

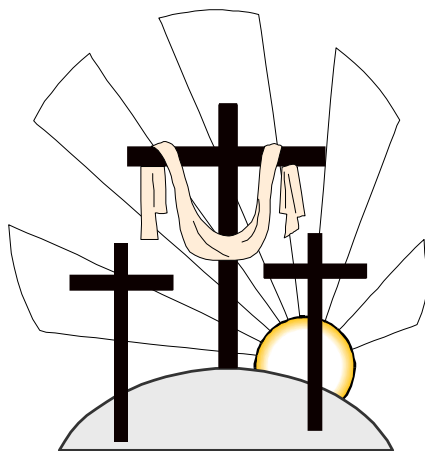


Volume 10, Issue 4

April 2010 newsletter of First United Church of Christ, Easton
27 North 3rd St.

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Easter Blessings & The Joys of Spring!



April 2010

Join us **Sunday**
mornings for...

Adult
Sunday School at
9:35 a.m.

Worship & Kids
Sunday School at
10:30 a.m. in our
Sanctuary
Sunday School begins
at 10:30 a.m. with the
children joining us for
the beginning of the
worship service &
proceeding to their
classes after the
announcements.
(NO Sun. School on
Easter Sun.)

Thurs., April 1st is
Maundy Thursday.
We will hold our
Seder Meal at 6:30
p.m. Our Tenebrae
Service will begin at
7:30 p.m. in the
Sanctuary
All Are Welcome!

Pastoral Care

If you or someone you
know is in need of
Pastoral Care, please
call Rev. William
Wightman at
610-252-8316.

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

Easter Blessings **Whether You Believe** **Or Not!**

As Christians, Easter is THE DAY
THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFER
ENCE, Amen?

Without the Resurrection, Jesus would have been just another prophet or teacher or criminal crucified on a cross. It's pretty safe to assume that we would not be talking about him 2000+ years later if he were "just a man" that hung on a cross, like hundreds of others during that time period.

And, certainly they would not have been talking about him 2000+ years BEFORE he came either.

But, when The Word became flesh, when Jesus came to be among us, He became our pathway to the Father. He came to free us, to make us holy through himself because we can never be holy enough to stand in the presence of God on our own. It is free for us, but paid for by Him.

So when you watch those films about the crucifixion, remember that was why He came. He lays it all out for us in John 10:17-18...

"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again.

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father."

He came here to do that for you, that was His entire reason for coming, that is how much He loves you, whether you believe it or not!

Upcoming March Events...

**Thurs., April 1st - MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL at 6:30 p.m.
TENEBRAE COMMUNION SERVICE 7:30 p.m. in
the Sanctuary**



**Fri., April 2nd - GOOD FRIDAY ~ NO Service here but everyone is
encouraged to attend one of the many local services
being held.**

**Sun., April 4th - EASTER SUNDAY ~ MORNING WORSHIP in the
Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. He is Risen! Hallelujah!
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**



Wed., April 7th - CHRISTIAN WITNESS meets at 7:30 p.m.

Sat., April 10th - SPRING CLEAN UP - 8 a.m.

**Sun., April 11th - 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.

Mon., April 12th - Consistory meets at 7:30 p.m.

**Sun., April 18th - 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.

Wed., April 21st - "DAMES TO DINNER" (tentative)

**Sun., April 25th - 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.

Our Deepest Sympathies

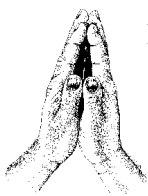
Our First Church family lost several long time & faithful members as well as a past member in the last few weeks. Please pray for the Lord's grace & healing for the families of those beloved ones...

Eran Reagan who passed on February 26th at the age of 95. Eran & her family were life long, very faithful & active members here in years past, before relocating to Fontana, CA to reside with her son Arthur. Even though she was many miles from First Church, she continued to support the church regularly sending beautifully & artistically hand-scribed envelopes. Please keep Arthur & his family in your prayers

Ben Harrison who died on March 2nd at the age of 93. Ben & his wife Carol were married for 30 years and members here for a number of years. Ben was also the brother-in-law of Stewart Wolbach. Please continue to keep Carol, Stewart & their family & friends in your prayers

Gretchen Finken who passed away on March 4th at the age of 82. Gretchen and her husband Fred were married for 63 years and were long time members here. Al Kuebler, her brother, is among those she leaves behind. Please keep Fred & their family in your prayers.

