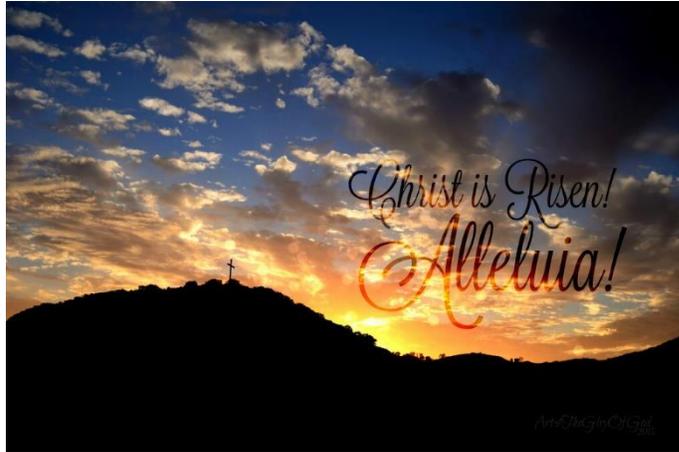


ECHOES

April 2022

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GREENAWALDS



- Thursday, April 14** - 7:00 pm, Maundy Thursday Worship with communion, In-person & Zoom
- Friday, April 15** - 7:00 pm, Good Friday Worship, In-person & Zoom
- Sunday, April 17** - 6:00 am, Easter Sunrise Worship, In-person only
- Sunday, April 17** - 10:30 am, Easter Worship with communion, In-person & Zoom

From Our Pastor ...

Grace Abounds!



The season of Lent is one of the most challenging of times of the church year. We are encouraged each year to consider what difference the stories of Jesus' life and ministry have made in our lives. We think of what it means for God to be embodied in the stuff of earth. We wonder why Jesus died in such a brutal and agonizing way and who was responsible. We question Jesus' purpose in going to Jerusalem when surely he knew trouble awaited him there. We ask where God was when all this was happening.

As our Bible Study group nears completion of the courses undertaken this year, many in the group began asking for more. You see, the course gives an overview of the entire Bible and has offered background information about Judaism, cultural and political insight to the times, and broad themes addressed in both Old and New Testaments. But in the short 18 weeks it has not, cannot enter in depth into the theological points raised by the text. So yes, there are many questions yet to be asked and answered.

As we approach Holy Week, we all want to know more. We'd like the answers to be simple and clear, but the truth is that, like the world and humanity itself, the questions are complex and the answers often raise even more questions. As we turn in a few weeks from personal reflection to the joy of Easter resurrection and transformation, we will no doubt continue to ponder.

Who was Jesus? Why did he die? Did God, as we are often told, require his death as payment for the sins of humanity? Ask a roomful of theologians from different traditions in Christianity the questions and you will get many different answers. Some assert Jesus is sinless, while others see times when his humanity was in evidence and even he was prompted to rethink his position. Remember the Syrophenician woman who comes asking healing for her daughter? She is at first denied, and in very stark terms, as Jesus says he cannot give bread that belongs to his tribe to the dogs. The woman persists in claiming her worthiness, saying she is entitled if only to the crumbs that fall from the table.

It is at these moments that we see that overall theme of Jesus' ministry come shining through – grace. Whatever our understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection and our theology of the cross, the overall meaning of his mission is mercy. He is the model of compassion for the weaknesses of humanity. Whether it is some physical illness, some mental anguish, or a broken relationship, Jesus' approach is care-filled and merciful, even when he is challenging our first instincts.

Grace Abounds! This is the phrase, taken from my own beliefs about the life of Jesus, I have most hoped to embody in my ministry. Though I do not always live up to my words, I have asked you to give them a place of importance in our ministry together and to one another.

In the coming weeks we will be saying goodbye. Already there are several groups in and around the Lehigh Valley with whom I have met for the last time. Each day will bring more farewells.

It is not easy this leave-taking, not for any of us. Even in the midst of tear-filled goodbyes, let us take time for joy, for we have much to celebrate. Who would have known when I came to Greenawalds 4-1/2 years ago just what challenges we would face during this time, confronting the reality of declining membership, energy, and enthusiasm while separated by the necessities imposed by a worldwide pandemic. And yet, we have faced those challenges with honesty, integrity, and curiosity. We have experienced life-giving community and communion even in the times it was at a distance. Familiar voices raised in word and song have connected us in ritual and worship of the one who loves us.

