

Good News Notes

The United Church of Christ East Goshen
1201 North Chester Road
West Chester, PA 19380

Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday
May 2012

www.ucc eastgoshen.org
Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor



The Joy of God

“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes with the morning.” – Ps.30:5

Lately the everyday pressures, and the special unique ones, have me pondering: where is the joy God speaks of? Even when life throws us a curve ball, a flat tire, or a tax bill, there has to be joy out there somewhere; as close to us as the breath we take, or the prayer we utter. Does joy ever go away, or do we leave joy by the corner as we walk by, not noticing the hope we have just bypassed?

At the bake sale this week, we had for sale on the table, 7 layer bars. They were delicious, if I do say so myself, (I didn't make them), but I got to thinking, how does one make a 7 layer bar? So, I looked it up. It takes the usual; butter, graham cracker crumbs. But you layer everything one on top of the other: walnuts, chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, coconut, condensed milk, and maybe other assorted goodies.

Could it be that joy is like the layers? It may not be on the top, but it's a few layers down and it's part of each bite of life we are willing to indulge in. Joy is with us always. It is one of the fruits of the Spirit, spoken of in the book of

Galatians, (Galatians 5:22), and it's as sweet as can be, flavoring all our other encounters.

Dig deep for your joy; know it is there... even if you have to go down the layers one by one.

In the joy of Christ's message,

Pastor Angelee

Psalm 30:3, Psalm 47:1, Galatians 5:22

2011 Council

President	Cliff Keljikian
Financial Secretary	Eric Flicker
Vice President	Carl Wasylyszyn
Building & Grounds Secretary	Steve Bailey
Christian Education	Andrea Youndt
Treasurer	Carol Swingle
Church Growth	Beth Sayler
Assistant Treasurer	Ray Hunter
Congregational Life	Vince McDevitt
Mission & Outreach	Avalon Wittig
Worship & Music	Denise Casey
	Linda Ardao

Don't Miss Upcoming Special Fellowships!



July 1 Make Your Own Sundae
August 26 Salad Bar

Giving Of Your Time and Talent

May 6

Greeters – Jean & Bob Miller, Beth Kressly, Scripture
– Anne Redding
Children’s Chat – Todd Speece
Hospitality – Bart & Cathy Yost
Nursery – Open
Counters – Beth Sayler, Carl Wasylyszyn
Acolyte – Tabitha Louderback
Communion Servers

May 13

Greeters – Suzan Ogram, Bill Edrington
Scripture – Linda Ardao
Children’s Chat – Lisa Novy-Wikowski
Hospitality – Clemens/Warren
Nursery – Patrice Varney
Counters – Andi Youndt, Vince McDevitt
Acolyte – Ritter Benner-Smith

May 20

Greeters – Norma Meister, Beth Kressly, Octavia
Williams
Scripture – Beth Sayler
Children’s Chat – Char Gosselink
Hospitality – Open
Nursery – Bonnie Yost
Counters – Eric Flicker, Avalon Wittig
Acolyte – Nicole Sciandra

May 27

Greeters – Beth Kressly, Bonnie Jackson, Beverly
Miles
Scripture – Lisa Novy-Wikowski
Children’s Chat – Beth Sayler
Hospitality – Ardao/Boohar
Nursery – Bonnie Yost
Counters – Steve Bailey, Carol Swingle
Acolyte – Aiden Dunleavy

June 3

Greeters – Scripture - Steve Yost
Children’s Chat – Kathy Fuertes
Hospitality – Varney/Keith
Nursery – Gerry Ann Flicker
Counters – Vince McDevitt, Denise Casey
Acolyte - Madelyn Keljikian

Congregational Life

Twelve people enjoyed a delicious breakfast and fellowship at the Senior Center in April. Our next breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th from 8:30 until 10:00 at the West Chester Senior Center. All ages are welcome; cost is \$3.50 for a full breakfast.

Thanks to the Men’s Group for preparing a delicious Pancake/Eggs/Sausage Breakfast for the congregation on Palm Sunday. \$102.10 was collected to defray expenses.

Thanks to Patrice and Paul Varney for handling the orders and picking up the flowers and arranging them in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday. They looked beautiful and smelled wonderful.

~Avalon Wittig

THOSE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING

Please contact the Church Office with changes.

