

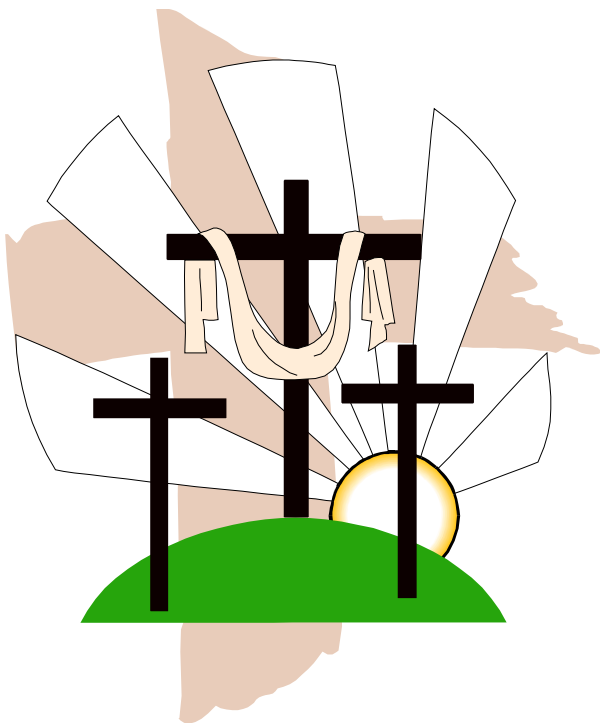


Volume 8, Issue 3

March 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

It's ALL about Easter!



March 2008

Weekly Worship Schedule

Join us Sunday
mornings for...

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

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


HOLY WEEK
begins on Palm
Sunday, March 16.
Join us for the
celebration at our
10:30 a.m. service

MAUNDY THURS.,
March 20 we will
hold our AGAPE
FEAST at 6:30 &
TENEBRAE Service
at 7:30

EASTER SUNDAY,
March 23 we will
rejoice in the Res-
urrection at our
10:30 a.m. service

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

The Difference a Week Makes!

 Jesus entered Jerusalem
amidst
joyous celebrations & loud
Hosannas on what we celebrate
as Palm Sunday. Within days the
shouts calling Him “the King of Is-
rael” turned to shouts to “crucify Him”. But
He knew that would happen, just as He knew
what He was about to face.

Even as He brought his heartache to the Fa-
ther to “take this cup of suffer-
ing from me.” He was ready
to follow the Father’s plan,
“Yet I want your will, not
mine.” The betrayal by one of
His own, the floggings, the
cross, the bone shattering spikes through his
hands & feet & horror of the crucifixion were
willingly faced by our Savior...for us.

Those horrors of Good Friday are erased on
Sunday morning when the women returned
to the tomb & an angel told them “He isn’t
here! He has been
raised from the
dead, just as He
said!”. That’s
what it’s ALL about!



He lives & reigns with the Father & has set
a place at His table just for us! If you don’t
know Him as your Savior, Friend & Re-
deemer, get to! He’s ALWAYS looking for
us to come to Him

**Hallelujah! He is Risen, He is Risen
Indeed! Hallelujah!**

Upcoming February Events...

Sat., March 1st - WINE & CHEESE PARTY at Janet Caka's 7p.m.

Sunday in Lent ~ YOUTH SUNDAY with our Youth leading worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY at 9:15 a.m.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS are due

Fri., March 7th - World Day of Prayer

Sun., March 9th - Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ 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., March 10th - Consistory meets at 7:30 p.m.

Sat., March 15th - Steeple News Deadline

Sun., March 16th - PALM SUNDAY ~ "EASTER BREAKFAST" at 9 a.m. in the Parlor. Purchase your tickets NOW!!!



MORNING WORSHIP & Celebration of Palms 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.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE!

Mon., March 17th - Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Thurs., March 20th - MAUNDY THURSDAY ~

Agave Feast at 6:30 p.m.,

Tenebrae Service with Communion in the Sanctuary at 7:30.

(Upcoming Events continue)

(Upcoming Events continued)

Fri., March 21st - GOOD FRIDAY 

Sun., March 23rd - EASTER SUNDAY! ~ HE IS RISEN!!!

Celebration service at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

ADULT BIBLE STUDY at 9:15 a.m.

