



Volume 7, Issue 9

November 2007 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



Giving Thanks

Weekly Worship Schedule

Join us
Sunday
mornings for...

Adult
Sunday School
begins at the
NEW TIME
of 9:15 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.

Please join us!

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

Giving Thanks

(Read Matt. 18:23-32)

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Imagine that Jesus comes to your house and shares this parable. Could He point out instances where you have not extended His graciousness to others? Could He identify times in which you had just received His forgiveness and freedom and within a short period of time treated someone else harshly and without mercy?

I have always found the greatest mysteries of life to be hidden in simplicity...

When we lack wholeness, our ability to perceive the investment of others in our lives is damaged. Our perception is that we're just not getting what we need. The truth is, nothing sticks because our hearts lack the proper texture for the investment to mature. This is the mystery of gratitude. Without it, all the investment in the world will not result in wholeness...

...That we will never become whole without gratefulness probably doesn't seem complex enough to be true...[Yet] sometimes the simple truth is the most profound.

The quest for nobility is a journey that takes us from gratitude to wholeness to generosity. There is no other path that leads us to the freedom that makes us complete. There is no way to circumvent the process. It is a life of gratitude that makes us whole, overwhelms us with love, and moves us to live generous lives [unleash our generative spirit]...

Gratitude is the healing ointment for brokenness...Gratitude and grace share the same etymology and root meaning. When we properly connect to God, our lives become an endless expression of thanks and praise.

From: The Uprising Experience by Erwin Raphael
McManus

Upcoming November Events...

Mon., Oct. 29th - Thurs., Nov. 1st - RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP

Thurs., Nov. 1st - MEN'S CLUB MEETING - 6:30 p.m. at Morici's

Fri. & Sat. Nov. 2nd - 3rd - RUMMAGE SALE
(Fri. from 9-4, Sat. 9-1)

Sat., Nov. 3rd - RUMMAGE SALE "TAKE-DOWN" at 1 p.m.

**Sun., Nov. 4th - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, HOLY COMMUNION,
BABY DEDICATION & FOOD BANK SUN.**

(Daylight Savings Time Ends!) We will remember those who have passed on with the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at 10:30. We will also rejoice in the dedication of Gwendolyn Stacy Smith. Every one is invited to bring a nonperishable food item to help restock ProJeCt's food pantry.



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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL at **9:15 a.m.**

PRAISE CHOIR meets after worship

Tues., Nov. 6th - ELECTION DAY ~ Don't forget to VOTE!

Sat., Nov. 10th - "Christian Perspectives on War" Forum at Forks UCC from 9-11 a.m.

Sun., Nov. 11th - VETERAN'S DAY & STEWARDSHIP 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 SUNDAY SCHOOL at **9:15 a.m.**

PRAISE CHOIR meets after worship

COMMITTEE BUDGETS DUE

Mon., Nov. 12th - CONSISTORY 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., Nov. 15th - STEEPLE NEWS DEADLINE

Sat., Nov. 17th - SOUP KITCHEN

(Events continue on pg. 4)

Upcoming November Events (continued)...

Sun., Nov. 19th - HARVEST HOME SUNDAY in the Sanctuary at **10:30 a.m.** We will celebrate the blessings that God has showered on us this Thanksgiving Sunday. Everyone is invited!

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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL at **9:15 a.m.**

PRAISE CHOIR after worship

THANKSGIVING DINNER at **NOON** - Bring your family & friends to this feast! Tickets on sale after church or in the office.



Thurs., Nov. 22nd - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Fri., Nov. 23rd - 6 p.m. - CHRISTMAS STORY TELLING & PEACE CANDLE LIGHTING ~ Children of all ages (adults, family & friends too!) are invited to an evening of Christmas stories, cookies & cocoa. Then we'll walk to the Circle to join in the lighting of the Peace Candle.

Sun., Nov. 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 SUNDAY SCHOOL at **9:15 a.m.**

PRAISE CHOIR meets after worship

The Annual Fall Rummage Sale!



Friday, November 2nd,

9 AM to 4 PM

And

Saturday, November 3rd,

9 AM to 1 PM

(Bag Day)



Featuring



Homemade Baked Goods

Delicious Lunch Menu

From Our Talented

Kitchen

“New/Nearly New” Table

And More!

See You There!



