ECHOES APRIL 2023

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GREENAWALDS



PALM SUNDAY, April 2 at 10:30am

Raise your palm branches as Jesus rides into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna!" Palm Sunday will include a skit done by the children of our Sunday School and special music sung by our choir.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 6 at 6pm

Come together for a soup and bread supper in Fellowship Hall. Then we will experience the Last Supper around the tables, as Jesus did so long ago with his friends. Hear the stories of those first disciples. What brought them to that upper room...to that table... on that night? Holy Communion will be served in this simple time of remembrance.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 7 at 7pm

A traditional Tenebrae Service is planned for Good Friday, as we hear the story that took Jesus, and us, to the cross. We will end the service in silence.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 9, 8:30 & 10:30am

Our 8:30 worship service will be more contemplative in style as we celebrate Jesus' victory over the grave. Our 10:30 service will be a joyful celebration with "all the bells and whistles!" Whether you choose to join us for one or both, we are having a <u>light breakfast in between, at 9:30am</u>. At 10:00 am, we will toast to this new life available to us, made possible through Jesus!





FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR ...

This Lenten Season has been truly beautiful. Our theme of sharing stories to grow in faith and deepen our connection to God and one another was made possible by the courageous sharing of these four individuals:

Lee Stephens Karen Adams Ray Ward Sue Sawyer



I have seen that your FAITH is contagious and, in fact, more of you have been inspired to share your stories in worship! We will have a <u>FAITH STORY SUNDAY</u> once a month or once every other month. If you feel inspired to share, let me know so that we can find a time for you!

IF YOU MISSED HEARING ABOUT PASTOR'S TRIP TO INDIA:





Being welcomed at the airport in Hyderabad Selfie with 16-year olds we met while hiking

Article taken from Rev. Bill Worley, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Minister

Our joint Conference Ecumenical Relations Mission Team (ERMT) with representatives from PSEC and PNEC connects our Conferences with ministries around the globe including the Church of South India (CSI) – the second largest Christian church in India. The ERMT entered into a formal ecumenical agreement this past summer with the Karimnagar Diocese and their Bishop, The Right Rev. Dr. Reuben Mark. From this region many immigrants have come to eastern Pennsylvania and found spiritual homes in UCC congregations (including Grace-Trinity UCC and Emmanuel CSI in Philadelphia).

Six ERMT representatives traveled to the Karimnagar Dioceses at the invitation of Bishop Reuben to experience their ministry in the poorest areas of the Telangana Province. We witnessed how the Christian faith is growing in culturally complex and economically repressed communities. We learned about the historic missional connection of the UCC and CSI through our American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions — the forerunner to UCC Global Ministries. We also become familiar with the Dalit theological tradition that emerged among the Dalit caste in India in the 1980s and how that shapes preparation for, and the practice of, ministry.

We hope to use the lessons learned to broaden the understanding of clergy and congregations in our PA Conferences of the tremendous ministries done with diminished resources in the Karimnagar region — a reality that affects most US congregations. And that we are joined in Christian ministry with friends far away but close at heart who pray Jesus' prayer, "that they may all be one" (the motto of both the CSI and the UCC).

The ERMT will continue to build connections with UCC Global Ministries (who graciously funded our India travels) and its partnerships with the Church of South India specifically with initiatives that address issues facing women and girls including (but not limited to) education and opportunities in the workplace. We also hope to witness to recent partnerships Global Ministries has forged in Southern Asia around the work to end human trafficking and increase religious freedom.

I beg your prayers for the ongoing work of the ERMT and for ministry partners around the world who work toward unity in the face of global division and offer my deepest gratitude for the ERMT representatives who have committed much of themselves to this effort:

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates (PNEC), Conference Minister

Mrs. Kelly Johannsen (PSEC), Member of New Goshenhoppen UCC

Mr. Sukumar Kuthuru (PSEC), Member of Grace-Trinity UCC and PSEC Moderator

Pastor Janet Newett (PNEC), Pastor, UCC Greenawalds, Allentown

Rev. Dr. David Charles Smith (PNEC), Pastor, Jordan UCC, Allentown

Blessings, Pastor Bill Worley (PSEC), Conference Minister



A rural church in Karimnagar



Outside Bishop Mark's House



Visiting a new church start



A church run medical clinic



The View from Buddha Hill



Standing in rice paddies



Eleanor Limpar, at home Mae Moyer (Fellowship Manor - Room 324A) Doris Shaver (Phoebe - Room T313A) Naomi Thomas, at home Lois Tice, at home Geri Yarnall (Phoebe - Room T311B)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

On Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Geri Yarnall celebrated her 101st birthday! Pastor Janet went to pay her a visit with a balloon, a card and a stuffed bunny. And to her surprise there was a birthday party planned for her by her wonderful family! They graciously invited her to stay for the celebration. Geri's tender loving spirit was bright that day as we all gave thanks for her. Each day is such a gift!





