



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?
~ *Special Events FOR DECEMBER* ~
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am with Fellowship at 10:00 am
Every Sunday - Faith Formation Classes - 9:30-10:15 am
Dec. 4: Second Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Peace
Dec. 11: Third Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Joy
3:30 pm - Christmas Caroling
Dec. 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Love
Children's Christmas Program During Worship



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?
~ *Special Events FOR DECEMBER* ~
Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24
7:00 pm - Family Celebration
11:00 pm - Candlelight Worship w/Holy Communion
and Special Live Music
CHRISTMAS MORNING- UCCG will be closed as we
encourage you to enjoy the quiet joy of Christmas
morning in your hearts at home.
New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1, 2023
10:30 am - Worship (no Faith Formation today)

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY AND JOIN US FOR A FUN
AFTERNOON OF CHRISTMAS CAROLING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 3:30 PM**



Christmas Caroling
December 11 at 3:30pm

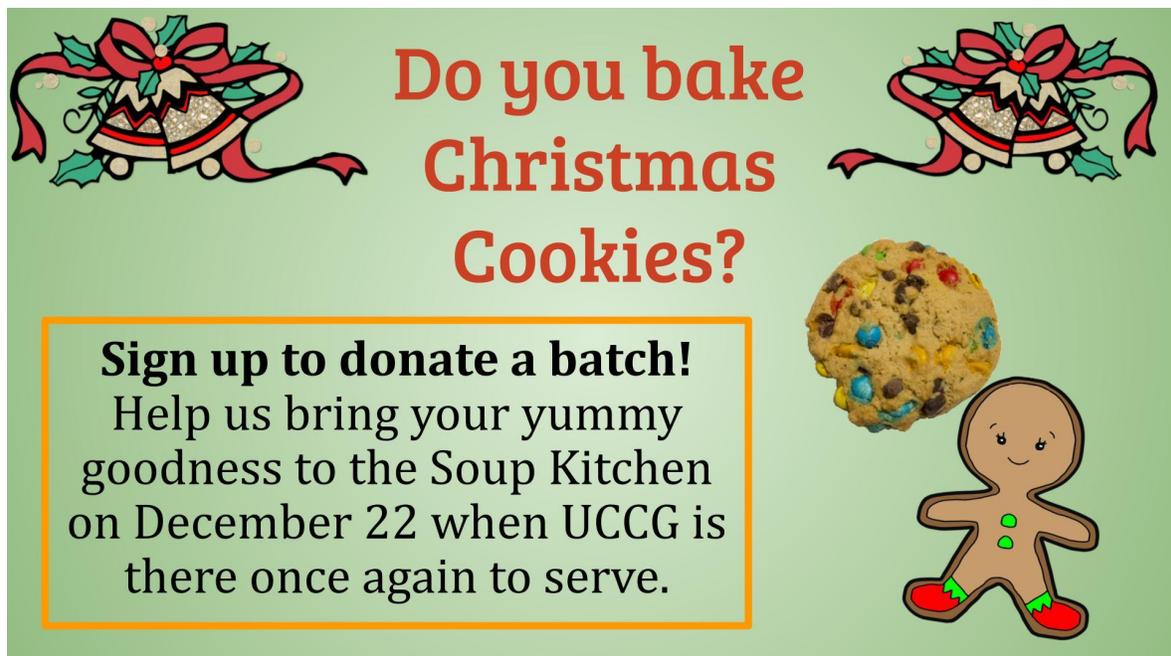
To our homebound church family &
around our neighborhood then
back to UCCG for some
hot chocolate and goodies!

*"The best way to spread
Christmas cheer is singing
loud for all to hear."
Buddy the Elf*

*All are
welcome to
join in the
fun!*



**WE ARE ALSO STILL IN NEED OF SOME BAKERS SO THAT WE WILL
BE ABLE TO PROVIDE TREATS FOR THE PEOPLE AT THE SOUP
KITCHEN IN LATE-DECEMBER. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY.**



**Do you bake
Christmas
Cookies?**

Sign up to donate a batch!
Help us bring your yummy
goodness to the Soup Kitchen
on December 22 when UCCG is
there once again to serve.





FROM OUR PASTOR ...

I am so excited to welcome you home for the holidays at UCCG! The sanctuary looks beautiful; thanks to the 10 to 12 people that showed up to “deck the halls” on Saturday, November 26!

