



Volume 8, Issue 5

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

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Love

Belonging

Birth

Family

Devotion

Fire

Sacrifice

Grace

**MOTHER'S DAY
PENTECOST
CONFIRMATION
MEMORIAL DAY**

Rebirth

Faith

Commitment

Hope

Bravery

Honor

Spirit

May 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!)**

God's Special Creation

This is a most glorious time of year. When all creation sings of God's glory...the flowers & trees in their rainbow of colors bursting open, the birds singing only for the joy of singing to their Creator. It seems that everything comes back to life in the spring.

God created this beautiful earth for us to live on, how thankful we should be! In Genesis, we can read the story of creation. He only had to speak the words & the heavens, the earth, the oceans, the sun, the moon, all creatures swimming, flying, walking & crawling came into being. That's some pretty awesome power, eh?

But when it comes to man, God added His own personal touch. We are made in His image, the image of The Trinity - The Father, Son & Holy Spirit ...

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; “

Gen. 1:26a

His own fingerprints are on us & His own breath within us. In Genesis 2:7 we read...

“Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

Can you imagine that? The LORD God, Creator of all, made man with His very hands, out of the earth He created. He did not just speak us into existence, as He did the entirety of the universe. No, man is handcrafted & brought to life by the very breath of God. We are a part of Him.

Do not forget that YOU are a SPECIAL CREATION, His masterpiece and HE LOVES YOU!

Upcoming May Events...

Thurs., May 1st ~ NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER - Pray where you are at noon. N.D.P. events in the Circle from 6-8 p.m.

**Fri. & Sat., May 2nd & 3rd ~ SPRING RUMMAGE SALE
FRI. from 9 a.m. til 4 p.m., SAT. from 9 a.m. til 1 p.m.**

Sun., May 4th ~ 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.

Sat., May 10th ~ CLEAN UP/WORK DAY starting at 8 a.m.

**Sun., May 11th ~ PENTECOST, HOLY COMMUNION,
MOTHER'S DAY & THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION!
MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST at 9 a.m.**

WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. We will celebrate Holy Communion & the Rite of Confirmation with our newest members.

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

Mon., May 12th - CONSISTORY meets at 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., May 15th - STEEPLE NEWS Deadline

**Sun., May 18th - TRINITY SUNDAY - PHOEBE HOME GUEST
SPEAKER & OFFERING ~ 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.

(Upcoming Events continue)

(Upcoming Events continued)

Sun., May 25th - Memorial Day Weekend ~ 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.**

Sun., June 1st - CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY ~ 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!



•Welcome to our new Consistory members... George Beling - President, Ken Amore - Vice President, Warren Corr - Treasurer, Nancy Amore - Secretary, Elders - Al Kuebler & Bob Arnold, Deacons - Jerry Strohl, Wendy Wandersee & Doreen Arnold, & Under **21**

Deacons - Melissa Lunger & Carl Wandersee. Our new Consistory was installed on Sun., April 13th during our morning worship. We are looking forward to a very busy and productive year at First UCC.

- **Thank you to all those who have served on the Consistory during the 2007-2008 term.** Many members have “shifted” positons but several have stepped down...Naomi Protyniak, David & Kim Kmetz (thank you Kim for serving as our President!), Bill Turner and Laura Arnold. God bless you & thank you all for your dedicated service to First UCC.



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!)



American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days a Great Success!

A HUGE THANK YOU!!! to all of you for purchasing daffodils for the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$102 to further the cause, and you all got a lovely bouquet to take home.



First Ladies Book Club News

The newly formed First Ladies Book Group met on Monday, April 27 at the Amore home under the guidance of Janet Caka, and discussed the book for the spring.

"The Friday Night Knitting Club", which was a very enjoyable read. The characters truly were unique and quirky, and fun to delve into, and the various stories intertwined in the book were riveting. Thanks to all who took part, and watch the bulletin and Steeple News for our next book. Let's keep on reading and fellowshiping together



Father's Day Breakfast ~ Help Needed!

Help is needed for the Father's Day Breakfast to be held on Sunday, June 15th. If you can help cook, bake, serve or clean up to help honor our Dads, please sign up in Memorial Hall, where you will also find the sign up sheet for all our Dads and their families. Come join us for some good food and fellowship, and bring the gang, and stay for the service. What a wonderful way to celebrate Dad's special day!



One Great Hour of Sharing

Thanks to all who have contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing. Many may have planned to give but forgot on "donation day". Don't worry! There is still plenty of time. Envelopes are available (but not necessary) in the narthex. Again, thank you for sharing your gifts.

