



Volume 10, Issue 3

March 2010 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

Hurry Up Spring!



March 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.

Thurs., April 2nd is
Maundy Thursday.
We will hold our
Agape Feast at 6:30
p.m. & our
Tenebrae
Service will begin at
7:30 p.m.
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!)

Got Snow?

Have you had enough yet? Just last week I mentioned to Nancy A. that her tulips & crocuses were popping up their little heads in the church yard garden! Yikes!



I must admit that I can't recall having shoveled this much snow in several years. We have a lot to shovel, several hours worth even if it's not a BIG snow, if we want to get out (or back in!) but it's great exercise & I thank God that I am able to do it. I don't really mind shoveling snow. I usually see it as some "quiet time" for myself. It's normally early when I get out there, & extra quiet - before the snow blowers & other "noise" starts. Beautiful! Hey, if it's going to be cold, it may as well snow, right? It just puts a whole new face on the dreary winter (at least to me - though I know some of you hate it with a passion).

This last shoveling expedition was a little more challenging than usual with the winds but they caused some very unusual drifting patterns. I noticed around my neighbor's shed, that there was a "bare zone" approximately 3 feet wide all around it where I could see the ground, but bordering that, the snow was 3 feet high! As I shoveled, I came across areas where there were only a few inches only to come to a spot where it was over 18 inches.

But as I was out there this morning shoveling I noticed the birds singing. Not a lot of them just yet, but a few more than there has been in these last months of winter. A sure sign of the coming Spring! Hallelujah! So, hang on you "winter-haters", soon the flowers will be blooming & we can shed our coats, scarves, boots & trade our snow shovels for garden spades! Hallelujah!

Upcoming March Events...

Tues., March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - C.W.U. Tues. Lenten Meditations 11:15 a.m. at St. Paul's 3rd Lutheran Church

Wed., March 3rd - Christian Witness meets at 7:30 p.m.



Fri., March 5th - World Day of Prayer. C.W.U. program at Faith Lutheran Church, Forks Township at 1:30 p.m.

Sat., March 6th - Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner 4:30-7 p.m.

Sun., March 7th - 3rd Sunday in Lent ~ MORNING WORSHIP & FOOD BANK SUNDAY 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 8th - Property Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.
Consistory meets at 7:30 p.m.**

Sun., March 14th - 4th Sunday in Lent ~ YOUTH SUNDAY & ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ~ MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. Our Youth will lead worship!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY at 9:15 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING - Luncheon at noon & meeting to follow.

Mon., March 15th - STEEPLE NEWS DEADLINE



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

Sat., March 20th - 1st DAY OF SPRING! HALLELUJAH!!!

Sun., March 21st - 5th Sunday in Lent ~ YOUTH SUNDAY & A.C.S. DAFFODIL SUNDAY ~ MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. Our Youth will lead worship!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY at 9:15 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING SNOW DATE

(Upcoming Events continue)

(Upcoming Events continued)

Sun., March 28th - PALM/PASSION SUNDAY ~ MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at **10:30 a.m.**

9 a.m. EASTER BREAKFAST

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., April 1st - MAUNDY THURSDAY AGAPE FEAST at **6:30 p.m.** & **TENEBRAE SERVICE 7:30 p.m.**

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

Sun., April 4th - EASTER SUNDAY ~ MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at **10:30 a.m.** He is Risen! Hallelujah!
(PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO Sunday School)

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS Church "Business" News



• Our Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon will be held on Sun., March 14th, 2010 with the "snow date" scheduled for March 21st. We will be electing some new Officers & Consistory members, so please plan to attend.

Our luncheon, provided by First Ladies, will begin at noon. The

menu will include a Barbecue plate with chips & dessert for \$4.⁵⁰, chili "by the bowl" will also be available for \$3/bowl. Proceeds will benefit our Haiti Relief efforts.