Pastoral Care & Prayer



Please keep in your prayers all those in your hearts.

If you or someone you know is in need of Pastoral Care, please call Rev. William Wightman at 610-252-8316.

God just loves to hear from you!



In Case of Inclement Weather... Since it is finally Spring, we are praying we won't have another big snow but ya never know! If there are weather "issues" on a Sunday morning, please call the church office at 610-258-3361 to verify if services will be held. If church services will be postponed, there will be a message stating that. **Unless you hear a message canceling services, please expect services to be held.**



"We have alot to say this month!"



Annual Meeting Thanks!

Special thanks have to gout to First Ladies, Mae Rapp, Marge Harron, Barbara Dailey and Sue Beling for their delicious barbeque made for the meeting. There are many of you who I rely on, maybe too much, whenever the First Ladies sponsor an event, and these four always step up to help. Thanks ladies! The kitchen crew, sadly consisted of these same four ladies plus Kris Skillinge, who pitched in to wash those nasty pots...yuuchy. Thanks again.

We raised \$120 for our Sunday School kids' project, Help for Haiti so thanks to all of you who ate our lunch and showed your support for our church by attending the meeting.



Daffodil Days Report



The First Ladies again sponsored Daffodil Days to raise money for the American Cancer Society's fight against this dreaded disease. The display on the altar was incredible thanks to all of you who supported the cause again this year. We raised over \$300 thanks to your generosity, and they were most grateful for our help.



A Case of Cranberries Left

As of the middle of March, there is about 1 case of chocolate covered cranberries left to sell, so if you love these tasty little guys, get them before they are gone. The next shipment will be coming the end of October Your purchase helps the First Ladies in their projects around the church and in the community.



Meatballs Anyone????

On Sunday, April 11 the First Ladies will be holding their annual "Meatballs to Go" sale. After church, come to the Parlor and purchase a container of meat-



balls, and some nice, fresh rolls to take home for your lunch, or freeze some for a later date. We all know what incredible meatballs our ladies make under the direction of meatball maker supreme, Mae Rapp, so get your orders in now for these tasty treats. The cost is \$3.50 a sandwich & **the order deadline is Fri., April 9th.**

Rummage Sale Bakers Wanted

The Rummage Sale is on May 7th & 8th this year, and we need good bakers to supply our bake table. We ask for homemade cookies, cakes, pies and brownies for both Friday and Saturday, so start planning to make something special. Do you have time either day to sell at the bake table? See Wendy Wandersee for details. Come on now you retired ladies, (or men!), who could help out. This is your chance for a nice sit down job, and the people watching can't be beat.



Heads Up On This Date...

Ladies, mark your calendars now...June 5, 10 a.m. at the Amore home for brunch and an accessories swap meet. We are trying something new this spring, and who doesn't like to get something new to freshen up an old outfit? Bring along some jewelry, scarves, hats, gloves, belts, purses...you get it. Bring as many as you like, and we will auction off the items...for coins, not dollars. Any money we make will go to the Soup Kitchen. This should be alot, of fun, so start thinking about that item you like, but never wear. I'll bet buying your item will make someone's day!



Dames to Dinner

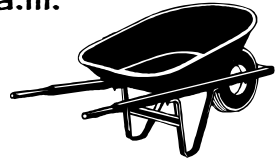
Do you remember when we spoke about getting together to go out to dinner some evening as a group of lady friends? We all said, "lets wait until spring when the weather is better". Well guess what? The weather IS better, so lets plan on a night out. How about Wednesday, April 21st? Where would you like to eat? See Nancy Amore for more details, and watch for a sign up sheet, which you **MUST** sign, so we can let the restaurant know we are coming. Think of a good place. It doesn't matter if there are five of us or twenty...lets just have some fun together.

Spring Clean Up! Sat., April 10th, 8 a.m.

The First Church Property Committee is calling all to come & help spruce up the church grounds



on Sat., April 10th at 8 a.m. It's always a great day as we work & fellowship together to get the job done. There is plenty of inside work too so grab your rake, shovel or dust cloth & come lend a hand. The more the merrier!



