

Spring is Springing Up at UCCG!



Here's what YOU need to know this month & where to find it!

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR



Happy Easter to all of the Greenawalds family and friends!!

I pray that the hope & promise of Easter sustain you as you find new blossoms of creations popping up all around you in the month to come!

I want to take this time to express my continued gratitude for you as a faith community, as you live out your faith as the Body of Christ in our world - not just in word but in your actions, as well!

My family has been adjusting, and we are happy to hear from Anthony as often as we do. And he is always asking about you as you are about him!

As your pastor, you matter to me. You can always reach out to me, especially in times of need; I will always do my best to be there for you. But the truth is that *pastors are people too* and I am just ONE person (officially employed by UCCG half time). Our Spiritual Council and the Mental Health Ministry Team had similar ideas to address this at the same time so God must be at work again ...

We are going to be forming CARE TEAMS of elders to keep us all close and cared for. You will hear more about this over the next months as we break into groups and formulate a plan to carry out the compassionate care the gospel calls for from us ... just another way we will put our faith in action here!

So with HOLY WEEK over ... What's next for the Season of Easter??

"Easter" is not just one day. The season continues until Pentecost, which is 50 days later, on May 19. In this season of Easter, we will enjoy celebrating Christ's victory over the grave and explore how Christ still dwells among us today.

And ... for me personally, I will begin my Easter Season with a retreat in Hilton Head, South Carolina with my parents. I am excited for the opportunity to spend this time with them but also to refresh my own spirit. I will be away April 5-14 but I leave you in good hands, should any pastoral emergencies come up. My friend Rev. Becky Sausser will be available for you. Just contact Sue Borger and she will connect you with Pastor Becky.

Much love and so much respect to all!

~Pastor Janet

PS - I am working on forming a new confirmation class for anyone finishing 6th grade this school year and older not yet confirmed. If you are interested in this for your child, please contact me or the church office!



FAITH FORMATION AND WORSHIP OF UCCG

Sunday, April 7 -

In the words of the famous Whitney Houston, “I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way...”



Sunday, April 14 - Faith Testimony Sunday

We will hear the faith testimonies of two long-time members of UCCG - Mary Helfrich and Bart Tizio.

Sunday, April 21 - Earth Day / Blanket Sunday

Celebrate creation with us as we explore what it means to be a good steward of all that God has entrusted to us. Our Mental Health Team will also be providing us with a special Moment for Wellness because taking care of ourselves is important too! We will also collect a special offering for Church World Service’s Blanket Sunday.

SAVE THE DATE... ANIMAL THEMED Vacation Bible School

Our Faith Formation ministry team is planning VBS for June. We hope our children can make it and that our flexible schedule allows many volunteers to also participate. Please share this information with your friends and neighbors with children aged preschool through 5th grade (just completed 5th grade). This is a six-day program - come to as many sessions as you can.

June 18, 19, 20 from 6-8:00 pm

&

June 25, 26, 27 from 2-4:00 pm



Ant's Corner

Inside Edition, part 1



I miss all of you very much. The old cliché about not knowing what you have until it is gone is not totally accurate. I know what I have in all of you. Knowing that you guys are waiting for me to return makes this ordeal easier.

It's the ultimate, "groundhog's day" here. The slightest deviation from routine is exciting, like... will it be just bologna or bologna with cheese? Is today a Chicago Fire marathon on *ion* tv? Which info-mercial at 4am - the ninja grill or the juicer??

I had a good meeting with the chaplain recently who seems very excited about the idea of me playing the piano for the worship services here. In a gesture of extreme generosity, you (UCCG) donated the old Yamaha keyboard from Fellowship Hall to Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF.) I am very grateful for this! I already had a chance to "tickle the ivories"- to use the chaplain's phrase. He mentioned something about a choir but said they would need some major tuning. (Haha)

I had my fullest and richest day when I had a visit from Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates. I'm pretty sure we solved the world's church problems ... ok, not ALL of them but most of them for sure.