Annual Fall Rummage Pre-Sale Update

**Sale Dates: Friday, November 2nd, 9 AM to 4 PM
Saturday, November 3rd, 9 AM to 1 PM
(Bag Day)**

Rummage Drop Off: There's still time!! Donations may still be dropped off on **Sunday October 28th, **AND** on the set-up days, **Monday, Oct. 29th thru Thursday, Nov. 1st**, from 9 AM to 1 PM, and **Monday thru Thursday evenings**, from 6 to 9 PM.**

Rummage Suggestions:

Fall & Winter Clothing
Belts and Hats
Purses and Shoes
Jewelry and Scarves
Holiday Decorations
Houseplants

Kitchen Items
Household Items
Puzzles and Books
Games and Toys
Small Furniture Items
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.)

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.

(Continued)

(Continued)

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 1 PM. **Set-up days are Monday, October 29th, through Thursday, November 1st, from 9 AM to 1 PM daily, And every evening from 6 to 9 PM.** If you are available to help any of these days or evenings, please call *Wendy Wandersee* . Or just show up! Even a few hours of your time would be a great help.

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

- ✓ Paper shopping bags with handles
- ✓ Glass or plastic quart containers
- ✓ Price stickers
- ✓ Safety Pins

Please bring these items with you at drop off time

If there are any questions on any of the above, call *Wendy Wandersee*. We look forward to working with all of you once again to make this yet another successful ***Fall Rummage Sale!***

*Rummage Sale Coordinators
Barbara Dailey, Wendy Wandersee & Naomi Protyniak*

Musical Notes

Bells & Choir Practice Thurs. Evenings

Thursday is our busy music day here at First UCC! We all practice...

6:30 p.m. - Children's Handbells (starting mid-Nov.)

6:45 p.m. - Youth Handbells

7:00 p.m. - Adult Handbells

7:30 p.m. - Senior Choir



Praise Choir



Praise Choir (Gospel & Contemporary music with guitars) will begin practicing on Sundays after morning worship on October 7th. 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!

Christmas Choir

The holidays are fast approaching, and the choir could use some new members, if only for the Christmas season. If you love to sing, how about joining us in the Arts and Crafts room, Sundays at 10 am? We know there are some good singers out there. After all, we heard you on the Canal Boat trip, so come join us this Sunday, and you will have a great time, and help make joyful music for your church family. Teens out there are welcome too...bring Mom and Dad!!!

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



Upcoming Community Event

Hamloaf Dinner at the "Temporary Home" of Faith Unity located at Memorial UCC, 1913 Freemansburg Ave.

Sat., Nov. 3rd

1st Seating at 4 p.m. • 2nd Seating at 5:30 p.m.

Adults - \$9 • Children under 12 - \$5

Please call Lois Lum (610-253-1309) for tickets

Church Women United World Community Day Fri., Nov. 2nd at St. Jane's Catholic Church "Embracing Justice Under God's Tent"

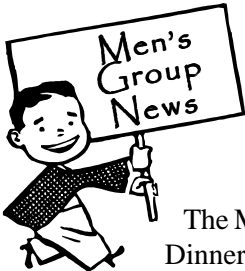
Registration begins at 1:00 p.m., Program begins at 1:30

Church Women United is an ecumenical group of Christian Women of all denominations to work for develop a just, caring & peaceful society, to strengthen families & to grow as women of faith in this world.

This year's World Community Day program will be held at St. Jane Frances De Chantel Church located at Hartley & Nulton Aves. in Palmer Twsp. Registration begins at 1 p.m. & the program begins at 1:30 p.m. & will feature **Northampton County District Attorney, John Morganelli** as the speaker.

Items will be collected for Safe Harbor. They are in need of the following: sugar, coffee (reg. or de-caf), tea or iced tea mix. Any item you can bring will be greatly appreciated.

Please call CWU President, Hilda Cooper for more info.



Thanksgiving Dinner Sun., Nov. 18th at noon (Harvest Home Sunday)

The Men's Club will be hosting our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 18th, 2007 at noon.. The First Ladies will be adding their special touches with homemade pies. So add it to your calendar. Tickets will be available after church or at the church office. Adults \$7, Children \$ 3. Bring your family and friends to this feast!

Men's Club Planning Meeting Thurs., Nov. 1st at 6:30 p.m. at Morici's

The Men's Club will be having a meeting on Thursday, November 1, 2007 at 6:30 PM at Morici's. We will be planning for the Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Bring a friend!

Autumn Fest A Big Hit For Young & Old Alike

Thanks to Mae Rapp, Helena Rapp, and Bev Lambert for making 270 yummy meatballs on Saturday, October 20 for the First Ladies' Autumn Fest. All 270 were devoured in short order, and the baked goods from Marge Harron, Ferne Turner, Kim Kmetz, Kris Skillinge, Daelyn Corr, and Nancy Amore disappeared quickly. Sue Beling's ghost lollipops were a huge hit with the kids too. Thanks also to Carl Cooke for running for extra rolls when we had many more people than expected. Kris Skillinge and Melissa Lunger did a great job supervising the wee ones in their artistic efforts. Be sure to see the pictures of the kids painting their pumpkins, on display in the Parlor. They are priceless! On such a gorgeous Fall day, we certainly had a lot of fun and good food....no surprise! After all, its First UCC!



