

CHRIST CHRONICLES

**Christ United Church of Christ, 1414 Ligonier Street
Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650**



Worship Services for February

February 3, 10, 17 and 24 - Sunday Morning Worship, 11:00 AM
February 3 - *Holy Communion*, 11:00 AM

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey
you are welcome here.**

Concerns of the Congregation

Please pray for: **Marcie Baker, Scott Barr, Tom Cernetic, Kristen Disciascio, Tim Farkas Family, Pam Hedman, Jason Hitchman, Treasure Keys, Ron King, Zoe Klug, Jim and Kathy Koontz, Leanne Lehosky, Donna Lenz, Joan Musick, Bob and Evelyn Neighly, Betty Newman, Duane Noel, Richard Porembka, Joyce Puzak, Louise Quitko, Shirley Robb, Bailey Robinson; Emily, Eva, and Graeme Sautter; Ken Sible, Judith Short, Laken Smith, Rick Stahl, Kathleen Swartz, Peter Usher, Sara Young, Bob Zeiders, Frank Zook**



**We especially hold in prayer the family of Terri Selembo,
who passed away on January 18, 2019.**

Praying the roll: Everyone on the church roster will have a turn at experiencing the comfort and peace of intentional prayer. We are family . . . and families pray for one another! Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers for the entire week.

Week of February 3 - Robert and Geraldine Boring, Seth Boring, Donna and John Brajdic

Week of February 10 - Donald Brinker, Lawrence Brinker, Don and Amy Burd

Week of February 17 - Richard and Ruth Burns, Kayla Cesare, Lori Cramer

Week of February 24 - Richard and Mary Crawford, Richard Crawford, Jr., Ora Dalton

Communion Servers for Sunday, February 3

Elder/Assistant ... Kenny Repko, Loretta Staruk

Deacons/Main Servers ... Gerry Boring, Rick Kunkle, Don Burd, Elena Sillaman

Deacon/Auxillary Server. . .Loretta Staruk



GREETER LIST - FEBRUARY, 2019

February 3

February 10

February 17 - Larry and Loretta Staruk

February 24

GREETERS ARE NEEDED - PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE CHAPEL



USHER LIST - FEBRUARY, 2019

February 3 - Marsha Ackerman and Larry Staruk

February 10 - Art Dira and Harvey Noel

February 17 - Jim and Elena Sillaman

February 24 - Judy Holden and Mick Mattern

Mission Statement: To reflect Christ's love in everything we do.

Vision Statement: Not our will, but God's

2018 Report from Conference Minister, Rev. David Ackerman

Dear friends at Christ UCC,

Grace and peace to you! It's good to be able to connect with you by way of this annual report. I'm thankful for the time I've had to share with you over the course of the year. It was good to preach at the church a few weeks ago. I enjoyed helping to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season and Marsha and I have enjoyed our time at Supper Club meals. It is good to have a place to come and simply feel free to be in fellowship and worship. That is a gift that means a great deal.

As you may know, I have a four-way covenant between myself, Christ UCC, the Westmoreland Association, and Penn West Conference. I try to be with you in worship at least once each calendar month, but most Sundays out of the month, I am at some different location in the Conference.

I continue to work with you on the search process, which I know has taken longer than many of us thought it would. Please know that we continue to work hard to seek good candidates for pastoral leadership at Christ Church and St. John's. Your Search Committee has also been hard at work, and I am deeply grateful for their efforts. Thank you again for your patience, and most importantly, for your prayers.

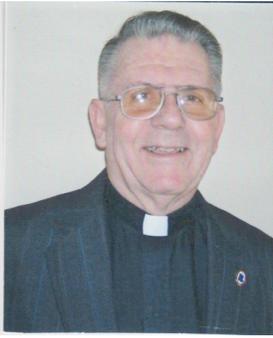
The Penn West Conference has 102 churches in western Maryland and western Pennsylvania. In addition to visiting churches and Associations, I also work with Committees on Ministry as they do their work of oversight and authorization. Over the course of the past year, I've also worked closely with different ministry teams in the Conference, like our Transformation and Renewal Team, Global Missions Team, Justice and Witness Team and Financial Stewards Team, just to name a few. I also work with various mission partners in ecumenical and wider church ministries. I was blessed to see some of you at our Annual Gathering & Meeting this past year at California University of Pennsylvania. We were also blessed to host the Regional Youth Event for the whole eastern United States this past July.

