

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 Leiser

Organist: Mary E. Snyder

Church Secretary: Sara Zettlemyer



Church Leaders Retreat Sunday, January 15

Mark your calendars for Sunday, **January 15 from 1-4 p.m.** Following our monthly board meeting church leaders and anyone interested are invited to gather for a 3 hour retreat. During this time, we will pray for our congregation, set some goals, and begin to plan out the church's activities and programs for 2012. Lunch will be provided with donation accepted to help cover the cost. If you plan to attend, please let Pastor Diana know.

Laity Sunday and Installation of Church Officers January 22, 2012 at 10:15 a.m.



Join us on Sunday, January 22nd during our special "Laity Sunday" worship service as we celebrate the ministry to which we are ALL called, whether we are clergy or lay, young or old, a new Christian or a person with many years of faith. On this special Laity Sunday the service will recognize the important role of the laity in worship and the church. Keith Aubel will offer our sermon, the service will be led by the laity, and we will hold a special installation service for all the church officers: our deacons and elders, including emeritus members, trustees, board officers, and committee chairs. If you hold one of these offices, please attend as we take time to thank you for your service and offer our blessing for the new year.



Change Jars 2012

We all know a little can go a long way! So why not give a little change to help change the world? Contribute to the change jar!

The change jar program for 2012 will be divided into 4 quarters. Each Sunday you will have the opportunity to drop your loose change (or bills if you wish) into the jars outside the Sanctuary door.

All donations put in the change jars during Jan, Feb and March will be used to support New Hope Ministries.

New Hope Ministries is a Christian social service agency that shows the love and hope of Christ by serving our neighbors in times of need and supporting their efforts towards stability. They provide a variety of assistance and services in the Dillsburg, Dover, Mechanicsburg, and West Shore areas of Pennsylvania."

Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

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The Messenger JANUARY 2012

PASTOR'S PAGE



Continuing the Journey

We have been on a journey this Advent season as we have traveled to Bethlehem and experienced anew the birth of Jesus Christ. As we leave the baby Jesus, we continue our journeys to be his disciples. This January and February we are going to continue our individual journeys as we grow closer to God and begin our journey as a church to discover who God is calling us to be. Since I began to serve as your pastor in August, I have had the privilege of getting to know and to love the wonderful people of this congregation. You all have shared your stories with me. You have opened your homes and your hearts. You have shared with me your hopes for the future and your worries and struggles. I thank you so much for the ways that you have embraced and welcomed me into your lives.

I have also spent the last months praying for our congregation, asking God who God is calling us to be. We are a wonderful community of people, faithful to God and to the church. However, when we look around during our worship we see fewer faces, we see our friends and ourselves growing older, we see few children, youth or young adults. We look at reports and know that there are fewer leaders and less money. We seem to be a little lost without a sense of direction. We know God is always faithful, journeying with us, but we don't quite know what to do or how to do it. We are a congregation who needs to discern who God is calling us to be. We are a congregation who needs to transform.

It is a hard time to be church. Things are no longer the way they used to be. What worked in the past does not work now. There are no quick fixes. There are no simple changes. While I am beginning to see the shape of what I feel is God's vision for this congregation, to help us start down this path of discernment, I am gathering a group of four people (Keith Aubel, Lois Miller, Diana Onstott and Linda Springer) together who I have called the Hope Transformation Team. During the months of January and February, we will meet weekly for prayer and for study. Using a book called "From Our Doorsteps" by Rick Morse, we will take a hard look at our reality and possibilities for transformation.

Hopefully, by the end of this process, we will have developed a ministry plan for the congregation which we can all pray about and discuss during the spring. I believe that God is calling us to *not* be hesitant, cautious, or fearful about the future. Rather, God is calling us to be courageous risk takers who believe that our God is a God of new life and transformation. I ask that you join me in this journey of discernment. Pray for our congregation. Pray for the Hope Transformation Team. Pray for God to show us the way. As we start this new calendar year, let us make this a year of new beginnings, a year of new life, and let us trust in the God of Everlasting Life, who calls us, leads us, and makes all things new.