I'm sure there's going to be more things to report before this article gets published. I have an "in" with the pastor so I'll be sure to keep you updated, right up until the last minute - much to Sue's chagrin.

And most importantly, I will continue to honor my STAR word. Oh, maybe you don't know?? During the service in January, I was unable to choose my own word as my hands were busy underscoring. I visually scanned the sanctuary hoping to spot one of the little kids, but I ended up with the biggest kid: Bart Tizio. He handed me my Star word. I waited until the end of the service, anxious for the big reveal: ENJOY. "What???" Enjoy??? This word was supposed to bear special significance to my journey! But then it suddenly occurred to me. "Enjoy" is precisely what I will need to do. It's the ultimate version of making lemonade from lemons. Speaking of which, tune into *ion* at 4:55am to learn all about the Ninja juicer to turn YOUR lemons into lemonade.

See ya soon,

#24-01484

Director of Music

Our special music services are made possible through contributions to our SPECIAL MUSIC FUND.



Thank you for your continuous and generous support of the amazing music at UCCG!

Please 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.



The House Band

The Music & Worship Ministry Team is EXCITED to announce our new *House Band*. They were with us for Holy Week. Then, beginning in April, *House Band* will be with us in worship on the 3rd Sunday each month, funded via the Special Music Fund.

Introducing the members of our “House Band”...

Carson DeAngelis has been playing piano since a young age, when he got access to a second-hand keyboard. Carson was trained with the piano classically until he became a student at School of Rock while he was a teenager, where he met Anthony Newett and benefited from training with him and other experienced musicians.

After gaining performance experience as a student at School of Rock, Carson began to play professionally for brunch and banquet venues as well as becoming very passionate about teaching.

Carson has worked as a piano teacher for over two years. He began teaching lessons at Strand Studios Learning Center for Music, Film, and Acting in 2022 and later that year at School of Rock, alongside his former teachers. We thank Carson for sharing his talents with us!

Brian Hernandez (drums) is Anthony's right hand man with any music related stuff. He is a graduate of Easton Area High School, class of 2021 and also graduated from the Easton School of Rock in 2022. Speaking of School Of Rock, that's where he met Anthony. In the summer of 2016, Brian enrolled at SoR and 2-3 months later, Anthony became the new director for the Rock 101 program that Brian was in. Brian was in a few of the shows Anthony directed and then became a student assistant for Rock 101, alongside Anthony. As soon as the pandemic hit in 2020, the assistant role was put on hold but during one of the shows during that time, Anthony asked Brian to fill in at the last minute when two of the three drummers in the cast dropped out due to reasonable concerns with the pandemic. After graduating School Of Rock in January 2022, Brian and Anthony kept in contact and Brian has been happy to do as many gigs as Anthony has had to offer over the last 2 years. Due to Brian's dedication, reliability, willingness to learn AND help wherever needed, Anthony has made Brian his right-hand man! Brian is also part of Ant Jams as the paid drummer.

Brian currently works at Applebee's over at Route 248 as a host and busser and is planning to go to Kutztown University for a music major in performance. Although drums is his primary instrument, he also dabbles a bit on guitar. We are happy to have Brian with us so often as part of our worship leader team!!

Peter McKeon - Peter started playing piano at the age of 8, and transitioned over to the bass at the age of 14. Peter took lessons on both electric and string bass, and met Anthony in the spring of 2016. Anthony was almost exclusively Peter's music director during his time as a student at the School of Rock from 2014 to 2019. Peter graduated from the School of Rock and from Notre Dame High School in 2019. Peter graduated with an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Northampton Community College in 2023. He has worked consistently with Anthony since his graduation from the School of Rock. Peter considers Anthony a great mentor and friend.

Peter has been working as a professional musician since 2015, currently plays string bass for the Pioneer Band of Allentown, Lehigh Valley Italian American Band, and the Easton Municipal Band. Peter also plays electric bass for The Unoriginals, with his mother, Julie. In his spare time, Peter is a volunteer firefighter with Palisades Regional Fire Rescue, and is a member of the Lehigh Valley Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America, and the Trolley Shops Cruisers of East Bangor, Pennsylvania.

