

First Christian Church
 Disciples of Christ
 442 Hummel Ave,
 Lemoyne, PA 17043
 717-763-4537
 www.lemoynedisciples.org

Senior Minister: Rev. Diana Hodges-Batzka

Pastor: Linda Springer

Organist: Mary E. Snyder

Church Secretary: Sara Zettlemoyer



Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive and Party

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Join us on Sunday, February 5th as we celebrate the Souper Bowl of Caring. Began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by a pastor at a Presbyterian Church in South Carolina (“Lord, even as we enjoy the

Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat”), the Souper Bowl of Caring is now a national movement of young people which attempt to turn the time around the Super Bowl into a time of giving and service. Groups are invited to participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring collecting either monetary donations or food donations which go directly to a local organization of their choice. In 2011, participants raised over \$9.6 million in cash and food items for over 10,000 charities.

This year on Super Bowl Sunday, which falls on our regular Pantry Sunday, we are all especially encouraged to remember to bring non-perishable food items which will go to New Hope Ministries, which provides food for members of our community. Please bring you items to worship with you and place them in front of the communion table as a part of your offering to God. We will continue our celebration with a Souper Bowl of Caring Party at 6 p.m. at Pastor Diana’s House, where we will gather to spend time with our church family as we eat, fellowship, and watch some football. You are invited to bring an appetizer/finger food item to share with others at the party. RSVP to the Souper Bowl of Caring Party by either emailing Pastor Diana or calling the church office. *Due to limited street parking, it is suggested that you are dropped off or park at the church and walk.*

Week of Compassion Sunday

Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 10:15 a.m.

Join us on Sunday, February 19th as we lift up the Week of Compassion, the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which responds to disasters in the US and around the world as well as provides long-term development support. During this special service, we will explore our theme “Sharing Brings Joy” where we consider all the ways that sharing with others brings joy to our lives, to other people around the world and to God. We will hear stories about the important work of the Week of Compassion and also receive special blessing boxes to be used the following week to help us share with others. If you are unable to be with us in worship on February 19th but would like to participate in the special Week of Compassion Blessing Box, please contact the church office to pick up your blessing box. The Week of Compassion Offering will be received on February 19 and February 26. Join us for the special worship service as we celebrate the ministry of the church around the world.



Inside This Issue

Pastor’s Page	2	Notes & Announcements	5
Lent Activities	3	Serving Schedule & Prayers	6
Outreach Ministries	4	Calendar	7

The Messenger February 2012

PASTOR'S PAGE



God Is Love

Growing up one of my most influential Sunday School teachers was Mr. Bob, who taught the middle school Sunday school class. Now, we did not like going to Mr. Bob's class. In fact, we would try to find ways to avoid it because Mr. Bob expected us to WORK and LEARN and PAY ATTENTION during Sunday School. *Sometimes, we even had homework – for Sunday School!* But, I learned a lot about the Bible in Mr. Bob's class. One of the things that I learned was that in the New Testament, there are three different Greek words that we translate as "love." Each of these words has a slightly different meaning. The three Greek words for love are: *eros*, meaning romantic love, *phileo*, meaning love between equals (often referred to as the love of friends) and *agape*, meaning an unconditional love.

This month on February 14th we will celebrate Valentine's Day. Now, for many Valentine's Day can be a hard day because of loss or a past relationship or past Valentine's Day experiences. But as we approach Valentine's Day, let's not limit the day to romantic love. Let us think about the many types of love and all the different ways we love each other. Let us remember the greatest love of our life – the love of God, our Creator, who knows us so intimately and loves us so deeply. This month we have several opportunities to remember God's love and to share it with others. From an expression of romantic love with our partners, families or friends on Valentine's Day to showing God's *agape* by giving to the Souper Bowl of Caring or the Week of Compassion or to offering God our whole selves and our devotion this Lent. 1 John 4:7-8 tells us, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love." Beloved, let us love one another this month.

Peace,

Pastor Diana



OUT OF THE BLUE

I have a co-worker whose 20 year old niece has been fighting cancer for over 2 years now. Allie's Mom sends out emails to all the "prayer warriors" who have been with them all this time. A large tumor was discovered on Allie's liver two years ago. Through some wonderful doctors at Johns Hopkins, the cancerous tumor was able to be removed successfully.