- **The Annual Reports are available in the Narthex.** Please take a copy when you come to church & don't forget to bring it with you to the meeting!
- **Our New Consistory will be installed on Sun., March 28th** (unless our regular meeting is postponed due to weather)

Church Women United's Tuesday Lenten Meditations

C.W.U.'s Tuesday Lenten Meditations will be held on March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 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 2 -

Meditation by: Rev. Dr. Blake
Heffner from St. John's Church
on Morgan Hill
Soloist: Rev. Cynthia Geyer

March 23 -

Meditation by: Rev. Belfield
Costello, First Moravian Church
Inspiration: Guitar & Vocal,
Ed. & Judy Brace

March 9-

Meditation by: Rev. Ernest Shaffer
from St. Peter's U.C.C.
Inspiration: The Highlands Chorus

March 30 -

Meditation by: Rev. Stephanie
Thompson, Retired Chaplain
Inspiration: Vocal Trio: Hilda
Cooper, Joan Vanover & Elsie
Wendt
Accompanist: Nan McQuillan

March 16 -

Meditation by: Rev. Susan Ruggles
from St. John's Lutheran Church
Inspiration: Sharing A Story

Sponsored by Easton Area Church Women United
President: Hildegard Kurt • Spiritual Life & Growth: Helen Pearson



World Day of Prayer Friday, March 5th



"Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God"
Prepared by the W.D.P. Committee of Cameroon &
WDP USA Committee

Church Women United will hold their World Day of Prayer observance on **Fri., March 5 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 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!

Our Youth Mobilize to Help Haiti Many Events In Action & Planned...

Sunday Morning Coffee/Snack Bar ~

You may have noticed the gathering of young people in our Narthex following the church service each week lately. Under the guidance of Pastor Mike Smith, Jerry Strohl and Sharon Ashton, our youth are raising money to send to Haiti to help relieve the suffering there. The kids have several exciting events coming up in the near future, but right now, they are serving Gourmet coffee and hot chocolate, and fresh baked cookies. The aroma from the buttery cookies they baked this week was heavenly, and they sold out in a flash. Please, come support these motivated, Christian young people, and have a nice snack before your journey home.

“Family Fun Carnival” ~ RESCHEDULED!

We were planning a “Family Fun Carnival” for Sun., Feb. 28th however, a major “snow event” which resulted in less parking than usual made us rethink our plan! So, while we are still planning on holding this day of fun with the help of our Sunday School & our Church Life & Program Committee, our new date will be announced in the near future. Our Family Fun Carnival will include food, games & fun for all ages so bring your family & friends. All proceeds will benefit our Haiti Relief effort. Watch the bulletin for the new date!

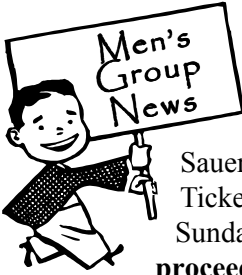
Pastie, Pie & Apple Dumpling Sale ~

Our Sunday School is selling Pasties, Pies & Apple Dumplings (from Tombler’s Bakery) to raise additional funds for Haiti Relief. There are a **variety of Pasties available for \$6/ea., Molasses Crumb pies for \$6/ea & apple dumplings for \$4/ea. The deadline for orders is Sun., March 7th & you can pick up your order on our Annual Meeting Day, Sun., March 15th.** You can contact Kris Skillinge, Sharon Ashton, Doreen Arnold or any Sunday School teacher or parent to place an order or call the church office at 610-258-3361.



Pastoral Care & Prayer

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



Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner Sat., March 6th from 4:30-7 p.m.

Our First UCC Men's Club will host a Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner on Sat., March 6th from 4:30-7 p.m. Tickets are \$7/adult & \$3/child. Tickets are on sale every Sunday. Please see any of our Men's Club members. **All proceeds will go to support our Haiti Relief efforts.**

We are also planning a bus trip to see the Phillies play the Colorado Rockies on Sat., July 24th. We will have more info about this coming soon but if you can't wait for that, contact Bob Arnold.