Grace Quinn is a senior at Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts. She plays bass, guitar, and sings. She has been heavily involved in music since she was nine years old! She will be attending Northeastern University in the fall to pursue a degree in math. She is also Pastor Janet's youngest daughter, which makes Anthony her step-dad. Grace assisted Anthony at Forks UCC, Stockertown during the Pandemic and was his one person Tech Team! She works at Target on Cedar Crest at their Starbucks and makes a delicious Caramel Macchiato! (her mom's favorite!)

Grace and Peter will both be playing bass for the House Band and will alternate as their schedules allow. We are grateful they are willing to share their time and talents with UCCG!!

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**NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATE:** \*Nursery School office can be reached at 610-435-5467.

We continue with two low maintenance fundraisers - collecting used clothing, bedding, shoes, purses and towels, etc. **Pick up date for the used clothing is Thursday, April 25.** We continue to collect soft plastics to earn our own Trex bench for the playground! Collection bins are located in the Christian Ed entrance and in the narthex/lobby. To date, we have collected 960 pounds of the 1,000 pounds needed to earn a bench - **we need 40 more pounds of soft plastics to reach our goal**). Please keep collecting those soft plastics.

Our next fundraiser is Matey's Pizza. This fundraiser begins on March 14 and continues thru April 4, with delivery on April 16. An order form will be available in the church lobby soon or you may contact Sue Borger or Sheri Stephens to place your orders.

Finally, we continue the Weis for Schools Rewards Program (contact Sheri Stephens for more information on this program).

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



**LET US PRAY TOGETHER FOR:** Nancy Saeger; Lois Tice; Althea Blose; Ray Ward; Anthony; Pastor Janet and their family; Darlene, Drena and Kerry Merkel; Megan, Steve, and unborn Baby LaAsmar; the Garger family; Mercy Yoder (Colleen’s mom).

**If you have a prayer request and any updates, please contact Sue Borger or Pastor Janet.**

**ALWAYS REMEMBERING OUR HOMEBOUND FAMILY AS WELL:**

Eleanor Limpar, at home      Doris Shaver (Phoebe - Room T313A)      Naomi Thomas, at home

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**THANK YOU!**  
*thank you!*

**from Linda Lakatosh ...** Thank you for all the cards and prayers during my recent hospitalization and my struggle with RSV and pneumonia. Thank you also for your continued prayers for my kidney issues.

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WITH DEEPEST  
*Sympathy*

**We offer our deepest condolences to:**

Mike and Scott Thomas on the passing of their father, Robert Thomas. UCCG’s beloved Mr. Bob passed away on Tuesday, March 19 at the age of 80 years.

Jon & Sharon Miller and family on the passing of Jon’s mother and UCCG member, Mae Moyer, who passed away on Monday, March 4 at the age of 91 years.

Janine & Gary Hensinger and family on the death of Janine’s mother, Loretta “Fae” Clark, who passed away on March 12. Fae was 91 years old.

Dolly Smith and family on the passing of Dolly’s brother-in-law, Harold Smith, who died on March 10 at the age of 91 years.

Deb & Bart Tizio and family on the passing of Deb’s mother, Claris Alkire, who died on March 10. Claris was 89 years old.

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Jana Lindenmuth is studying abroad at the University of Glasgow, Scotland this semester. She doesn't return home until the end of May, so if you'd like to send her a note, her address is below. FYI, the cost of a global forever postage stamp is \$1.55.

Jana E. Lindenmuth  
27 Kelvinhaugh Street  
Flat A, Room 3  
Glasgow G3 8PE  
United Kingdom

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### Library Clean-Out

The Library Clean-Out Team members are Nanci Snyder, Karen Griffith, Carla Lindenmuth, Annette Fatzinger, and Pastor Janet.

