



2510 W LIVINGSTON STREET
ALLENTOWN, PA 18104

10:30 AM WORSHIP
10:30 AM CHURCH SCHOOL

March, 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

April 4. Resurrection Day! Easter. For some Christians around the world the Day of Resurrection is more important than the celebration of the Incarnation, more popularly recognized as Christmas. The argument is interesting. The Resurrectionists, those who believe Easter to be more important than Christmas, say that if Jesus had not been crucified and resurrected on the third day, the Day of Resurrection, then Christmas would have little meaning or purpose. On the other side, those who say that if Jesus had not been born as God's only Son in Bethlehem's manger, then Easter would never have happened.

This argument has been going on within the Church for centuries and there doesn't seem to be any resolution. And maybe that's not important. Maybe it's the kind of argument that will never be settled. To me it's like the classic scholastic debate about how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. It's essentially arguing for the sake of arguing. As the argument goes on, nothing else can ever be talked about and be accomplished and maybe that's the goal from the start. Then nothing really can change.

Both the incarnation and the resurrection are important and indeed critical. One is not more important than the other. The incarnation reminds us who Jesus of Nazareth was "historically", according to the scriptures. The resurrection reminds us of the place this same Jesus continues to have in God's plan for us and all of creation- that Jesus died and was raised so that you and I can die in the peace of

knowing that one day we too shall live in the presence of God as new persons in God's new world.

And for me that puts each of us into the picture. We, as believing and faithful Christians, are called to find our place with Jesus as disciples traveling along with him from birth to death, living the life he knew.

And there's more. That life, according to the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ, is simple. It's to be Jesus' disciple. It's "to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory."

Now that's a lot to think about and digest. But more important- that's a lot to be- and none of us can be it alone. We need each other, and we need God's Spirit traveling along with us to point out the ways to go, and we need the life of Jesus to show us the way it can be accomplished.

I guess that's why the church is open all the time as well as on Christmas and Easter. Open every Sunday as the worshipping congregation is open- open as we come together to pray and praise, to sing and study, to speak to and listen to each other, so that we are able to go out through the days of the week ahead to carry our worship in lives that are open as servers, proclaimers, resisters, and sharers.

Pastor Bill

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MARCH.

Lent 3. March 7	Isaiah 55:1-9 Luke 13:1-9
Lent 4. March 14	Joshua 5:9-12 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Lent 5. March 21	Isaiah 43:16-21 John 12:1-8
Lent 6. March 28	
Palm/ Passion Sunday	Isaiah 50: 4-9 Luke 19:28-40

WINTER

Submitted by
Gene Felty, Property Chair

Ugh! It has been a real challenge this winter to keep the steps and sidewalks kept clear of snow and ice. However, thankfully Don and Alison Seibert and I have managed so far.

I'm asking if anybody knows of anyone (such as boy scout troops or any other organization) who would be willing to volunteer to help keep snow and ice off of the sidewalks and steps.

Another idea is if anybody knows of someone willing to donate a snowblower (at least 24 inches in width) that could be used when the weather really "hits" us.

Please contact Gene Felty, a member of the Property committee, or a Council member, if you have any ideas. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

GETTING TO KNOW SANDY DIACOGLIANNIS

I belonged to 2 different UCC churches before coming to Faith UCC in 1988. My son, Drew, who was 5 at the time, attended the Sunday School programs, served as a Junior Deacon and an Acolyte for a few years and was also confirmed at Faith. I first served on Council 1998-2001; 2001-2004, and currently 2008 to 2011. I have served as Council Secretary for most of my time on Council, and became a Church Elder in 2008. I felt the need to get involved and give back to my church because they had provided such a positive impact on us. I joined the Fellowship Committee around 2002 and became the Chairperson around 2005. I also served on the "planning" committee for the Saturday evening services in 2007 and 2008.

In my life outside of Faith UCC, I have been employed in municipal government for almost 38 years. I enjoy cooking and baking, but I have a real passion for walking, eating healthy and staying in shape. I love Faith Church and the people in it because they are like a second family to me. I pray for us to grow in numbers at Faith, but to also grow with each other as a "Faith family".

An Open and Shut Case

We are seeking volunteers to help with opening and closing the church before and after worship services. It only takes about five minutes and involves doors, lights, heat, etc. Currently we have only one opener and three closers. A schedule will be prepared which could mean doing this once a month, or less, depending on how many are involved. And - "free" training is available!

If interested, please see Don Seibert, Gene Felty or any Council member.