– Sue Beling



Mother's Day Breakfast Sun., May 11th, 2008 at 9 a.m.

Our Men's Club will be cooking breakfast for all of the women of the church on Mother's Day morning. So bring your Mom, wife, daughter, sister (or any other special women in your life) to a beautiful breakfast before worship. Sign up in Memorial Hall.



Easter Caroling

The afternoon was cold & damp, but that sure didn't throw any kind of gloom over our merry band of Easter carolers, who met on Sunday, April 6 to cheer our shut-ins.

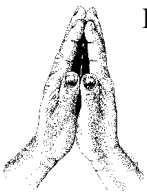
An enthusiastic group traveled over hill and dale, through Palmer, Bethlehem and Nazareth, wearing furry bunny ears, and goofy Easter bonnets, and carrying Easter bunnies to show our members in nursing homes and apartments. The looks on their faces when we showed up and surprised them was priceless, and the smiles and tears made the long afternoon well worth our effort. The consensus of the carolers was that they all liked Easter caroling better than Christmas caroling, so who knows if a new tradition at First UC has been born! Thanks also to the Kmetz family, who not only caroled, but hosted a great party, with a huge amount of food which we all appreciated, as we were starving by the time we got to their home. All in all, a wonderful day.



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 Rev. William Wightman at 610-252-8316.



“Easter Caroling” Thank You’s

On Sunday, April 6th, a group of First Church singers, with their Easter Bonnets or bunny ears, visited many of our shut-ins for some Easter caroling. Since our Christmas caroling had been snowed out in December, we decided to set out to spread some Easter holiday cheer, And that we did!!!

We received a number of joyous thanks from some of those we visited...

To The Choir...



My sincere thanks for your visit. I was so surprised & happy to share Easter with you. Your singing was great, as usual. By the way girls, I loved your bonnets. You fellows looked good too.

Again, thank you for bringing so much joy to me. Also, thank you for the pansies, they are so pretty.

Blessings & Love,
Mary Gardner

Joyous Thanks...

What a big surprise and great delight to welcome to my small room, the Easter Carolers! Sue & Sheila in broad brimmed favorite hats, others in long bunny ears. One brought beautiful pansies. Nothing more colorful than velvet petals. Each day is a joyous reflection.

To all, my hearty gratitude!
Mildred Firth



Thank You “Spring Singers”...

My mother, Fran Bassett, would like to thank those “Spring Singers” who came Easter caroling to her on Sunday, April 6. She enjoyed the hymns and songs so much, as well as seeing members of her church family. I too, appreciated that she was remembered with the visit at this beautiful time of year. She’ll also enjoy looking at the little post of pansies for weeks to come.



Thank you everyone!
Linda Bassett

Christian Witness News

PHOEBE HOME SUNDAY - On Sunday, May 18th we will host a guest speaker from Phoebe Home & we will take up our annual Phoebe Home collection. Please be generous in your support for this beautiful ministry to those who need some extra TLC in their later years.



Please use the Phoebe Home envelope that is enclosed in this newsletter.

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 joanwickel@phoebe.org.



Thank You

We cannot thank you enough for your words of encouragement, your prayers, cards & the generous monetary support for us during this sad & distressing time for our family. We are so blessed that we are part of the First Church Family & that the Lord has used you all to show His goodness even amidst our tears. God bless you all!

~ Margaret, Len &
Anthony Parisi

Special Thanks to the "Office Angels"

Special thanks go out to George & Sue Beling and Wendy Wandersee for getting the Sunday bulletins prepared, copied & distributed to the Congregation during my absence. It was a blessing to know that you all were being taken care of while I had to be away.

~ Marg.

May Bulletins

- 4th - Sid & Doris Fowler in loving memory of parents, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Fowler and Mr. & Mrs. Fred Baty.
- 11th - Mark & Tara Cooke in honor of our new members and mothers everywhere.
- 18th - Mrs. Irene Stotz in loving memory of her husband, Thomas B. Stotz and her daughter, Jenny Lynn.
- 25th - Mrs. Nancy Lou Crouse in loving memory of her husband, Clifford W. Crouse, his parents, Lawrence and Ellen Crouse, and her parents, Jesse & Clara Laubach.

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

Troop News



Congratulations to CORPORAL Joshua Dailey on his recent promotion. We are all so proud of you Josh!

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:

CPL. 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.



Memorial Day

Please take some time during the busy Memorial Day weekend to say a prayer for those who gave their lives in service to our country. May God rest their souls.