Allie continued on with her classes at Messiah College cancer free UNTIL one day she went back to Hopkins for a check-up and the whole routine began again with cancer being in a different area. Once again she is almost to the finish line with this second episode. The family gives the doctors at

Hopkins much credit but they have given even more credit to Christ, the great healer. They accept every step backward as some sign from Him and they live with it, no questions asked.

I have never seen anyone with such deep faith. When Allie is physically able, she travels to area churches to give her testimony of a loving and caring Christ who has been by her side from day one. He has not only given her excellent doctors but many friends who have held fundraisers to help the family get through the unbelievable expenses they have incurred.

Some time ago I suggested that my friend pass on to her sister-in-law the idea of editing all of her faith emails into a book so others could share in this unusual journey. I hope she considers this when this medical ordeal is all over. Let me share a reading from the Mother's daily reading for January 6 from a devotional, "*Jesus Calls,*".

"I am able to do far beyond what you ask or imagine. Come to Me with positive expectations, knowing that there is no limit to what I can accomplish. Ask my Spirit to control your mind, so that you can think great thoughts of Me. Do not be discouraged by the fact that many of your prayers are yet unanswered. Time is a trainer, teaching you to wait upon Me, to trust Me in the dark. The more extreme your circumstances, the more likely you are to see My power and glory at work in the situations. Instead of letting difficulties draw you into worrying, try to view them as setting the scene for My glorious intervention. Keep you eyes and your mind wide open to all that I am doing in your life."

Keep this devotional in mind when times get tough and you pray and pray and perhaps begin to question your faith. The Great One is there in your thoughts. Faith is the victory. There is no doubt in Allie's mind about that.

Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Journeying along the path of faith in Christ,

Linda

Lent Activities

Lenten Through the Years

Beginning on Wednesday, February 22nd, we enter a new season according to the Christian calendar - Lent. The season of Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) leading up to Easter. Each year, the church uses this time to prepare for and reflect on the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us on Wednesday, February 22nd at 7 p.m. for an intimate worship service as we begin the season of Lent. This service will include communion and the imposition of ashes, a historic Christian practice where the previous year's palms from Palm Sunday are burned and the ashes are placed on one's forehead in the shape of a cross with the words "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." This ritual helps us remember our impermanence and helps us begin the season of Lent by surrendering ourselves to fully to God through penitence and self-sacrifice. As we reflect on the where God is calling us on our journey, let us stop and remember both our mortality and our need to turn to God.

Lenten Lunches

Join us on Wednesdays at Noon during the season of Lent for the annual community Lenten Lunches, sponsored by the Lemoyne Ministerium. The cost of lunch is \$4.00. Please RSVP each Monday to the church office if you plan to attend to aid in preparation. Hosted by Grace United Methodist Church, 309 Herman Avenue Lemoyne, PA. The Theme for this year's lunch is "The Meaning of Lent." Following lunch, a local pastor will present meditation.

Menu for February's Lenten Lunch

Feb 22 - Chicken Divan, Tossed Salad & Brownies

Feb 29 - Pork BBQ, Cole slaw & Apple crisp

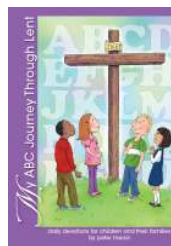
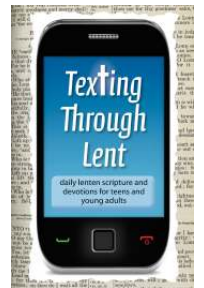
Lenten Devotionals

Because an active, daily prayer life is important in our spiritual journeys the church is providing Lenten Devotionals for all ages. You can pick yours up in the Narthex or by contacting the church office. They will be available beginning Sunday, February 12th. *Families with multiple adults are encouraged to share.*



Adults are invited to explore *Christ Our Hope*, which includes reflections by the late Henri J.M. Nouwen, one of the most widely read spiritual writers of our time. His deeply moving spiritual insights and prayerful conversations with God are particularly timely during this holy season of Lent when we contemplate the Christ who is our hope through his suffering, death and resurrection.