Book Club Date Change!

We are beginning a new spiritual book club. The first book is an easy one, (don't want to scare anybody off right off the bat!). Because we are entering into the Christmas season, the first book we read will be by Jan Karon, and is called, "**Shepherds Abiding**". It is a story about a Mississippi pastor, Father Tim, who discovers the best gift anyone can give at Christmas, the gift of one's heart. **If you need a copy of the book please see Nancy Amore or Kris Skillinge,** the book may be purchased at Hackman's, Walden Books, and Barnes and Noble for \$13.95. If you choose not to buy the book, but would like to join us, see me, and we will work something out. **We were planning to meet on Sunday, November 25 however, that has been changed. Please watch the bulletin for the new date & location.**



Harvest Home Sunday ~ Sun., Nov. 18th

We will celebrate Harvest Home Sunday with an extra collection of items for the Food Bank including winter squash, sweet potatoes & other storable fall produce along with the regular canned items for the holiday table. Please bring your donations to be placed at the front of the church.

November Bulletins

4th- Matilda Butz Chidsey
Circle of the International
Order of the King's
Daughters and Sons in
loving memory of the
deceased members and in
recognition of their dedi-
cated service. The Circle
was formed February 16,
1891.

11th - Ruth Miller in memory
of loved ones.

18th - Bob and Phyllis
Flemming in loving
memory of Bob's parents,
George and Hazel
Flemming.

25th - Gary and Mae Rapp in
honor of the young men
and women serving in the
armed forces.

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

November Flowers

4th- Mildred Firth in memory
of loved ones.

Single arrangement

(8 rosebuds) Megan & Mike
Smith in memory of loved
ones and the dedication of
daughter, Gwendolyn Stacy.

11th - Robert & Doreen Arnold
in memory of fathers W.
Karl Arnold & George
Dovan .

Single arrangement

Richard Gearinger in
memory of my beloved wife,
Jane.

18th - William & Fern Turner in
memory of loved ones.

25th - Mark, Tara & Leo Cooke
in celebration of Thanksgiving.



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



We Are Now .ORG!

Check our First Church website at www.firsttuceaston.org . Let
us know what you think, if there is info you'd like to see posted,
etc.

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

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

November order dates are:

Fri., Oct. 26th- 6:30-8:00 p.m.
(during Oct. distribution)

THURS., Nov. 1st - 4-6 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 3rd - 9 a.m. til noon

**Sun., Nov. 4th - 10:30 a.m. til
12:30 p.m.**

**Nov. distribution date is
Fri., November 16th - 6:30-8
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 before Sun.,
November 4th, or call her
with any questions.**

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the
holidays in Nov. & Dec.
order & distribution dates
are earlier in the month than
usual. ...

**The first Dec. order date is
Wed., Nov. 28th from 4-6 p.m.
Dec. distribution is Dec. 14.**



PLEASE NOTE:

If we have omitted a birth-
day, anniversary or other
special day from our news-



letter, please call the
church office & let us
know. We may not
have your special
date in our records!

Eagle Scout Library Project

CARL WANDERSEE is doing his
Eagle Scout project. He is collecting
funds & nearly new books for the
Phillipsburg Free Public Library.

The ultimate goal of his project is
to purchase or collect 200 books
on their "Wish List", including
books from early learning age up
to youth. Monetary donations are
especially helpful to purchase hard
to find titles. Books can be left in
the box in the Narthex. A partial
list of needed authors/books is
available. Please see Carl
Wandersee for more info.

ALL ARE INVITED TO...

“A Variety of Christian Perspectives on War” Saturday, November 10th, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Forks United Church of Christ

WAR has been with us from before Christ. Christians have gone to war, even warred against one another. The Church and individual Christians have long wrestled with the place of war, with all its inhumanity and barbarity, in the way we seek to be faithful disciples. This forum will explore the Christian perspective on war: Just war, Holy war, and the Pacifist renunciation of violence. REV. DR. LLOYD STEFFEN, UCC clergyman and Faculty member and Chaplain to Lehigh University, will be the guest speaker. We are fortunate and excited to have him help us explore Christian traditional responses and our own personal feelings about war in the modern world.