... to the entire Tizio family, as they celebrate the official adoption of Catalia (Cattie) Faith Caggiano, daughter of Amanda & Mike Caggiano and granddaughter of Bart & Deb Tizio.

DISCOVERY PROJECT UPDATE

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up hope."

Galatians 6:9 NIV

Members of the UCCG Discovery Team, representatives of Family Promise and Glenn Lichtenwalner (architect) met with South Whitehall Zoning Officer on March 16. This informal meeting was intended to discuss preliminary plans of our partnership with Family Promise and how these plans would change or affect the use of the annex and first floor of the education wing.

SWT Zoning Officer, Laura Harrier, requested a narrative from Family Promise on the exact use of the spaces. She will then review the zoning ordinances to determine if any exceptions or variances are needed to move forward.

We patiently wait for the next steps which will hopefully be the official application for zoning approval.

In the meantime, we can be thoughtful and thorough in our building cleanup efforts.

Stay tuned for announcements of where you might help in this project.

... Karen Griffith



From the Music Director... It's ANT'S CORNER

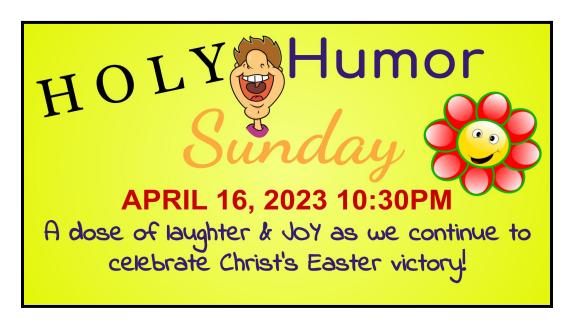
HI Everyone,

Our choir is growing and this is so exciting. If you would like to share your talent and spirit in worship in some musical way, please let me know. You can join the choir, sing a solo or play something on the instrument of your specialty.

Our soloists have enjoyed being with us and felt your warm welcome - thank you for that.

Anthony Newett, Music Director

Don't miss church on April 16th:





WORSHIP, MISSION, FAITH FORMATION, LOVE, CARING, SERVICE, SPIRIT, ENERGY!

In Search of: A window air conditioner for the church office. New or gently used, minimum of 8,000 BTUs. Thank you!



The Adult Class meets upstairs in the former choir room. They are currently discussing the Fruit of the Spirit: PEACE, through the exploration of how to handle our stress, worry and anxiety.

Speaking of our mental health....

On April 30th, UCC Greenawalds will lift up Mental Health Awareness Sunday.

This will be our time to say out loud:

"We see you and you are not alone. God loves you. We love you."

As a faith community we can give hope to people living with mental health challenges which are often invisible, yet very real and painful. Coming together to break the silence, we help end the stigma and shame of mental health and addiction challenges.

Mental Health challenges and substance use disorders touch each one of us in one way or another.

Come to worship on 4/30

to learn, to be accepted, to love, to be moved, to help break down the walls of isolation. Come to hold and be held, connected and supported by a beloved faith community.

PENNY PARTY SUCCESS



Thank you to Mark and Michelle Adams for stepping up to the plate to bring the Penny Party back to UCCG. After a four-year hiatus, on Saturday night, March 25, about 100 people gathered to spend their pennies buying tickets to win prizes.





Kitchen Crew L to R: Ray Adams IV,Brian Roeder, Dave Adams, Mark Adams, Charlie Roeder (Not pictured Ashley Adams Barnett)

In addition to Mark and Michelle and those listed as kitchen crew, we would like to thank all who helped make this party a success - set up/tear down/clean-up crews, announcers, tray starters, table/prize runners, penny cashiers/counters, food cashiers, end of line workers, dessert providers - and especially those that came to play! We are happy to report we netted a profit of \$1,810, with 10% of that going to Community BikeWorks, this year's mission focus.

NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATE:

- Our current fundraiser is honey products from Funny Farm Apiaries. Please contact Sheri Stephens or Sue Borger if you would like to place an order.
- We will continue to collect items for the Used Clothing Drive until April 27. Please continue to bring in your items until that date. Also, please place items in sturdy garbage bags.
- We are now accepting registrations for the 2023-2024 school year. If you know of someone who may be interested in enrolling their child, please have them call the Nursery School office at 610-435-5467.
- THANK YOU for your continued support of our Nursery School program.





We currently have three families in the rotation. Our next host week is April 30 to May 7 so if you haven't already contacted Karen Griffith to volunteer, please start thinking about how you are able to help — whether it's preparing a meal, spending time with our families, or sleeping overnight. It really does take a village!

Our next host weeks are September 24 - October 1 and November 5 - November 12, 2023.

The Family Promise Annual Gala on April 1 is a sell-out. We're looking forward to a fun night with eight people from UCCG attending.

Remember to reserve the date - August 24 - Sip and Mingle at the Stone Farms Cellar and Vineyard. More information will follow.

OTHER OMG INFORMATION:



Chow Chow

If anyone is available to help chop vegetables at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, please talk to Sandy Lakatosh or Sue Roth.

REMINDER: If you ordered chow chow, pick it up after worship on Sunday, April 16.



Community BikeWorks

We will have a representative from Community BikeWorks speak to us during a Sunday worship service in the near future, to explain the work they do with Allentown's youth.

As you know, Community BikeWorks is our 2023 mission focus, whereby 10% of all fundraising profits will be given to them. During the first three months of 2023, we were able to donate over \$300 to them!

Resurrected Life Church

We continue to collect gently-used clothing for Resurrected Life Church's distribution to Allentown's less fortunate. Please continue to place donations in the Christian Ed entrance, clearly marking the bags "Resurrected Life Church."

<u>Little Free Pantry</u>

Our Little Free Pantry continues to see regular use. Thank you for your ongoing support of this neighborhood need.

Soup Kitchen

We now have 7 members serving lunch at the Soup Kitchen in alternating months. Thank you Janine Hensinger, Bonnie Marmon, Pastor Janet, Charlie & Linda Roeder, Bob Thomas and Linda Weber!

Earth Day Clean-Up



Children are welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

SIGN UP in the lobby or email pastorjanetn@gmail.com

FOR THE EARTH DAY CLEAN UP BY SUNDAY APRIL 16

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG ...

Our OMG Team continues our recycling campaign to hopefully earn another bench. Please ask your family and friends to save the plastics for you. Please note, in addition to the list of items Trex accepts, we are also including a list of items on the Trex **DO NOT RECYCLE** list.

Please continue to bring your plastics to church and place them in the Trex Recycling Boxes (one in the Lobby/Narthex and one in the Christian Ed entrance way). Janine Hensinger and Karen Griffith are responsible for weighing and taking the plastic to deposit areas.

To date, we have collected 101 pounds of plastic!



TREX - What is good to bring!



Not for this project

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE



Our Leadership Circle continues to meet monthly in person and via zoom. Here are some highlights from our March 16, 2023 meeting:

- Bonnie Marmon led devotions by reading an article from Dayspring, entitled "Spring Forward into Faith" based on Isaiah 43:18-19.
- We reviewed the minutes from our February 16 meeting; minutes were approved with one minor correction.
- Financial reports were reviewed and approved.
- Our custodian will be retiring this summer, and we are currently accepting applications for that position. Larry Christman and Kerry Merkel will conduct interviews.
- The tenants have vacated the Annex. We will need to make some repairs, and then hope to do a short-term rental.
- Pastor's report was reviewed.
 - Pastor Janet thanks everyone for their generous financial support of her trip to India.
 - We reviewed the upcoming Holy Week schedule details
 - o Pastor Janet will be away at PNEC Youth Retreat April 14-16
 - Will have not have a Supply Pastor, but worship will be led by our members
 - Summer calendar of events discussed:
 - June 11 possible outdoor worship
 - June 18 we will begin the summer worship hour at 9:30 am
 - Planning some other outdoor worship services this year
- Reports were received from the Vice Moderator, OMG, Property, and Music & Worship.

