

Summer Outdoor Worship & Special Events Schedule!

June 11: Outdoor Worship; 10:30 am w/ Picnic

June 18- START OF SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

Fellowship at 9am & Worship at 9:30am

(No Faith Formation Classes until Sept)

July 9- Outdoor worship with Pet Blessing; 9:30am

July 28- Ice Cream Festival/Community Movie Night

**Aug 27- Outdoor Worship with Back to School
Blessing 9:30am; Picnic to follow**

The above dates may be subject to change.

**Sign up in the lobby to help with food, worship, and/or games
for the above dates.**

It is so important for us to get OUTSIDE our church walls so that our community
sees us as a welcoming, thriving congregation.

Faith is not TAUGHT.... It is CAUGHT.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR ...



Happy Easter to everyone!

I wanted to use this opportunity to check in with you about my standing as a UCC Pastor and *your* pastor.

Do you know or have you noticed that I do not use the REV abbreviation for the title of *Reverend* in front of my name? The reason is that I am authorized as a Licensed Pastor, and I am not *yet* ordained.

My process to, and journey in, ministry was certainly unique- and I wouldn't change it. I think you should know more about it and what I have coming up because, ultimately, it includes all of you.

(This is exciting stuff, folks, but I admit I take a while to get to the punchline. If you don't have a lot of time, skip down to the highlighted paragraph!)

Formally, my ministry in the church began in 2004 at St. John's UCC Allentown. By 2007, I had heard God's call to authorized ministry. At the time, there were three different types of authorized ministers: *commissioned*, *licensed* and *ordained*. Knowing that I needed to continue working and taking time off to go to seminary to be ordained was not an option, I focused on deciding between commissioned and licensed.

Commissioned Ministers study one particular subject to be "commissioned" as a specialist in that area. I have many friends that are Commissioned Ministers for Christian Education or Youth Ministry, but you can also go for music or evangelism, for instance. Commissioned Ministers, however, are not granted the ability to perform the sacraments.

Licensed and Ordained Ministers have the same authorization except that when you are licensed it needs to be renewed and you are granted authority to a particular place for a particular time only. Then of course there is becoming ordained which is a blessing placed upon you that is unending. Becoming ordained in the United Church of Christ means that you represent the UCC as a whole denomination. One could move from PA to California to serve without having to apply again and go through a new certification process.

But I wasn't planning to move to California anytime soon! As I experienced different churches and spent time discerning with God, I knew that I wanted the privilege of performing the sacraments. So, *licensing* became my goal.

As life would have it, I would not be able to start my classes until 2015 which is when my official *Member in Discernment* [MID] process started. I finished the licensing program, a 3 year curriculum, through the PA Academy of Ministry (now a satellite program of Lancaster Seminary) in 2018. That's when I came to Greenawalds the first time as a student pastor for my final internship required for licensing.

Fast forward to June of 2019, with my call at St. John's UCC, Fogelsville, I was finally licensed and an Authorized Minister for PNEC in the UCC!

As life's craziness would have it, in 2019, the United Church of Christ recommended that local Conferences/Associations discontinue licensing and move instead to having everyone become ordained. I believe I was the last person in our Penn Northeast Conference to be licensed!

The reality was that if I left that setting, I would no longer be able to be authorized because I was only licensed to that church. All of us who were licensed were told to continue being a pastor, we needed to once again become a Member in Discernment, this time, seeking ORDINATION. However, the single minded view of needing to go through seminary to become ordained had also been re-evaluated.

What does all of this mean?? It means that all of my experience counts. Anyone seeking ordination now needs to prove a high level of competency in all areas of ministry through an individualized plan. LONG story SHORT... after lots of papers and conversations with the Authorization Working Group of Penn Northeast Conference, I am approaching a time when I will finally be considered for ordination. This last step is called *ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL!*

At this occasion, the MID leads a short time of worship before the Committee on Ministry and anyone else present. Then the room opens up for discussion and for questions about the MID's Ordination paper, journey and theology. Everyone present who is a UCC church member can vote *yes* or *no* for this person to move forward and officially be ordained.

