

ECHOES

September 2023

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
GREENAWALDS

THE BIG NEWS:

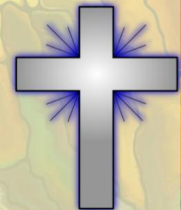
*You are invited to
Celebrate with us!*

The Ordination of Janet Newett & Her Installation as Pastor & Teacher of United Church of Christ Greenawalds

Sunday, September 17, 2023

3:00 p.m. Dinner Reception to follow

UCCG 2325 Albright Ave, Allentown PA, 18104



Starting September 10:

**Our Year-Round
Worship time
will be 10:00 am**

With Fellowship at 9:30 am

2 classes:
Preschool - 2nd
&
3rd -6th grades

**Sunday School
9:00-9:45am**

**Our
Adult Class
will begin
9/17**

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Greetings to all of you!



Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up. Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19

September is one of the times of the year where we think about new beginnings. And with beginnings, come endings. I know that, for many of you, summertime is filled with weekend trips to the beach, camping or other excursions. As that comes to an end, I hope that you will flood the church pews with your stories, your spirit and your enthusiasm. And your friends!

Speaking of friends and worship and new beginnings....

I hope the children have all enjoyed their “back to school” experiences. I am excited for this coming Sunday’s worship service (9/10 which will begin at the new worship time of 10am) because Anthony and I have something special planned for you as a means of sharing the children’s “back to school” pictures. Well, really I had an idea that I shared with Ant and he is the magician that makes it a reality!

What are some of the other things you can look forward to this fall at UCCG??

- News about Family Promise and our partnership
- An All-Congregational Book Study sponsored by our Mental Health Ministry Team
- Trunk or Treat
- An *All-You-Can-Eat* Spaghetti Dinner Dance
- Harvest Home
- A special Christmas mission
- A new updated UCCG Constitution and Bylaws for you to vote on
- Choir anthems and continued Special Music

Those are just the items off the top of my head. Look for info contained throughout this edition of ECHOES and beyond! And read *Ant’s Corner*... it’s quite beautiful.

-Pastor Janet

Ant's Corner



Undoubtedly, the past couple of months have been nothing short of intriguing. It's a relief to be back in action, even if it means working from a hotel room. No complaints, though – the complimentary breakfast is a delightful perk!

Over the weekend, Pastor Janet and I had the pleasure of attending an event in Coatesville, PA, nestled in Chester County – yes, the same county where an inmate serving a life sentence for murder recently escaped! The event, "Jamboree in the Pines," was hosted by my friend Richard Troxell, an alumnus of the esteemed Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, along with my musical compadre, Dan May.

As we drove along the picturesque country roads en route to the jamboree, I couldn't help but spot an Amish gentleman steering his horse and buggy. My initial thought was, "that seems inconvenient." Then it struck me – does he find it more cumbersome than dealing with monthly car payments, exorbitant gas prices, and sky-high insurance rates?

That evening, I decided to delve a little deeper into the Amish way of life. How did I do this? With technology, of course!

While I already grasped their avoidance of technology as a means to maintain simplicity, I yearned for a better understanding. This is what I learned:

Beyond the pursuit of simplicity, the Amish place significant emphasis on self-sufficiency and self-reliance. Their avoidance of modern conveniences fosters the development of essential skills, nurturing a stronger sense of community as they frequently rely on one another for daily needs.

Environmental stewardship holds great importance for the Amish, aligning seamlessly with their theological beliefs, which revolve around honoring God's creation.

The deliberate avoidance of technology serves as a means for the Amish to preserve their cultural identity and unique way of life. It sets them apart from the broader society, reinforcing their commitment to their values and traditions – it keeps them unmistakably "Amish."

The more I delved into their way of life, the clearer it became that the Amish aren't anti-technology; they are pro-community, pro-nature, pro-faith, and pro-simplicity. The absence of technology shields them from temptations that might erode these fundamental principles.

