



Volume 8, Issue 4

April 2008 newsletter of First United Church of Christ, Easton
27 North 3rd St.

(Mailing address: 229 Church St., Easton, PA 18042)
e-mail: firstucc2@verizon.net • www.firstucceaston.org

SPRING!
Hallelujah!



April 2008

Weekly Worship Schedule

Join us Sunday
mornings for...

Adult
Bible Study ~
meets in the High
School Room at
9:15 a.m.

You can never know too much about God's Word! All our adults are invited to the Adult Bible Study Class held on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.

Pastor Michael Smith leads the class & it's a great way to get into the Word! Come & check it out!

Worship & Kids
Sunday School at
10:30 a.m. in our
Sanctuary

The children join the congregation for the beginning of the service, then are dismissed to their classes.

**Everyone is invited to
all our worship
services!
(And bring a friend!)**

Easter in the Church (office)

Well, at this writing, it's Easter week (which will be past by the time you read this) & it is probably the busiest week of the year for those whose "work" is in the church. From the pastors, organists, musicians & sextons, to the church secretary, it is hustle, hustle, hustle.

But, we need to look beyond the "work" of it & see the **TRUE MEANING** of this week & believe me, sometimes it is a struggle when there are several services to prepare for on top of the regular life tasks ahead.

So, I had nothing to put in this space & I just don't know but the Lord really is hanging with me in the church office today! I had thought I was missing Him this week with all there is to do but, He is here! Hallelujah!

So, I have my "Holy Music" playing, (Worship doesn't only take place in the Sanctuary, ya know!) the copier is running full force getting the Easter bulletins run off & I'm feeling blessed that I am His & He is my Savior! That FACT was not always true, but it's been some years since I let go of this "world" & grabbed ahold of Jesus. His Grace has really 'exploded' my life, He has freed me from some heavy burdens, & it all happened that first Easter week as He took my place & THAT blows my mind!

So, as the horror of the cross is replaced by glory of the empty tomb I pray that y'all know Him & accept His gift of love, grace & redemption. Let Him invade your spirit!

"Everlasting, Your light will shine when all else fails. Never ending, Your glory goes beyond all things...And the cry of my heart is to bring You praise from the inside out! Oh, my soul cries out! From the inside out!"

~ Marg.

Upcoming April Events...

Sun., April 6th ~ MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY - Everyone is encouraged to bring some nonperishable food or other household need to help restock the local Food Pantry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL with children & youth meeting in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship at 10:30 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY at 9:15 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING "Snow Date"

EASTER CAROLING at 3 p.m.

Sun., April 13th ~ MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. We will install our new Consistory Members & Officers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL with children & youth meeting in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship at 10:30 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY at 9:15 a.m.

Mon., April 14th - Consistory meets at 7:30 p.m.

Tues., April 15th - Steeple News Deadline

Sat., April 19th - Rummage Sale "Drop Off" 9 a.m. til noon

Sun., April 20th - MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL with children & youth meeting in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship at 10:30 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY at 9:15 a.m.

Thurs., Fri. & Sat., April 24th - 26th ~ Rummage Sale "Drop Off" 9 a.m. til noon

Sat., April 26th ~ Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner 4-7 p.m.

Tickets on sale in the narthex on Sun. mornings

(Upcoming Events continue)

(Upcoming Events continued)

Sun., April 27th - MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at **10:30 a.m.** (*Orthodox Easter*)

SUNDAY SCHOOL with children & youth meeting in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship at **10:30 a.m.**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY at **9:15 a.m.**

RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP starts after worship & continues through the week daily from 9 a.m. til 1 p.m. & from 6:30 p.m. til ?. The Sale begins Fri., May 2 from 9 a.m. til 4 p.m. & on Sat., May 3 from 9 a.m. til 1 p.m. "Take Down" begins right after the sale, at 1:00. Help is needed!!!

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!



•Our Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon will be held on Sun., March 30th, 2008 with the "snow date" scheduled for April 6th. As a congregation, we will be making some extremely crucial decisions about the future of our church, so please plan to attend.

