

Join UCCG on your Lenten journey, as we share stories to deepen our faith and connection to God and one another. Each Sunday worship will include a testimony of faith as we Journey to the Cross together.

On the Journey

Faith Stories Create More Faith Stories

Sunday Lenten Worship begins at 10:30am

Feb 26 through March 26

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Sunday, April 2 *Palm Sunday Worship, 10:30 am*

Thurs, April 6 *Maundy Thursday, 6:00 pm*

Supper & Worship with Holy Communion

Fri, April 7 *Good Friday Worship, 7:00 pm*

Sunday, April 9 *EASTER CELEBRATION SUNDAY!*

8:30 am Worship

9:30 am Food & Fellowship

10:30 am Celebration Worship!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOLY WEEK SEE PAGE 3



FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR ...

The season of Lent is typically the time that Christians examine their lives and their faith. As we take this journey together in worship, we are going to look at who we are and how God has shown up for us. And how we can and should show up through God for others.

I have been saying for years that *Faith Stories Create More Faith Stories*. And I know that I am not the only one that believes our stories are what connect us...

I have asked some brave souls to share some of their story with you. By the time you read this, Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer will have introduced this concept by sharing some of his story on February 26, the First Sunday in Lent.

After that, we will hear from:

- March 5- Lee Stephens
- March 12- Karen Adams
- March 19- Ray Ward
- March 26- (this day has not been finalized)

(If you have an interest in sharing your story in a worship setting, or even privately with me, please let me know! I would like to continue this practice even after Lent.)

The path we walk in faith is most powerful when it is both a shared practice and one that is personal. While I encourage all of you to come to worship and bring others with you, I believe it is equally important to spend time with God alone and in small groups.

I encourage you to try a new Spiritual Practice for Lent, which began on February 22 with Ash Wednesday and continues until Easter. Here are some examples of a Spiritual Practice:

- Sign up to receive an online daily devotional. Read it every day. Wonder what God is saying to you.
- Give something up that is difficult for you, remembering the sacrifice of Jesus. If this is something that you would normally spend money on, donate it.
- Take on something new: like random acts of kindness or reaching out to people who you haven't talked to in some time.
- Commit to take a quiet walk with God every day.
- Think about a habit that has kept you from being who God is calling you to be. Consciously give up that habit for Lent.

- Start a Gratitude Journal
- Remember your Star Word. Reconnect with it.

And there are SO many - Do some research or come to me and let me help you with it! By the way, it is called a Spiritual *PRACTICE* because it takes intentional work and thought to accomplish it and fit it into the world you already fill up quite easily.

On this journey with you ...

~Pastor Janet

P.S. I hope you can join me for the presentation on my trip to India on March 12 after worship. If you are away, there will be a written update in next month's ECHOES!



More about:

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 the fellowship area outside our worship space. Then we will move into the sanctuary to 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 early worship 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 light breakfast in between, at 9:30am, to toast to this new life available to us, made possible through Jesus!





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)



Congratulations to Jonathan and Amelia (Paradysz) Kovacs on the birth of their first child, Rhys William Kovacs, born on December 8, 2022. Congratulations also to his grandparents, Andy and Kathy Paradysz on the birth of their first grandchild.

Congratulations to Brian and Alecia Cleaver on the birth of their second child, Trace Oliver Cleaver, born on February 17, 2023. Congratulations also to his grandparents, Keith and Eileen Cleaver on the birth of their fourth grandson.



We offer our sincere condolences to the Reinhard Family as they mourn the loss of their mother/grandmother/great grandmother/sister, Louise Reinhard, who passed away on Monday, February 13 at the age of 92 years.



Hello, new church family! I can't begin to tell you how happy I am to have this opportunity to serve UCC Greenawalds as "Director of Music". I have a bit of a confession to make. I don't like that title. It's clearly a matter of semantics, but I prefer "Music Director". There is an err of pretentiousness in the former. I especially don't like "Minister of Music". You may ask why... and I will tell you that I believe the music director serves at the pleasure of the pastor. Now, this must conjure all sorts of interesting thoughts for you, as Pastor Janet is my wife. Let's forget about that for now and focus on what I mean by "serving at the pleasure of the pastor". Pastor Janet is your worship leader. She works, painstakingly (I

know, because I see it every day), to craft a service for you that delivers cohesive content, staying true to the lectionary, while including exciting and entertaining elements of enhancement (i.e. special videos, children's messages, props, music, etc.). I'm proud to be the one who will play the music that she feels is most suited to the content. Therefore, I serve at the pleasure of the pastor... who serves at YOUR pleasure!