I'm aware that I'm often guilty of using my phone at the dinner table or when spending time with guests. While many of you may handle this better than I do, if you find yourself sharing this bad habit with me, consider taking a simple step: silence your phone and leave it in another room. Fully engage with the people right in front of you.

It's challenging to determine whether technology has genuinely improved our lives; it has undoubtedly changed them. It allows many of you to participate in our Sunday service, even when unwell or on vacation. As with all things in life, balance is key. Technology, when used for virtuous reasons, is a blessing.

In conclusion, I believe there are several lessons to be gleaned from the Amish way of life. It serves as a poignant reminder that in a world increasingly dominated by technology, there remains profound wisdom in embracing timeless values – faith, community, and above all, humility.

One thing I am certain of: the next time I pass an Amish horse and buggy, I won't ponder their inconvenience. Instead, I'll envy their profound sense of peace.



DID YOU KNOW about THIS??



OH NOO....

Anthony has been paying our guest musicians “out of pocket” because, as a musician himself, he values their time and talent.

When Leadership Circle and the Music & Worship Ministry Team got word of this, they came up with this **SPECIAL MUSIC FUND**. This will be an ongoing collection.

Anyone who feels inspired by, and appreciates, what the special artists bring to our worship is encouraged to support the fund as you are able. Use a pew envelope and indicate “special music.” Memo all checks the same. You can donate anytime by dropping it in the offering plate but on days when we have a guest artist there will be a basket at the entrance of the sanctuary. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR MUSIC MINISTRY!**



Sadly our community has had a few recent losses:

Rita Fenstermaker passed away on August 23, Ronald Kessler on August 28, and Judy Nordell's sister in law, Joann, on August 30. And most recently, Elaine Reynard entered into eternal rest on September 4. Elaine was the older sister of Annette Fatzinger. Our prayers continue for all who are grieving at this time; may you know God's presence and may it bring you comfort.

ALWAYS REMEMBERING OUR HOMEBOUND FAMILY AS WELL:

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)

Each Friday, in our email newsletter entitled, WEEKLY WORDS, we share all of our prayer concerns, weekly bulletin and upcoming events. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email churchoffice@uccgreenawalds.org.

Psalm 145:18

*The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.*

THE TWO YOUTH GROUPS AT UCCG

Seeking to develop faith, relationships and deepen connections with
UCCG & the Wider Church as well!

UCC Greenawalds YOUTH GROUPS



“MIGHTY MAKERS” aka *The M&M’s!*
3rd - 6th graders meet once a month to make
memories that will solidify their faith as they grow!

“PATHFINDERS”

7th - 12th graders will have a schedule designed to
help them find their paths in this world. Under the
leadership of Pastor Janet, they will combine with
youth from other local churches.

The Faith Formation Ministry Team in coordination with Pastor Janet is starting a NEW youth group. As with any of our youth groups, your child’s friend is ALWAYS WELCOME! No one wants to do something alone... and that includes your kid.

The M & M’s met this summer and had a ton of fun! Designed with these younger spirits in mind, activities are geared to build relationships and faith. We have plenty of supervision since this is a very energetic age. Thank you to Ashley Adams, Bri Borger

and Karen Adams for their leadership!

Be on the lookout for a new fall schedule!

If you are not currently receiving info and you would like to, contact churchoffice@uccgreenawalds.org.



On Tuesday, August 22, we made crafts for our homebound church members which Pastor Janet will be hand delivering soon!

Our NEW **PATHFINDERS Group** is in the VERY beginning stages. If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or even neighbors in 7th through 12th grades, let me know about PATHFINDERS. Contact Pastor Janet with an email or a text for more information. There will be a “MIXER” scheduled for the beginning of October and we are participating in the PNEC Sleepout for Homelessness which is October 14-15 at Greenawalds. We need contact info for you to send out the info!