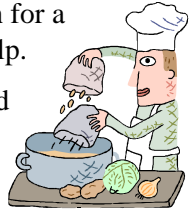
Please call to confirm participation or for information at 610 759-5676 no later than Thursday November 8th. A head count is needed for the light refreshments offered at 9:00 AM. Select resources will be available for purchase.



They Love Their Ziti!!!

The cooks for the October Soup Kitchen were **Carol Harrison, Mae Rapp, Linda Wright, Nancy Amore, Kim Kmetz and Kris Skillinge**. These ladies cooked 18 pounds of baked ziti with meat sauce for our friends at the Trinity Soup Kitchen, who even had enough for a take-out supper! Thank you so much ladies for all your help.

The 90 lunchtime eaters appreciated all your hard work, and left with full tummies. We even saw a young man at church from the Soup Kitchen the next day, and served him a meatball sandwich! Guess he really likes our cooking!



Melissa Lunger also deserves high praise for helping to cart and serve large roaster pans of food to the Soup Kitchen. This special young lady was a godsend to me, and her willing spirit is a gift to us at First church.

Nancy Amore

"Hanging of the Greens"

Sun., Dec. 2nd, 3 p.m.

Mark your calendars now. Hanging of the Greens will be on **Sunday, December 2nd, at 3pm.**

The church will be dressed in its gorgeous Christmas attire, and helpers will be needed to hang wreaths and garland, and set up the trees in the church and Sunday School. The children will be entertained with crafts, beginning in the Arts and Crafts Room at 3 pm, and helpers will be needed there also to help little hands. **A covered dish will begin around 5-5:30**, so bring a generous vegetable, salad or dessert to share. Meat and beverages will be provided by Consistory. Come and join in the holiday fun!



Bibles for Nairobi

If you have any extra English Bibles, even just New Testament Bibles, that you would be willing to pass along, please place them in the "Bibles for Nairobi" box in Memorial Hall.

God Bless You!

November Greeters, Readers & Ushers

- 4th - Greeters** - Pam & Tim McGinley
Ushers - Pam & Tim McGinley, Janet Caka and Beverly Lambert
Reader - Lester Litzenberger
- 11th - Greeters** - Agnes Carhart & Janice Hilsenbeck
Ushers - Agnes Carhart, Janice Hilsenbeck, Irene Stotz and Molly Parry
Reader - David Wandersee
- 18th - Greeters** - Steve & Samantha Protyniak
Ushers - Steve & Samantha Protyniak and Michael & Vicki Cowell
Reader - Bill Arnold
- 25th - Greeters** - Marjorie Arnold & Bob Lynch
Ushers - Warren & Daelyn Corr, Ken Amore and Dan Redington
Reader - Gary Rapp

If you would like to serve as a Greeter, Usher or Reader, please call the church office at 610-258-3361.

ATTENTION PARENTS! We are planning to revive our **Acolyte** program starting on Nov. 4th. If you have children interested in serving as Acolytes, please call the church office at 610-258-3361.

Supplies for our Soldiers



Right now, Eric Donaldson is “our” only soldier in Iraq but Josh Dailey & Rod (Kyle) Donaldson are scheduled for (re)deployment in the coming months. **We need individually wrapped hard candy or lollipops for the men to hand out to the Iraqi children also puzzle books, snacks and letters & notes.**

We received a beautiful letter thanking all of the church members for “taking such good care of me” from Tom. It is on the bulletin board for all to read.

Each box costs \$8.95 to ship, no matter the weight, so if you would like to donate towards shipping costs, please talk to Nancy Amore. Please keep all our soldiers in your prayers & pray for peace.



Unsung Angels at First UCC

You know, there are many people at our church who serve, not only by coming on Sunday, but who do behind the scenes jobs that no one knows about. A few special angels are Brian Lunger and Mark Cooke, who devote many hours working on the physical plant (7 hours on a recent Saturday alone), and are unsung. Other angels? Let us know. If you know of a First UCC angel, let Margaret know, and we will all sing their praises too. We all recite the words “cost and joy of discipleship” every Sunday, but these people actually get what that means.



Christmas Story Telling & Peace Candle Lighting

Fri., Nov. 23rd at 6 p.m.



Friday, November 23, the evening after Thanksgiving, our church will be hosting a “Christmas Story Telling” in the parlor for children of all ages. The festivities will be held at **6 p.m.** Watch the bulletin for the names of our surprise holiday readers, and a list of the Christmas stories they will be reading. Following the readings, cocoa and cookies will be served, and then everyone will walk to the Circle to join in the Peace Candle lighting, complete with carols to usher in the season. Plan to join us for this fun event, and bring friends, family and neighbors. All are welcome!