Peace,

Pastor Diana



OUT OF THE BLUE

In just a few short days, it will be time to start anew with 2012. We can throw away the 2011 calendar and all the notes, special occasions, and appointments and put up a new one to fill. A calendar is really the story of our life for a one year period. Personally, I am happy to dispose of mine and begin with a bright and healthy new year.

You could say, in a manner of speaking, that our slates are clean. It is mostly up to us to chalk in what is happening in our lives. We do have those unexpected events happening also.

It is nice to begin the New Year with the thought that we can live life refreshed and with joy in our faith. And when that occasion arises when we cannot handle a life experience, we know where we can go for help. God our Father is there in good times and in bad. He shares all the joys and heartaches of our lives. He watches us and listens to us. We have nothing to worry about because we are his children and He is our caring Father.

As we wipe our slates clean for the year, He too, wipes our slates clean as we err and ask for His forgiveness. There is nothing He would not do for us because of His great love.

Keep that in mind...GOD IS LOVE. When the road becomes rough, know that you are not alone and do not become discouraged.

Live 2012 as He would have you live. Love as He loves. Keep the faith and share it with others. Listen to those in need as He listens and help others as He helps.

Let's clean our slates, hang that new calendar and rejoice in the year ahead, that it may be a wonderful and healthy year for all of us, as we live for Christ our Redeemer.

Journeying along that long road ahead,

Linda

New Year's News

Undecorate the Church Saturday, January 7 at 9 a.m.

We have all enjoyed the wonderful decorations that have graced our church and sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season. Unfortunately, they must return to their homes until it is time for next year. Please come and help us "undecorate" on Saturday, January 7 beginning at 9 a.m.

Lend your time and become a Communion Preparer!

We are in need of communion preparers for the 2012 year. If you could offer your time for one or even two weeks it would be greatly appreciated. For more information or to offer your help, please see Glenn Haagen.

Flowers for 2012

The flower chart is posted in the back of the Sanctuary. Please sign the chart at your special date of choice. You can then submit payment to Jean Trout name or we can give you an invoice around the time your flowers are delivered. The cost remains \$32.00 for two arrangements. Thank you for helping to make our church even more beautiful on Sundays.



New Keys to Church

In the first week or so of the new year, the church is going to receive a new set of locks on all the doors to the church building. Afterwards, you will need a new key to get in. Keys will be given to groups (Elders, Deacons, Church Officers) in the church who need access to the building on a regular basis to help in their responsibilities. If you wish to request to be included on this list, please contact the church office and share your need. We will let you know when keys become available for pick up. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Diana or Glenn Haagen.

Thank you so much for your Christmas "token" for the staff. It is always a pleasure to serve you and the church. Thank you so much for your generosity at this time of year as we celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord. We love you all!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Diana, Pastor Linda, Mary and Sara

*Thank
You*

Annual Reports are due to the church office by January 9th!

Reminder!

If you have leadership of one of committees or groups of officers, please submit a report by Monday, January 9 to the church office summarizing your committee's activities during 2011.



Prayer Request Cards

There is a new addition to the pews. Our prayer request cards are back - with a few changes. While we will continue the practice of sharing our prayer concerns aloud during worship, we are also asking that you fill out a prayer request card and place it in the offering plate or turn it into one of the pastors or church office. This will enable us to accurately communicate information. On the prayer request card, there is room for you to list your name, your relationship to the person (which really helps Pastor Diana as she learns about your extended families!), and the prayer request. There is also a space for you to list the mailing address of the person for whom we are praying. If you provide that information, the person will receive a card from the elders following our monthly meeting simply saying that we have prayed for that person. It is a wonderful way to let people know that they are being prayed for! Finally, there is also a place for you to mark how you would like the request to be shared: with the congregation, with the elders only, or kept in confidence by the pastor. If you ask for the requests to be shared with the congregation, they will be emailed in the weekly "What's Happening," shared as needed on the prayer chain, put on the prayer list in the bulletin and newsletter and prayed for by the elders.