Sun., March 30th - A.C.S. DAFFODIL SUNDAY & ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ~ 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.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS Church "Business" News

- **All Committee Reports are due in the church office by Sun., March 2nd.** Please submit them via e-mail, on disk or leave hard copy on the desk.
- **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 watch the bulletins & newsletter for information about the upcoming slate of officers, the luncheon menu & other info about the meeting.
- **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.
- **"Bulletin Reminders"** We have begun sending 'reminders' to those of you who sponsored bulletins. As our weekly contributions make their way through our accounting system, sometimes they are separated from the envelope or note stating it is for the bulletin. Please make sure you clearly note on your envelope or check that the payment is for a bulletin sponsorship.

Musical Notes ~ Preparing for Easter

Thursday Evenings We Practice...

Adult Hand Bells at 7:00 p.m.

Senior Choir at 7:30 p.m.



Sunday Mornings We Practice...

Children's Chorus 10:15 a.m. in
the Primary Class Room

Senior Choir 10:00 a.m. in the Arts
& Crafts Room

Preschool children sing in the
Kindergarten Room during the
Pastor's message.

Praise Choir after worship (11:30
a.m.) in the Arts & Crafts Room

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



What!? Easter Carols!?

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!



First Ladies

"Daffodil Day ~ Sunday, March 30th"

The First Ladies are again sponsoring American Cancer Society's Daffodil Day on Sunday, March 30th. 30 bunches of glorious daffodils have been purchased by our members to honor someone special, or to remember someone who has lost their battle against this dreaded disease. Be sure to join us that Sunday to see all these beautiful flowers, and then stay for our Annual Meeting and luncheon. A special thanks to all who supported this worthy cause.

Book Club News!

Keep watching the Steeple News for our next Book Club selection. Barbara Dailey and Janet Caka are deciding on what we should read, and when we should get together to discuss the book, and have some fun together (to say nothing about the food!).



Maundy Thursday 'Agape' Feast Thursday, March 20th

Agape Feast begins at 6:30 p.m., Service at 7:30 p.m.

Don't forget our Maundy Thursday Agape Feast, with all the foods that Jesus and the disciples would have eaten at the Last Supper. There is a sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall for needed foods, which include figs, dates, hummus, fruits, lamb, flat bread and nuts, just to name a few. This is a memorable evening for us as Christians, and is very moving, so plan to join us for this special worship service. Our Agape Feast begins at 6:30 p.m. & the Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary begins at 7:30 p.m.

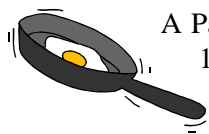


Annual Meeting Luncheon Sunday, March 30th

The youth of the Church School will be hosting the Annual Meeting Luncheon on Sunday, March 30th. Be sure to watch your bulletin for details, and support the students in their work.

“Easter” Breakfast!

Palm Sunday, March 16th at 9 a.m.



A Palm Sunday “Easter” breakfast will be held on March 16th, at 9 a.m. A festive spring buffet is being planned with menu items including various egg dishes, baked oatmeal, fresh fruit and juices, french toast and assorted homemade muffins and breads. It should be a very special day at First church. Watch for the ticket sellers in the Narthex before and after church. The cost is \$5.00 and children under 12 are free. Now where can you get a hearty breakfast with all **HOMEMADE** food for \$5.00? If you would like to help cook, set up or clean up, see Nancy Amore, Doreen Arnold or Barbara Dailey.



Can You Please Help?

The choir has recently been hit with several members taking a leave of absence due to health issues, and Easter is fast approaching. We really need help from anyone who likes to sing, and would be willing to come to the Arts and Crafts Room at 10am on Sunday morning to practice the song for the day, and the song for the following week’s service. You don’t have to sing like Andrea Bocelli, or look like Brittany Spears, but you do have to want to help out, and take part in making the service more meaningful for the worshippers. We really do have a good time together, and Sheila is a patient teacher, so come and join our little choir family on Sunday morning. We would all be so grateful.



- Sheila and the members of the choir



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.

Church Women United's Tuesday Lenten Meditations

C.W.U.'s Tuesday Lenten Meditations will continue March 4, 11 & 18 at 11:15 a.m. at St. Paul's Third Lutheran Church, 2561 Newburg Rd. Please call 610-258-0857 for directions.

Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert & beverages will be provided.