PLEASE NOTE: Since this issue of the Steeple News had to be completed before our Annual Meeting, information from the meeting will appear in the May issue.

- **Installation of Officers & new Consistory members** who are voted in at the March 30th, 2008 meeting will be held on Sun., April 13th during our morning worship
- **Cancellations due to weather can now be found on the WFMZ website, and also on the church office answering machine.** Just phone the office to find out if services have been cancelled, or for you computer savvy people, check on WFMZ.com.

Musical Notes

Everyone is invited to join any of our choirs, no experience is necessary. Our Senior Choir practices on Thurs. evenings at 7:30 p.m. Please see Sheila Cooke for more info.



What!? Easter Carols!? Yep! We're going Caroling Sun., April 6th

Okay. Polish off those vocal chords. We are going Easter caroling to our shut-in members on **Sunday, April 6th, at 3 p.m.** Because “Old Man Winter” threw us a nasty curve in December, we never got to visit at local nursing homes, so we are going to make up for that by singing some “carols”. Bet you didn’t know there were any, but Sheila, our inventive choir director, is gathering up some music for us to sing, so mark those calendars. All ages are welcome to join us, and a party will follow, so watch the bulletin for more details. If you have any bunny ears or tails, bring them along, and how about making some kind of a funny Easter bonnet? Our shut-ins would get such a kick out of some funky props, and it would really brighten their day. Don’t forget your cameras!



Thank you to our Choirs & Special “Guest” Singers!

We all want to thank Sheila & the Choirs for their beautiful music during this Holy Season.

Cudos to the Bell Choir, and their talented director, Sheila Cooke for the gorgeous prelude on Palm Sunday. It was a treat to listen to the joyous music!

We offer special praise to our very own Belva, for singing “The Holy City” with a lingering bug, and raspy throat. It wouldn’t be Palm Sunday without hearing her sing that song, and we are grateful for the yearly treat.

We especially want to thank those “Guest Singers” who helped fill out our numbers during these special Sundays... Wendy Wandersee, Laura Arnold, Pam Protyniak & Kathleen Dowd. We also had a special guest soprano for one week, the Harron’s niece, Nancy, from Tennessee who pitched in too.

First Ladies

First Ladies Wine & Cheese Party, a Great Success!

A HUGE THANK YOU!!! To Janet Caka for again hosting the wine & cheese party. A wonderful time was had by all!!! We really missed some of the 'regulars' but we welcomed several new faces.

On Sat., March 1, the evening was chilly, but Janet Caka's home was warm and inviting. The group of around 30 included all age groups, but all shared in good fellowship and conversation, to say nothing of incredible food and a good variety of wines. Thanks again to Janet for her ever gracious hospitality.

Meatball Sandwich Sale SOLD OUT!

Our First Ladies Meatball Sandwich Sale was a sell out! Thanks to Mae Rapp for her hard work & special recipe & thanks also to Gary Rapp for donating the luscious salad for the event.



Youth Sunday

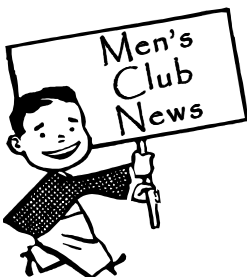
If you missed the Youth Sunday service on March 2nd, you missed a very special event. Our young church family members put on quite a service, filled with energy and enthusiasm. The Christian music was joyful, and the dancing was peppy and showed their praise for the Lord in a modern way. Under the direction of Sharon Ashton, the youth really lead us in a memorable service, and deserve our thanks and gratitude.



Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner Sat., April 26th, 2008 from 4-7 p.m.

Don't miss our Men's Club Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner. These dinners are always fantastic with great food & fellowship.

Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex on Sundays, adults \$8, children 12 and under \$4.



“Easter” Breakfast Recipe!



We had an incredible Palm Sunday breakfast with great food & numerous requests for the “**Baked Oatmeal**” recipe, so, here it is, courtesy of Nancy Amore:

BAKED OATMEAL

Note: Assemble the night before, and bake the next morning for 40 minutes. It can be reheated also.