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.

Outreach Ministries

Outreach Thank You's

Outreach Holiday Summary

In December, we collected 238 pounds of food for New Hope Ministries, delivered many presents to New Hope Ministries for their Christmas Express program, gave blankets to the homeless and provided Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for 7 families in our community.

Thank you for your generosity in living out our call to serve all those in need!

Dear Disciples of Christ:

It is with heartfelt thanks that we send you this thank you letter for you recent gift to our agency.

Residents that have come to our door in despair have encountered life events that have overwhelmed their ability to cope. At Shalom House, we meet their immediate needs for basic necessities and then help guide them through our case management to obtain housing, employment etc. Our aim is to help them strengthen their personal skills and lead healthier, happier lives.

With best regards,

Denise Britton

Executive Director
Shalom House

Girl Scout Corner



Girl Scouts have been busy this year already. We have donated food to 5 Loaves Food Bank, Channels, The Bridge Food Bank and New Hope Ministries.

The troops that meet here have already collected over 300lbs of food!!! We have brought just under 100 lbs of tabs to Ronald McDonald House in Hershey and we have collected new hats and mittens for children in need. We helped First Christian Church reach out to neighbors in need with Thanksgiving Dinners and Christmas dinners. Another joint effort of providing gifts for a 1st grade girl has given hope to a family facing very hard times. As always, we are busy meeting, going places, traveling, working on our badges and awards and having fun. We appreciate all First Christian Church does for us!

Dear Disciples of Christ,

Thank you so much for your recent contribution to the Christian Churches United. Your generous support of the ministries of Christian Churches United means so much to the people we help and to the Tri-County community. Your contribution will enable us to continue our action ministry and witness.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline P. Rucker

Executive Director
Christian Church United

Dear Friends,

Thank you for contributing to Church World Service through our Blankets Program. With your help we can continue to assist people overcome by natural and human-caused disasters, as well as supporting community efforts to develop sustainable agriculture, reliable safe water supplies, and other means to break the grip of grinding poverty.

Sincerely,

Rev John L. McCullough
Executive Director and CEO
Church World Service

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your contribution to the common ministries of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches.

Even as our forty-three member church bodies cooperate together in ministries of witness, service, outreach and advocacy, they are also committed to express the unity of God wills for church. Thank you for partnering with us in working toward the ecumenical vision.

May God richly bless your ministry,

Gary L. Harke

Executive Director
Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Outreach Ministries

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 office beginning February 1st. They will still be available for purchase on Sunday mornings as well.

Perhaps while purchasing cards for your family why not purchase an extra \$25.00 card and donate it to the Pastor's discretionary fund? The church gets requests from our neighbors 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 Five Loaves Food Bank servicing Wormleysburg and Lemoyne.

Next opportunity to give is Jan 1st



BLESSING

Jan 1, 2012

Share your blessings!

**Funds will go towards
New Hope Ministries**

BOX

Christian Growth

Children's Sunday School!



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 **B**elief **I**n **G**od. 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 and is taught by Melissa Ford. This January and February they will learn about the stories of Jesus and about the stories that Jesus told.



Guardrails

Adult Sunday School at 9 a.m.

They're everywhere, but they don't really get much attention...until somebody hits one. And then, more often than not, it is a lifesaver. Your friendships. Your finances. Your marriage. Maybe your greatest regret could have been avoided if you had established guardrails.

Join the adult Sunday school during the month of January, as we discuss the ways that we as Christians can make good choices in our lives. This four week series will use the messages from Andy Stanley, of North Point Community Church in Atlanta, GA. It will be led by Tom Runkle.