Youth are encouraged to do a little more texting throughout Lent this year. No, not that kind of texting (though throughout this devotional booklet there are short textable messages to share). The text they'll page through is the Bible as they travel from the Garden of Eden :-(to the Garden Tomb on Easter morning. ;-) Pick up your copy of *Texting Through Lent!*



Children and Families are invited to wonder about the messages of Lent! It's as easy as ABC! Devotions in this book follow each letter of the alphabet and carry children through the story of salvation in Jesus from A (for Adam) to Z (for Easter's Zippity-Do-Dah). Help your children learn of Jesus while they learn their letters. Pick up a copy of *My ABC Journey Through Lent* devotional book and mobile. Add a piece to the mobile each day as you make your journey through Lent.

Outreach Ministries

Reaching out...Partnering with others....To serve our community

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent monetary donation to the Cane Ridge Meeting House. Gifts Such as yours allow us to continue to tell the Cane Ridge story and to maintain our building and grounds for generations still to come.

As we begin a new year we are thankful for the amazing support we have received even as the economy is stills struggling to recover. We continue to thank God for the gifts of this year and we look forward to the blessings that will surely come with the New Year.

Thank you again for your generous support,
James H. Trader, II Curator
The Cane Ridge Meeting House

GIRL SCOUT CORNER

Girl Scouts of Lemoyne, New Cumberland and Wormleysburg would like to Thank YOU for all you do! We have had a busy month of January, the cookie sale is underway, we went on a RELAX weekend to Golden Pond (a GSHPA camp), went bowling, donated tray favors to Meals on Wheels, volunteered for Martin Luther King Day of Service and worked on various badges and awards. We also showed our support to sister Girl Scouts by providing 3 meals to Girl Scout families who had medical issues this past month. We are looking forward to working with you on the Pancake breakfast and would like to organize another lock-in with church members.



GIANT & WEIS KARNS

We all go grocery shopping!

We all put gas in the car!!!!

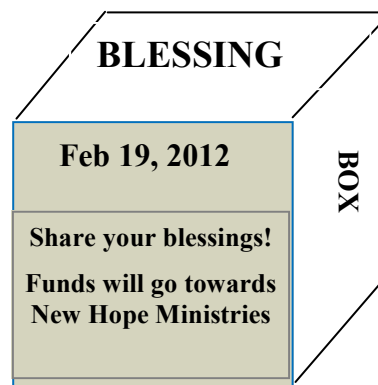
Why not support the church at the same time?



Grocery Store cards will now be available in the church of-
fice beginning February 1st. They will still be available for
purchase on Sunday mornings as well.

Perhaps while purchasing cards for your family why not pur-
chase an extra \$25.00 card and donate it to the Pastor's dis-
cretionary fund? The church gets requests from our neigh-
bors for groceries and gas. Our Pastor would then have a way
to help these families in dire need.

If you have questions, please call Diana Onstott at 975-8543



PANTRY SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we will receive
NON- PERISHABLE goods to be delivered to New
Hope Ministries.

Next opportunity to give is Feb 5th

Christian Growth



Are you ready to **Live B.I.G.**? Children of all ages are invited to join us as we discover how to hear, see, and live our **Belief In God**. Children will come together to learn the stories of the Bible and how to apply them to their daily lives. This "one big room" style class all the ages are together

to create community and relationships between all our children. Older children and younger children build relationships as they help each other. The class meets in the children's room on the Sanctuary level. This February they will learn about the stories of Jesus and about the stories that Jesus told.

Adult Sunday School 9a.m.

Upcoming Topics

2/5 "Wishful Thinking" by Andy Stanley

2/12 TBA

2/19 TBA

2/26 TBA

Notes and Announcements



Ministry Opportunities

Are you passionate about helping us reach out to our neighbors? Do you want to help plan powerful worship experiences? Do you desire to help people in the church grow closer to Jesus Christ? Do you enjoy “do-it-yourself” or home improvement projects? Do you love to cook or bake? Do you have musical talents you would like to share? We have all been gifted by God with many gifts and talents which we are called to share. We all have a ministry which we are called to do to the Glory of God. If you would like to share your gifts or develop your ministry, please contact Pastor Diana so we can find the right way for you to serve God.