We sold the wooden card catalog. Donna McHugh put the student desk and metal card catalog on Facebook Marketplace. More free books were put on the free table and the table where the kids color. Feel free to take them. We are still sorting and cataloging the books on the shelves.

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**Outreach + Mission = GROWTH**



The Clubhouse will be the recipient of 10% of any fundraising profits during 2024.

### LITTLE FREE PANTRY



Our Little Free Pantry continues to see increased usage. We are currently in need of many food staples: **Canned meats/fish, jelly/jam, cereal (not oatmeal), peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, macaroni & cheese, vegetables (not corn or green beans.)**

Your contributions of food items are very much appreciated by our neighbors struggling with food insecurity. Monetary donations (we'll do the shopping!) are also appreciated. Thank you!

### CHOW CHOW

**Reminder:** Pick up your chow chow in the lobby next Sunday morning, April 7, immediately after worship!



## **SOUP KITCHEN - Help Wanted!**

Each month, UCCG sends two teams of four volunteers to help at the Soup Kitchen. We are currently in need of a few more people who can help out - either on a regular basis or on an as-needed basis when some of our regulars are on vacation or unable to help. Pastor Janet also volunteers with either group as her schedule permits. Please prayerfully consider helping with this very important cause. If you are willing and able to help, please contact Linda Roeder or Bonnie Marmon. Thank you!



Our first host week in 2024 is May 26 to June 2. Our other week is December 15 to 22.

There are currently four families (with 14 people) in the program - Tangela and William and their four children, William, Jr. (17) , Maurice (14), Arielle (10), and Melanie (8). The second family is Anthony and Kimberly and their two daughters, Angelina (4) and Giovanna (4). The next family is Rebecca and her daughter, Autumn (10), and the fourth family is mom, Shanique, and her daughter, Aubree (2).

## **Homecoming '24 – March 23, 2024 @ The Club at Twin Lakes:**

- The annual Family Promise fundraiser, Homecoming, was held on Saturday, March 23 at the Club House at Twin Lakes. This fundraiser allows Family Promise to educate the public about the issues facing our community, while we also actively reduce the number of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Two graduate families shared their stories - how and why they became homeless, and how they are doing now. It was incredible and touching to hear their stories firsthand.



We had a group of our members who represented UCCG at this Homecoming event ... left to right - Sue & Ray Borger, Kerry Merkel, Karen & Mark Griffith, Janet Newett, Sue Roth, Sandy Lakatos, and Bonnie Bates.

## **Save the dates:**

June 1 - The Highmark Walk at DeSales University - details to follow.

September 4 - Sip and Mingle at Domaine Pterion (tentative location) - details to follow.

## Let's have a sleepover!!!



Several times throughout the year UCC Greenawalds is host to families that have entered the Family Promise of Lehigh County program. The fully vetted families (no more than 14 persons total) arrive via bus to our Fellowship Hall at 6 PM daily for one week. Volunteers from our congregation serve the families dinner that has been prepared by other volunteers.

After dinner clean up, the families may retreat to their “rooms”, pack lunches for the next day, or sit around and talk. Occasionally, there is an opportunity for the volunteers to read to the little ones, play games with the older children, or attempt to help with the dreaded homework.

Now here is the FUN part... the overnight volunteers arrive at 8:30 PM for a sleepover!!!! Yes, just like when you were a kid, you could relive those days of sleeping bags at a friend's home. (only there are no sleeping bags and these are friends you haven't yet met, and there is no loud music or food in the rooms)

We are offering anyone willing to try the Family Promise Volunteer experience, a chance to join the fun May 26-June 2 (cots or mattress of your choice provided).

There are openings in all positions (food prep, evening host and for the coveted overnight hosting). There is minimal training required and will be provided along with assistance to obtain the necessary clearances. Volunteers always work with a partner and are a phone call away from our coordinator, Sue Roth.

Please consider being part of this very worthwhile mission.