I can see a TON of exciting new opportunities at UCCG. You guys actually know how to do church. There is an energy right now that (I believe) is going to continue to grow. The timing is PERFECT for me to come in and ride this wave of new energy!

My plan is to incorporate special music presentations on an average of twice per month. While the choir will continue to lead our hymns every Sunday, I plan to have the choir perform special anthems, alternating with outside talent of all types (vocalists, instrumentalists, small bands and more). I also want to explore a few alternate choirs, such as a "Children's Choir" and possibly a "Men's Choir". Last but not least, I want to invite any of our very own, willing, UCCG talent to perform. Who's feeling courageous?

I'm looking forward to our future together!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Newett".

Anthony Newett

~~Minister of Music~~ Music Director

DISCOVERY PROJECT UPDATE

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus...”
Hebrews 12 :1-2

Gathered for worship and a Congregational Meeting on Sunday January 29, the members of UCCG voted in favor of affirming a partnership with Family Promise of Lehigh Valley. This major step into the future mission and life of our congregation came after nearly three years of research and discussion, congregational conversations and numerous meetings.

There are still many hurdles ahead before we get to the finish line.

February was a busy month.

Representatives from UCCG and Family Promise met to finalize the draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (formerly known as the Covenant). This document was taken to the Family Promise Board of Directors and the UCCG Leadership Circle for approval. There are still some changes to be made before the agreement is ready for signing. This document is the promise to work together, not a lease or contract, which is more comprehensive and legally binding.

This past week members of UCCG Discovery Core Team, Leadership Circle Moderator and Rev. DeRemer met with the lawyer to discuss the project/partnership, decide on some key components of the contract with Family Promise, and establish our next steps.

The architect met with representatives from both organizations to discuss a few revisions to the drafted plans in preparation for a meeting with the South Whitehall zoning office.

Our next step is an informal meeting with the South Whitehall Township Zoning Officer to ask a few questions for guidance before a plan is submitted to zoning for approval.

... Karen Griffith

**“Dedication and commitment
are what transfer dreams into realities.”**

~ Tyra Jesko

Faith Formation at Greenawalds

News Flash!!! The *Adult Faith Formation Class* will begin on March 5 at 9:30 am. Please meet in the Lobby. Pastor Janet will lead this class.



**Faith Formation at
UCC Greenawalds**

9:30-10:15 am

We offer *Sunday School* for ages 3 to 5th grade, led by a spirited team.

Our Adult Class will be run by Pastor Janet beginning March 5

NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATE:

- 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.
- Our next fundraiser will be honey products from Funny Farm Apiaries. Details coming soon.
- THANK YOU for your continued support of our Nursery School program.

PENNY PARTY - SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023

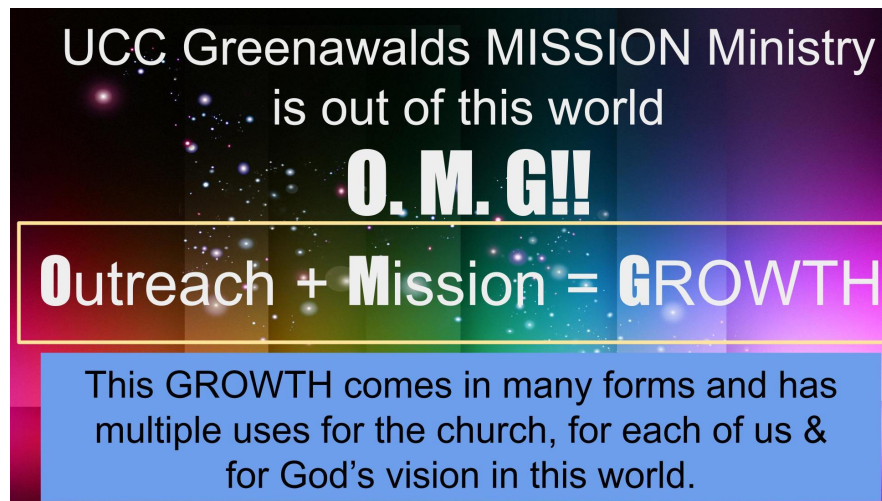


PENNY PARTY - SATURDAY, MARCH 25
4:45 pm - Doors Open
5:00 pm - Light Supper Available
6:00 pm - Games Begin

**SIGN-UP IN THE LOBBY TO HELP
OR COME AND PLAY THE GAMES.
GREAT FUN FOR ALL !!!**



A box for monetary donations and jelly bean donations will be placed in the lobby/narthex in the coming weeks.