So YOU have a vote!!

On July 15- you are all invited to attend my Ecclesiastical Council!

(As soon as I have the location and time, I will let you know.)

Phew! I know that was a lot to read. If you made it this far without just skipping to the bold line above, congratulations! I am SO very excited to be nearing the end of this part of my journey. In my heart, God blessed me for this work long ago but it is time to officially be recognized by the Body of Christ around me. I have worked very hard to get where I am; when I get approved for ordination, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE AN AWESOME PARTY!!

You and I get to plan a special service (usually on a Sunday afternoon) during which I will be ordained AND officially INSTALLED as your pastor! YAY!

Thank you for being YOU and being a faith community where people feel safe and loved... Where I feel safe and loved.

God bless you!

~Pastor Janet



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)

DISCOVERY PROJECT UPDATE

*We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being **strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience**, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.*

~ Colossians 1:9-12

UCCG and Family Promise are awaiting word from the South Whitehall Township Zoning Office on the possible need for exceptions or variances concerning our plans to partner with Family Promise. The “use of space” narrative was sent on April 5.

In the meantime, several of us reviewed the educational material in the art and youth rooms for the purpose of organizing, recycling, or disposing of unusable items. Thank you to Annette Fatzinger, Sue Roth, Carla Lindenmuth, and Pastor Janet for assisting me in this work.

Linda Altrichter will be leading a team to look at the choir room and begin the task of reorganization, clean out, and inventorying items in that area.

Nanci Snyder will be organizing a team to work on the library.

Please prayerfully consider any requests for help that you may get for this cleanup effort.

...Karen Griffith

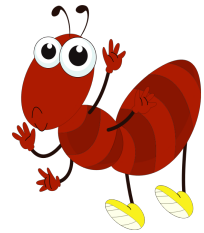
Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

~ Colossians 3:12



From the Music Director...

It's ANT'S CORNER



Hello everyone! I'm entering my third month with UCCG. It's hard to believe. My Uncle Charlie used to tell me that time will go faster as I get older. I didn't believe him at the time. How could time move faster? He forgot to mention that I would only THINK time moved faster... or, is it that time moves SLOWLY when you're an impatient kid! The latter sounds more likely.

I digress...

There are some cool things in store for us very soon. Let's begin with the technology stuff! Kerry and Drena Merkel have purchased a second TV monitor for the sanctuary. Our intention is to mount it on the right side, a few pews-in. Video is becoming increasingly more important for worship. In addition to video clips, all of the bulletin content is on the screen. A single monitor at the front of the sanctuary (albeit 75 inches) is a challenge to read for some of the folks sitting toward the back. If this works out, who knows... maybe we can mount a third monitor, farther back, on the left. It would be nice to eliminate hardcopy printing.

As for music ... in light of the very positive response from our "Mental Health Awareness" service on April 30th, I'd like to consider incorporating drums and bass on a more regular basis. Often referred to as a church "praise band", additional instrumentation can really make things exciting. By the way, I prefer not to use the term "praise band", as it implies more of a "Contemporary Christian" choice of music. We'll be doing all sorts of great music from all generations and genres! My plan is to invite our instrumentalists to join us twice a month, if possible!

Speaking of the amazing talents and gifts shared with UCCG, I'd like to take a moment to thank bassist Peter McKeon and drummer Brian Hernandez! I hope we'll be seeing a lot more of them! Also, I'm extremely grateful to Christy Dunbar for lending her beautiful voice to our choir, as well as her solo performances!

There are even MORE talented guests to come! Stay tuned!

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

Anthony Newett, Music Director

Welcome to our New Members

On Sunday, April 23, we welcomed six new members into our church family.

We extend a warm welcome to:

Kalvin Alexander (future son-in-law of Pastor Janet and Anthony)

Anthony Newett

Aria Newett (oldest daughter of Pastor Janet and Anthony - engaged to Calvin)

Judy Nordell (a friend of Anthony)

Christiane Schantz (mother of Stephanie Miller)

Grace Quinn (daughter of Pastor Janet and Anthony)

THANK YOU!