UCC GREENAWALDS OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

On Friday, August 11, we had Rita's Water Ice, popcorn and watched the Disney movie *Encanto* on a large outdoor screen. We also had the inaugural use of our new Bouncy House! The children had so much fun. The event was well attended by not only church members, but community and neighborhood members as well.





A few years ago, while Pastor Judy Brandon was still here, the leadership voted to move into a new way of making decisions at UCCG. After using this “missional” style governance for the last 2+ years, Pastor Janet has recommended that it is time that we officially document what we have been doing. This is also a time to LEARN more about how we make decisions and WHY we do what we do!

There has been a Governance Task Force working hard to evaluate our current Constitution and Bylaws and make recommendations that more accurately represent who we are. This task force is made up of Sheri Stephens, Janine Hensinger, and Bonnie Marmon working with Pastor Janet in consultation with Bonnie Bates.

As part of this process, each Ministry Team should be working on their own document, which is called **WAYS OF WORK**. We are asking each team and committee to have this completed by the end of September so that we can compile them and have our Leadership Circle review them in October.

It is our goal to have copies of the new recommended Constitution and Bylaws to you by October 29. This way you can review them ahead of our CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on NOVEMBER 12! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting where the 2024 BUDGET will also be presented.

OUR MINISTRY TEAMS/Committees and their Coordinators:

Faith Formation -

Ashley Adams and Karen Adams

Evangelism/Outreach - Mark Miller

Mental Health - Christy Dunbar

OMG/Mission - Sue Roth

Music & Worship- Linda Altrichter

Tech Team - Antony Newett

LIFT Group - Sue Sawyer

FISH Group - Sue Sawyer

Discovery Project - Karen Griffith

Property - Lee Stephens

Governance Task Force- Pastor Janet

Pastoral Relations- If you have any questions, see any member:

Kerry Merkel, Sue Roth, Karen Griffith, Janie Bear, or Jayne Christman



From Sue Borger ... thank you for the cards and “Get Well” messages since I have been sick.

NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATE:

*Nursery School office can be reached at 610-435-5467.

We will start our season on Monday, September 11 with 19 students enrolled. We are very excited for this new school year.

We are having a few low maintenance fundraisers going on all season. We are continuing our used clothing, bedding, shoes, purses and towels collection. Last year we received a check for \$716.76 for this collection! Please continue to bring your items to church in plastic bags. We are also collecting plastic bags to earn our own trex bench for the playground! Collection bins are still located in the Christian Ed entrance and in the narthex/lobby for you.

Our first regular fundraiser is Gourmet Creations dips and oils. An order form will be available in the narthex/lobby area.

As always we are truly grateful for the support to our school from our church members.♥♥

DISCOVERY PROJECT UPDATE

Unfortunately, due to some technical glitches, the South Whitehall Zoning Hearing concerning our request for use variance has been delayed until **September 27 at 7PM.**

We are grateful for those who came out for the August 23 hearing. Thank you!

Members of UCCG, living in the Greenawalds neighborhood, are encouraged to talk with neighbors and ask them to attend the Zoning Hearing on September 27 in support of the Family Promise/UCCG partnership and plan.

But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

Philippians 1:19

Karen Griffith



Currently we have 3 families in rotation with 1 family being interviewed on Sept 5.
UCCG's next host week is September 24 - 30, 2023

For this week, WE ARE IN URGENT NEED of:

1 meal prep (Wednesday)

3 evening hosts

1 - Tuesday

2 - Saturday

2 overnight (Sunday)

Please contact Karen Griffith at 610-703-6826 if you can help!

Our *Sip and Mingle* event was successful and a nice time was had by all even though the clouds opened up and we had some rain. Congrats to Karen Griffith and Janine Hensinger - both won a prize basket. Enjoy!