3 cups rolled oats	1 c. milk
1 c. brown sugar	2 eggs
2 t. ground cinnamon	1/2 c. melted butter
1/2 t. nutmeg	2 t. vanilla extract
2 t. baking powder	3/4 c. dried cranberries
1 t. salt	3/4 c. coarsely chopped walnuts

Other dried fruits, apples, pears, etc. can also be added. Personally, I would add walnuts, and bittersweet chocolate chips. Now THATS breakfast!

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, mix together oats, brown sugar, spices, baking powder and salt. Beat in milk, eggs, butter and vanilla. Stir in fruits and nuts. Spread into a greased 13x9 inch pan or casserole. Bake in preheated oven (350 degrees) for about 40 minutes. Serve with light cream or half and half. This can also be served as dessert with a scoop of vanilla ice cream over top. Yummy!!!



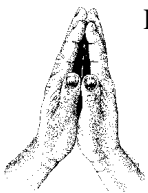
Spring Fling Anyone?

If anyone ins interested in hosting a ‘Spring Fling’ type of social event or has any ideas about one, please contact Barbara Dailey. She’s looking for ideas!



Pastoral Care & Prayer

Please keep in your prayers... The Wrights, The Orsos, Willie Wagner, Carol Fournier, Barbara Wuest (Kim Kmetz’s mother) & all those in your hearts.



If you or someone you know is in need of Pastoral Care, please call the church office at 610-258-3361.

A Busy Day at First U.C.C.

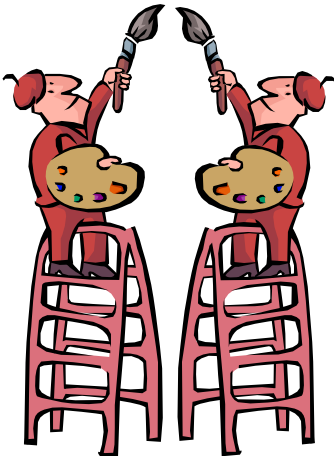
Saturday, March 15th, saw First UCC in full swing with lots going on. Warren Corr and his Boy Scout helpers were busy preparing a delicious meal for the Soup Kitchen at Trinity later in the day, and the ovens were baking away. The Soup Kitchen was treated to a hearty meal of Baked Pasta, tossed green salad, and homemade brownies, which was enjoyed by all.

Meanwhile, in the Parlor, Pastor Mike and the confirmands were busy splitting the palms for Palm Sunday's service, and the word has it that Pastor Mike is brutal chopping off the hard stems. Thanks to all our confirmands, Megan, Amanda, Christian & Brynn, for a great job!

Then, in the Nursery, a group of enthusiastic "egg hunters" assembled with Miss Doreen and Miss Janice to play a few games before charging into the parlor (for the wee ones), and the Sanctuary (for the 7 and up crowd). It was pandemonium everywhere, with the children scooping up about 25 eggs each. To top it off, the eggs contained goodies of all kinds, which they loved. Miss Doreen then treated the kids with a story about the first Easter, and another about the Easter bunny, which topped off the morning.



Whew! What a glorious day!!!



Which one is which?

Michael & Angelo

Thanks to our hard working team of Ken Amore and George Beling for their excellent work on the Narthex ceiling, which was peeling and crumbling due to an old water leak. These two guys, now known as Michael and Angelo, named after Michaelangelo, have done a bang up job, working from scaffolding high above the marble Narthex floor, so when you see them, be sure to say "thanks for a job well done"!



Spring Rummage Sale

Friday, May 2nd, 9 AM to 4 PM
And

Saturday, May 3rd, 9 AM to 1 PM
**(Bag Day: First Bag is \$2,
Each additional Bag is \$1)**

- Featuring -

Homemade Baked Goods

**Delicious Lunch Menu From
Our Talented Kitchen**

“New/Nearly New” Table

See You There!

(Don't Forget to Bake!)

Christian Witness News

FOOD BARREL FOR PROJECT NEEDS A NEW VOLUNTEER -

The first Sun. of every month is Food Bank Sunday here at First UCC. Non-perishable food & other household items are gathered in our 'Barrel' to help restock ProJeCt's food pantry. We need a new volunteer to take the items, make a list of the items adding up the "fair market value" & deliver them to the ProJeCt Office on Ferry St. Please contact Barbara Dailey if you are interested in this rewarding (& easy) job!