To ... Karen Adams and Lee & Sheri Stephens for leading our “**Holy Humor Sunday**” on April 16, while Pastor Janet was away leading the PNEC Youth Retreat.

From ... Grant Field for the birthday “card shower” while he was away. The cards and messages were a nice surprise and greatly appreciated.

From ... Dolly Smith for the phone calls, cards, and messages over the past few weeks as she recovered from bronchitis. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

From ... Sophie Maurer for the phone calls, cards, and messages while she was recovering from RSV. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

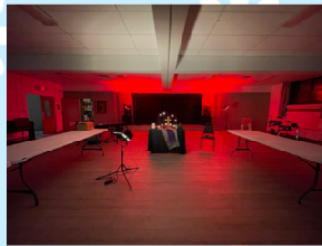
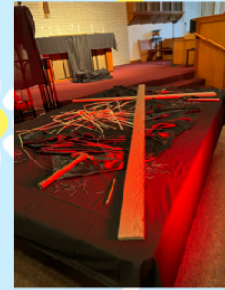
From ... Sue Borger to that someone who purchased the new air conditioner for the church office.



Congratulations to Sonny Rinker. After 6+ years as our custodian, Sonny has decided to retire. We wish him well on this next journey in his life.

(more about our new custodian, Christopher Michener, in the June *Echoes*.)

The Easter Season at UCCG - 2023



Easter at UCCG



PNEC ONGOING DISASTER MINISTRIES MISSION PROJECT

Did you know that PNEC runs local mission projects?

They do, and through your contributions,  you are part of it!

PNEC put together **2 tool trailers** that are used to support local people when disaster strikes, and they need help!

Currently, one of the trailers is in Philadelphia helping people recover from the devastation of Hurricane Ida in September 2021.

THANK YOU FOR CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PNEC!



NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATE:

- Our current fundraiser is Thomson Hoagies. We are accepting orders now thru Thursday, May 4. Pick-up date is Thursday, May 11 between 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The price is \$5.50.
- Thank you for your donations of used clothing and household items that were picked up on April 27. This year, we collected 3,982 pounds for a profit of \$716.76 for our Nursery School program.
- We will be collecting used items again for the next school year, so if you are cleaning out closets, please place your items in sturdy garbage bags and bring them to the church any time between now and next April..
- 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.

O.M.G.!!

Outreach + Mission = GROWTH



As you read this, our host week is underway. There are currently three families in the program - 3 adults and 6 kiddos (one 5-year old, two 3-year olds, two 2-year olds, and one 1-year old).

The Family Promise Annual Homecoming on April 1 was a huge success and raised \$98,000. Food, auction baskets, music, photo booth, and magician were enjoyed by all.



Look who represented UCCG:

L-R are Gary Hensinger, Karen Griffith, Sandy Lakatosh, Janine Hensinger, and Mark Griffith.

Also attended but not in this picture - Joy and Todd Messner

Mark your calendar:

Saturday, June 3, 2023 - Highmark - Walk for a Healthy Community. Let's form a UCCG team and have your friends and family sponsor you (proceeds benefit Family Promise). A flyer, a signup sheet and sponsor sheets are on the Family Promise bulletin board.

Thursday, August 24 - Sip and Mingle at the Stone Farms Cellar and Vineyard. More information will follow.

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

Little Free Pantry

Our Little Free Pantry continues to be a blessing to our neighbors in need. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Community BikeWorks

We will have a representative from Community BikeWorks speak to us during worship on Sunday, May 7, to explain the work they do with Allentown's youth. Community Bike Works is our 2023 mission focus, whereby 10% of all fundraising profits will be given to them.



Chow Chow



Soup Kitchen



Chow Chow

Thank you to Diane Borman, Karen Griffith, Janine Hensinger, Sandy Lakatos, Bonnie Marmon, Mark & Stephanie Miller, Sue Roth and Sue Sawyer for making the chow chow. We hope you are enjoying this delicious Pennsylvania Dutch treat. There is a basket under the shelf in the narthex/lobby where you may return the empty jars, which we will sanitize and reuse. Please note that we cannot use jars other than pint size mason jars - no jelly jars, please! We anticipate making chow chow again in the fall - stay tuned for details.