Thanks to all who attended the Family Promise training on August 16. If anyone has any further questions or concerns, please contact Sue Roth, 610-554-2781

Upcoming Events:

Boscov's - Friends Helping Friends October 18, 2023

Bingo - January 20, 2024

Homecoming 24 - The Club at Twin Lakes March 23, 2024

Next UCCG Host Dates:

September 24 - 30, 2023

November 5 - 11, 2023

LASTLY- the Spiritual Development Ministry Team of the Penn Northeast Conference has run a special youth group event for several years. THIS year, on October 14, UCC Greenawalds will host **PNEC's Sleepout for Homelessness**, which raises awareness and seeks to debunk stereotypes but is also a fundraiser. This year all funds raised will go to Family Promise!

O.M.G.!!

Outreach + Mission = GROWTH

August Mission Moment

Thank you to Carolyn Spanos who provided a Mission Moment on behalf of Bethany Children's Home in August. Her presentation was very informative, and OMG has chosen the Bethany Children's Home to be our Christmas mission focus. Look for information in the October *Echoes*.

BACKPACK BLESSING on August 27th



Thank you to all contributors of school supplies during the months of July and August. Most of the supplies were distributed to UCCG school children during the outdoor "Backpack Blessing" service on August 27. The balance of the supplies will be delivered to Kratzer elementary school.

RESURRECTED LIFE CHURCH ... We were able to contribute school supplies to Resurrected Life Church's Back to School event on August 27. These gifts were made possible with funds from our Resurrected Life Church account.

Thank you for making these gifts possible!

18 Backpacks
10 One-subject notebooks
13 Large markers
10 Ten-pack markers
5 Water colors
10 24-pack crayons
18 Scissors

40 #2 Pencils
8 Pencil bags
9 Large Pink Erasers
36 Cap Erasers
16 Glue sticks
1 40-pack bottled water

LITTLE FREE PANTRY ... Our pantry continues to be a benefit to our food-insecure neighbors. Supplies are running low, and we are in need of peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, fruit and pasta sauce.



CHOW CHOW –

Orders are now being taken for chow chow!

If you like chow chow... then you will REALLY love ours!!
Orders your and some for your neighbors, too, by 10/15.
Pick up is at UCC Greenawalds after worship on Sunday, October 29.

Yum, yum!

Here is the order form:

Place **CHOW CHOW** order form in offering plate or mail to church office by Sunday, **October 15.**

Name _____

Phone _____

of pints _____ @ \$5.00/pint = _____ PAID: _____

“Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer.”

~ Maya Angelou



Ladies In Faith Together

Our **LIFT** Group (Ladies in Faith Together) was created a few years ago. **If you are interested in getting emails about LIFT, please contact the church office!**

Sunday, September 24 4:30pm- Campfire for a Cause – our mission focus this year is **Valley Youth House**. Games, prizes and dinner are included. Dessert & wines are optional to bring. Location is Sue Sawyers home at 5736 Snowdrift Road in Orefield. Bring a lawn chair to sit on!

We are looking for monetary donations to help sponsor the items Sue Sawyer has already purchased for this cause. Please include your donation in an envelope marked "Campfire for a Cause." A list of items and the cost is available upon request. Please contact Sue Sawyer with any questions. Thank you.

Saturday, October 7 - 10:00 am - Wreath Making Workshop



~Led by Jayne Christman.

The cost of supplies is \$35.00. Payment is due with registration AND choice of center sign no later than September 18. This workshop is open to all members of our church and friends are welcome too. Ideal class size is 12 people, so if we need to, we can add another class on Sunday, October 8 in the afternoon or evening. A copy of all center sign choices are included on page 13. Please contact Sue Sawyer or Jayne Christman if you have any questions.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR THE CENTER SIGN OPTIONS FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM!

Center Choices for Wreath



A WISE Beginning for UCCG

By Christy Dunbar, Coordinator the UCCG Mental Health Team

As UCCG moves to becoming a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) Congregation for ALL, we are so excited to announce a new Mental Health Ministry team! Our team's mission is to break the silence and stigma surrounding mental illness and addiction, to educate ourselves, and to provide support to those in need.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness [NAMI] states that one out of five adults live with mental illness so it is likely we will all be affected by mental illness and addiction, if we are not already. And let's face it— with the start of a new school year and mounting stress, we can all benefit from learning more about mental health and wellness. So keep an eye out for mental health tips and tidbits to be highlighted each Sunday in September!