SOUPER BOWL 2023 ...

And the winner is The Allentown Ecumenical Soup Kitchen! Thanks to your Souper Bowl donations, our local food bank received 129 non-perishable food items collected as votes for your favorite team. The Philadelphia Eagles received 113 "votes", while the Kansas City Chiefs received 16 "votes."

SOUP SALES WINTER 2023 ...



THANK YOU to all who supported our January and February soup sales!

We prepared 130 quarts of soup, with proceeds of almost \$1,000. Community Bike Works will

receive 10%, and the balance will be used for our heating oil expenses.



The Return of Chow Chow !

We'll be making chow chow (using UCCG's Women's Guild famous recipe) next month.
\$5.00 per pint

Place your orders early as we will be making only 50 pints this time (more will be made in fall).

Chow chow will be available for pick up on Sunday, April 16.

Place order form in offering plate or mail to church office.

Name _____

Phone _____

of pints _____ @ \$5.00/pint = _____





We currently have four families in our rotation. These families have five littles, all wearing size 5 and 6 diapers and/or pull-ups. Our supply is very low, and we now have AN URGENT need for diapers and pull-ups. We would appreciate any help. You can bring your donations to the church or take them directly to the Day Center at 1346 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown. If you bring to the church, please mark them Family Promise LV and someone will make sure they get to the Day Center.

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

A vertical poster for the Annual Homecoming Gala. At the top, it says "YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING" in yellow. Below that, "Our Annual Homecoming" is written in large, elegant cursive. Underneath, "The Magic of Community & Coming Home" is in a smaller cursive font. The date and time "Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 5:30 PM" are in bold. The location "Aster Event Center • 621 Grange Road, Allentown, PA 18106" is listed. A line of text reads "COCKTAILS • DINNER • AUCTION • ENTERTAINMENT". Ticket information follows: "INDIVIDUAL TICKETS - \$125 | TABLES OF EIGHT - \$800" with a note "Includes dinner choice of braised short ribs or grilled salmon". A section for "Sponsorship Opportunities are Available" includes instructions to purchase tickets or sponsorships. At the bottom, three steps are listed: 1. Scan this QR code, 2. Go to the Family Promise Website-fplehighvalley.org, 3. Call us at 610-351-1368 or Email us at Devdirector@fplehighvalley.org. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the poster.

Save the Date: Our Annual Homecoming Gala is set for Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 5:30 pm at the Aster Event Center. Each host congregation is asked to donate at least two baskets for the basket auction (each worth at least \$100.) If you would like to donate items for these baskets, we are suggesting gift cards for local stores, restaurants, salons, etc., coupons for services (lawn mowing, car detailing, etc.) Monetary donations would be appreciated, and we will shop for you!

If you are interested in attending the gala with a group from UCCG, please contact Sue Roth at 610-554-2781. Individual tickets are \$125, but if we have a table of eight, the cost is \$100 per ticket.

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG ... Our OMG Team has decided to start another recycling campaign to hopefully earn another bench. Please ask your family and friends to save the plastics for you. Bring to church on any given day and place in the Trex Recycling Boxes (one in the Lobby/Narthex and one in the Christian Ed entrance way.) Janine Hensinger and Karen Griffith will be responsible for weighing and taking the plastic to deposit areas.

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

FROM THE STORE

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

 **NexTrex**
NexTrex.com 540-542-6930





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:

On Sunday, March 19, we will collect a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS.) This year's theme is ***"It's Time to Share,"*** based on Galatians 6:9-10 "So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time, we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up ..."

THANK YOU!

from ... Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley - thanks for your thoughtful contribution of \$301.08 for the year 2022. You have made a real difference in the lives of so many throughout the Lehigh Valley and for that we are most grateful.

from ... Lehigh Conference of Churches - thank you for your \$805.28 contribution for the year 2022 to support our neighbors in need.

from ... Phoebe Ministries - Thank you for your congregation's generous donation of \$301.08 to Phoebe Ministries in the year 2022. Your generosity helps us fulfill our mission and provide opportunities that make life worth living. Thank you.

from ... Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank - we thank you for your generous monetary donation of \$340 for the year 2022. We also thank you for your donation of 101.5 pounds of canned soup given to us on February 14. Your donation allows us to keep our shelves stocked with items that we know our clients appreciate. YOU are helping us make a difference! Thank you.

from ... Bethany Children's Home - Thank you for your gift of \$301.08. Through your special gifts, we can provide each youth an opportunity to receive educational support/enrichment, music therapy, arts and recreation, therapeutic services and a caring, structured environment to live within. Thank you for helping our youth heal from the past, live in the present, and dream for the future.