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|------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1/8 | Direct and Protect | Ephesians 5:16-18 |
| 1/15 | Why Can't We Be Friends? | Proverbs 13:20 |
| 1/22 | Flee Baby Flee! | 1 st Corinthians 6:18-20 |
| 1/29 | The Consumption Assumption | Matthew 6 |

Serving During January 2012

Elders

- 1 Keith Aubel
- 8 Rhoda Aubel
- 15 Bill Davis
- 22 Robin Goudy
- 29 Scott Leiser

Communion Preparers

Month of January- Jane Welsh

Greeters

- 1- Robert Lambert, Henry Miller, Coralyn Campbell
- 8 - James Reeser, Linda Runkle, Robin Goudy
- 15 - Debbie Holler, Ken Holler, Velma Hughes
- 22 - Jean Trout, Dottie Michels, Bert Levarto
- 29 - Dottie Stroman, Joan Kain, Harold Turner

Diaconate

- 1- Glenn Haagen, Lois Haagen, Russ Miller, Jack Wagner
- 8 - Ken Holler, Debbie Holler, Melissa Ford, Kelly Manning
- 15- Ted Willoughby, Glenn Haagen, Jack Wagner, Jane Welsh
- 22- Russ Miller, Diana Onstott, Linda Runkle, Debbie Holler
- 29- Jane Welsh, Melissa Ford, Ted Willoughby, Kelly Manning

Scriptures & Sermons

- 1 - TBA
- 8 - Mark 1:4-11 *A Voice*
- 15 - Mark 1:14-20 *Follow Me*
- 22 - Laity Sunday
- 29 - Mark 1:21-28 *I Know Who You Are*

Income and Expenses

Month of November

Congregational Offerings Received	\$4,928.00
Living Memorial Fund (Budgeted Income)	4,250.00
Rental Property	1,000.00
Fundraisers	347.00
Misc. Income	446.23
Total	\$4,900.23
Bills Received and Paid	\$9,705.15

Thank you for your generosity!

Prayer List

For Healing:

Coralyn Campbell
Al White
Debbie Reed – Surgical Procedure
Lois Haagen -Thumb Surgery
Winifred—(H. Turner's Aunt) - Fall
Galen Rusell—(L. Springer) Surgery
Ron Leiser- Chemo
Vivian Miller- (S. Willoughby's Mother)
Mary - (R. Aubel's sister) Chemo
Vikki Eddy – (J. Davis) Health concerns
Destiny – (Friend of the Runkle's) Brain Tumor
Ruth Miller – (D. Michels sister- in-law) cancer
Reggie-(J. Kain's nephew) cancer.

For Joy:

Kathleen-(Joan Kain's granddaughter) Accepted into a Nursing Program at Georgetown.
Scott Leiser- Who was sworn in for school board.

For Comfort:

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)

Thanks to all those who serve!

January 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 "Pantry Day"	2	3	4	5	6	7 Undecorate the church at 9 a.m.
8 Finance Meeting- After Worship. Diana Onstott using Fellowship Hall/Kitchen from 12-6 p.m.	9 Troop 673 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8 P.M.	10 Chorus practice at 7:00P.M. Troop 689 in GS Room 6:30-8P.M.	11 Troop 682 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8P.M.	12 Troop 667 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8P.M.	13	14
15 Board Meeting- After Worship. Church Leader's Retreat 1-4 p.m. "Blessing Box"	16 Troop 673 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8 P.M.	17 Girl Scouts occupying DOWN-STAIRS 6:30-8P.M Chorus practice @ 6:30P.M.	18 Troop 685 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8P.M.	19	20	21
22 Laity Sunday	23	24 GS Service Unit meeting-in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-9:30 P.M. Chorus practice @ 6:30P.M.	25	26 Troop 667 in GS Room 6:30-8P.M.	27	28
29 Elder's Meeting- after Worship.	30 Troop 678 in Girl Scout Room 6:30-8 P.M.	31 Girl Scouts occupying DOWNSTAIRS 6:30-8P.M				

-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

Due to staff vacations around Christmas & New Year's, the church office will be closed:

Monday, December 26 through Monday, January 2. The church office will reopen on January 3, 2012.

In case of pastoral emergencies, you can reach Pastor Linda at (717) 732-0368.

Birthdays

Truman Christian - January 1 June Cates - January 8
Leon Smith - January 23 Brenda Nutter - January 31

Anniversaries

Howard & June Cates - January 7



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