CONTRIBUTION AND OPERATING EXPENSE SUMMARY 2010

	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Operating Income	\$11,080.92	\$11,080.92
Operating Expense	<u>\$25,778.21</u>	<u>\$25,778.21</u>
Difference	<u>(14,697.29)</u>	<u>(14,697.29)</u>

** \$18,114.00 was spent on the new heating system and fixing the carpenter ant problem

Furnace Fund

At the annual congregational meeting in January, it was agreed that our treasurer would try to make payments this year toward reducing our line of credit balance, providing that cash is available each month. Council has suggested asking for contributions that would be segregated and paid directly to the bank. As you know, we used about \$14,000 from the line of credit to pay for the new heating system. Our first goal is to pay off this amount and then continue to work toward the entire balance. An envelope is attached to this newsletter entitled "Furnace Fund", and we hope that all members will use this for designated contributions. Any amount received will be deposited into a new account at the bank to be used only for payments toward the line.

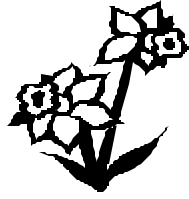
Use of this envelope is not required, but be sure to note on your checks that it is for the furnace/line of credit. Perhaps members could consider this like a special building fund, and set aside an amount each month to help us toward this goal.

If you have any questions, please see me or any member of Council.

Thanks for your support.

Don Seibert

Daffodil Sunday
March 21



Thanks to all of you who ordered daffodils. As they bring the hope of spring flowers, sunshine, and warm temperatures the American Cancer Society works hard to bring the hope of a cancer free world.

We will hand out the daffodils after the church service.

Thank you again for your support.

**HUNGER AT HOME:
FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS**

Lehigh County conference of Churches Hunger
Justice & Advocacy Bread
for the World
2010 *Offering of Letters* Workshop

Saturday, March 27, 2010 8:30am-3:00pm
At First Presbyterian Church
(Tilghman St. at Cedar Crest Blvd.)
Allentown PA 18104

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Bob Edgar, Exec. Dir.
Of Common Cause

Focus: Local and national food and hunger issues
and tools for advocacy with our elected members of
Congress.

Continental breakfast and lunch are included.
Donation \$10/adult; \$5/student

Contact the LCCC office at 610-433-6421 or
events@lehighchurches.org; or Larry Hollar
lhollar@bread.org. More details at <http://ja.ppjr.org>

Maundy Thursday. April 1, 7:30 PM

You are commanded to come together with others of the faith as we join Jesus and his disciples in an upper room as together we share the Lord's Supper with them. Our brothers and sisters from Hope United Church of Christ and the United Church of Christ, Greenawalds will be sharing this special time together with us here at Faith church.

We obey this commandment (Maundy is the English form of a Latin word meaning **commandment**) in our attempts to follow Jesus' example "to love one another as I have loved you."

Good Friday. April 2, 7:30 PM

Good Friday services will be held in Hope United Church of Christ this year. The United Church of Christ, Greenawalds and we in Faith Church will share in the service led by The Rev. William Ragan, pastor of Hope Church.

Also-

Beginning at 12 noon and ending at 3PM on Good Friday the sanctuary of Faith Church will be open for quiet and meditation. These three hours are traditionally recognized as the last hours of Jesus on the cross. At the end of this time his body was taken down from the cross and removed to a tomb nearby to wait for the three days to pass and his glorious resurrection on Easter.

The church will be open, a candle lit, the room quiet. Use some of your time on this holy day to be by yourself with God.

Help Needed

Several of our older members are having difficulty getting to church. Problems with sight and hearing and coordination get in the way of paying full attention to the roads and streets and other drivers.

You can help. All you need is a valid driver's license, a legal Pennsylvania state inspection sticker on the windshield of your car or van, an up to date insurance card, an empty seat, and the willingness to bring folks to the church for services and return them to their homes.

If you would like to help, speak to Cheryl Spinoza, Tamara Weller or Pastor Bill.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The fourth Sunday in Lent, March 14 is the date congregations in the United Church of Christ will be receiving your offerings for One great hour of Sharing. There's a flier sent along with your newsletter along with an offering envelope. Read the flier and then bring or send your offering so that Faith Church's contribution will be increased by the amount you send.

Keep in mind that every dollar, or five, or ten, or twenty, or fifty you send goes for help and/or service to people all over the world, including the United States.

Along with the information that's in the flier You might want to consider how some of the money you give has already been spent. Last year, 2009 OGHS received and spent \$4,848,332.

Where did all that money go? Well, **\$390** went to partially pay for the health care for a person at the Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Miss.

\$8000 went to support the work of Bread for the World.

\$1000 went for a stipend to support a volunteer working in a neighborhood in New Orleans.

\$20,000 was a grant for continued support of families with continued need as a result of Hurricane Wilma in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

\$875 went to assist an Iranian refugee family in Los Angeles, California.

\$6457 went into a seed program for farmers in Zimbabwe.

Those are some specific areas of assistance. But there are so many more. Providing sheep for families in Outer Mongolia; helping women develop a business growing mushrooms in India; setting up and supporting educational programs in Mindanao; getting pigs to farmers in Congo. The list is endless. It includes helping people in Africa, East

Asia, Latin America, Iraq. Your dollars are important. Be generous.

thehungersite.com

Several months ago we told you about a web site where the folks who have set it up do important work. It's called **thehungersite.com**. When you use it you can be helping others in supporting and interesting ways. There are six part to **thehungersite.com**

World hunger. When you tap the button you are sending 1.1 cup of food to somebody. It doesn't cost you a cent.

