

GOOD NEWS NOTES

The United Church of Christ East Goshen
1201 North Chester Road, West Chester, PA 19380
Worship 5:30 Saturday & 10:00 am Sunday

610-692-2951
www.ucceastgoshen.org
June- July 2019

Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor
Doug Holder, Director of Music Ministry
Phyllis Kinser, Administrative Assistant

From Our Pastor...

God Gives us a “10”

I was listening to the wonderful writer and TED Talk speaker, Dr. Brené Brown, as I drove alone in early May. I first heard of Dr. Brown when our Council president, Linda Ardao, had the new Council listen to a video presentation at our Council retreat. Her words speak to the human condition of being in relationships with others in our daily lives. Dr. Brown speaks of vulnerability and living a wholehearted life; keeping ourselves honest, open, and fully present to life; without judging ourselves or others; and allowing for forgiveness, challenges, and molding of our beings as we live out our relationships. Each of us looks at ourselves and judges harshly any areas which are not a perfect “10,” seeing only flaws, incongruences, and parts we need to hide. Brené Brown doesn’t say she is speaking God-love talk, but she is. She reminds me to remember I am a beloved child of God. I have been wonderfully and fearfully made by a most generous, forgiving, compassionate creator who just wants me to love and be loved, and allow the Holy to continue to mold me into the best daughter I can be. I have no promise or guarantee that I will not make mistakes, misspeak, forget to see the big picture, be intolerable to be with sometimes. I am sure I will speak before I think, judge too quickly, want to throw in the towel, imagine scenarios which are all in my mind, and wonder what God was thinking. Didn’t God know what I know when He decided to shut the best door for me?

This summer is a time when hopefully we each will find some moments to rest and relax. I am hoping that when we are sitting on the deck, in the back yard, or the beach, riding in the car, and breathing in God’s love, we would reflect on how we see

ourselves, and how God sees us. To wonder how God wants to mold us and strengthen us anew, and to remember the scripture, Psalm 139:14, *“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”* Could this be the summer, to even get a journal and write a prayer, a reflection, a poem, a letter?

Pastor Angelee

How Others See Us - Another Twist:

Age as Accomplishment by Lilian Daniel

“You shall rise up before the gray-headed and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God.”

Leviticus 19:32

An American church group was visiting Haiti. The Haitian church leaders were leading the opening introductions to facilitate the bonding of these two groups who had never met before, so they asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves by saying their name and their age.

The Americans were surprised by that second question. We are not used to being asked our age, at least after childhood. In fact, some people consider it rude to ask someone their age. But the Americans recognized that they were in Haiti and that the question was asked in kindness so they went along with it. When it came time for one retired person to introduce herself, she gave her name then her age - seventy-six years old. The Haitian group broke into applause.

Now, the Americans were really surprised. But in the laughter and conversation that followed, the two groups learned something about each other. The Haitians learned that American adults aren't used to

being asked their age in public and we certainly are not used to getting applause. The Americans learned that the Haitians were not used to meeting someone who was seventy-six years old. The average life expectancy in Haiti is 63. In the United States it is 79. "Turning seventy-six is a great accomplishment!" they said. "So of course we are clapping."

Prayer

Eternal and timeless God, bless this youth-obsessed culture with the knowledge that age can be a blessing, not to be taken for granted. Amen.

Our Volunteers for Sunday Service

Where there are open spots, members are encouraged to volunteer! Use www.signupgenius.com

JUNE	2 – no Communion	9	16– Father’s Day/Family	23	30
Greeters	Andy Mahard	Sue Ogram, Linda Ardao	Avalon Wittig		
Acolyte	Sofia Keith	Aiden Porter	Cole Benner-Smith	Cole Benner-Smith	
Children’s Chat	Lucy Barber		Bonnie Yost	Cathy Yost	Todd Speece
Scripture	SS Students		Bill Edrington		
Hospitality	Michelle Lubnow, Anne Redding	Resides & Edrington Families	Sayler Family	Char Gosselink	Keith Family
Counters	Bonnie Yost, Andrea Testa	Bill Edrington, Lucy Barber	Linda Ardao, Leslie Siebert	Bill Edrington, Tina Larsen	Bart Yost, Todd Speece