PHOEBE HOME is looking for Volunteers at the Allentown campus where they have over 450 residents in the nursing home & assisted living apartments.

There are lots of opportunities...helping care for domestic & tropical birds, assisting on weekly shopping trips, transporting people to in-house therapy, clinic or Doctor's appointments, calling BINGO games & many others. Benefits include...exercise, a free meal, & if you're not careful, a warm & fuzzy feeling from helping others!

If interested, please contact Joan Wickel @ 610-794-5362 or e-mail her at jwickel@phoebe.org.

Soup-er Bowl VII

We had a 'soup-er' fantastic Soup-er Bowl!!! MANY THANKS TO ALL THE WONDERFUL COOKS!!!! Those four fish really did go far!!

We raised \$319!!! This was our 7th year of participating in the "Great Souper Bowl" & our cumulative total is...\$3097!!! All directly donated to Trinity's Soup Kitchen.



Knock, Knock

A nurse on the pediatric ward, before listening to the little ones chests, would plug the stethoscope into their rears and let them listen to their own hearts. Their eyes would always light up with awe, but she never got a response equal to four-year-old David's comment.

Gently she tucked the stethoscope into his ears and placed the disk over his heart. 'Listen', she said...'What do you suppose that is?' He drew his eyebrows together in a puzzled line and looked up as if lost in the mystery of the strange tap-tap-tapping deep in his chest. Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin and he asked, "Is that Jesus knocking?"

April Bulletins

- 6th** - Skip & Lou Crozier in memory of loved ones.
- 13th** - George & Sue Beling in memory of loved ones.
- 20th** - Elaine Hrymack in memory of her husband Gene, sister Sylvia Weller & cousin Jean Hess.
- 27th** - Steven & Samantha Protyniak in memory of loved ones.

If you would like to sponsor the bulletins for one of our services, please call the church office at 610-258-3361.

Kids in College?

If you have kids who are off at college, please make sure the church office has their addresses so we can keep in touch with them & they can keep in touch with us via the Steeple News.

It's great for them to keep the connection!

Troop News



Three boxes have gone out to our young men in the armed forces, both in Iraq, and here in the states. Thank you to all who so generously overwhelmed me with Tootsie Pops, snacks and dog biscuits for these brave men. Please hold off on any more supplies for now, as my garage is pretty full, but watch for any future needs they may express to us.

Please remember these brave, young men who keep us safe, and are far away from home. Let them know you care. They welcome letters and cards from their friends & church family...

Josh's current address in Iraq:

Spc. Dailey, Joshua J.
HHC PSD 1-68 AR
UNIT #6065
APO AE
09378

(Rod) LCPL Donaldson, Charles R.
2/8 Echo Co. 2nd PLT
Unit 73230
FPOAE 09509-3230
Iraq

Tom Parry is back in the states, stationed now at Camp LeJeune. His new address is: LCPL Thomas Parry
2AA BN2 Marine Div.
A Co. 2 PLT BB260
Camp LeJeune, NC 28542

Please keep all of our soldiers & their families in your prayers & continue to pray for peace.

April Flowers

6th - Mr. & Mrs. Harold Schaffer
in memory of her parents,
John & Malverna Beam, &
her brothers, Harold & John.

6th - *Single Arrangement*
The Rapp Family in memory
of Robert G. Rapp.

13th - The Altar Flowers are for
the wedding of Eric
Donaldson & Jiana Mimori
whose wedding will take
place this afternoon.

*Please pray for the Lord
to bless their marriage.*

20th - Mr. & Mrs. Raymond
Roseberry in memory of
Ray's parents, Ray &
Marylouise Roseberry.

20th - *Single Arrangement*
Ruth Dalrymple in loving
memory of her husband
Robert Dalrymple.

27th - Tim & Sharon (Siegel)
Richardson in memory of
her parents & sister, Bob
Bessie & Sandra Siegel.