May Flowers



4th - Brian Lunger in memory of his mother, Ethel R. Lunger & his brother, Robin J. Lunger.

11th - Tim & Pam Mcginley in memory of Tim's mother, Pat McGinley and Pam's Aunt, Shirley Weidner.

11th - *Single Arrangement*
Carol Ann Stem in memory of her mother, Claire Stem and Geraldine Miner.

18th - Naomi Protyniak in memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Weidknect and her sister, Shirley Weidner.

25th - Jack Siegel in memory of his wife, Ann and his brother, sister-in-law & niece, Bob, Bessie & Sandra Siegel.



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

May Greeters, Readers & Ushers

May 4th -

Greeters - Jackie Wogotz &
Dolores Thomas

Ushers - Dolores Thomas,
Beverly Lambert and Bill &
Linda Arnold

Reader - Jim Harron

Acolyte - Christian Kmetz

May 11th -

Greeters - David & Kim
Kmetz

Ushers - David & Kim Kmetz
and Daelyn & Warren Corr

Reader - Doreen Arnold

Acolyte - Kelsie Hilsenbeck

May 18th -

Greeters - Keith & Janice
Hilsenbeck

Ushers - Keith & Janice
Hilsenbeck, Molly Parry &
Irene Stotz

Reader - Bill Turner

Acolyte - Brynn Hilsenbeck

May 25th -

Greeters - Bill & Ferne Turner

Ushers - Bill & Ferne Turner
and Dave & Wendy
Wandersee

Reader - Mary Ann Barrett

Acolyte - Leslie Kmetz



Got Graduates?

We would love to congratulate all those who have reached an educational milestone.

Whether graduating from High School or College, please let us know so we can share the joy of a job well done & lift our students up in prayer for future blessings.



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!



Musical Notes

Everyone is invited to join any of our choirs, no experience is necessary. Our Senior Choir has begun their summer schedule & will practice on Sun. mornings before church. Please see Sheila Cooke for more info.

Choir Appreciation Sunday ~ June 4th

Senior Choir

Sopranos

Linda Wright
Denise Cardinalli
Mae Rapp
Barbara Dailey
Kathleen Dowd
Wendy Wandersee

Altos

Belva Fuhr
Marjorie Harron
Nancy Amore

Tenors

James Wright
James Harron

Bass

Carl Lunger

Praise Choir

Belva Fuhr
Linda Wright
Carl Lunger
Nancy Amore
James Harron
Denise Cardinalli
Marjorie Harron
Barbara Dailey
Mae Rapp
Wendy Wandersee
Kathleen Dowd

Guitars

James Wright
David Kmetz

Keyboard Trumpet

Amanda Kmetz

Adult Hand

Bell Choir

Marjorie Harron
Sue Beling
Nancy Amore
Wendy Wandersee
Bill Arnold
Kim Kmetz
Carl Wandersee
Barbara Dailey
Warren Corr
Daelyn Corr
Leslie Kmetz
Christian Kmetz



Youth Hand Bell Choir

Helpers ~ Janice Hilsenbeck & Kris Skillinge

Brynn Hilsenbeck
Kelsie Hilsenbeck

Leslie Kmetz
Christian Kmetz

Lauren Skillinge

Thank you all for sharing your musical gifts to bring glory to the Lord!

A BIG THANK YOU also to

Sheila Cooke, our Music Director, for her dedication in bringing these musicians together to bless our congregation with beautiful music!

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

The **May 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!

May order dates are:

Wed., May 14th - 4-6 p.m.

Sat., May 17th - 9 a.m. til noon

**Sun., May 18th - 10:30 a.m. til
12:30 p.m.**

**May distribution date is
Fri., May 30th -
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., May 16th, or
call her with any questions.**

Our NEW Consistory
*This is our Consistory as voted upon
at our Annual Meeting & installed
on April 13th, 2008.*

Clergy

Pastor Rev. J. Michael Dowd

Pastoral Care Rev. William Wightman

Officers

President George Beling

V.P. Ken Amore

Sec. Nancy Amore

Treas. Warren Corr

Elders ~ Spiritual Council

Bob Arnold

Scott Ashton

Carl Cooke

Mark Cooke

Al Kuebler

Jeannette Orso

David Wandersee

Jill West

Deacons

Doreen Arnold

Denise Cardinalli

Barbara Dailey

Janice Hilsenbeck

Keith Hilsenbeck

Brian Lunger

Jerry Strohl

Wendy Wandersee

Deacon Under 21

Melissa Lunger

Carl Wandersee

Audit Committee

Denise Cardinalli

Fred Finken

Sue Roseberry