"Souper Bowl of Caring" UPDATE...

Outside it was a frosty morning, but inside, the entire building smelled heavenly...it was "Souper Bowl of Caring" Sunday, and there were 14, yes, 14 crock pots of hearty, hot soup just waiting for the service to be over, so they could be emptied and the contents enjoyed. No one was disappointed by this luscious lunch, served by the Dailey Family who did an awesome job of putting the soups, breads and desserts out in a beautiful display. Thanks to all who donated all the food and also, thanks to all who stayed to help raise money for the soup kitchen. It was not only a delicious Sunday, but the fellowship was special as always.

FYI: a total of \$471 was raised to help support the Saturday Soup Kitchen along with lots of cans of soup for ProJeCt's Food Pantry. Thank you all!



In Case of Inclement Weather...

please call the church office at 610-258-3361. If church services will be postponed, there will be a message stating that. **Unless you hear a message cancelling services, please expect services to be held.**

O.G.H.S. ~ "Do You Love Me?"

Once again we prepare for One Great Hour of Sharing. Our offering will be held on **March 14th**. It's hard to imagine how we can meet the needs of the world when we, ourselves, are hard pressed to meet our own needs in a downward spiraling economy but we are called upon to do just that!

Jesus, during the final seek of His life with His disciples asks Peter, "Do you love me?" In response to Peter's "yes", Jesus passionately instructs his followers to feed, tend and take care of "His sheep". (John 21:15-19) In other words, if we really love Jesus, we need to be committed to caring for the people He loves - locally, nationally and internationally.



Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing bring food, water, and medical supplies, support the building of schools and medical clinics, help refugees construct new lives, and aid communities in developing secure sources of food and clean water. Our gifts are already at work in Haiti and in the Gulf Coast of the US.

Our congregation has been generous beyond belief in the past and I believe we will be more than generous on the March 14th offering. Please prayerfully consider YOUR gift...

In Christian love,
Sue Beling, OGHS Offering Coordinator



Thank You to our Outgoing Consistory Members

We all wish to thank our outgoing Consistory members for their service to our beloved First Church. A great deal has been accomplished under the leadership of outgoing President, **George Beling** with the help of these
♥ ♥ folks...



We thank **George Beling, Warren Corr, Al Kuebler, Jeannette Orso, Jayne Frenchko, Brenda Lisinichia, Brian Lunger, Jill West & Julie Ashton**. Many thanks to you all & to those who will still serve on our committees!

Sun., March 21st ~ A Busy Day!

Sun., March 21st will be action packed here at First Church, with several groups working in conjunction on several projects, the worship service & then the Annual Meeting. Please make plans to join us for this exciting day!

Youth Sunday

Our Youth will lead worship & they have been busy planning an interesting, enlightening & inspiring service. Please come out & show them they have the full support of our entire Church Family, they are doing so many wonderful things!

American Cancer Society "Daffodil Sunday"



It will definitely look like spring has sprung in our Sanctuary on the morning of March 21st as we celebrate American Cancer Society's Daffodil Day! 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.

Annual Meeting & Luncheon

First Ladies will cook up our Annual Meeting Luncheon. We will enjoy Barbecue, Chili, beverages & desserts made by our famous First Ladies Chefs. The cost for the lunch is \$4.50/person (or chili for \$3/bowl). If you want to contribute some of your cooking or baking talents, please contact Nancy Amore.



First Ladies Nut Sale ~ Better Get Yours NOW!

The First Ladies have been selling some fantastic treats - No Peanut Mixed Nuts & Dark Chocolate Covered Cranberries at \$7.50/bag and they are a big hit! So much of a hit that their supply is beginning to dwindle & they won't be available much longer so make sure you get some soon! Just see out certified "Nut Lady" on Sunday morning!

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

Our Bell Choir is now preparing for Easter & we will be practicing at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings. 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.