A Big Thanks!

Thank you to all who assisted and participated with the Pork N Sauerkraut dinner on Saturday, March 6th. We are pleased to report that the Men's Club will be forwarding \$300 to the Youth Groups's Haiti Mission project. Approximately 75 people enjoyed the dinner.

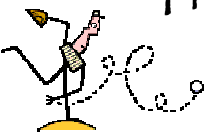
Thank you again to all who made this a successful event!

AND, Coming Soon...

BINGO Night ~ May 22nd

~ AND ~

Phillies Bus Trip ` July 24th



We have 52 tickets for the Phillies vs. Colorado Rockies game on the 24th. So please, if you are interested in securing a spot or spots, please reserve it with payment. The cost for the bus, beverages subs, and game ticket will be \$65 per person. Please see Bob Arnold for more info or tickets



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, May 7th, 9 AM to 4 PM

And

Saturday, May 8th, 9 AM to 1 PM

(Bag Day: \$2 a Bag)



*** Featuring ***

Homemade Baked Goods



*Delicious Lunch Menu From Our Talented
Kitchen*

New/Nearly NewTable



See You There!

(Don't Forget to Bake!)

Jesus Loves Me, This I KNOW...

Received from Nancy Amore via the internet

Instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age.

After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

“When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me... the only thing that would comfort was this verse..... ..”

“Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
we are weak but He is strong.....
Yes, Jesus loves me.....
The Bible tells me so.”

When he finished, the church was quiet. You actually could hear his foot steps as he shuffled back to his chair. I don't believe I will ever forget it.

A pastor once stated, “I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn ‘Jesus Loves Me’ (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best.”

“Senior version of Jesus Loves Me”

Here is a new version just for us who have white hair or no hair at all. For us over middle age (or even those almost there) and all you others, check out this newest version of Jesus Loves Me...

(“Jesus Loves Me” continues on pg. 12

Musical Notes

Senior Choir



Our Senior Choir is a small group but we have lots of fun. **We practice 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings.** If you are interested in joining, no experience is necessary, please see Sheila. Everyone is welcome!

Bell Choir

Please see Sheila if you are interested in joining our Bell Choir. We will be happy to teach you how to do it!

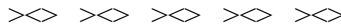
Praise Choir

Praise Choir (Gospel & Contemporary music with guitars) is practicing on Sundays after morning worship. Our approximate 20 minute practices will be held immediately following morning worship at 11:30 a.m.



This is a great, informal group, especially for our Youth members so please consider coming out for Praise Choir. It's great fun!

Everyone is invited to join any of our choirs, no experience is necessary. Please see Sheila Cooke for more info.



JESUS LOVES ME (continued from pg. 9)

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.
(CHORUS)

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.
(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.

Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."
(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.
(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.
(CHORUS)

April Bulletins

1st- *Maundy Thursday*

Mary Ann Barrett in memory of her husband, C. Keith Barrett, her friend Jo Lippincott who died Easter Sunday, April 1989, and who, along with her family was along-time member of our congregation, and also her friend, Willy Wagner.

4th- *Easter Sunday*

Mrs. Agnes Carhart in loving memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Baty.

11th - Harold & Helen Schaffer in loving memory of Mrs. Schaffer's parents, John & Malverna Beam and her brothers, John K. and Harold Beam.

18th - Mrs. Jayne Frenchko in memory of loved ones.

25th - Mrs. Elaine Hrymack in loving memory of her husband Gene sister Sylvia Weller and cousin Jean Hess.

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

A Note to our "Readers" ... If you are a "Reader" and we have your e-mail address, please expect your readings to come via e-mail unless you instruct otherwise.



May Steeple News Deadline

April 15th is the deadline for info for our May Steeple News (not to mention the tax filing deadline) so **if you have any planned events** (dinners, gatherings, meetings, etc.) **please get the info into the church office by Thurs., April 15th.** Thanks!

Thank You!

In Pastor Dowd's sermon on the 7th he spoke of the congregation of our church and how, without fail, it comes together to help and comfort us when we are down.