Join us for **Christmas Caroling** on December 11, help with **Family Promise** the 11th through the 17th, and join us for worship on December 18 when our **children lead** us in worship! Participate in our **Christmas MISSION** by collecting items for your REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR (on page 14).

BUT what I am most excited about is celebrating Christmas Eve with you! Here are some more details about what you can expect:

Our 7:00 pm Family Celebration will include a nativity coloring sheet & crayons to go along with the retelling of the Christmas Story, as well as, the traditional singing of *Silent Night* in candlelight and *Joy to the World*. Afterwards, there will be Christmas Refreshments to share.

AND/OR ...

At 10:30 pm, the Christmas Refreshments come out again to welcome you for our late service which will begin at 11:00 pm. This special worship will include live music! Our Music & Technical Advisor, the talented Anthony Newett, will join us in person again. We will have special solos, duets and 2 choir anthems. This service will include Holy Communion, poetry and the traditional candle lighting.

With all you have going on in your personal lives, I pray that you will include the church in your holiday plans and your holiday giving. May the gifts of the season be yours as you reflect hope, peace, joy and love into the world!

Love, Pastor Janet

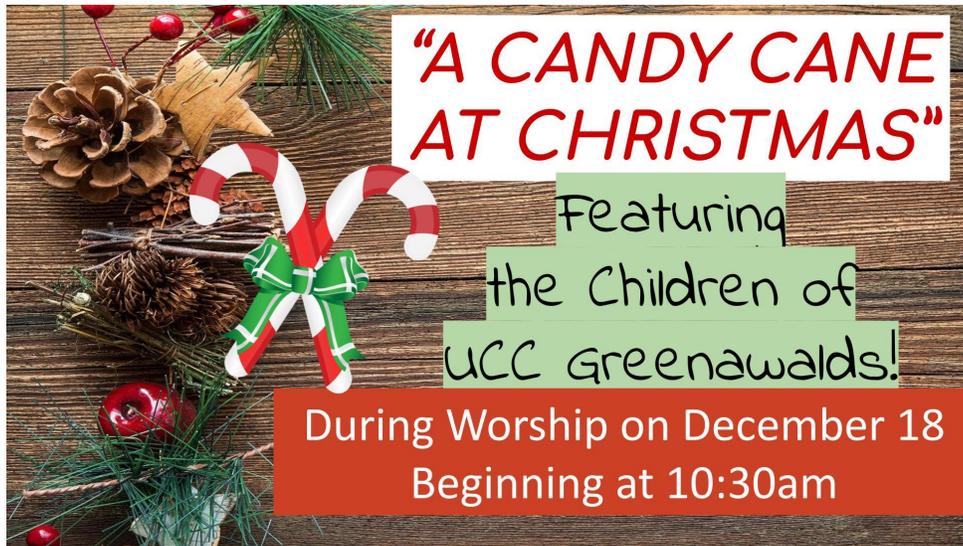


“Wishing you a season that’s merry and bright with the light of God’s love.”

It's official ... On Sunday, November 20, during our Annual Congregational Meeting, our congregation voted to "Call" Janet Newett as our next settled pastor. Congratulations! We look forward to many years of growing in faith together. Welcome!



**ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, DURING OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICE,
THE CHILDREN WILL LEAD US IN.....**



ATTN: PARENTS/GUARDIANS/GRANDPARENTS:

On December 17 from 9am to 11am, Pastor Janet will be running a rehearsal for all the children who can participate in our Christmas Program on December 18 during worship. If your child would like to join us on December 18, but cannot be there to practice, please let Pastor Janet know as soon as possible.

CAN YOU HELP WITH ... Hay for the manger? We are looking for someone to bring a small amount of hay to the church for a special use! (*Can you guess that use??*) Please let us know if you can help? Hay is needed before December 18th. Thank you in advance!

Advent Candle Lighting on Christmas Eve - 7:00 pm Family Celebration

We are still in need of a couple, a family or 2-3 friends who would like to light the Christ Candle on our advent wreath at the 7:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. Please contact Sue Borger 484.695.7954 as soon as possible. Thank you!

Celebrate the joyful beauty of the birth of our Savior with us this year!

**Christmas Eve at
United Church of Christ
Greenawalds**

7:00 pm Family Celebration
10:30 pm Christmas Fellowship
11:00 pm Candlelight Worship
w/ Holy Communion,
Special *Live Music*

In Person at UCCG 2325 Albright Ave, Allentown 18104
& LIVE Streaming on Facebook and YouTube

Christmas Day – NO WORSHIP SERVICE

Having just celebrated Christ’s birth in such a joyful, beautiful way a mere few hours before, it was decided to let the quiet joy of Christmas morning continue in our hearts at home.