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

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

- Jayne Christman led devotions by reading from the StillSpeaking Daily Devotions. Today's reading was entitled "*Your Work Can Be Your Ministry*" by Lillian Daniel.
- We reviewed the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for January. All were in order. Motion made to accept the reports as presented. All in favor; motion carried.
- We reviewed the minutes from the January 15 and January 19 Leadership Circle Meetings and the January 29 Congregational Meeting. All were in order. Motions made on each individual report. All in favor; motions carried.
- The Pastor's Report was submitted and reviewed. Highlights from her report include:
 - Congregational Meeting where we affirmed the Family Promise Partnership and approved the revised budget to hire Anthony Newett as our Music Director.
 - Scout Sunday on February 5 was very well attended by the scouts and their families.
 - Attendance "in-house" is gaining momentum, hitting 70-80 each week.
- The theme for Lent 2023 will be *Faith Stories Create More Faith Stories*; Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer will start off on February 26, telling his Faith Story. Lee Stephens will share on March 5, Karen Adams on March 12, and Ray Ward will share his faith story on March 19.
- We will welcome new members during worship on March 26.
- Janet expressed her gratitude for the congregation's support of her India trip.
- Reports were received from the Vice Moderator, OMG, Property, Music & Worship.

An IMPORTANT Message about Business and Finances from Your Leadership Circle

- **If each UCCG giving unit would increase their financial giving by a minimum of \$3.00 per week, we will be able to meet the revised 2023 budget.**
- We continue to encourage members to make a recurring gift through your bank or through our online giving resource. This way, if you're not worshipping in person, you may continue to support your church and our missions.
- Please contact Sue at the church office or on her cell if you would like to sign-up for on-line giving or are able to increase your on-line giving, and Sue can take care of that for you.
- **Remember, it's best to sign-up using your checking account; using a credit card incurs fees the church is charged, thus losing money you are giving to the church.**
- **Please prayerfully consider if you are able to increase your weekly or monthly gift.**

THANK YOU!

2023 Financial Giving

Month	Budget	General Offering Income	*Other Income	Total Operating Income	Operating Expense	Net Income
Jan-23	\$11,716	\$10,819	\$2,832	\$13,652	\$9,191	\$4,461
Feb-23	\$11,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$10,819	\$2,832	\$13,652	\$9,191	\$4,461

* 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

March 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Quilters 9-3 on Tuesday or Wednesday	1	2	3	4
			Pastor Janet returns from India	6:30 pm Ant Jams in FH		4:00-9:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack Mtg./Carnival
5 9:30 am – Faith Formation Adult and Children 10:30 am – Worship w/Holy Communion 4:30 pm – Scouts Red & White Banquet in FH	6	7	8 Int'l. Women's Day	9	10	11
		6:30 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting				2:00-4:00 pm UCCG-101 / New Member Class
12 Daylight Saving Begins 9:30 am - Faith Formation Adult and Children 10:30 am – Worship Lunch after worship – Presentation on Pastor Janet's India Trip	13	14	15	16	17 St Patrick's Day	18
		6:30 pm Cub Den Meeting		4:00 pm Leadership Circle Meeting (Live in Sanctuary or on Zoom) 6:30 pm Ant Jams in FH		8:00 am – 3:00 pm Kitchen booked for Scouts to bake
19 9:30 am - Faith Formation Adult and Children 10:30 am – Worship OGHS Offering	20 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox)	21	22	23	24	25
		6:30 pm Cub Den Meeting				PENNY PARTY IS BACK!! 4:45 pm – Doors Open 5:00 pm – Kitchen Open 6:00 pm – Games Begin
26 9:30 am - Faith Formation Adult and Children 10:30 am – <u>Worship</u> <u>Receive New Members</u>	27	28	29	30	31	
		6:30 pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting		6:30 pm – Ant Jams in FH		

REMINDER: UCCG COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT - Saturday, April 1 at 1:00 pm (rain date Sunday April 2 at 3:00 pm) - A box for monetary donations and jelly bean donations will be placed in the lobby/narthex in the coming weeks.

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 March 2023 Edition of *Echoes* is sponsored by:

Ray & Linda Roche

In loving memory of their son, Todd Roche.

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.