Contact Karen Griffith (610 703-6826) or Sue Roth (610 554-2781) for more information.



**DeSales Play - Color Purple** - LIFT is sponsoring a trip to see the musical, *“The Color Purple”*, on Sunday, July 28 at 2:00 pm at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival at DeSales University. Fifteen tickets have been reserved at the group rate of \$59 per ticket. In order to get this price, at least ten people will need to go (regular ticket price is \$74.)

Please let Bonnie Marmon (610-433-4145) know if you are interested in going by May 26. Money is due at that time. Carpooling will be available.

# HGTV or UCCG????

Have you had a chance to look around our church building???

Starting with Fellowship Hall's transformation with a fresh coat of paint (after exhausting paint scraping and dri-lock sealing) and continuing up the stairs to the nursery school area, our team of remodeling gurus has been working tirelessly to improve the look and feel of this building.



AND they are **not** finished!!

Grant has a plan that will rival any HGTV renovation show (almost).

The UCCG improvement plan was presented to the Consistory on March 21 by Lee Stephens and Grant Field and unanimously approved.



Of course, all renovations need the funds necessary for supplies and that is where we all enter the reno plan.

The church model in the Narthex is covered with paint cans, hammers and tools representing various donation amounts. Please consider removing a tag (or several) and donate by placing your donation in an envelope and dropping back into the model church or offering plate.



Thank you to Lee and Grant for spearheading this project and to Gary Hensinger for adding some muscle to the FH wall scraping.



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**Bethel House of God** was introduced to the Greenawalds community last month. They began their time with us on March 15. Please be aware of the times they are around and feel free to welcome them! They are using the sanctuary Fridays from 6-10pm for prayer time and worship rehearsal. Worship for BHG is Sundays from 4-8pm.

## A WISE Congregation

### **Got Anxiety? You are not alone!**



Anxiety is intense worry or fear over everyday events. This can be fear of a specific threat or vague feelings inside like uneasiness or a feeling of being out of control or dying. Anxiety manifests in the body with physical sensations such as sweating, chest tightness, increased heart rate, restlessness, and shaking. Anxiety also takes place in the mind with excessive worrying, fear of embarrassment, and catastrophic thinking. Causes can include change/adjustment, negative life events, trauma, isolation, stress, physical or mental health problems, or social pressure.

Statistics show that nearly 20% of individuals have an anxiety disorder. According to the National Institute of Health one third of adults reported experiencing anxiety and depression symptoms in 2023. Half of that number is accounted for by young people ages 18-24. Anxiety can lead to feeling frozen, not speaking up, or feeling uneasy and detached. While some anxiety is natural and can help us to make decisions and to prepare, when anxiety becomes too overwhelming and interferes with everyday functioning, it's important to practice coping strategies. If anxiety persists, consider treatment, such as therapy or medication.

Thankfully, anxiety can be reduced by practicing ways to care for ourselves. Coping strategies need to address the body, behaviors and emotions. Lifestyle and wellness practices include minimizing caffeine, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and good nutrition, being physically active/exercising, having supportive relationships in which one can ask for help, keeping organized and growing a sense of meaning and spirituality. Awareness of thoughts that drive and sustain anxiety and replacing these with believable, factual ideas, and practicing helpful, encouraging self-talk is an ongoing need. Practicing relaxation with deep breathing techniques, mindfulness, imagery, stretching, time in nature, connecting with others and with interests are all ways we can manage and reduce anxiety. There is hope!

Your Mental Health Team

Christy Dunbar, Colleen Horlacher, Sue Sawyer, Ray Ward and Pastor Janet

### **Your 2024 Consistory      *THANK YOU FOR SERVING!!***

#### Officers:

Moderator - Karen Griffith

Vice Moderator - Larry Christman

Recording Secretary/Financial Secretary - Sue Borger

Treasurer - Bonnie Marmon

Delegate to PNEC Annual Meeting – Jayne Christman

#### Members-at-Large:

Mark Adams

Linda Altrichter

Jayne Christman

Nanci Snyder

Matt Stalter

Our Consistory met on Thursday, March 21, 2024. Karen Griffith, Moderator, led us in the Leadership Prayer. Devotions were offered by Linda Altrichter, who read an article entitled *Keep Going* from *365 Devotions for Peace*.

