

ECHOES

FEBRUARY 2019

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GREENAWALDS



**“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.
This is the first and greatest commandment.”**

Deuteronomy 6:5

A second is equally important: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Leviticus 19:18

Perfect Love

Perfect Love. What’s that?

Love that never complains when asked to forgive the hurts inflicted with intention?

Or love that keeps its mouth shut when feelings are wounded and left to bleed?

Or love that locks the door of the heart because there is no room for more pain and sorrow?

No! These are not perfect, and they are not love.

Perfect love is love that says “forgive them” when we do not even know what we have done and when we do.

Perfect love is love that bleeds and seeps into the crevices of splintered wood.

Perfect love is love that offers open arms and only asks that we find room in the inn of our soul.

Kathleen Long Bostrom
- “Finding Calm in the Chaos”



<u>SUNDAY, February 3</u> Holy Communion Scout Sunday	10:30 AM	WORSHIP
<u>SUNDAY, February 10</u>	10:30 AM	WORSHIP
<u>SUNDAY, February 17</u>	10:30 AM	WORSHIP
<u>SUNDAY, February 24</u>	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 |

From the Pastor – Lent and “Newness”

It is unusual to look at the church calendar for February without seeing Ash Wednesday. We are invited to spend the additional time in looking for evidence of the unveiling of the divine. This year’s extension of the season of Epiphany reminds us that God is being made known to us daily, not just at this time but year-round.

Have you been thinking about your Starword for the year? I have, but more about that in a minute. In Iowa, one of my parishioners who taught chorus at the high school introduced the practice to her students, several others took stars to mail to family members or give to friends. If you have yet to select one, they are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Take one for yourself, for a family member or friend. What a simple yet profound way to give testimony to others about what is going on in your spiritual life.

My word for this year is “newness.” Aside from the calendar’s reminder that this is a new year, it’s hard to think of newness in winter. The earth itself is at rest. Perennial plants and trees lie dormant. Animals hibernate. In weather like this week’s, it is a time we welcome opportunities to stay indoors under a warm blanket with a hot cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa. And yet, this time of retreat provides more than energy for the days to come. It provides time for remembering and reflection on the past and inspiration for the future. And so, *newness* is born in this time of quiet, and I continue to wonder where God’s handiwork will next be unveiled in my life.

What about you? What is coming up as you wait in these days of winter? As you think of your word think of the questions it poses.

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 a 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?

Several people have mentioned that they would be interested in an opportunity for study and/or conversation, but they are not available on Tuesday. Let’s think about a Monday or Wednesday morning. We could have discussion about the sermon, the readings for the following week, or some other topic.

Think about what might interest you and let’s meet briefly after church Sunday, February 17 to plan. My Out of Office Hours at the Parkland Diner will continue as well for the present. I look forward to conversations with you in one or more of these settings.

Pastor Judy

This spring during Lent, the **Book Club** will read and discuss *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*. This book, written by [Marcus J. Borg](#), [John Dominic Crossan](#), will take us deeply into consideration of the meaning of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. The following summary will give you a taste.

Using the gospel of Mark as their guide, Borg and Crossan present a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week of life. They begin their story on Palm Sunday with two triumphal entries into Jerusalem. The first entry, that of Roman governor Pontius Pilate leading Roman soldiers into the city, symbolized military strength. The second heralded a new kind of moral hero who was praised by the people as he rode in on a humble donkey. The Jesus introduced by Borg and Crossan is this new moral hero, a more dangerous Jesus than the one enshrined in the church's traditional teachings.

The Last Week depicts Jesus giving up his life to protest power without justice and to condemn the rich who lack concern for the poor. In this vein, at the end of the week Jesus marches up Calvary, offering himself as a model for others to do the same when they are confronted by similar issues. Informed, challenged, and inspired, we not only meet the historical Jesus, but meet a new Jesus who engages us and invites us to follow him.

We will meet alternate Mondays, March 11th, 25th, April 8th and 22nd. Please speak to Pastor Judy or Karen Griffith if you would like to participate so we can order books.



Continuing in 2019:

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



“Souper” Bowl Soup Collection – Sunday, February 3, we will be collecting cans of soup for the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank. Boxes displaying the logos of both Super Bowl teams – the Los Angeles Rams and the New England Patriots – will be in the narthex. Vote for your favorite team by placing your soup cans in the appropriate box. Thank you for your donations.



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 - bring family, friends and neighbors!

Donations still needed: **“Consumables”** – items that need to be replenished in your home, such as food items and snacks, paper products, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. Also children’s items, CDs/movies, and funny stuff!