We have wondered what you will need in the next phases of discernment, and we have found and connected to resources that will serve you well in the coming months. I believe in you and I believe God is at work in and among you, doing a new thing here in this place. And now, we face the hard realities of the goodbyes. This is the most difficult part of moving on as a pastor. I have truly loved this church and you, its people. All too soon I will walk away from the church one last time. I will let you go into the care of another who ministers in the name of Christ.

I know you have heard it all before, when the time comes I will not, cannot, be in touch with you in days ahead. If our paths should cross, I will offer a simple greeting, but cannot respond pastorally to any situation. I will wonder how things are going for you in the days and months beyond, and I will have to let go. I will release you into the care of our loving God. And I will pray for you. I look forward someday to hearing what Greenawalds has become, continuing to do and support God's work in the community.

You are God's beloved. Care for one another. Grace Abounds!

Pastor Judy



Sunday Worship ... 10:30 A.M. – In-person and via Zoom

- Masks are required for singing; otherwise, masks are optional.
- Social distancing is encouraged.

Sermon by Phone

Sermon by Phone is another worship option. Try it! It's so easy! Three steps to follow from any phone, any day, any time.

1. Pick up your telephone
2. Dial the number: **610-258-2927**
3. The recorded service begins immediately

The number is local with no long-distance charges. Note, however, that each Sunday's service is available only until the following Sunday when the newest worship service is made available.



NO Drive-Thru Communion in April

CONGRATULATIONS

Lincoln Nicolas Paranto was born on March 14, 8 lbs. 6 oz., 21-1/4" long.
Congratulations to parents, Nick & Becca Paranto and grandparents, Chup & Sharon Holko.



Mary Christman - Devon House
 LaRue Eckroth – at home
 Robert & Dorothy Foulds – at home
 Eleanor Limpar – at home

Mae Moyer – at home
 Doris Shaver – Phoebe Home
 Naomi Thomas – at home
 Geri Yarnall – at home

DISCOVERY PROJECT

*"It took a whole lot of holy imagination.
We didn't know where we were going or what would happen."
~ Toward the Better Country, page 94*

The Discovery Project Work Groups have begun their task of researching and investigating the areas of opportunity for UCC Greenawalds. We will attempt to keep the congregation up to date with progress of each team's work each month.

Pastor Search Team

This team is exploring the Designated Pastor avenue. In this scenario, a pastor is hired for a specific period of time and may be considered as the Called Pastor at the end of the term, should the congregation and pastor agree. This would allow our congregation to experience the shared pastor model arrangement. Two possible candidates for shared pastor were offered to the team. One candidate has since withdrawn due to another commitment. The group met with a pastor currently serving a church as half time pastor. The discussion centered around the sharing model and what that would mean for UCCG as well as the other congregation. Further discussions are in order.

We will be using Supply Pastors for the last four Sundays in May.

Next step - Team meeting to make pastor recommendation to Leadership Circle.

Land and Building Team

The team met with an architect and a surveyor to review some basic information concerning the building and land use. Since we do not have definite plans at this time, further involvement with these professionals is on hold.

Next step - The team will meet with someone from the South Whitehall Planning Commission to better understand what restrictions there may be in regards to the various possibilities/options for use of the building.

Non-Profit Team

The team met with a few people from the Family Promise organization. They were very interested in the property and planned to review options with the Family Promise Board. A second meeting with the representatives has not yet been scheduled.

Next step – Schedule a Team meeting to brainstorm other non-profit organizations that may want to use our space. Someone from this team will be present at the Land and Building Team meeting with SWT Planning Commission.

Please keep our team members in prayer as we move along this path.

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. *Romans 8:24-25*

FAREWELL / RETIREMENT LUNCHEON FOR PASTOR JUDY BRANDON



You are invited to attend a retirement luncheon on Sunday, May 1, to honor Pastor Judy Brandon. This luncheon will follow the 10:30 am 'Service of Retirement' which will be held in UCCG's sanctuary located at 2325 Albright Avenue, Allentown, PA 18104. Join us as we thank Pastor Judy for her service to UCCG and wish her a wonderful retirement.