The Consent Agenda Reports were reviewed by Consistory prior to this meeting. The Property report was moved to the Discussion Agenda portion of our meeting for more discussion. We reviewed and approved all reports on the Discussion Agenda - Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports, and Secretary's Minutes of the February 15 Consistory Meeting and the March 3 Special Consistory Meeting. Lee Stephens (on behalf of the Property Team) led a discussion on the Annex, while Grant Field reported that he has finished repainting the door frames around our church building and would like to begin some other renovations that were put on hold while we were pursuing the Family Promise partnership. Now that this was rejected by South Whitehall Township, Grant is proposing to repaint walls in the narthex/lobby area and then move on to the second floor church office. A motion was made and approved to allow Grant and Lee to move ahead with some of the renovations, starting with the narthex and church office, and a starting budget of \$500.

The Pastor's Report was reviewed and accepted. Many items to note: Pastor is on vacation April 5 thru April 15. The children and their teachers will lead worship on April 7; Bart Tizio and Mary Helfrich will share Faith Testimonies on April 14. April 21 is Earth Day and Blanket Sunday. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 18, 19, 20 (6-8 pm) and June 25, 26, 27 (2-4 pm) - ages preschool thru 5th grade, followed by a showcase on June 30. Last day of Sunday School for this year is June 9, with outdoor worship followed by a picnic.

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 18 at 4:00 pm.

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Here is a report of how we are starting 2024.

| Month        | Budget           | General Offering Income | *Other Income  | Total Operating Income | Operating Expense | Net Income       |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Jan-24       | \$12,859         | \$8,225                 | \$3,965        | \$12,190               | \$16,601          | (\$4,410)        |
| Feb-24       | \$12,859         | \$8,740                 | \$3,532        | \$12,272               | \$15,932          | (\$3,660)        |
| Mar-24       | \$12,859         | \$0                     | \$0            | \$0                    | \$0               | \$0              |
| Apr-24       | \$12,859         | \$0                     | \$0            | \$0                    | \$0               | \$0              |
| May-24       | \$12,859         | \$0                     | \$0            | \$0                    | \$0               | \$0              |
| Jun-24       | \$12,859         | \$0                     | \$0            | \$0                    | \$0               | \$0              |
| Jul-24       | \$12,859         | \$0                     | \$0            | \$0                    | \$0               | \$0              |
| Aug-24       | \$12,859         | \$0                     | \$0            | \$0                    | \$0               | \$0              |
| Sep-24       | \$12,859         | \$0                     | \$0            | \$0                    | \$0               | \$0              |
| Oct-24       | \$12,859         | \$0                     | \$0            | \$0                    | \$0               | \$0              |
| Nov-24       | \$12,859         | \$0                     | \$0            | \$0                    | \$0               | \$0              |
| Dec-24       | \$12,859         | \$0                     | \$0            | \$0                    | \$0               | \$0              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$154,309</b> | <b>\$16,965</b>         | <b>\$7,498</b> | <b>\$24,462</b>        | <b>\$32,533</b>   | <b>(\$8,069)</b> |

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

**Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.**

1 Peter 4:10

## March Recap

We began the month of March with our Annual Penny Party on Saturday night, March 9. It was very well attended, and we had to add extra tables and chairs to accommodate the crowd. Thank you to the Evangelism & Outreach Team for organizing this event. To say this year's event was a great success is an understatement. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way (there are too many to name, and I don't want to miss anyone). Everyone was too busy working or playing to take pictures, except this one of the Adams/Barnett crew pricing items.