Soup Kitchen

We currently have nine members serving lunch at the Soup Kitchen. We have two teams of four volunteers each, so that we can serve every month on an alternating basis. Thank you Diane Borman, Janine Hensinger, Bonnie Marmon, Charlie & Linda Roeder, Nanci Snyder, Bob Thomas and Linda Weber. Pastor Janet also volunteers with either group as her schedule permits.

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 review the DO NOT INCLUDE list below. We have noticed that some of you are recycling plastic milk jugs, water bottles and hard plastic containers (like those used for take-out foods or some fruits and vegetables). Those hard plastics are NOT accepted for this recycling project. All plastics received are to be clean and dry. THANK YOU!

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 176 pounds of plastic!

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

RECYCLED IN AMERICA

TREX - What is good to bring!

DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS IN NEXTREX® PROGRAMS

FROZEN FOOD BAGS **CANDY BAR WRAPPERS** **CHIP BAGS** **NET OR MESH PRODUCE BAGS** **PET FOOD BAGS**

OR THESE

- ✗ Degradable/compostable bags or film packaging
- ✗ Six-pack rings
- ✗ Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths
- ✗ Pre-washed salad mix bags
- ✗ PPE- Gloves, masks, or protective wear
- ✗ Bedding or linen packaging
- ✗ Hot dog or meat wrap packaging
- ✗ Lamination film
- ✗ Shiny, crinkly films like floral wrap
- ✗ Silage and hay bags
- ✗ Backyard ice rinks

DON'T SEE YOUR ITEM ON THE LIST?
Try these tests to see if your plastic is acceptable or not.

See if the package will stretch when you pull it. If yes, it can be included. If it tears like paper, then please don't put in the bin.

Is the package shiny or does it make a crinkly/crunchy sound in your hand? If yes, do NOT recycle in the NexTrex® bin.

NW works **NexTrex** **RECYCLED IN AMERICA**

trex.com/recycling 540-542-6930

Not for this project



Ladies In Faith Together

Saturday, June 17 - 5:00 pm - Ice Cream Social and LIFT planning meeting at the home of Sue Sawyer. Please bring a folding chair and your calendar. Please RSVP to Sue. Ice cream and bottled water will be provided.

Sunday, June 25 - 2:00 pm - *"In the Heights"* (musical) at DeSales University.

Sunday, September 24 - Campfire for a Cause - our mission this year is **Valley Youth House** (more information to be provided at a later date).



Telephone Tree

About three years ago, the "Telephone Tree" was established to keep us connected to each other during the difficult days of isolation due to the COVID pandemic. Participants made regular phone calls to members, checking on their welfare, asking if they needed assistance, and providing a cheerful reminder that we at UCCG are a family, even if the church was not open to us. It wasn't long before the callers realized that they were benefiting as much as the members they called. We got to know each other better, learned from each other and deepened our connections.

With restrictions being lifted in all areas, and church services and activities resuming, the Telephone Tree has been disbanded. Calls will be made only to our shut-ins. Please know that you may call the church office at any time if you find yourself in need of anything. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Telephone Tree. It was truly a blessing for all.

**"All of us, at some time or other, need help.
Whether we're giving or receiving help,
each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world.
That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors –
in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."
~ Mister Rogers**



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Our Leadership Circle continues to meet monthly in person and via zoom. Here are some highlights from our April 20, 2023 meeting:

- Linda Altrichter led devotions by reading from “Finding Calm in the Chaos”, entitled “A Glimpse of Heaven.”
- Minutes from the March meeting were reviewed and accepted.
- Financial reports were reviewed and approved.
- Kerry Merkel has been in contact with West End regarding the Annex. There have been several showings.
- Mike Yellak, account manager for Stratix Systems, attended the meeting to present a proposal for an upgrade with a new copier. The proposal was reviewed and accepted by Leadership Circle.
- Sonny Rinker has officially resigned, and a new custodian has been hired. Christopher Michener started on April 17.
- Karen Griffith attended the meeting to give an update on the Discovery Project with Family Promise. Still waiting for answers from the Zoning Board.
- Newly formed Music & Worship team will meet with Pastor Janet and Anthony to discuss the summer schedule.
- The Pastor’s Report was submitted; we will need supply pastors for May 21, July 2, and August 6.