If you would like
to sponsor altar flowers,
please call the church office at
610-258-3361.



Thanks for the Easter Flowers & Donations

Many thanks to all who
bought Easter flowers which
adorned our Sanctuary on
Easter morning, what a
glorious sight!

Thanks also to those who
donated to our needy. It is
such a blessing to our families
who are struggling to receive
a gift of love & to know you
care. God bless you all!

April Greeters, Readers & Ushers

April 6th -

Greeters - Pam & Tim
McGinley

Ushers - Tim & Pam
McGinley and Mark &
Tara Cooke

Reader - Warren Corr

Acolyte - Megan McGinley

April 13th -

Greeters - Al Kuebler &
Agnes Carhart

Ushers - Kris Skillinge, Ken
Amore, Scott Ashton &
Carl Cooke

Reader - Tara Cooke

Acolyte - Lauren Skillinge

April 20th -

Greeters - Steve & Samantha
Protyniak

Ushers - Steve & Samantha
Protyniak and Michael &
Vikki Cowell

Reader - Sharon Ashton

Acolyte - Matt Ashton

April 27th -

Greeters - David & Kim
Kmetz

Ushers - David & Kim Kmetz
and Gary & Mae Rapp

Reader - Denise Cardinalli

Acolyte - Christian Kmetz

PLEASE NOTE:

If we have omitted a birthday,
anniversary or other special
day from our newsletter,
please call the church
office & let us know. We
may not have your special
date in our records!



Annual Spring Rummage Sale !!

Sale Date: Friday, May 2nd, 9 AM to 4 PM
 Saturday, May 3rd, 9 AM to 1 PM (Bag Day)

Rummage Drop Off: The church will be open, with door tenders available to accept donations, on the following days:

Saturday, April 19th, 9 AM to 12 PM
Thursday, April 24th, 9 AM to 12 PM
Friday, April 25th, 9 AM to 12 PM
Saturday, April 26th, 9AM to 12 PM

Items may also be brought in on Sunday mornings, April 20th and April 27th, and during Rummage Set-Up.

Due to a lack of storage space, we cannot accept any rummage items before Saturday, April 19th. No Exceptions, please!

Rummage Suggestions:

Spring and Summer Clothing	Kitchen Items
Belts and Hats	Household Items
Purses and Shoes	Puzzles and Books
Jewelry and Scarves	Games and Toys
Holiday Decorations	Small Furniture Items
Houseplants	Tools

In Fact, JUST ABOUT ANYTHING!

Due to lack of space, we cannot accept any large furniture items (mattresses, sofas, etc.) However, we would be most appreciative of the donation for the proceeds from your private sale.

If possible, please identify bagged/boxed donations with descriptions of the contents (e.g. children's clothes, bedding, etc.)

(Continued)

(Continued)

New, never used or nearly new items, such as jewelry, writing paper, household and gift items, will be featured in a special area.

The original box and a suggested price would be helpful.

Bake Sale: We need items for both Friday and Saturday. Home baked items from your kitchen will be greatly appreciated. Please label your goods with descriptions of the items. If you cannot make homemade cookies, pies, cakes, bread, candy, etc., we will graciously accept your cash donation. (But homemade items are truly preferred!)

Help Needed: We need “**all hands on deck**” for set-up days, sale days and for clean-up on Saturday, starting at 12 noon. Set-up days are: *Monday, April 28th through Thursday, May 1st, from 9 AM to 1 PM daily, AND each evening from 6:30 PM to ??*. If you can help any of these days or nights, please call *Wendy* at (908) 859-4880, or just come in! Even a few hours of your time would be a fantastic help.

Needed Items: The donation of the following items will help us during set-up and sale days:

- ✓ **Large Paper Shopping Bags With Handles**
- ✓ **Price Stickers** ✓ **Brown Grocery Bags**
- ✓ **Lots of Helping Hands!**

If there are any questions on any of the above, please call the church office at 610-258-3361.

We look forward to working with all of you once again to make this yet another successful ***Spring Rummage Sale!***

Rummage Sale Coordinators
Barbara Dailey, Wendy Wandersee and Nancy Amore