Sandra Alford (Octavia)	John McDevitt (Anderson / McDevitt)
Pat Berkheimer (Ardao)	Melissa Meghan (Nelson)
Patsy Breuninger (Sciandra/Wasylyszyn)	Jacque Meister
Nancy Bootterbaugh/Family (Anderson)	Lindley Myles
Michele Cannon (Boohar)	Josh Nelson
Brian Dean (Anderson / McDevitt)	Jim Phillips (Meister)
Jean Dibaczy (B. Jackson)	Dick Redding
Sarah Dougherty (Anderson / McDevitt)	Sylvia Samson (Hauserman)
Pat Ethier (Onyx)	Carmela Sassaman (Kressly / Mantz)
Paul Fournier (Varney)	John Saunders (Paul Varney)
Lois Gleason (Sciandra)	Jim & Aleen Sciandra
Marge Gotshall	Warren Siebert
Sergeants Jill & Sam Hammet (Hunter)	Mercedes Smith (Benner-Smith)
Marilyn Harris (Wittig)	Mark Swankoski (Boohar)
Jen Heath (Sayler)	Tyler Swoboda (Elder)
Barbara Ann Holley (Benner-Smith)	Nicole Thuemmel (Wittig)
The Family of Fred Hoover (Resides)	Hayley Tuscai (Nelson)
Rueben Jackson & Family	David Utsinger (Roeder)
Brandon Jenson (Sciandra)	Georgene Utter and Family
Jan Jones	MaryAnn vogelsong (Kressly)
John Keyser (Louderback)	Joan Walsh (Youndt)
Kornacki Family (Novy-Wikowski)	Gloria Young (Williams)
Beth Kressly	Dick Yost (Dunleavy)
Bertram Lawson (Youndt)	Eric Zischkau
Family of Robin Lennox (B. Jackson)	Sunda (Sciandra)
Carol Littlejohn (Sciandra)	3 rd Battalion 5 th Marines
Vincent Luongo (Meister)	Those without jobs seeking direction
Chris Major (Wasylyszyn)	

If you would like to add names to the prayer list, please leave your prayer papers in our Prayer Box in the Narthex or Church office, or contact Avalon Wittig at 610-436-8651.



Member Bill Edrington and Jim Baran, his partner of 27 years, shared in a Civil Union on May 5th at their home in Delaware. Rev. Benner-Smith officiated on this joyful day! May you both know God's love that has no end!

"BEING" CONNECTED IN A SMALL GROUP

One of the qualities most affirmed about our church is how welcoming it is. What happens after the all the friendly "Hellos"? Ideally, newcomers return to join with our community in worship again and get invited to opportunities for fellowship. In this way, new friends find meaning and belonging at United Church of Christ East Goshen.

There is no doubt that many of us have found these gifts in our church family. Even so, there is concern that some persons get connected mostly by the tasks of service they faithfully perform for the church. With good intentions, we are quick at enlisting everyone into service! We are blessed that so many respond with their hands and hearts. When the demands are manageable, then all the "doers" find meaning in their service. The downside can be that we make everybody so busy with task-oriented activity that when someone needs to ease back and lighten their burden, they might not have any other connections by which they feel belonging.

The 2012 Church Council has been discussing this very matter as a result of some critical thinking and assessment about the church's strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities. As such, we have become convinced about the importance of small groups in the church that offer regular opportunities for BEING TOGETHER as compared to "doing" functional activities for the church per se. All groups contribute a vital dimension to our church life, but the church council envisions a more vibrant fellowship whereupon both long-standing members and newcomers know that they can belong and can always be spiritually connected regardless of life circumstances and their abilities to fulfill some needs of the church. It is our hope that this can be realized through "affinity" groups. The objective set forth is to enrich fellowship in existing groups as desired and appropriate, as well as add two new groups to broaden participation of current members and expand the possibilities to invite others into our community. It so happens, as The Spirit moves, that these efforts will compliment the Revitalization program as it unfolds through the year.

Our outlook toward small groups has prompted us to ask some key questions:

1) What are the existing small groups at UCCEG? 2) What is their purpose or reason for being? 3) Who can join any given group? 4) Does each small group have any spiritual dimension or portion of time devoted to sharing faith?. Moreover, how many friends and members of the church "belong" to a small group? For now, we want to share the list of our current groups so that everyone is aware of them:

Choir

Steeple Club

Prayer Group

Breakfast Group

Women's Group

Lunch Bunch

Knitting Group

Community Gleaning Garden

Youth Group

Adult Education

Sexton's group

Please keep watch in the June Newsletter for more information about these groups and the contacts for each.

As for the future, the Church Council would be interested to know what kinds of groups could be started based upon some affinities or shared interests such as: Book Club, Film and Faith, Games Night Group, Outdoor Lovers Group, Bunco and so on! If you have ideas, then let Pastor Angelee or any council member know about them.