March 4 -

Meditation by: Rev. Belfield Costello
from First Moravian Church
Inspiration: Pianist Darlene Beahm

March 11-

Meditation by: Rev. Charles Holm
from First Presbyterian Church
Inspiration: Soloist Don Mickel

March 18 -

Meditation by: Rev. Robert Jencks
from Memorial UCC
Inspiration: Vocal Trio - Hilda
Cooper, Joan Vanover & Elsie
Wendt.
Accompanist, Nan McQuillin

World Day of Prayer Friday, March 7th "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding"



Church Women United will hold their World Day of Prayer observance on **Fri., March 7 at Faith Lutheran Church located at 2012 Sullivan Trail.**

Registration begins at 1:00 & the program begins at 1:30

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women and men of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer on the first Fri. in March each year. We collectively pray all over the world beginning with the first sunrise and ending at the last sunset. Our prayers follow the sun's path around the globe.

Please join us!



"Souper Bowl" Final Score!

Congratulations to Barbara Dailey and her committee for raising **\$319** for the Trinity Soup Kitchen, at the Souper Bowl of Caring held Jan. 27th.

If you have helped cook for the kitchen, you know what an important service this is for our homeless and needy neighbors. If you can help cook or serve the third Saturday of any month, give Barbara a call. Thanks also to all who supplied the delicious soups, breads, flavored butters and desserts. What incredible cooks we have at First UCC!!!

SHARE - Noun or Verb?

Growing up as a twin, I learned, as all siblings do, that I needed to “share” my toys with my sister. I remember riding “our” bike to the corner and then hopping off, reluctantly, to let my sister take her turn. This led to many squabbles as to “who went the farthest” and “whose turn shouldn’t end so quickly as it seemed”. Sharing, in many ways involved getting “my share” and the noun often prevailed over the verb!

One Great Hour of Sharing focuses on the theme from Hebrews 13:16a, “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.” It’s not about “getting MY share!! The chapter speaks of love and showing hospitality to strangers and calls them “angels” that we do not yet recognize. It speaks of being contented with what we have and not seeking more and more. God’s presence will be sufficient in your life.



The great needs of the people of the world in places like Darfur, Indonesia, India, and sub-Saharan Africa may seem remote to us, comfortable in our homes, and, somewhat “out of touch” with the scope of the distress, but the needs are heartbreakingly real!! We, as Christians strive to do good. It is our nature. We run about “doing good works” and are often overwhelmed to the point of inertia. The scripture calls us back into focus and the reminder to simply “share” what we have redirects us.

Our planned offering for OGHS is March 30th. During the month of March center your thoughts on the scripture and plan to give, as generously as you are able, when we gather on the 30th.

Sue Beling
OGHS Chairperson



Angel Tree Thanks!



Thanks to all of you who donated items to our Angel Tree for local families to brighten their Christmas celebrations and extra thanks to those who provided winter items which were given to the homeless here in Easton to help protect them from the cold... 4 hats, 3 pairs of slipper socks, 4 pairs of thermal socks, 5 pairs of work gloves & 4 pairs of womens’ gloves. God bless you all for your generosity!

~ Kim Kmetz

March Bulletins

2nd - Youth Sunday!

Bob & Phyllis Flemming in loving memory of Bob's parents, George & Hazel Flemming, on the occasion of Hazel's birthday.

9th - Scott & Chris Caka in memory of their dad.

16th - Palm Sunday!

Brian, Jackie & Melissa Lunger in memory of loved ones.

20th - Maundy Thursday!

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

23rd - Easter Sunday!

The Orso Family in loving memory of A. Raymond Orso and Carol Bills Orso, grandmothers Frances Flad and Jeannette Strohl, Aunt Natalie Balliet, Aunt Shirley & Uncle Bill Ollendyke and cousins Bill & Karen Ollendyke

30th - Mr. & Mrs. Harold Schaffer in loving memory of Mrs. Schaffer's parents, John & Malvena Beam, and her brothers, John K. and Harold Beam.

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



Seven Steps to Stagnation

(Food for thought)

Erwin Soukup, the archdeacon of Chicago's Episcopal Diocese, compiled a list he calls "The Seven Steps to Stagnation." They include:

1. We've never done it that way before.
2. We're not ready for that.
3. We're doing all right without trying that.
4. We tried that once before.
5. We don't have money for that.
6. That's not our job.
7. That can't work.

There is tremendous power in "belief." Our beliefs shape our future; what we BELIEVE to be true quite literally becomes true for us!

There is a bold and exciting future awaiting anyone with the courage to believe something new can happen—things can be different in our lives—in our church. Things can be stagnant or things can change. Will you be an avenue for making a difference for tomorrow by what you believe?

(From the newsletter of Dubs Memorial, Allentown & their Consistory President, Paul Raszler)

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...

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



Don't Forget About Our Adult Bible Study Class!!!

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!