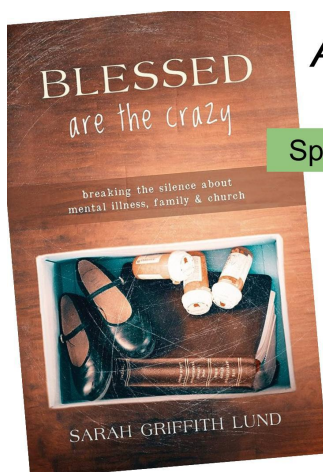
We also plan to start an all-congregational book study this fall featuring *Blessed Are The Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and Church* by Sarah Griffith Lund. In this memoir, which has become a resource for faith-based groups to provide healing and support to those impacted by mental illness, Lund reflects on her father's battle with Bipolar Disorder and other family members' mental health challenges.

(And from Pastor Janet...)

If you got this far you may be saying. "WAIT, What?? An ALL-CONGREGATIONAL Book Study?? What is **THAT??**"

The goal of this kind of study is to get ALL OF YOU to read the SAME book over the next 2 months so that all of UCC Greenawalds is engaged *at the same time* to think about one subject or question. In this case, ***how do we break the silence about mental illness, family and church??***

There will be sermons around various topics from the book in October and deeper conversations will occur during the Adult Class 9am on Sunday mornings which YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN. For anyone interested in those deeper conversations but would prefer a small group that meets at a time other than Sunday Morning, please sign up in the lobby at the church.



All Congregational Book Study in October

Sponsored by our Mental Health Min Team

Don't be left out!!

Order your copy of
BLESSED Are the Crazy
by Sarah Griffith Lund
today on Amazon
or your favorite bookstore

If there is a financial difficulty that prevents you from its purchase, please see Pastor Janet.

Our current team consists of Pastor Janet, Anthony Newett, Christy Dunbar, Sue Sawyer, and Colleen Horlacher. Anyone is welcome to join. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00. Join us in leading the way to become a WISE Congregation!

Upcoming Mental Health Event:

WHAT: 13th Annual NAMI Lehigh Valley Race & Walk

WHEN: Saturday, September 9, 2023! (5K Run starts at 8 am and Walk starts at 10 am).

WHERE: Lehigh Parkway, Allentown, PA! (GPS address is: 2050 Park Drive Allentown PA 1810

100% of the proceeds goes directly to NAMI Lehigh Valley to support our mission of providing education and support to individuals and families affected by mental illness and to educating the public about mental health. Check out NAMI Lehigh Valley Website for more details: www.nami-lv.org

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

September



2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Last 9:30am Worship	4 Labor Day	5	6 7:15pm Evang via Zoom	7 Nursery School Parent Orientation 7pm	8 Nursery School "Meet Your Teacher" 9am	9
10 Sunday School Kickoff 9am; 1st 10am Worship with Communion	11 First Day of Nursery School Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm	12 Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm	13	14 Ant Jams in Fellowship Hall	15	16 UCCG New Member Class Time: TBD
17 Faith Formation 9- 9:45am Worship 10am Pastor's Ordination/ Installation 3pm	18 Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm	19 Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm 7:00pm Mental Health Min Team	20	21 4:00pm Leadership Circle	22	23 Set up For Family Promise Host week 9/24 - 10/1
24 Faith Formation 9- 9:45am Worship 10am <i>Campfire for a Cause</i> 4:30pm	25 11:00am OMG via Zoom 2:00pm PRC In person	26	27 SWT Zoning Hearing 7:00pm	28	29	30

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
Lee Stephens	610-216-1664
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 September 2023 Edition of *Echoes* is sponsored by:

Lois Tice, 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.