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022 – 1:00 pm

NOVA

**2375 Levans Road
Coplay, PA 18037**

MENU

Fruit Cup

Lettuce w/ Hot Bacon Dressing

Beef – Oven-roasted Chicken

Potato Filling – Roasted Potatoes

Corn – Green Beans

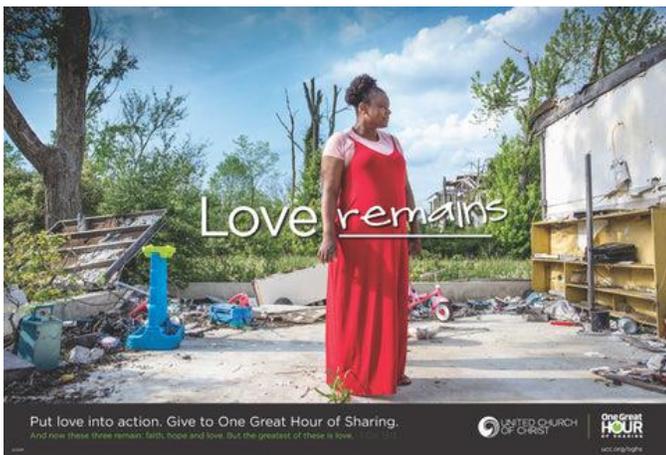
Gravy – Rolls & Butter

Coffee – Tea – Soda – Water

Cake – Ice Cream

The cost of this family-style luncheon is \$25 per adult; children ages 6-10, \$16 each; under age 6, free (however, a reservation needs to be made). Prices include gratuity.

Please RSVP to Sue Borger, 484.695.7954, or borgersusan@yahoo.com, **no later than Friday, April 15**. Checks should be made payable to UCCGreenawalds (put "retirement luncheon" in memo line) and mailed to 2325 Albright Avenue, Allentown, PA 18104.



One Great Hour of Sharing

When you give to OGHS, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. Not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to OGHS, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, **Love Remains**.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

If you'd like to **Put Love into Action** by giving to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, please use the envelope attached to last week's bulletin or clearly mark another envelope for OGHS.

NURSERY SCHOOL

Our April fundraiser is honey from Funny Farm Apiaries. Samples are available in the narthex after the worship service. Order forms are available at that time.

The Used Clothing Drive pick-up will take place on the morning of Thursday, April 21. If you have clothing, shoes, linens, towels, etc. to donate, please drop off prior to that date.

Looking ahead ... we will be selling Thomson's hoagies in May!

REMINDER ... Do not enter the Nursery School area for any reason while the school is in operation (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm). During this time, should you be in the building for any reason and find yourself in need of bathroom facilities, please use the one in the narthex.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 9 at 1:00 pm

(Rain Date: Sunday, April 10 at 3 pm)

There is a box in the narthex to receive monetary donations for the Egg Hunt, as well as a box for donations of jelly beans.





LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Our Leadership Circle continues to meet monthly via Zoom. Here are some highlights from our March 10, 2022 meeting:

- Devotions were offered by Linda Altrichter. She read a passage entitled “Day of Trouble” from “365 Devotions for Peace”.
- We reviewed and accepted (with minor typos to be corrected) the minutes from our February 10 LC meeting and a special February 14 meeting.
- The Treasurer’s Report and Reconciliation Report were reviewed and accepted.
- The Property Team reported that the boilers will be replaced on March 23-25. Wisser Coal & Fuel Oil Co. will be doing the work.
- The Pastor’s Report was submitted and reviewed. Pastor Judy’s surgery is scheduled for March 14, and she will be taking one week medical leave. Rev. David DeRemer will be our guest pastor on Sunday, March 20.
- Pastor Judy will participate in the Lenten Bible Study and Spiritual Practices group with the downtown UCC churches. They will explore the use of prayer beads on Wednesday, March 30.
- We will need to consider purchasing a new laptop to use for zoom worship when Pastor Judy retires as the computer she uses now is her personal computer. The church’s current laptop is outdated. The church secretary’s computer will also need replacing soon.
- Pastor Judy will begin packing her office in the coming weeks to prepare for her move to New Hampshire at the end of May.
- Our Little Free Pantry continues to see usage.
- Our next Leadership Circle meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21 at 4:00 pm via Zoom. Moved back one week because of Maundy Thursday.

OIL BURNER UPDATE

The new oil burners have been installed! THANK YOU to members and friends of UCCG for your generous donations which allowed us to replace both furnace boilers.

With Donna McHugh’s \$7,000 matching gift, we received contributions of just under \$23,000. Money remaining after the boiler replacements is being used for heating oil. THANK YOU!