On Palm Sunday, the Faith Formation teachers and Pastor Janet planned seven Stations to teach our children the story of Holy Week ... from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (complete with palm branches), the last supper (with matzoh and grape juice) the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' arrest, the courtyard of Caiaphas, Peter's denial and the rooster crowing three times, to Good Friday and hammering nails to the cross, to Golgotha with Jesus hanging on the cross with the crown of thorns and vinegar, and to the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection. Thank you for a great experience for our children. The teachers and children also paraded into worship, along with the choir.



And also on Palm Sunday, the Easter Bunny arrived on a Fire Truck and Blossom the Clown was there making balloons into swords and hats and animals. This event was very well attended by church members and the community families alike. There was a large crowd enjoying hot dogs and sodas, as well as the company of others. Thank you to all who helped to organize this event.



## APRIL

From the Latin word *aperio*, “to open” (bud), because plants begin to grow during this month.

The origin of April Fools’ Day is unknown, but theories place its start hundreds of years ago. Some theorize that the idea of April Fools’ Day dates back to ancient Rome and a festival called Hilaria held at the end of March, where people would dress up in disguises and mock or imitate others.

Many folklorists believe it may go back to 16th century France. Charles IX decreed that the new year would begin on January 1. Back in those times, New Year’s Day was around Easter and spring festivals marked the occasion with a whole week of partying. Some people were slow to catch on to the change, continuing to celebrate the new year. They quickly became the victim of jokes and pranks, including have paper fish put on their backs and labeled a “poisson d’avril,” meaning April fish.

The timing of April Fools’ Day is suspiciously close to the Vernal Equinox - this year on March 19. It is the time of year when Mother Nature is known to play tricks on us all with unpredictable changes to the weather, including:

- In 1923, temperatures reached -34 degrees F in Bergland, Michigan.
- In 1960, up to 10 inches of heavy snow fell in eastern South Dakota causing some highways to close due to difficulty plowing the heavy snow.
- In 1997, a blizzard from Maryland to Maine resulted in power outages and roads impassable. East Jewett, New York recorded 37 inches and 25.4 inches fell in Boston, Massachusetts.

April Fools’ Day is all about getting someone to fall for a prank or a made-up story.

- In 1983, Boston University professor Joseph Boskin created a story about the origin of April Fools’ Day when speaking to an AP reporter. He said the day originated when Roman Emperor Constantine agreed to let one of his jesters become “king for a day.” Boskin, of course, made the entire story up.
- In 1957, The BBC aired a story on how Swiss farmers were experiencing a bumper crop for spaghetti, complete with a video of people harvesting noodles from trees.
- On April 1, 1996, Taco Bell announced it had purchased the Liberty Bell and would rename it the Taco Liberty Bell.
- A 2008 BBC broadcast tricked viewers into believing that a certain breed of penguins had displayed the ability to fly.

April Fools’ pranks to try at home:

1. Dump out the salt from the kitchen shaker and replace it with sugar.
2. Put a whoopie cushion under one of the sofa cushions.
3. Change the time on every clock in the house by one hour.
4. Cover the remote sensor with a piece of tape or remove the batteries. It will drive the TV watcher crazy.
5. Place bubble wrap under an area rug for an instant surprise.
6. Unscrew the shampoo bottle and place plastic wrap over the hole. Washing their hair will never be so difficult.

