will be planning a visit and tour the facility at some time in the near future. We will announce the date so that anyone interested is welcome to come along. Our church has supported Bethany Children's Home with our offerings for many years.



Help Needed at the Day Center on Weekends and Holidays...YES, Family Promise is alive!

Although the doors were not open for the UCCG Host Week in November, Family Promise has several families actively engaged in the program, churches are hosting with warmth and food, and the Day Center at 1346 Hamilton St. Allentown, is completing its renovation and now open 7 days a week.

We are a volunteer-driven organization and love our volunteers. We have many different ways for you to volunteer with us. Check out how you can help and let us know at info@FPLehighValley.org.

Drivers - Weekend Volunteers – Congregation Help – Events – Fundraisers – Committees – Special Skill or Talent

Our First Gala Event is Saturday, March 30 at St. Joseph the Worker Church

Please mark your calendar for this amazing event! It will include a special program about Family Promise, silent auction, live auction, scrumptious food and wonderful fellowship with folks in the Valley who are helping our homeless children and their families. This will be a Spring event you won't want to miss.

- Excerpts from the December FP newsletter

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Jubilee Breakfast Ministry - as cold winter weather is here, we are reminded of those in our community who are homeless, use the warming center, and need the meals provided by this important ministry. There is a need for many volunteers to prepare and serve the food every Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the winter months at Zion UCC, Allentown. Linda and Charlie Roeder are coordinating a team of volunteers from UCCG who can help at these breakfasts monthly. Please prayerfully consider helping those less fortunate. Thank you!

Allentown Warming Center now meets at the YM/YWCA building

You may remember news articles concerning the closing of the Warming Center in center city Allentown last year. Lehigh County Conference of Churches searched for an appropriate place so that the homeless in the city could have shelter from the cold in winter. A generous donor has given sufficient funds to provide shelter at the Y building this year, with additional donors needed to continue the program.

The Jubilee Breakfast Ministry compliments the Warming Center in providing breakfast since soup kitchens are only open later in the day.

Our Second Offering on January 13 & 27 will be designated for supplies at the Allentown Warming Center.



Volunteers Are Needed:

To assist with snow removal in the event of snowfall – under 4” of snow. The areas to be shoveled would be limited to:

- Handicap ramp
- Steps and landings of the church and Sunday School entrances
- Sidewalk beginning at the parking lot and ending at the corner of the old building by the Sunday school entrance windows
- Ramp to Fellowship Hall entrance

Please contact the church office or Grant Field if you are able to help. Thank you.

Inviting you, family and friends to join us for



PASTA NITE

Saturday, January 26, 2019 - 4:30 – 7:00 pm

Menu: *Variety of Pasta, Variety of Sauces, Meatballs, Salad, Rolls, Dessert and Drinks*

Cost: *\$10.00 Adult, \$5.00 Children 4-10, Free - under 4 years*

*Proceeds will benefit Family Promise of Lehigh Valley
UCCG February Host Week*

Willing Workers Needed – Please Sign Chart on the Narthex Bulletin Board



ANNUAL PENNY PARTY
Saturday, February 23, 2019

Light Supper at 5:00 pm - Game begins at 6:00 pm
Bid and win items – fast moving and fun

Cost: \$1.00 to purchase a box of numbers
Bring your pennies to play.
Come for an evening of fun!

A Donation Box will be in the Christian Education entrance for month of January.
Items should be new or “like new” and something that you would want to win!
(Christmas Re-Gifts accepted)

Examples of donations: books, CDs, movies, household items, consumable goods, food and snacks, things kids like, games, funny stuff, jewelry and accessories, tools, plants, and handmade goods.

Willing Workers needed – please sign Chart on the Narthex Bulletin Board

This is a major fundraiser for the church that attracts people from the community. Your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you.



WE NEED YOUR HELP – We’re now into the year 2019, and it’s time to rerun this blurb about our community Easter Egg Hunt, which is **tentatively** scheduled for Saturday, April 13 at 1:00 pm, with a Rain Date of Sunday, April 14 (Palm Sunday). Sheri and Lee Stephens (who normally manage, set-up, and clean-up for this event) will be out of town for the Egg Hunt. **We are looking for a few volunteers to “run” the egg hunt this year – Sheri, with help from the Boy Scouts, will have everything ready and provide detailed instructions.** We would hate to cancel the egg hunt this year, because last year’s event was cancelled due to the snowy weather. Please consider helping for the 2019 Egg Hunt. If you would like more information, please contact Sheri at 610-442-3176. Thank you for all you do!



Happiness



is letting go of what you assume your life is supposed to be like right now and sincerely appreciating it for everything that is. At the end of this day, before you close your eyes, smile and be at peace with where you’ve been and grateful for what you have. Life is good.
Angel Chernoff



January 2019

| January 2019 | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|-----------|---|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | 1 New Year's Day | 2 7:00 PM – Cub Scout Committee meeting | 3 | 4 | 5 6:00 PM – Cub Scouts Pack meeting – Bake-Off |
| 6 9:00 AM – Sunday School 9:30 AM – Choir 10:00 AM – Hospitality 10:30 AM – Worship with Holy Communion 12-5 – Private Rental Fellowship Hall | 7 7:00 – 8:30 PM – Boy Scouts | 8 6:30 – 8:00 PM – Cub Scouts | 9 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Quilting Chicks | 10 7:00 PM – Ministry Council | 11 | 12 12-8:00 pm Private Rental Fellowship Hall |
| 13 9:00 AM – Sunday School 9:30 AM – Choir 10:00 AM – Hospitality 10:30 AM - Worship | 14 7:00 – 8:30 PM – Boy Scouts | 15 6:30 – 8:00 PM – Cub Scouts | 16 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Quilting Chicks | 17 | 18 | 19 10:00 am LIFT Group Breakfast Planning Meeting (at UCCG) |
| 20 9:00 AM – Sunday School 9:30 AM – Choir 10:00 AM – Hospitality 10:30 AM - Worship | 21 Martin Luther King Jr. 7:00 – 8:30 PM – Boy Scouts | 22 6:30 – 8:00 PM – Cub Scouts | 23 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Quilting Chicks | 24 | 25 | 26 4:30 – 7:00 PM – Pasta Dinner to benefit Family Promise |
| 27 9:00 AM – Sunday School 9:30 AM – Choir 10:00 AM – Hospitality 10:30 AM - Worship | 28 7:00 – 8:30 PM – Boy Scouts | 29 6:30 – 8:00 PM – Cub Scouts (Pinewood Derby pre-weigh in) | 30 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Quilting Chicks 11:00 AM – Women's Guild | 31 9:30 – 1:30 PM – Soup Kitchen (Alliance Hall) – volunteers needed | | |



OUR STAFF

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Pastor Judy Brandon | 484-705-5710 cell |
| pastorjudy.ucc@gmail.com | 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 | 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

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 or to Donna Field dgfield67@yahoo.com.

Sponsorship Needed for 2019 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. You may sign the chart in the Narthex, including your dedication information.

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