LaRue Eckroth, at home
Eleanor Limpar, at home
Mae Moyer, at home
Louise Reinhard, at home

Doris Shaver, Phoebe Home (Room T313A)
Naomi Thomas, at home
Geri Yarnall, Phoebe Home (Room 106A)

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS - We will be receiving New Members during worship on Sunday, January 8, 2023. If you or someone you know is interested in joining UCCG, please contact Pastor Janet 610.657.2189 as soon as possible.

United Church of Christ Greenawalds
will RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS
On January 8!

Are you new to UCC Greenawalds?
**Would you like to learn more about us, the UCC or
what it means to be a member?**
**Sign-Up in the Lobby for UCCG 101 so we can get to
know each other better!**
**Include your email address and receive our
“WEEKLY WORDS” email for all of our important updates.**

Attention: People who like to Eat!!!

We will be rearranging the Small Group Dining teams for the 2023 round. If you are interested in joining small groups (6-8 people) of UCCG members for a meal and conversation, this is the activity for you.

The small groups will meet at a time of their choosing at the venue of their choosing. Groups usually meet monthly or every other month.



Please call Karen Griffith (610 703-6826) if you are interested.



Once again, we have the privilege of hosting four families in the Family Promise Program from December 11-18.

A typical volunteer schedule requires 28 in-person slots to be filled, as well as 14 persons to prepare meals, 6-8 to set up Fellowship Hall, 6-8 to tear down, and 3-4 to do laundry.

UCCG hosts 4 times per year. Please consider how you may help with this mission. All in-person volunteer positions require clearances. Karen Griffith (610 703-6826) would be happy to assist anyone wishing to help fill out these forms.

Set up, tear down, food prep and laundry volunteers do not need clearances.

All volunteers receive very informal training and would be paired with an experienced volunteer.

Our host weeks for 2023 are February 5-12, April 30-May 7, September 24-October 1, and November 5-12.

Family Promise is also looking for volunteers to help at the Day Center a few hours each week and someone to drive the shuttle. The shuttle driver needs only a regular driver's license and willingness to transport families from Day Center to host churches and vice versa. Please call Sue Roth (610 554-2781) if interested in either of these opportunities.

Please consider how God is calling you to share your gifts with these families.

HARVEST HOME



THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to this year's Harvest Home collection of non-perishable food items. Your generosity resulted in **243 items** being delivered to the Ecumenical Food Bank on Tuesday, November 22.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Please see the Reverse Advent Calendar on page 14 of this edition of *Echoes*.

UCC CHRISTMAS FUND

On Sunday, December 18, we will collect an offering for the UCC Christmas Fund. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "thank you" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Envelopes will be attached to your bulletins on December 18. Thank you!

NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATE: Our current fundraiser is:

- **Monthly Madness (Dan Schantz) Cards** - The cost is \$25 (and it's worth about \$100) - redeem monthly for the entire year - a different item each month! Get your cards now! These make great stocking stuffers. Please see Sheri Stephens to get your cards.
- **THANK YOU** for your continued support of our program.



On November 19th, 10 of us slept out in the cold in this homeless simulation. Before we crawled into our sleeping quarters for the night, Pastor Janet led us in several exercises to help us learn more, to raise awareness and gain a better understanding of what people might go through when they find themselves without a home. We also looked at ourselves and the judgements



we sometimes naturally make when we see someone who is without a home. Even though we can't control our thoughts, we can control our actions and our words. Stereotypes are harmful and we worked to debunk the inaccurate information we might THINK is the reason some people experience housing insecurity. It isn't that they are "just lazy, stupid, or an addict with mental health issues." The truth is we found out that most of us are only a few terrible steps away from finding ourselves in a similar situation. Some of the reasons this might happen include a house fire, being laid off from a job, or illness.

Janine Hensinger, David Adams and Roslyn Kuba (the Executive Director from Family Promise) spent the night in their cars. Mark Adams pitched a tent and slept in it with his daughter Ashley and her two children JJ and Spencer. Pastor Janet, Sue Roth and Peyton Diaz slept in boxes. That night, the winds picked up and the tarps, meant to add extra protection, blew around and made so much noise that it kept waking us up. The temperatures reached 22 degrees without the wind chill!