Next year, we're already planning an All Association Spring Meeting for March 30 at First United Church of Christ in Ebensburg. We are also excited to welcome the Rev. Traci Blackmon to our Annual Gathering & Meeting June 7-8, 2019, at California University of Pennsylvania. And, we're looking forward to General Synod 32 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from June 21-25, 2019. I hope that you'll be attentive to details on these events as they are shared and that you will keep them in your prayers.

To stay informed about things in the Penn West Conference, please visit our website at www.pennwest.org. Sign up for our e-newsletter and snippets by putting your email address in the upper right hand corner of the homepage and responding to the confirmation email. Follow us on Twitter & Instagram and like us on Facebook. If you have any questions about the Conference, feel free to call me at 724-834-0344 or email me at david@pennwest.org. And, if you'd like, feel free to see me on one of the Sunday mornings when I'm in church. May God's blessings be with you all, now and always!

Sincerely, David Ackerman

A Message From Pastor Dick



The church in Thessalonica were having problems. Their problems stemmed from the Jewish community, who considered these Christians a sect group. Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians was a guide for the Church in those hard times.

Verse 3 of the Third chapter is the key verse to a troubled Church. "The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from all evil."

At the Consistory meeting on Monday, January 14th I wondered if Christ Church was a troubled church. After the report of the Property and Grounds Committee it was discovered that there were a tremendous amount of needed repairs that were extremely expensive.

Now our trouble is not with other factions but financial problems within our church.

The report worried me and I was unsure of the outcome. Then I remembered Paul's word to a troubled church. "The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from all evil."

If we truly believe in the faithfulness of the Lord then we can be sure we can overcome our financial problems. Of course we also must be faithful.

We are a congregation who is faithful to the Lord. I am sure the people of Christ Church will respond in faithfulness. The cost of all the repairs can be met with your gifts.

I'll have a good night's sleep tonight knowing the Lord and the people of Christ Church are faithful.

God bless, Pastor Dick

SHARE YOUR TALENT

Christ Church is looking for creative people to prepare bulletin boards for the church.

If you can help, contact Stephanie Albaugh at 724-420-5560 or email her at dav448@comcast.net for more information.



A Note from Julie



Praise the Lord!! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful!

Let Israel be glad in his Maker, let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King!
Let them praise his name with dancing! (Psalm 149)
Praise God for the beginning of a new year!

As I look back on the end of 2018, I want to thank everyone that was so supportive of the Christmas Cantata, Sing a Song of Christmas, and also thank the adult choir for their dedication to the rehearsals to get it ready to present to the glory of God on December 16th.

A special thanks also to Joan Zeiders, Rosella Holzer, and Ann Baltich for their wonderful narration and Ellen Meyers and Lisa and Aaron Amoroso for singing with the choir.

As I look ahead in this new year, I am anxious to get busy working on the music for the seasons to come.

The choir will be singing a variety of praise style anthems until Lent begins on March 6th with Ash Wednesday.

We will be continuing with our introits and benediction responses. I am very happy that the congregation sings along with us when we sing the introit and benediction! It sounds wonderful!

Since it is the beginning of a new year, I am once again asking that if any of you have a heart to sing with the adult choir, please come and join us on Thursdays at 7:30. You do not have to read music! All you need is a love of singing.

Also, If there is anyone in the congregation that would like to present special music in the form of an instrumental piece, maybe guitar or a wind instrument, please let me know and I can put it on the schedule.

On a personal note, thank you all for the Christmas cards! It made the holiday very special.

I would like to wish everyone here at Christ United Church of Christ a most joyous, loving, and healthy 2019!!

Julie

FILE CABINET NEEDED



The church office is in need of a file cabinet (4 drawer, letter width). If you can help with this, please contact Caryn in the church office Thank you.

Christian Education Committee Update

Sunday School for Children continues on the second and fourth Sunday of each month following the children's message from the pastor. Take home handouts will be given to the children. The dates for February are February 10 and 24. All children ages 4 to 12 are welcome.



The Wednesday morning bible study meets each Wednesday morning at **10:00 AM**. The class is studying "The Jesus Paul knew." All are welcome to join in at any time.

Stay tuned for information on the Adult Sunday School Class.

The next meeting of the Christian Education Committee will be **February 24, 2019**.

Lay Life and Mission Committee Update

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU for your donations to the December/January "Christmas for Christ Church" mission.

FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH - ANGEL ARMS

The Lay Life and Mission Committee has chosen Angel Arms as the mission for February and March. Every 18 to 20 minutes, a baby is born into addiction in the United States – adding up to nearly 30,000 per year. For every one of those babies, there is also a mother who is struggling. A new organization in Latrobe called Angel Arms, which is an extension of the Faith Forward Ministries, Inc., is a non-profit outpatient facility. This organization is dedicated to providing help for women, children and families affected by the drug crisis. Their goal is to aid in keeping families together by helping care for infants born with addiction and also helping care for the infants while their mothers are going through rehabilitation programs. Donation envelopes will be available in bulletins and on the table in the Chapel. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.



The Lay Life and Mission Committee will meet in the Conference Room on Monday, February 4 at 6:30 PM and will be planning the events for the year 2019.

FEBRUARY SUPPER CLUB!

Bob and Carolyn Stutzman are the hosts for "Supper Club" on **Friday, February 22 at 5:30 PM**. It will be at Pie Cucina, 181 E. Brown Street. Blairsville. Please contact Bob or Carolyn no later than Wednesday, February 17 to make your reservation! 724-537-2647.

P.S. Pie Cucina does have a full-service bar. P.P.S. Who will volunteer to host/organize the March supper club?

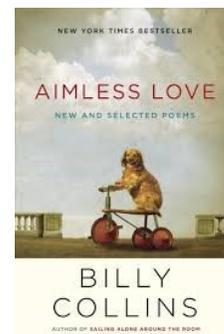


BIENVEUE will meet on **Wednesday, February 6 at 12:30 PM at Aroma Italiano 2220 Ligonier Street**. The March luncheon will be held March 6 at Sharky's Café on Route 30 in Latrobe. All the ladies of the church are welcome.

CHRIST CHURCH'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The February book discussion will be held on **Tuesday, February 5 at 11:00 AM**. This book is a book of poetry: *Aimless Love* by Billy Collins.

In March, the meeting date is **Tuesday, March 5 at 11:00 AM** and the discussion is on *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. All are invited at any time.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help with **Senior Food Distribution on Tuesday, February 26 at 8:30 AM**. Thanks so much for your help as always.

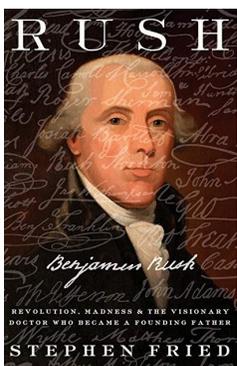


MINISTERIUM FOOD ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY

The Greater Latrobe Ministerium asks churches to donate items for the Food Pantry distributions each month. The needed item for February is graham crackers. A box is in the sanctuary to collect these items.



Book Review by Jim Sillaman - Rush by Stephen Fried



“Rush,” by Stephen Fried, is a recently published biography of Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of the men who lived through and was heavily involved in the activities of our American Revolution which established our country's independence. He was a close acquaintance of many of the men who later gained fame as our “Founding Fathers” – Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, John Adams and others. He talked with them often when they were in Philadelphia formulating the Declaration of Independence (which Rush signed) and, later, the Constitutional Convention. And he corresponded frequently with several of them for years afterward. One interesting consequence of his letters to Jefferson and Adams (who very much admired Rush) was that he was instrumental in getting those two to resume their personal correspondence later in life after they had broken off with each other over political differences. It was a wonderful literary reunion of two of the principal political minds (albeit with opposing views) of our country. Dr. Rush often facilitated communication among many of the “big names” of the time, although on a few occasions he was perhaps a bit too opinionated, which led to some occasional conflicts, particularly with Washington.

He was, of course, primarily a physician. Part of his medical training was in Edinburgh, Scotland, then considered to be the premier place for physician education. Here in this country, he helped attend to wounded and sick Revolutionary soldiers, and, after the war, established his primary medical practice in Philadelphia. He was instrumental in helping to establish a teaching hospital and became quite popular as a teacher of medical students. But he especially gained contemporary fame for his dedicated service to Philadelphia during several yellow fever epidemics. Although many people, including physicians, fled the city, he stayed and worked long hours visiting the sick. He was a strong proponent of a popular medical treatment at the time, bleeding, and mistakenly believed that it helped a number of his sick patients. While his treatments have been shown to be counterproductive, he nevertheless did what he could to try to staunch that virulent disease.