We've Kept You Waiting Long Enough!



On **Sunday, April 11** the First Ladies will be holding their annual **meatball sandwich sale**. As in the past, the meatballs will be homemade, and the rolls will be fresh baked. The cost will be **\$4.**

for a large sandwich, which will be wrapped for you to take home for your lunch. I hope everyone will order a few sandwiches to help benefit our mission projects.

Help is needed though! Would you like to help make the meatballs, or wrap the sandwiches that morning? See Nancy Amore for information.

March Bulletins

7th- Bob & Phyllis Flemming in loving memory of Bob's parents, George & Hazel Flemming, on the occasion of Hazel's birthday.

14th - Mr. Albert Kuebler in loving memory of his wife, Janice, for her March 5th birthday.

21st - Brian, Jackie & Melissa Lunger in memory of their grandparents.

28th - George & Sue Beling in memory of loved ones.

If you would like to sponsor the bulletins for one of our services, please contact Doris Fowler at 908-859-1765.

April Steeple News Deadline

With Easter falling on the first Sunday in April, (April 4th) **it is important** that our **April Steeple News gets out early**. So, **if you have any planned Easter related events please get the info into the church office BEFORE Mon., March 15th**. Thanks for your cooperation!

Just an Observation from a Member...

I just have to comment on the enthusiasm of our youth, who are raising money each Sunday for our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

First of all let me say that the baked goods are delicious, and have seriously thwarted my dieting efforts, but I am enjoying them non the less.



Even better is the eagerness which the youth are displaying while baking and serving the sweets, coffee and cocoa each week. In this day and age when many of our tweens and teens would rather lie in bed on Sunday morning, these kids are showing their Christian spirit, and raising money to help end some of the suffering in such a poor country ravaged by the earthquake, and honestly, who can resist those adorable faces!?

I hope all of our members are noticing the same spirit, and will thank Sharon Ashton, Janice Hilsenbeck, Kristen Skilling and Doreen Arnold for leading our young people in the way of Christ.

A grateful church member

Easter Flowers & Food Baskets

Please make sure to get your Easter Flower order in by the Palm Sun., March 28th deadline as **no late orders can be taken.**

Also, contributions for the Easter Food Baskets are due on the 28th too. God bless you for your generosity to those in need.



Shame on You???

Are you sitting in your comfortable pew each Sunday singing out the hymns with your wonderful voice? Shame on you! When we really need more choir



members, why are you down there, when you should be up in the balcony? If God blessed you with a

singing voice, lets all hear it. None of us are supposed to hide our "light" under a basket. Our talents are meant to be shared for the glory of our Lord, so come join the choir on Sunday morning at 10am for practice before the service. Come on now. You know you can come to church a few minutes early, and you will be joining a joyous family of faith within the church, the choir. See you Sunday!

March Flowers

7th - Helen Litzenberger in loving memory of her husband Lester.



14th - Mary Gardner in loving memory of her husband Robert.

21st - Steve and Samantha Protyniak in loving memory of Steve's father, Theodore Protyniak and his aunt and uncle, Shirley & Kenneth Weidner.

28th - Tony & Val Bubba in memory of loved ones.

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please contact **Don Rush at 610-253-9444.**

2010 Consistory Nominations

With the changes in our Constitution our Consistory is now made up of Officers & Committee chairs each serving 1 year terms. The following individuals have agreed to serve on Consistory as Officers or Committee Chairs (assisted by their committee co-chairs & members) in the coming year...

Officers -

President - **Gary Rapp**

Vice President - **Don Rush**

Secretary - **Nancy Amore**

Treasurer - **Denise Cardinali**

Committee Chairs -

Christian Education -

Kristen Skillinge

Christian Witness-

Carl Cooke

Church Life & Program -

Doreen Arnold

Membership Outreach-

Bob Arnold

Property - **Mark Cooke**

Stewardship - **Scott Ashton**

Worship - **Wendy Wandersee**

Youth - **Christian Kmetz**

Jerry Strhol (Advisor)

We thank our Nominating Committee members for their dedicated work... **Gary Rapp, Scott Ashton, Tom Dailey, Carol Stem, Jerry Strohl, Mae Rapp & Rev. Dowd.**

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.