A MESSAGE ABOUT GIVING ... from Pastor Janet

If you have increased your weekly or monthly offering - THANK YOU!!

Do you know my favorite part of the week?

It is undoubtedly Sunday mornings because, for some unbelievable reason, the SPIRIT is so strong. I look at each one of you and I am so proud and humbled to be the vessel God chose to bring that smile on to your face. What is even more amazing is that I get to do this with my husband. I know that music is such an important part of how worship speaks to our hearts!

Why am I writing this? Why am I writing this HERE?? Because whether we like it or not, we have to pay for everything we do. Your financial support, *if you can*, should match the passion you have for our worship and mission. That is how we keep going and growing!

I pray all of us just keep showing up in all the best ways that we can, because we are all a vessel that spreads God's message of love!

THANK YOU!

(PS- If you don't have the ability to increase your financial giving right now, trust me... I get it. We are vessels in other ways. We still SHOW UP just in different ways -so, no worries.)

2023 Financial Giving

Month	Budget	General Offering Income	*Other Income	Total Operating Income	Operating Expense	Net Income
Jan-23	\$11,716	\$10,519	\$3,132	\$13,652	\$9,321	\$4,331
Feb-23	\$11,716	\$8,529	\$3,520	\$12,049	\$15,012	(\$2,963)
Mar-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Apr-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
May-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Jun-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Jul-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Aug-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sep-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Oct-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Nov-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dec-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$140,588	\$19,049	\$6,652	\$25,701	\$24,333	\$1,368

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

Your 2023 Leadership Circle

Officers:

Moderator - Kerry Merkel Vice Moderator - Larry Christman Immediate Past Moderator - Sheri Stephens Recording Secretary/Financial Secretary - Sue Borger Treasurer/Finance & Budget Representative - Bonnie Marmon

Members-at-Large:

Linda Altrichter Diane Borman Jayne Christman Nanci Snyder

Ministry Team Leads:

Music & Worship - Linda Altrichter OMG (formerly Mission) - Sue Roth Property - Lee Stephens

April 2023							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
H	IAPPY I	EASTER				1 1:00 pm – Community Easter Egg Hunt	
75.75					5:30-9:00 pm Scouts' Blue & Gold Benquet		
2 Palm Sunday 9:30 – Sunday School 10:00 am – Fellowship 10:30 – Worship (no communion) Children's skit during worship 3:00 pm Egg Hunt (RAIN DATE)	3	4 6:30-8:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	5 Nursery School Easter Party and Egg Hunt in Fellowship Hall	6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Soup & Bread Supper and Service in Fellowship Hall	7 Good Friday 7:00 pm Worship (Traditional Tenebrae Service)	8	
9 Easter Holy Communion at both services NO Sunday School 8:30 am - Worship 9:30 am - Fellowship Breakfast in Lobby 10:00 am - Easter Toest 10:30 am - Worship	10	11 9:00 am-2:00 pm Making Chow Chow (in kitchen) 6:30-8:00 pm — Cub Scout Den Meeting	12	13 6:30 pm Ant Jama in Fellowship Hall	14 Pastor Janet leaves for PNEC Youth Retreat	15 Pastor Janet away at PNEC Youth Retreat	
16 Pastor Janet at Youth Retreat 9:30 – Sunday School 10:00 - Fellowship 10:30 – Worship – HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY (Ley leader led worship)	17	18 6:30-8:00 pm – Cub Scout Den Meeting	19	6:30-8:00 pm Nursery School – Deddy & Me Night (Fellowship Hall)	21	22 10:00 em Eerth Day Clean Up	
23 9:30 – Sunday School 10:00 am – Fellowship 10:30 – Worship (new members received) Reception to follow worship	24	25 6:30-8:00 pm – Cub Scout Den Meeting	26	27 6:30 pm Ant Jams in Fellowship Hall	28,	29 10:00 am Set-Up for Family Promise Host Week	
30 Family Promise Host Week begins	Family Pr	omise Host	Week April 30) thru May 7			

OUR STAFF

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

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 April 2023 Edition of Echoes is sponsored by:

Kerry & Drena Merkel In loving memory of Drena's dad, James Ferguson

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.