Breast Cancer. That button sends help for mammograms for women. It doesn't cost you a cent.

Child Health. That button provides money for health care for kids. And it doesn't cost you one cent.

Literacy. When you hit that button you are helping get books to kids and adults. It doesn't cost you a cent.

Rainforest. You've just saved a little bit of the diminishing forest around the world. It doesn't cost you a cent.

Animal Rescue. Dogs and cats and other discarded animals in shelters get the food and care they need until adoption. Not one cent out of your pocket or purse.

thehungersite.com. find it, use it. It just might make your days a little more wonderful. and it won't cost you one single penny. It might even help you understand a little bit better what Lent is all about.

Shirley & Bill

PRAYER CONCERNS

Jeffrey Mattes (Curt S.'s son-in-law), Amelia Haddad, Ali Abouzari, Marian Follweiler, Joe Carr, Pat Pramik, George John, Robert Pramik, all service personnel, Wyatt, Larry, Rich (fr. of Sandy D.), Timothy Pramik, Bill Nelson, Frances Kindt, Walt (Sandy D's brother-in-law), Jim Zimbar, Lloyd Plantholt, Curt Schmoyer, Shirley Keen, Bev Heller.

Condolences to the family and friends of Diane Daniels and to the family and friends of Richard Wagner.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Submitted by Carol Closson

You may not be aware, or have forgotten that Faith U.C.C. is responsible for a Meals on Wheels route three Wednesdays of each month. I would like to share some statistics I received from the Meals on Wheels office along with a thank-you note for our service to the organization. In 2009 our group accumulated some impressive statistics. Our drivers logged 351 miles traveling to clients' homes and drivers and visitors combined contributed 144 hours to the program; 540 visits were made and 1,080 meals provided.

The team members are Shirley Snoddy, Henry Streiff, Carol Closson, and two non- members, Betty Stewart and Tom Harshman. We have two people who substitute when necessary, Millie Carr and Debbie Scarpino, but we could use more, especially in the summer when I am away. It's a great route since most of the people we serve are in Episcopal House. It's less than a two hour commitment, and fun!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/04 Anna Reese
03/04 Hunter Bachenberg
03/04 Chase Bachenberg
03/05 Marian Follweiler
03/10 Jurnee Wenz
03/10 Zachary Radii
03/11 Curtis Baehler
03/12 Theodore Schick
03/13 Roger Bray
03/13 Mark Graeffe
03/15 Carl Hess
03/16 Susan Thomas
03/16 Eugene Felty
03/19 Kayla Lindsey
03/20 Austin Troxell
03/20 Kelly Garrigan
03/21 Shirley Snoddy
03/21 Ronald Bauer
03/22 Judith Weisel
03/22 Michael Mihalik
03/23 Virginia Schuler
03/23 Joan Hunsicker
03/23 Anthony Richards
03/24 Eric Dotter
03/24 Elizabeth Dotter
03/25 Chloe Frantz
03/27 Virginia Mihalik
03/28 Frank Schiavone
03/28 Jennifer Smith
03/29 Beverly Heller
03/30 Jane Witheridge
03/30 Krista Spradlin
03/30 Alexander Johnson
03/30 James Gallagher



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2510 W. LIVINGSTON STREET
ALLENTOWN, PA 18104

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CHURCH HOSPITAL CODE: 424 EMAIL ADDRESS: faithucc@fast.net
Webpage: <http://www.faithuccallentown.org>

CHURCH OFFICERS:

President - Cheryl Spinosa
Vice President - Tamara Weller
Secretary - Sandy Diacogiannis
Treasurer - Chris Felty
Financial Secretary - David Reiser

Deacons - Liaisons to Ministry Areas

Cheryl Spinosa
Chris Felty
Tamara Weller - Leadership Development
Kristin Richards - Education/Leadership
Don Seibert - Finance/Stewardship
Gene Felty - Property
Ed Jacobson - Property
Carol Closson - Mission/Leadership
Sandy Diacogiannis - Fellowship

STAFF:

Ministers - Members of Faith UCC
Pastor - Rev. William Ellsworth
Administrative Asst. - Kathy Kreeger

COMMITTEE CHAIRS/COORDINATORS:

Altar - Alison Seibert
Christian Ed - Kristin Richards
Endowment -
Faith's Fellowship - Sandy Diacogiannis
Member Ministries -
Missions - Carol Closson
Not quite Over the Hill Gang - Don Seibert
Personnel - Council Elders
Property - Gene Felty
Publicity - Sara Thomas
Stewardship - Don Seibert
Ushers - Diane Abouzari

Director of Music - Charles McAnall