More Life and Light to You,
Carl Wasylyszyn
Church Council Vice President

May Dates to Mark on Your Calendar



- May 2 1:00 PM Women's Knitting Group
7:00 PM Choir Practice
7:30 PM Garden Installation Workshop at Immaculata University
- May 6 10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM Fellowship
11:30 AM Confirmation Class
Adult Ed*
- May 8 8:30 - 10:00 AM Breakfast at West Chester Senior Center*
- May 9 7:00 PM Choir Practice
- May 12 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Confirmation Class
- May 13 10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM Fellowship
11:30 AM Youth Group
- May 16 1:00 PM Women's Knitting Group
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- May 17 7:00 PM Mission & Outreach Meeting
Finance Meeting
- May 20 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 AM Fellowship
11:30 AM Confirmation Class
Adult Ed*
- May 21 7:00 PM Council Meeting*
- May 23 7:00 PM Choir Practice
- May 26 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Confirmation Practice
- May 27 10:00 AM Confirmation Sunday
11:30 AM Fellowship Celebration
- May 30 7:00 PM Choir Practice
- June 3 10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM Fellowship
11:30 AM Christian Education Meeting

*See Article in Newsletter

Upcoming Musical Performances



Chester Children's Chorus

More concerts are coming up. Look for information cards and brochures about this amazing and inspiring group of young people from Chester public schools. They sing music from the classical repertoire (even in Latin!), pop music (such as from Disney movies and the Beatles), and original gospel with uplifting messages of hope and love. Come to a concert--you won't be disappointed! Free admission, with a free-will collection taken.

Friday May 11, 8:00 PM - Wallingford Presbyterian Church, 110 E.

Brookhaven Road, Wallingford, PA (Note: seating is limited and the doors close when seats are full.)

Saturday, May 12, 8:00 PM DuPont Parking Lot from the north campus main entrance.)

NEW DATE: Sunday, May 20, 4:00 PM Social Hall at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, located at Pottstown Pike and Fellowship Road (100 Fellowship Road, Chester Springs, PA, 19425). This concert is sponsored by the Lionville-Exton Ministerium which includes our "sister" church, St. Paul's UCC in Exton. I'd love to have a big contingent of UCC-EG members hear this fantastic group sing their unique brand of classical, pop, and gospel music. You can join the choir afterwards for refreshments and conversation with Chorus members and director John Alston.

www.chesterchildrenschorus.org

www.youtube.com/CheChiChorus

www.facebook.com/ChesterChildrensChorus

~Carol Swingle

Revitalization Committee Update



The Revitalization Committee met at Mensch Mill Retreat Center for its second session in year 2, on March 24th. Tom Rhoades, from Innovational Services, Inc., led us in an interactive session on "The Art of Enrollment". The program focused on empowering church leaders to achieve growth in ministry, evangelism and volunteer enrollment. Each church had an opportunity to report to the others on a description of our "core congregation".

A good portion of the afternoon helped us to better understand our challenge, as a committee, to begin an 8 week book study on *Unbinding The Gospel*. Our committee spent Tuesday evenings in April and May completing this task. It included learning about "growing the church", faith-sharing experiences and keeping a 40 day prayer journal on our experiences with journal exercises which we shared with a prayer partner. The book study was in preparation for dividing our congregation into small groups each headed by two of our trained committee members to spread the experience of faith-sharing among congregants.

We all agreed it is a large and exciting adventure which we will begin in the fall after our "Fall Festival". At our last Conference meeting, in June, we will attend a "Revival" to enthusiastically send us off on our venture! We look forward to our faith experience and pray that it will give clarity to how we want to continue to grow and move forward in God's love together.

Blessings,

Your Revitalization Committee: Pastor Angelee Benner-Smith, Linda Ardao, Kathy Fuertes, Todd Speece, Bonnie Yost & Christine Watson

Announcements and Upcoming Events



Out of Office

Pastor Angelee will be away at the clergy convocation from May 8-10. Please contact the church office or one of your council members with pastoral concerns. Thank you.



A New Book and Prayer Study

We are now into our second year of our revitalization program with our conference leading our church toward growth in Spirit, prayer, membership and faith. Our steering committee, (Christine Watson, Todd Speece, Kathy Fuertes, Bonnie Yost, Linda Ardao, and Pastor Angelee), have just completed a study with the book and prayer journal, "Unbinding the Gospel". We have added a few others, (Ray Hunter, Leslie Siebert, and Bill Edrington), and now are ready to do the study again. In May, 8-10 new people will be studying and praying for the Gospel of Christ to be alive in our community. Would you like to be a part of an 8 week study? Each week we, read a chapter in our book, connect with a prayer partner, and meet together. Pastor Angelee will be calling some members for this 2nd study of the book, but please call her first and let her know you want to sign up. More details will be coming, but trust the Sprints' leading as you consider this opportunity.



May 27th Confirmation

On May 27th at 10:00 AM, join in worship as our two Confirmation students join as member of UCCEG. Kirsten Fuertes and Jake Springer will offer scriptures, their statement of faith, sermon, and prayers, at this special service. Kristen and Jake have been studying this year for their Confirmation Day. Please join the celebration and pray for the Holy Spirit to bless them in a unique way.

NEW MEMBER



CLASS

Calling all friends of UCCEG

This spring, Pastor Angelee will meet with those adults who are interested in joining the Congregation as members. If you are hearing God call you to this new step in your Journey of Faith, please see Pastor Angelee. Dates of meeting will be worked out with those who come forward.