Echoes, Bulletin or Clip-Art Flower Sponsorships for 2022

We are seeking sponsors for the weekly bulletins and flower clip art in our bulletins for the year 2022. The cost for sponsoring weekly bulletins is \$10 and the flower clip art is also \$10. The cost of sponsoring the monthly *Echoes* is \$20. Your sponsorship helps pay the cost of postage for mailing the bulletins and *Echoes* for those who don’t have email or can’t make it to worship in the sanctuary. Please contact Sue Borger 484.695.7954 to pick your date(s). The sign-up sheets will NOT be posted in the narthex this year.



to Sue Borger; Pastor Judy Brandon; Karen Griffith; Janine Hensinger; Eleanor, Linda & Sandy Lakatosh; Sue Roth; and Sue Sawyer ... for preparing the soups offered in conjunction with March's drive-thru communion. Over \$400 was collected, which will be sent to Family Promise of Lehigh Valley to assist with 2022 hotel costs.

from Family Promise of LV ... for \$300 sent in November 2021 to assist with hotel costs while UCCG was not hosting in our building.

from Judy Anton and brothers ... Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and memorials in honor of our mother, Doris Nissen.

from Geri Yarnall ... Thank you so much for all the birthday cards, gifts and donations to the church helping me celebrate my 100th birthday! I love you all, and I loved seeing you.



to UCCG... Thank you for your generous response to Lehigh Conference of Churches' toilet paper drive!

Our Gifts and Offerings

During this time of uncertainty and separation, we gather to worship every Sunday morning in-person and on Zoom, remembering our connection to one another across time and space. **We are grateful for your support of the church with your online contributions and offerings mailed to the church office.** These offerings allow our ministry and mission to continue in this time when we must be physically distant. We assure you that the mailbox is a locked receptacle and that someone is in the office every week to receive and open the mail and take the offerings to the bank. Please feel free to drop your envelopes into the mailbox during the week or mail your offering to the church office. You may also make secure contributions online using the following link [Make A Gift](#).

FISH Meal Program

The FISH Meal Program remains active in providing meals to church members as needed. Such needs include illness, surgeries, passing of loved ones, assistance during COVID, etc. If you would like a meal prepared/delivered to you, contact Sue Sawyer, 610.395.1571.



APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 6 pm – Cub Scout Pack Meeting in Fellowship Hall
3 In-person and Zoom Worship 10:30 am Worship (communion)	4 7:00-8:30 pm Bible Study on Zoom 7:00-8:30 pm Boy Scouts	5 7:00 pm – Cub Scouts Com. Mtg	6	7	8	9 1:00 pm – Community Easter Egg Hunt
10 In-person and Zoom Worship 10:30 am Worship RAIN DATE – 3:00 pm - Community Easter Egg Hunt	11 7:00-8:30 pm Bible Study on Zoom 7:00-8:30 pm Boy Scouts	12 6:30-8:00 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service w/communion (Zoom and In-person)	15 7:00 pm – Good Friday Service (Zoom and In-person)	16
17 EASTER 6:00 am - Easter Sunrise Worship (In-person ONLY) 10:30 am Worship (communion) In-person and Zoom Worship	18 7:00-8:30 pm Bible Study on Zoom 7:00-8:30 pm Boy Scouts	19 6:30-8:00 pm Cub Scouts	20	21 Nursery School Used Clothing Drive pick-up 4:00 pm – Zoom Leadership Circle Meeting	22	23
24 In-person and Zoom Worship 10:30 am Worship	25 7:00-8:30 pm Boy Scouts	26 6:30-8:00 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:30 am – Soup Kitchen participation	29	30

“Find the thing you do well and do it again and again for the rest of your life.”

~ Johann Johannsson

OUR STAFF

Pastor Judy Brandon	484-705-5710 cell
pastorjudy.ucc@gmail.com	
Church Office/Main Phone	610-435-1763
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 currently working in her home office as well as part-time in her church Study.
She can be reached by phone anytime for emergencies or appointments.

Church Secretary Office Hours are Wednesday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.
(Other hours, from home. Call as necessary.)

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 Sandy Lakatosh at sjlakatosh@rcn.com.

The April 2022 edition of *Echoes* is sponsored by:

Dolly Smith in memory of loved ones

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. Call Sue Borger 484.695.7954 to sign up for a sponsorship and include your dedication information.

Cost is \$20.00 per sponsorship.