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.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MINISTRY COUNCIL: January 10, 2019

Next Meeting February 7th – 7:00 pm

- Devotions provided by Bonnie from Luke 22:27
- Ministry Council offering donated to Allentown Warming Center
- Visit by Jim Byrnes of Family Promise of LV (church will be used for future board meetings)
- Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports accepted with general discussion. Reviewed year end numbers; \$10,000 borrowed from savings in 2018
- Congregational Meeting date set for Jan. 27th
- GEM Fund for new initiatives awarded to UCCG
- Revenue for 2019 - letters for E-giving going out in January; advertising for rental income discussed; financial giving levels reviewed; 2nd offering operating discussed again; results of two December fund raisers shared.
- Mark asked MC for permission to operate MC with 6 members on the team for a temporary period of time (6 months) with MC being able to make required business decisions; needs congregational approval at Jan 27 meeting.
- 4 Ministry Council members leaving at the end of January (Jayne, Sheri, Grant and Carla); Ben staying 6 months in Music & Worship. Diane remaining in position until a replacement can be trained. Janine, Bonnie, Glenn, Mark staying on council
- Christian Ed - Carla recapped the year
- Finance & Budget and Property - no reports
- Employee Relations - discussion with custodian took place, permission given to utilize Robert Stokes for floor strip consultation
- Mission Team - Janine shared report, recap of Christmas project
- Music & Worship - Ben thanked all for Advent season un-decorating
- Pastoral Relations - Jayne will be here for February meeting
- Judy's pastor report - Vitality Days status, Worship Planning project, Book Group, Out of Office hours, Family Promise, Clergy Communities of Practice
- Janet shared update on Youth group and trip, looking for leaders, service project
- Small Dining Groups will be re-shuffled for February start



Ladies in Faith Together

Sunday, February 10th – 12:00 pm after worship

Valentine Cookie Baking for this week's Family Promise Guests

Bring a bag lunch and be ready to bake cookies!

We will also decide what we'll be putting in the UCCG shut-in goodie bags

Saturday, March 2nd – 10:00 am

Meet at the church to create the UCCG shut-in goodie bags

Mission Ministry

3 GREAT LOVES



LOVE OF NEIGHBOR!



Buy a Share ... To Rebuild a Community

Have you considered what you'll give up for Lent? Our mission in this congregation is to reach out to help others! Can we support a struggling community in Puerto Rico and do our share? Two members, Grant Field & Ben Gulledge, are going on a PNEC/PSEC mission trip to Puerto Rico to help rebuild the community of Luquillo near the Yunque National Forest, following last year's devastation from several hurricanes. We can support them in this effort, by considering what we can "give up" for this mission during the 40 days of Lent, the perfect time for reflection. We'll forego a second mission offering during worship in March.

To make it a little more fun, we will build a display on the back wall of the sanctuary to build houses using removable "puzzle" pieces, each representing a "share" of the work Grant & Ben will perform. The "shares" for purchase will be in various increments so that you can select your share as part of the mission project. Our hope is that by the end of the Lenten season, we will have "given up" enough support to pay the balance of their trip, totaling \$1000.

Buy a Share ... To Rebuild a Community

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MARCH 9TH – PUERTO RICO AWARENESS

More details to follow



West Virginia Mission Trip is in the planning stages for 2019!

The Mission Team is once again promoting a second mission trip to West Virginia. It was a great experience in 2017 and due to our generous congregation you have already funded the upcoming trip. West Virginia is a 5-6 hour drive from UCCG, so we will carpool together. The only cost is \$50 per participant for housing.

The location is being researched through UCC Disaster Ministries, but there are still 400 homes on a list that need repair and rebuilding after "100 year" flooding occurred in this mountainous region. If you are interested and would like to experience a week of mission at work, please contact Grant or Donna Field at 610-395-0821. Possible date is end of September, 12-15 people.



Host Week begins Sunday, February 10th! Set up team meets immediately following worship. Guests arrive at 5:00 pm!

To Family Promise Volunteers:

With less than 2 weeks to go until our Host-Week for Family Promise, we have several shifts/positions that are still open.

Please call **Karen Griffith at 610-435-9901 or 610-703-6826 (cell or text) to sign-up.**

As of 1/28/19 there were 13 open shifts/positions:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. DINNER PREP | Friday, Feb. 15 – 2 people |
| 2. DINNER COMPANION (5 to 7 pm)..... | Sunday, Feb. 10 - 1 person
Friday, Feb. 15 - 1 person |
| 3. EVENING HOSTS (7 to 9 pm)..... | Sunday, Feb. 10 - 2 people
Thursday, Feb. 14 – 2 people
Friday, Feb 15 – 1 person |
| 4. OVERNIGHT HOSTS (9 pm to 7 am)..... | Sunday, Feb. 10 - 2 people
Monday, Feb 11 - 1 person
Wednesday, Feb. 13 - 1 person |

Reminder: **Donna Field** will be calling **Dinner Prep volunteers** to discuss menus and details. For the 4 individuals who volunteered to do **laundry**, you will be notified when needed.
Thank You!

Karen Griffith, Scheduler

Family Promise 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.



From Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank: We would like to thank you for your donation of 10 boxes and 5 bags of food (our Harvest Home collection). Because of your caring and sharing, we are able to feed those less fortunate in our community. We are currently serving 200-250 families per week.

To Bart Tizio: Thank you Bart, for your time and energy in selling our old communion ware on EBay. This had been unused, taking up shelf space for many years and resulted in over \$200 profit to our church.