\*Taken from the Old Farmer’s 2024 Almanac; Robert B. Thomas





| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Mon                                                                                                                    | Tues                                                                        | wea                                                                                                  | Thurs                                               | Fri                                                                                                           | Sat                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b><br/> <b>BHG (Bethel House of God) will meet in our Sanctuary unless otherwise noted.</b><br/> <b>Fridays 6-10 pm</b><br/> <b>Sundays 4-8 pm</b></p>                                                        | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Music &amp; Worship<br/>6:00 pm</p> <p>7:00-8:30 pm<br/>Boy Scouts</p>                              | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>7:00 pm Cub Scout Committee Mtg.</p>                     | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>No Faith Club</p> <p>12:00 noon<br/>Bob Thomas' memorial service and luncheon</p> | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>6:30pm<br/>Ant Jams</p>          | <p><b>5</b> Pastor Janet on vacation</p> <p>6:30-8:30 pm<br/>Cub Scout Crossover Set-Up (Fellowship Hall)</p> | <p><b>6</b> Pastor Janet on vacation</p> <p>6:00-9:00 pm<br/>Cub Scout Crossover (Fellowship Hall)</p> |
| <p><b>7</b> Pastor Janet on vacation</p> <p>9:00-9:45 am Faith Formation<br/>9:30 am Fellowship<br/>10:00 am <b>Worship</b><br/>Led by Faith Formation children and teachers<br/><b>NO Communion</b></p> <p>Pick up Chow Chow</p> | <p><b>8</b> Pastor Janet on vacation</p> <p>7:00-8:30 pm<br/>Boy Scouts</p>                                            | <p><b>9</b> Pastor Janet on vacation</p> <p>6:30-8:00 pm<br/>Cub Scouts</p> | <p><b>10</b> Pastor Janet on vacation</p> <p>10:30 am Faith Club</p>                                 | <p><b>11</b> Pastor Janet on vacation</p>           | <p><b>12</b> Pastor Janet on vacation</p>                                                                     | <p><b>13</b> Pastor Janet on vacation</p>                                                              |
| <p><b>14</b> Pastor Janet on vacation</p> <p>9:00-9:45 am Faith Formation<br/>9:30 am Fellowship<br/>10:00 am <b>Worship</b><br/>Lay Leaders - Faith Stories (Bart Tizio and Mary Helfrich)</p>                                   | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>11:00 OMG Team Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Mental Health Meeting</p> <p>7:00-8:30 pm<br/>Boy Scouts</p> | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:30-8:00 pm<br/>Cub Scouts</p>                         | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:30 am Faith Club</p> <p>6:00 pm Year End Sunday School Teacher Mtg,</p>       | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>4:00 pm<br/>Consistory Mtg.</p> | <p><b>19</b></p>                                                                                              | <p><b>20</b></p>                                                                                       |
| <p><b>21</b></p> <p>9:00-9:45 am Faith Formation<br/>9:30 am Fellowship<br/>10:00 am <b>Worship</b> - Earth Day and Blanket Sunday</p> <p>Evangelism &amp; Outreach mtg immediately after worship!</p>                            | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>7:00-8:30 pm<br/>Boy Scouts</p>                                                                    | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>6:30-8:00 pm<br/>Cub Scouts</p>                         | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>10:30 am Faith Club</p>                                                          | <p><b>25</b></p>                                    | <p><b>26</b></p>                                                                                              | <p><b>27</b></p>                                                                                       |
| <p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:00-9:45 am Faith Formation<br/>9:30 am Fellowship<br/>10:00 am <b>Worship</b></p>                                                                                                                           | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>7-8:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>                                                                           | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>7:00 pm Cub Scout Committee Mtg.</p>                    |                                                                                                      |                                                     |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                        |

**OUR STAFF**

|                                                       |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pastor Janet Newett, Pastor<br>pastorjanetn@gmail.com | 610.657.2189 cell |
| Church Office/Main Phone                              | 610-435-1763      |
| Susan Borger, Church Secretary                        | 484-695-7954 cell |
| Anthony Newett, Music Director & A/V Tech Advisor     | 215-805-4353      |
| Lee Stephens                                          | 610-216-1664      |
| Nursery School<br>churchoffice@uccgreenawalds.org     | 610-435-5467      |

**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.)**

*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](mailto:churchoffice@uccgreenawalds.org) or to Sue Borger at [borgersusan@yahoo.com](mailto:borgersusan@yahoo.com) no later than the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month.

The **April 2024** Edition of *Echoes* is sponsored by:

**Kerry and Drena Merkel**  
in loving memory of Drena’s father, 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.

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**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](mailto:churchoffice@uccgreenawalds.org).

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