Hope Transformation Team Update

Your Hope Transformation Team has been hard at work. Composed of Keith Aubel, Diana Onstott, Linda Spring, Lois Miller and Pastor Diana, this group meets on a weekly basis on Thursday evenings for two hours at a time. We pray together, consider our week’s reading from the book we are reading *From Our Doorsteps* by Rick Morse, and explore the realities of doing ministry in 2012 in Lemoyne, PA and what God might be calling this church to become. We will conclude our meetings in late February. Watch for more details coming soon about how you can join in the conversation!

Announcement

Due to scheduling during the month of February, Pastor Diana will be taking Fridays as her day off. In March, Thursdays will resume being her regularly scheduled day off. If you need to contact her on her day off, please call her cell or the church office and leave a message. She will return your call the next day. If you are contacting her about an emergency, please call her cell, leave a message, and she will return your call as soon as she is able.



We are still looking for volunteers to help with Communion Preparation. If you think you could be of service for one Sunday a month (or even more!) please contact the church

office at 763-4537. Thank you so much for your help!

A New Surprise for the New Year!

Last month, we received a wonderful gift of a new sink in the kitchen. Paid for with an anonymous gift, our new sink has provided the kitchen a wonderful uplift. Check it out by volunteering to help wash dishes after our next event. Thank you so much for this wonderful gift!



Building Use Policy

At the January Board meeting, the board approved an updated building use policy that helps provide additional guidelines concerning the use of the church building by members, non-members, and outside groups. It attempts to clarify things as well as protect the church. A copy is available from the church office. If you would like to use the church facility for a function, please contact the church office for a request form.



WHEN FOUL WEATHER COMES UPON US

What to do on days when conditions are questionable – be wise and discerning! Venture out only when you feel that you may get to church safely. We want to see you another week rather than have you be involved in a vehicle accident or a nasty fall. In case we do cancel worship or another event, we will post the information on WGAL NBC 8, WHP CBS-21/The CW 15 and ABC 27, the church website (www.lemoynedisciples.org) and on the church answering machine. In the event of a winter or snow emergency, listen to area radio and TV broadcasts or check local news websites so that you know that you can get to church safely.

Help Mow

Anyone willing to mow the grass around the church office and the church grounds this season, please call the church office at 763-4537 and give Sara your name. We will then make up a schedule that rotates all volunteers throughout the summer and fall months.

Thank you for your help,

Glenn Haagen
Property Committee



Serving During February

Elders

- 5 - Lois Miller
- 12 - Bill Davis
- 19 - Rhoda Aubel
- 26 - Keith Aubel

Greeters

- 5 - Robert Lambert, Henry Miller, Linda Runkle
- 12 - Sue & Ted Willoughby, Loyetta Quinn
- 19 - Lois Haagen, Glen Haagen, Jean Trout
- 26 - Donna White, Al White, Dottie Michels

Diaconate

- 5 - Lois Haagen, Ken Holler, Linda Runkle, Glenn Haagen
- 12 - Glenn Haagen, Russell Miller, Kelly Manning, Melissa Ford
- 19 - Jane Welsh, Glenn Haagen, Lois Haagen, Diana Onstott
- 26 - Linda Runkle, Jack Wagner, Ken Holler, Deb Holler

Scriptures & Sermons

- 5 - TBA Mark 1: 29-39
- 12 - "Be Made Clean" Mark 1: 10-45
- 19 - "Sharing Brings Joy" 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15
- 26 - TBA TBA

Income and Expenses

Month of December

Congregational Offerings Received	\$5,851.13
Interest from Trust Funds	2,886.64
Donations	200.00
Fundraiser's	100.00
Misc.	<u>423.55</u>
Total	\$9,461.32
Bills Received and Paid	\$14,144.01

Thank you for your generosity!