It was a meaningful experience for us. Next year, we hope to have more of you participate as we strive to raise awareness and funds for the Lehigh County Conference of Churches. The Conference of Churches sponsored this event as part of their week of "Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week."

The Lehigh Conference of Churches is a faith-based, nonprofit agency connecting basic human needs to the most vulnerable people in the Lehigh Valley: food, housing, dignity, a sense of belonging, and hope for the future. Their mission is simple: to help families and individuals maximize their independence and reach their full potential! Our thanks goes out to the Conference of Churches for all of the ways they help the people of the Lehigh Valley. Their services respond to the symptoms of poverty including hot meals, rental assistance, homelessness outreach, benefit enrollment and intensive case management.



WEATHER ALERT BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

Since inclement weather may force various services in the Lehigh Valley to close, last year the Lehigh Conference of Churches initiated “**Weather Alert Bags**” to service the homeless and those that rely on the Conference Kitchen for meals.



The bags included shelf-stable food items, such as **ready-to-eat** (cans with pop-top lids since they may not have a can opener) **tuna or chicken, fruit cups, water, juice boxes, beef jerky, crackers, chocolate, and granola bars.**

During the months of December & January, there will be a food receptacle in the lobby specifically for this initiative. Thank you for your generosity.

DISCOVERY PROJECT UPDATE

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1

The Discovery Project is still in its beginning stages. The architect (Glenn Lichtenwalner) made many changes to the original proposed plan. These changes were based on suggestions, comments, or concerns from both Family Promise representatives and The Discovery Project Group during a November meeting. More changes were proposed after the Family Promise Board members toured the annex and reviewed the plans.

The Discovery Group will meet December 8 to decide on whether any of the proposed plans will be recommended to Leadership Circle for approval before bringing them to the members of UCCG for consideration. We are trying to research and gather as much information as possible so that informed decisions can be made by all.

We are grateful for the work done by Glenn Lichtenwalner and his team, as well as the time and patience for the many changes.

We continue to be appreciative of Rev. David DeRemer's time and counsel.

SAVE THE DATE

For the return of the PENNY PARTY!

**** SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023 ****



Watch for details in future *Echoes*.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Our Leadership Circle continues to meet monthly in person and via zoom. Here are some highlights from our November 17 meeting.

- Diane Borman led devotions. She read “*Journey of the Experience*” (based on Acts 27:24).
- The October minutes were reviewed and accepted.
- The Financial Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports were reviewed and accepted.
 - The church has received a \$1,000 gift from the estate of former member, Bertha Blose, who passed away earlier this year.
- We discussed the agenda for the Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 20.
 - Vote on the call to Pastor Janet Newett to become our next settled pastor.
 - Present the 2023 Proposed Budget to the congregation; and then vote on it.
- Mark and Michelle Adams have volunteered to schedule and run a Penny Party on March 25, 2023.
- The Pastor’s Report was reviewed and accepted.
 - Dave, Karen, Noah and Hannah Adams will be joining UCCG
 - Pastor Janet made some pastoral care visits
 - UCCG will participate in the Lehigh Conference of Churches, “One Night Without a Home,” which will take place in our parking lot on Saturday night, November 19.
 - December 11 - Christmas Caroling at 3:30 pm
 - December 18 - Children’s Christmas Program during worship

Month	Budget	General Offering Income	*Other Income	Total Operating Income	Operating Expense	Net Income
Jan-22	\$11,536	\$7,846	\$2,049	\$9,895	\$15,369	(\$5,474)
Feb-22	\$11,536	\$7,395	\$4,202	\$11,597	\$11,495	\$103
Mar-22	\$11,536	\$7,866	\$2,491	\$10,357	\$10,925	(\$569)
Apr-22	\$11,536	\$7,971	\$3,080	\$11,051	\$17,073	(\$6,022)
May-22	\$11,536	\$8,299	\$3,025	\$11,324	\$4,253	\$7,070
Jun-22	\$11,536	\$6,722	\$2,200	\$8,922	\$11,244	(\$2,322)
Jul-22	\$11,536	\$8,227	\$3,739	\$11,966	\$7,433	\$4,532
Aug-22	\$11,536	\$7,808	\$2,480	\$10,288	\$11,200	(\$912)
Sep-22	\$11,536	\$8,071	\$3,002	\$11,073	\$12,691	(\$1,618)
Oct-22	\$11,536	\$7,416	\$2,866	\$10,282	\$9,749	\$533
Total	\$115,360	\$77,621	\$29,133	\$106,754	\$111,433	(\$4,679)

* Other income includes; Annex Rental, bulletin, flowers, bill tree and special income

YOU have made a slash

in the **VOLUNTEER POOL!**



THANK YOU!