Penn Northeast Conference
Be Effective.... Be Flexible.... Be Missional
Flexible, Missional Governance Training
PNEC Conference Center, February 9, 2019 - 9AM to Noon
Contact Pastor Judy if interested in attending along with our leaders.

Create a Permission-Giving Structure
Get more done with fewer People
Focus on Vision and Mission
Live into the meaningful work of the congregation
Provide opportunities for short-term volunteers
Have fewer and shorter meetings

PNEC Annual Meeting is Saturday, May 4 at Neffs UCC
Our church needs a delegate to attend and to vote on behalf of our congregation.
Contact Mark Griffith or Donna Field for information.



Women's Guild meets February 27th at 10:00 am
Regular Meeting

The Women's Guild is asking that you please return any jars from past purchases of Chow-Chow, as they will sanitize them for future sales. There is a basket in the narthex where you may place the jars. Thank you.

A Note from Carla Lindenmuth: Carla is looking for a few photos of the sanctuary and fellowship hall when it's set up for rental events. Does anyone have photos they're willing to allow Carla to share on our website? Please contact Carla (ctlindenmuth@protonmail.com) and let her know. Thanks.

Reminder: Please double check that doors are locked when leaving the building – it has come to our attention that the Christian Education entrance door is not always locked. There have been 3 separate instances in the past 3 weeks, when a nursery school teacher arrived at 8:00 am and found the door unlocked. There have also been a few instances of the back entrance doors to Fellowship Hall being unlocked. Please be sure to lock the door when you leave the building. You should actually be locking the door when you enter the building to ensure your safety while here!



SMALL DINING GROUPS – TIME FOR NEW FACES AT THE TABLE

Usually February is the month that we "reshuffle" the players in our Small Dining Groups (SDG). We are about to begin year #6 of this ministry. Time sure does fly by. Last year, we had 6 groups with a total of 41 participants! Many of us are enjoying our current groups, but it is time to get to know some other people better.

Please let me know by **Feb. 10th** if you would like to join a SDG this year. For those currently in a dining group, please let me know - **either way** - if you will or will not be participating in 2019. The goal is food and conversation with 6-8 people in a group.

Please contact Mark Griffith if you wish to participate in the next round of SDG.

.....Enjoy the Fellowship, Fun, Friends, and Food!!



February is American Heart Month

To lower your risk of a Heart Attack:

- Watch your weight.
- Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.
- Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.
- If you drink alcohol, drink only in moderation.
- Get active and eat healthy.

For more information visit the American Heart Association at www.heart.org.



Nursery School Panera Fundraiser

Monday, February 11 from 4:00-8:00 pm
3100 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown

Bring a flyer (available on the desk in the narthex) or show an electronic version of the flyer at time of order (call Sue in the church office, and she will scan and email you an electronic version of the flyer.)

Mark Your Calendar - Church Family Game Night

Friday, March 15 - 6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall



February 2019						
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Groundhog Day
3 Souper Bowl Sunday Scout Sunday 9:00 AM – Sunday School 9:30 AM - Choir 10:00 AM – Hospitality 10:30 AM – Worship with Holy Communion	4 7:00 – 8:30 PM – Boy Scouts	5 7:00 PM – Cub Scouts Committee meeting & Pinewood Derby pre-weigh in	6 10:00 – 3:00 PM – Quilters 7:00 PM – Music & Worship	7 6:00 PM – Nursery School Board meeting	8 7:00 PM – Cub Scouts set-up & Pinewood Derby final weigh in	9 6:00 PM – Cub Scouts Pack meeting/Pinewood Derby/Pack Photo
10 9:00 AM – Sunday School 9:30 AM – Choir 10:00 AM – Hospitality 10:30 AM – Worship LIFT Group after worship to bake cookies 12:00 – Family Promise Set up	11 (no Boy Scouts) FAMILY PROMISE	12 6:30 PM – Puerto Rico mission trip meeting (no Cub Scouts) FAMILY PROMISE	13 FAMILY PROMISE	14 Valentine's Day Nursery School Valentine's Party FAMILY PROMISE	15 FAMILY PROMISE	16 FAMILY PROMISE
17 9:00 AM – Sunday School 9:30 AM – Choir 10:00 AM – Hospitality 10:30 AM – Worship 12:00 Family Promise Pack up	18 Presidents Day 7:00 – 8:30 PM – Boy Scouts	19 6:30 – 8:00 PM – Cub Scouts	20 10:00 – 3:00 PM - Quilters	21 10:00 AM Penny Party Pricing - FH	22	23 4:00 – 10:00 PM – Penny Party 10:00 AM Set up
24 9:00 AM – Sunday School 9:30 AM – Choir 10:00 AM – Hospitality 10:30 AM – Worship 6:00 PM – Boy Scouts Red & White Banquet	25 7:00 – 8:30 PM Boy Scouts	26 6:30 – 8:00 PM – Cub Scouts	27 10:00 – 3:00 PM - Quilters 11:00 AM – Women's Guild	28	2nd Offering on February 10 & 24 for Ecumenical Food Bank	

Thought for the Day:

It takes less time to do the right thing than to explain why you did it wrong.



Who loves the snow?



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 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.