Besides his medical care, he became very interested in the diagnosis and care of people suffering from mental illness. This was especially motivated by the unfortunate psychiatric problems experienced by his oldest son, who, after killing a friend in a duel, spent many years in the mental ward of a hospital. Rush strongly advocated for better care for these people, including freeing most of them from being chained and actually supplying heat to the rooms in which they were confined. He was among the first to try to understand that some psychiatric illnesses might have a biologic basis, and that such problems should not be ascribed to demons, bad morals or even menstruation. He was also among the first to publicly denounce the excessive use of “spirituous liquors” for causing some mental disturbances. Dr. Rush recorded many of his observations in journals, and he wrote and published medical tracts extensively.

He and his wife had a long, happy marriage. She had twelve pregnancies, although only five children survived into adulthood. They were periodically separated, especially while he remained in Philadelphia during the epidemics. At the age of 67, he died of some type of feverish disorder.

Because Rush was not always prominently involved in some of the political debates of the early days of our country, his inclusion in the pantheon of “Founding Fathers” has suffered. But his contemporaries certainly were aware of and appreciated his involvement in the critical affairs of the time. Further hurting his reputation in our time, there has been a relative paucity of primary historical sources and rather few published biographies. But, now, this book may bring to him some of the favorable recognition which should be his due.

February 2019 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Heavenly God, bless the family of the church. May we accept one another as brothers and sisters, finding strength and joy in our life together. May we be a family open to all the families of mankind that, in the church, they may overcome all the hostilities and prejudices that might otherwise drive them apart. -from <i>More Everyday Prayers</i>					1 Remember those who will be unhappy today.	2 Pray for those persecuted for their beliefs.
3 Praise God for the freedom to worship.	4 Thank God for His love and mercy.	5 Pray for the youth of our church and the community.	6 Pray for members of the Bible study group.	7 Pray for communities affected by drought.	8 Thank God for church volunteers.	9 Pray for those suffering from depression or mental illness.
10 Pray for victims of human trafficking.	11 Pray for an end to human trafficking.	12 Praise God for answered prayers.	13 Pray for those with heart disease.	14 Valentine's Day Pray for all who are alone and without people to love them.	15 Thank God for those who love you.	16 Pray for those hesitant to respond to God's call.
17 Praise God who shares our joys and sorrows.	18 Pray for Christian Churches – that they may be faithful witnesses to the Gospel.	19 Pray that each member of the church would commit to praying daily.	20 Pray for church leaders everywhere that they may promote unity among Christians.	21 Thank God for those who respond to natural disasters.	22 Pray for victims of natural disasters.	23 Thank God for blessings you have received.
24 Pray for church leaders everywhere that they may work together.	25 Praise God for the amazing world in which we live.	26 Ask for forgiveness for our failings.	27 Praise God for the beauty of nature.	28 Pray for Native American churches.	As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing, you have fashioned me, O Lord, for joy. Share with me the vision to find that joy everywhere: in the wild violet's beauty, in the lark's melody, in the face of a steadfast man, in a child's smile, in a mother's love, in the purity of Jesus.	

Christ Church Consistory

Geraldine Boring
 Don Burd
 Art Dira
 Judy Holden, Vice President
 Rick Kunkle

Kenny Repko
 Elena Sillaman
 Loretta Staruk, Secretary
 Carolyn Stutzman, President

February 2019 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 11:00 AM Worship <i>Holy Communion</i>	4 6:30 PM Lay Life and Mission	5 11:00 AM Book Discussion Group	6 10:00 AM Bible Study	7 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	8	9
10 11:00 AM Worship Sunday School for Children following Children's sermon	11 6:00 PM GLCC Practice 6:30 PM Consistory	12	13 10:00 AM Bible Study	14 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 11:00 AM Worship	18	19	20 10:00 AM Bible Study	21 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	22 5:30 PM Supper Club at Pie Cucina Blairsville	23
24 11:00 AM Worship Sunday School for Children following Children's sermon	25 6:00 PM GLCC Practice	26 8:30 AM Senior Food Distribution	27 10:00 AM Bible Study	28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir		

**ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER ARE DUE ON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

Please send to cocoakitty2001@gmail.com or give to Loretta Staruk

CONTACT US

Newsletter Editor, Loretta Staruk - 724-879-8631 - cocoakitty2001@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant, Caryn Dettling

Church Email: christchurchucc@verizon.net

Church Office Phone: 724-537-4901

Christ UCC Website - www.ucclatrobe.org