To Sandy Lakatosh and Bri Borger for joining the team of Faith Formation Teachers. We now have five teams of teachers to alternate every five weeks!

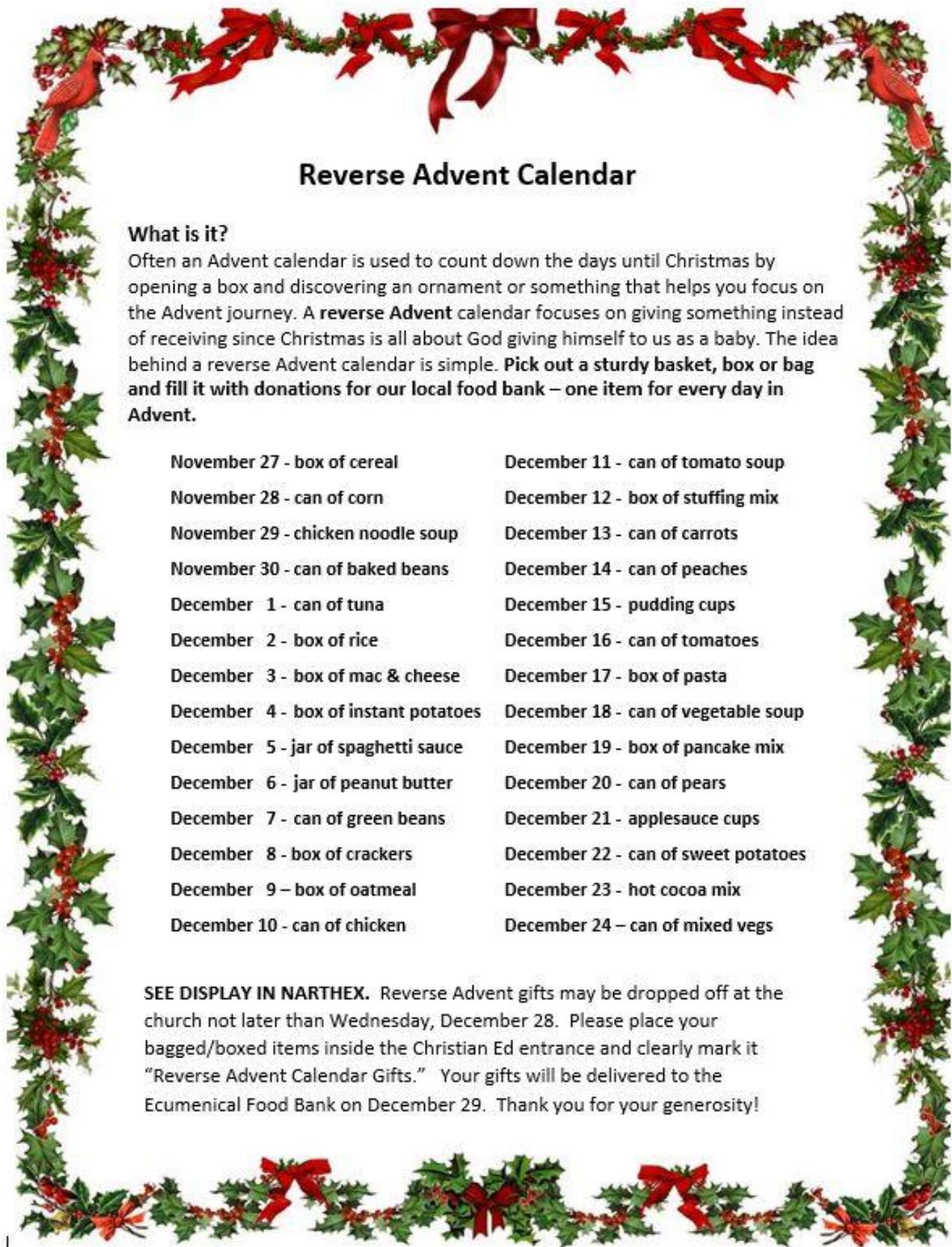
To Mark, Dave, and Ashley Adams who have volunteered to help with the Little Free Pantry.