His words reminded me that I had not yet thanked all of you for your love, comfort and help during my latest "down"

time, the death of my father. Your cards, your kind words, and your taking care of our needs during this period of stress have been more help than you can know. Thank you.

--Wendy Wandersee



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!



April Flowers

4th - *Easter Sunday*

The altar will be adorned with the Lilies, Hyacinths & Tulips sponsored by many members of the Congregation along with an

Additional Arrangement from ...

Mrs. Helena Rapp given in loving memory of her husband Robert in commemoration of his

April 1st passing.

11th - Ruth Dalrymple in loving memory of her husband Robert.

18th - Tim & Sharon (Siegel) Richardson in loving memory of Sharon's parents, Bob & Bessie Siegel and her sister Sandra.

25th - Ray, Sue, Dann & Tyler Roseberry in loving memory of Ray's father, Raymond T. Roseberry, Jr.

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

April Greeters, Readers & Ushers

April 4th - Easter Sunday

Greeters - Ray & Sue Roseberry

Ushers - Ray & Sue Roseberry,
Brian and Melissa Lunger

Reader - Mark Cooke

Acolyte - Kelsie Hilsenbeck

April 11th -

Greeters - Linda & Bill Arnold

Ushers - Linda & Bill Arnold, Don
and Matt Rush

Reader - Linda Rush

Acolyte - Brynn Hilsenbeck

April 18th -

Greeters - Jill West and Janice
Hilsenbeck

Ushers - Jill West, Janice
Hilsenbeck, Janet Caka and
Brenda Guffy

Reader - David Kmetz

Acolyte - Leslie Kmetz

April 25th -

Greeters - Irene Stotz and Molly
Parry

Ushers - Irene Stotz, Molly Parry,
Ken Amore and Kristen
Skillinge

Reader - Tara Cooke

Acolyte - Henry Rothermel

*A Note to our "Greeters" ... If
you are a "Greeter", please try to
be here by 10:15 with your biggest
smile & friendliest handshake!*

Angel Food Ministries at St. John's on Morgan Hill

The **April menu** is available
in our narthex, in the office
or on-line at:
www.stjohnsmorganhill.org.

There are several new items,
including afterschool snack
box, an afterschool fruit box,
family meal kits, & other
packages, so check it out!

April order dates are:

Wed., April 7th - 4-6 p.m.

**Sat., April 10th - 9 a.m. til
noon**

**Sun., April 11th - 10:30
a.m. til 12:30 p.m.**

**April. distribution date
is Fri., April 16th
7-8 p.m.**

**Cash, Money Orders or
Food Stamps are ac-
cepted.** (Food Stamp orders
must be placed in person at
St. John's.)

**Cash orders can be
taken by Margaret in the
church office anytime by
Fri., April 9th, or call her
with any questions.**

Annual Spring Rummage Sale !!

Sale Date: Friday, May 7th, 9 AM to 4 PM
Saturday, May 8th, 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 24th, 9 AM to 12 PM
Thursday, April 29th, 9 AM to 12 PM
Friday, April 30th, 9 AM to 12 PM
Saturday, May 1st, 9AM to 12 PM

Items may also be brought in on Sunday mornings, April 25^h and May 2nd, and during Rummage Set-Up.

Due to a lack of storage space, we cannot accept any rummage items before Saturday, April 18th. 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 and their contents.** If you cannot make homemade cookies, pies, cakes, bread, candy, etc., we will graciously accept your cash donation...

But homemade items really are preferred!

Our customers love them!

Help Needed: **We are desperate for help! WE NEED YOU** for set-up days, sale days and for clean-up on Saturday, starting at 1 PM. Set-up days are: *Monday, May 3rd, through Thursday, May 6th, from 9 AM to 1 PM daily, AND each evening from 6:30 PM to 9 PM.* If you can help any of these days or nights, please come in! Even a few hours of your time during this busy week would be a fantastic help. **We critically need younger people who can still lift and move things...**some of us regulars are getting a little frail.

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

- ✓ **Large Paper Shopping Bags With Handles**
- ✓ **Plastic clip-style skirt/pants hangers**
- ✓ **Brown Grocery Bags**
- ✓ **Lots of Cheerful Faces and Helping Hands!**

If there are any questions on any of the above, call *Wendy Wandersee* at (908) 859-4880.

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