March order dates are:

Wed., March 10th - 4-6 p.m.

Sat., March 13th - 9 a.m. til noon

**Sun., March 14th - 10:30 a.m.
til 12:30 p.m.**

**March. distribution date is
Fri., March 19th - 7-8 p.m.**

**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 12th,
or call her with any ques-
tions.**



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!

Don't Miss our Easter Breakfast! Palm Sunday, March 28th



Our Annual Easter Breakfast will be held on Palm Sunday morning at 9 a.m. Bring your hearty appetite & your family & friends!



Maundy Thursday ~ April 2nd Agape Feast & Tenebrae Service

We will observe Maundy Thursday with our annual Agape Feast beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. We will enjoy a simple meal amongst our brothers & sisters in Christ in the spirit of The Last Supper.

This meal mirrors the last meal that Jesus would have eaten with his disciples before his crucifixion the following day, Good Friday. Please join us at 6:30 for the meal, we will then gather in the Sanctuary for a Tenebrae service with Holy Communion beginning at 7:30 p.m. It is very meaningful going into the service, as we prepare for Good Friday, knowing just as Jesus did, what was coming.

All are invited to this special evening as we prepare to follow Jesus' journey to the cross & His ultimate glorious resurrection on Easter.

There are sign up sheets in Memorial Hall for attendance & for "helpers" with food preparation, serving & clean up. There is no cost for this meal however, as a courtesy to those preparing the food, please sign up so we know how much food we will need.



Don't Forget! Our Spring Rummage Sale is May 7th & 8th

Our Spring Rummage Sale is fast approaching. Please mark your calendars so you may be able to help out at some time during set up or the sale. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated!

Set up Sunday - May 2nd

Set up week - Mon., May 3rd - Thurs., May 6th

March Greeters, Readers & Ushers

March 7th -

Greeters - Carl and David
Wandersee

Ushers - Carl and David
Wandersee and Mark & Tara
Cooke

Reader - Carl Wandersee

Acolyte - Jack Rothermel

March 14th -

Greeters - George & Sue Beling

Ushers - George & Sue Beling
and Abby and Warren Corr

Reader - Daelyn Corr

Acolyte - Henry Rothermel

March 21st - Youth Sunday!

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

Acolyte - Lauren Skillinge

March 28th - Palm Sunday

Greeters - Sharon & Scott
Ashton

Ushers - Sharon & Scott Ashton
and Val & Tony Bubba

Reader - Linda Wright

Acolyte - Matthew Ashton

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.

Would YOU Go?

On the morning of Feb. 2nd, the morning news carried video of the thousands (?) of "Phil's Faithful" awaiting the appearance of our "Legendary, Home-grown in PA National Ground Hog", Punxatawny Phil, on Ground Hog Day. The crowd was filled with folks in their Ground Hog Day finest, black ties & top-hats, who had come to cheer him on & hear his weather forecast, early spring? or more winter?



It looked like all were having a fine old time (with the possible exception of Phil himself) & I wondered, if that were closer, how many people would go? So a quick e-mail survey was sent out asking our First Church e-mailers "If you lived within 15 min. of Punxatawny PA, would you go stand in the cold at 7 a.m. to cheer him on?"

The results were an even split!

Of the 22 responses, 11 joyously said "you bet, definitely, why not, absolutely, if I get out of work, it's a great birthday celebration & that they love Phil!!!"

The other 11 were quite adamant that they would in "absolutely NO WAY, not a snowball's chance, attend that silly & cold event." *(Casting the tie breaking vote...I must admit I would be there in a heartbeat!)*