To Karen Griffith, who has stepped up to become the UCCG/PNEC Ambassador.

To Linda Weber and Pastor Janet for agreeing to join our team of Soup Kitchen Volunteers. We could still use two more volunteers who want to take turns serving at the Soup Kitchen one Thursday morning each month.

YOU HAVE DEFINITELY MADE A SPLASH IN THE VOLUNTEER POOL.

Thank you from the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank for your donation of 280 pounds of essential food items on 11/22/22. Your donation allows us to keep our shelves stocked with items that we know our clients appreciate. It also allows our budget for purchasing food to be stretched a little further. We provided food to over 13,000 families this year. We anticipate that number will continue to rise. YOU are helping us make a difference!



Reverse Advent Calendar

What is it?

Often an Advent calendar is used to count down the days until Christmas by opening a box and discovering an ornament or something that helps you focus on the Advent journey. A **reverse Advent** calendar focuses on giving something instead of receiving since Christmas is all about God giving himself to us as a baby. The idea behind a reverse Advent calendar is simple. **Pick out a sturdy basket, box or bag and fill it with donations for our local food bank – one item for every day in Advent.**

November 27 - box of cereal

November 28 - can of corn

November 29 - chicken noodle soup

November 30 - can of baked beans

December 1 - can of tuna

December 2 - box of rice

December 3 - box of mac & cheese

December 4 - box of instant potatoes

December 5 - jar of spaghetti sauce

December 6 - jar of peanut butter

December 7 - can of green beans

December 8 - box of crackers

December 9 - box of oatmeal

December 10 - can of chicken

December 11 - can of tomato soup

December 12 - box of stuffing mix

December 13 - can of carrots

December 14 - can of peaches

December 15 - pudding cups

December 16 - can of tomatoes

December 17 - box of pasta

December 18 - can of vegetable soup

December 19 - box of pancake mix

December 20 - can of pears

December 21 - applesauce cups

December 22 - can of sweet potatoes

December 23 - hot cocoa mix

December 24 - can of mixed vegs

SEE DISPLAY IN NARTHEX. Reverse Advent gifts may be dropped off at the church not later than Wednesday, December 28. Please place your bagged/boxed items inside the Christian Ed entrance and clearly mark it "Reverse Advent Calendar Gifts." Your gifts will be delivered to the Ecumenical Food Bank on December 29. Thank you for your generosity!

May Happiness, Peace and Love be Yours This Holiday Season!



December 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Quilters meet either Wednesday or Thursday 9am-3pm	1	2	3
4 9:30-10:15 am <u>Faith Formation</u> 10:30 am <u>Worship</u> w/ <u>Holy Communion</u>	5	6 6:30 pm Cub Den Meetings	7	8 7:00 pm Discovery Team Meeting	9	10 Family Promise Set-Up
11 9:30-10:15 am <u>Faith Formation</u> 10:30 am <u>Worship</u> 3:30 pm Christmas Caroling	12	13	14	15 5:00 pm Leadership Circle Meeting	16	17
Family Promise	Family Promise	Family Promise	Family Promise	Family Promise	Family Promise	Family Promise
18 9:30-10:15 am <u>Faith Formation</u> 10:30 am <u>Worship</u> Family Promise Tear-Down after worship 3:00 pm Piano Recital (private)	19	20 6:30-8:00 pm Pack Holiday Party	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)	22 10:00 am Nursery School Holiday Family Sing-Along	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm <u>Family Celebration Service</u> 11:00 pm <u>Candlelight Service</u> w/ <u>Communion</u> and Live Music
25 Christmas Day <u>No Worship</u>	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

OUR STAFF

Pastor Janet Newett, Pastor pastorjanetn@gmail.com	610.657.2189 cell
Church Office/Main Phone	610-435-1763
Susan Borger, Church Secretary	484-695-7954 cell
Anthony Newett, Music & AV Technical Advisor	215-805-4353
Robert "Sonny" Rinker, Custodian	484-524-2070
Nursery School churchoffice@uccgreenawalds.org	610-435-5467 FAX 610-435-0988

Pastor's Office Hours Vary

**For a visit with Pastor Janet, please call her cell phone.
(Text messages preferred)**

**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 the 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 Sue Borger at borgersusan@yahoo.com no later than the 22nd of each month.

The December 2022 Edition of *Echoes* is sponsored by:

Eleanor Lakatosh

In loving memory of her husband, Robert Lakatosh.

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.