A MESSAGE ABOUT GIVING ... from Pastor Janet

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

What do you do with your money?

Do you spend it as soon as you get it?

(Dunkin’, some new clothing, gas up the car and pay some bills...)

What’s left? AND what do you do with what’s left??

(Maybe there is a lot left over or at least “enough” left over...)



So, do you save it for the next rainy day or emergency?

Do you hide it under your mattress or store it in that old coffee can that sits on the top shelf of the closet?

Or do you invest your money in hopes that your money will work for you, instead of the other way around!

(In the stock market, real estate or *another asset that you hope will see growth?*)

I know that giving your time, talent and yes, your money, to church is not going to make you more money. But I also know that if you invest in UCC Greenawalds, *you will see ALL kinds of growth...*

Growth in our outreach,

Growth in our worship,

Growth in our fellowship,

Growth in our population,

Growth in the spirit in YOU and within this community!

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	\$9,444	\$4,208
Feb-23	\$11,716	\$8,529	\$2,995	\$11,524	\$14,833	(\$3,309)
Mar-23	\$11,716	\$8,702	\$2,162	\$10,864	\$12,177	(\$1,313)
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	\$27,751	\$8,289	\$36,040	\$36,453	(\$414)

* 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

May 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Family Promise Host Week	2 1:00 pm Family Promise Board Meeting in CR 3:00 pm Family Promise Tour of Annex Family Promise Host Week	3 12-1 Piano Tuning (John Zeiner) Family Promise Host Week	4 Deadline to order hoagies Family Promise Host Week	5 Family Promise Host Week	6 Family Promise Host Week
7 Family Promise Guests Depart 9:30 – Sunday School 10:00 am – Fellowship 10:30 – Worship w/Holy Communion AND Mission Moment – Community Bike Works FP Tear-Down after worship	8	9 6:30 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	10	11 9:15 am Nursery School Mother's Day Tea 10-12: noon – Hoagie Pick-Up 6:30 pm Art Jams (FH)	12	13 12-5 pm Private Rental in Fellowship Hall
14 9:30 – Sunday School 10:00 am – Fellowship 10:30 – Worship	15 Piano Guild Auditions 8:30 am – 6:00 pm Sanctuary and Lobby	16 Piano Guild Auditions 8:30 am – 6:00 pm Sanctuary and Lobby 6:30 pm Cub Scout Final Pack Meeting of the year	17 Piano Guild Auditions 8:30 am – 6:00 pm Sanctuary and Lobby	18 Piano Guild Auditions 8:30 am – 6:00 pm Sanctuary and Lobby	19 Piano Guild Auditions 8:30 am – 6:00 pm Sanctuary and Lobby	20 2:30-6:30 pm Private Rental Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall 3:00 pm Piano Recital in Sanctuary 4:30 pm Reception in Fellowship Hall
21 9:30 – Sunday School 10:00 am – Fellowship 10:30 – Worship	22	23 6:30 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	24 Nursery School Family Picnic @ Covered Bridge Park	25 6:30-8:00 pm Nursery School Closing Program (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)	26	27
28 PENTECOST NO Sunday School 10:00 am – Fellowship 10:30 – Worship w/Pentecost Celebration and Special Offering to Strengthen the Church	29 Memorial Day	30 9:00 am – 12:00 noon Nursery School Camporee	31 9:00 am – 12:00 noon Nursery School Camporee			

"Gratitude is the memory of the heart!"

~ J. B. Massieu

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
Christopher Michener	484-408-3139
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 **May 2023** Edition of *Echoes* is sponsored by:

Ben and Robert Gulledge
in loving memory of mother/grandmother,
Janie Gulledge.

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.