Church Envelopes

There are still a few boxes of "unclaimed" 2008 offering envelopes in Memorial Hall. Please pick yours up & if there are any there for a friend or neighbor, please feel free to take them to their rightful owner!



Easter Flowers & Food Baskets

Please make sure to get your Easter Flower order in by the Palm Sun., March 16th deadline as no late orders can be taken.

Also, contributions for the Easter Food Baskets are due on the 16th too. God bless you for your generosity to those in need.

March Flowers

2nd - Youth Sunday!

Lester & Helen
Litzenberger in memory of
loved ones.

9th - Mary Gardner in loving memory of her husband Robert Gardner

16th - Palm Sunday!

Steve & Samantha
Protyniak in memory of
Steve's father, Theodore
Protyniak & his Aunt &
Uncle, Shirley & Kenneth
Weidner.

23rd - Easter Sunday!

Easter flowers from the
Congregation.

23rd - Single Arrangement ~

The single arrangement is
given by Dick Gearing in
loving memory of his
beloved wife, Jane.

30th - Tony & Val Bubba in memory of loved ones.

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



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

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

Please note that the price for the regular unit is now \$30.

If you have been financially blessed & don't have to watch your pennies, perhaps you know of a family that could use a food box? With additional heating costs now, AFM can be a special blessing. Buy a box & give it away!

March order dates are:

Wed., March 12th - 4-6 p.m.

Sat., March 15th - 9 a.m. til noon

**Sun., March 16th - 10:30 a.m.
til 12:30 p.m.**

March. distribution date is

**Fri., March 28th -
7-8 p.m. (note time change)**

**Cash, Money Orders or
Food Stamps are accepted.**

(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., March 14th,
or call her with any ques-
tions.**

Congratulations!

We join in congratulating Gordon & Carolee Lowe on the birth of their newest granddaughter, Zoe Zombron. Zoe was born on Nov. 28th, 2007 & is the daughter of Rob & Amy (Lowe) Zombron of Richmond, VA. Zoe is also the Great-granddaughter of Bessie Earnhart.



We pray for blessings & joy to follow Zoe & her family always.



Heartfelt Thanks!

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who remembered me with beautiful cards and endearing messages for my Feb. 3rd birthday. I am truly blessed to have so many caring friends in my life.

~ Helena Rapp



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!



March Greeters, Readers & Ushers

March 2nd - *Youth Sunday!*

Members of our Youth will serve as
Greeters, Ushers & Readers

Acolyte - Eric Bedoya

March 9th -

Greeters - Sue & Ray Roseberry

Ushers - Sue & Ray Roseberry, Jill West and Elaine Hrymack

Reader - Sue Beling

Acolyte - Kelsie Hilsenbeck

March 16th - *Palm Sunday*

Greeters - George & Sue Beling

Ushers - George & Sue Beling and David & Kim Kmetz

Reader - Bill Arnold

Acolyte - Melissa Lunger

March 20th - *Maundy Thursday*

Greeters - Beverly Lambert & Janet Caka

Ushers - Beverly Lambert, Janet Caka, Pam Protyniak &
Kris Skillinge

March 23rd - *Easter Sunday ~ He is Risen, Halleluiah!*

Greeters - Bob & Doreen Arnold

Ushers - Bob & Doreen Arnold and Bill & Linda Arnold

Reader - David Wandersee

Acolyte - Lauren Skillinge

March 30th -

Greeters - David & Wendy Wandersee

Ushers - David & Wendy Wandersee and Brian & Jackie Lunger

Reader - Gary Rapp

Acolyte - Leslie Kmetz



ATTENTION PARENTS! If you have children interested in serving as Acolytes, please call the church office at 610-258-3361.

Sunday School “Subs” Still Needed!

Hallelujah! Having Sunday School begin with the children joining us in worship at 10:30 seems to be a hit with our students and their families! After a short break over Christmas which allowed our families to worship together for the entire service, we are returning to our 10:30 Sunday Morning Sunday School schedule.

We are looking for volunteers “Subs” to help out with teaching Sunday School so our dedicated teachers can attend church services one in a while. The lessons can be planned for you and are very easy to follow. Anyone interested can check out the calendar in the hallway by the Arts & Crafts Room to sign up for a day. All age groups are available. Thanks for your support!



“God’s Wife”

received via e-mail from several folks

An eye witness account from New York City , on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, “My, but you’re in such deep thought staring in that window!”

“I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,” was the boy’s reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel. By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy’s feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes.

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him.. She patted him on the head and said, “No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.”

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her.

“Are you God’s wife?”