Prayer Request

For Healing:

- Debbie Reed – Surgical Procedure
- Julie Janney - (B. Davis) Complications
- Ted Walker - (D. Wolff) Fall
- Evan - (R. Goudy) Hospitalized
- Lauren Schwalm - (R. Aubel) Gastro Paresis
- Joyce - (R. Aubel) Auto Accident
- Irv Steele - (L. Quinn's son-in-law) Eye Surgery
- Jimmy - (J. Kain's son) Cancer
- Mary - (R. Aubel's sister) Cancer
- Jeff Gossard - (L. Miller's son) Chest Pain
- Marlene - (M. Snyder) Surgery
- Michelle C. - (M. Snyder) Cancer
- Libby - (O. Squire) Cancer
- Harvey Smiley - (J. Trout/ V. Hughes brother) Back Surgery
- Mike Jones - (R. Aubel)
- Winifred - (H. Turner's Aunt) Fall
- Reggie - (J. Kain's nephew) Cancer

For Comfort:

- Robert Root Jr. (R. Aubel's son)
- Scott Leiser (L. Springer)
- Kay & David Kline
- John Michels, Carl Haubert, Sally Smith (Homebound Members)

For God's Love:

- Megan Gossard (L. Miller)
- Mary Ann K., Marcy Koser, Janet P., Terri S., Dan Keating, Suzie Eply, (M. Snyder)

For God's Guidance:

- Amber Root (Aubel's daughter)
- Joseph (R. Goudy's son)
- The Hope Transformation Team

Traveling Mercies:

- Runkle's and their family as they travel to CA.

February 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Troop 682 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8P.M.	2 Hope Transformation Team Meeting @ 6:30p.m. in the Parlor	3	4
5 Souper Bowl of Caring Super Bowl of Caring Party at 6 pm.	6 Troop 673 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8 P.M. -< Pastor Diana	7 Troop 689 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8 P.M. -< @ Clergy ->	8 Troop 685 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8P.M. Consultation ->	9 Hope Transformation Team Meeting @ 6:30p.m. in the Parlor Troop 667 in Girl Scout Room	10	11
12 Finance Meeting-After Worship.	13 Troop 678 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8 P.M.	14 Girl Scouts occupying DOWN-STAIRS 6:30-8P.M	15	16 Hope Transformation Team Meeting @ 6:30p.m. in the Parlor	17	18
19 Elder's Meeting at 9 a.m. Board Meeting-After Worship Week of Compassion Sunday	20	21 GS Service Unit meeting-in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-9:30 P.M.	22 Troop 685 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8P.M. Lenten Lunch Noon at Grace UMC Ash Wednesday Service at 7p.m.	23 Hope Transformation Team Meeting @ 6:30p.m. in the Parlor Troop 667 in GS Room 6:30-8P.M	24	25 G.S. using downstairs from 12 - 4p.m. for "World Thinking Day"
26	27 Troop 678 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8 P.M	28 Girl Scouts occupying DOWN-STAIRS 6:30-8P.M	29			

-Children's Sunday School – 9 AM
-Adult Sunday School Classes- 9 AM
-Worship at 10:15 AM

**Office Hours- Monday-Friday
from 8:30 AM -12:00 PM**

**For the month of February, Pastor Diana's day off will be on Friday's rather than Thursday. Please make note.
Thanks!**

Birthdays

Tom Runkle - Feb 1 Isabelle Feb 11
Harold Turner - Feb 13 Diana Hodges-Batzka - Feb 16
Joey Kaiser- Feb 17 Debbie Holler - Feb 17
Ray Landvater - Feb 22 Doria Onstott - Feb 22
Ken Onstott - Feb 25

Anniversaries

Dick & Connie Shatzer - February 28



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Mark Your Calendar!

4th ANNUAL PANCAKE EXTRAVAGANZA!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012 7AM TO 12 NOON
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH,
442 HUMMEL AVENUE, LEMOYNE**

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

OOTW (Out of this World) Pancakes

*Chocolate Chip, Blueberry, Strawberry,
Rainbow, Banana, and more!*

(Sausage, Juice and Coffee provided)

Donation: \$6.00 (\$1 benefits Girl Scout Family Partnership)

Funds for Family Partnership are used to provide funding for girls who cannot afford Girl Scouts. No girl is denied the opportunity to be a Girl Scout and fully participate based on financial status. Funds will be used to supply books, uniforms, trips, camp experience and awards for girls unable to financially afford it.

When you reserve your tickets, you will receive a specially designed placemat

JUST FOR YOU,

Created by the Youth of First Christian Church and Girl Scouts!