JULY	7 - Communion	14	21- Family	28
Greeters				
Acolyte				
Children’s Chat	n/a		Cathy Yost	
Scripture				
Hospitality	Casey Family	Don & Gloria Rising	Carol Swingle & Tina Larsen	Pam Onyx & Leslie Siebert
Counters	Beth Sayler, Al Benner-Smith	Bonnie Yost, Andrea Testa	Bill Edrington, Lucy Barber	Linda Ardao, Leslie Siebert

7/7 Comm. Servers: Bill Edrington, Leslie Siebert, Beth Sayler, Andrea Testa

Our Saturday Worship Service

United Church of Christ East Goshen has been enjoying an additional service on Saturdays at 5:30 pm. We pray that folks seeking a Saturday evening worship experience can come to know the unconditional love of God that is presented every Sunday morning from our pulpit! For all those looking for a new time of day to sing God’s praise; a more informal setting (we gather in Fellowship Hall), a new experience of refreshing spiritual uplift, come and give our Roots & Roofs a try. You will be

welcomed with a UCC East Goshen extravagant welcome!

Follow us on Facebook. Search for Roots and Roofs

“Café Script,” the Pastor’s discussion group meets on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to 12:00 noon beginning. Please come out and share in this opportunity for in-depth discussion.

Church Financial Update

Consistent with our commitment to keep you informed of our financial situation, the Council wants you to know that as of the end of April, we are in good financial shape. Our year-to-date income was \$46,500 more than budget. This extra income was primarily from Roots and Roofs, in both envelopes and loose offering. Our year-to-date expenses were \$1,000 less than budget. At the end of April, our budget showed a deficit of \$44,862. Our actual deficit at the end of April was \$4,400. The \$8,000 balance in the checking account at the end of 2018 has helped us to stay current on all expenses.

We thank you for your consistent and generous giving. Our ministry and programs continue to thrive with your commitments.

Your Church Council

Welcome Doug Holder!

We extend a warm welcome our new Director of Music Ministry, Rev. Douglas

Holder to UCC East Goshen. Doug shares the following information as a way of introduction.

Rev. Holder is a native of Reading, PA. He studied piano and organ with Eunice Maurer in Reading, and voice with Berenice Yingling in Orlando, Florida, where he also completed his Pastoral internship.

Doug is a Graduate of Albright College (BA Religion), in Reading, and Lancaster Theological Seminary (M. Divinity). Doug pastored three UCC churches and has served as Director of Music for both UCC and Lutheran churches.

Music has always been an integral part of his ministry. Doug's prayer has always been that both text and music speak to the listener's heart, and might bring them close to God and Jesus Christ.

Doug and his husband John have been together for 17 years, and have three grown children and three grandchildren. Doug and John are excited to be here at UCC East Goshen and look forward to sharing wonderful music together!

Surrey Services to Expand at UCCEG

Due to the initial success of their programs at UCCEG, Surrey Services has decided to add a third day to their schedule. Council has approved the use of our facility on Fridays in addition to Tuesdays and Thursdays. This change will take effect in August. If you haven't had a chance to look into their programs, please review the posted events offered!

Boscov's Coupons

Once again, we are participating in Boscov's "Friend Helping Friends." This program helps non-profits by having a special sale day in October. Boscov's offers 20% off coupons good on that day, which are available for a \$5 contribution to the non-profit. UCC east Goshen has coupons available. Please see Beth Saylor to purchase or help sell these coupons. Thank you.

Mission Opportunity

Many of you know that we are supporting a young woman named Nataly from Peru, so she can pursue a nursing degree. Due to a misunderstanding in translation, it is actually going to cost \$1045 per year in tuition and we only budgeted \$420. During a Mission Moment during the service on May 5, the congregation was asked to consider making a special offering to help cover the difference until some plans could be made for a fundraiser. Any donations should be noted specifically for Nataly when placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile outreach. To those who have already donated, thank you!

A HUGE SHOUTOUT TO THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH! The youth met after the Mission Moment and agreed to give \$345 of Youth Group money to support Nataly! They also volunteered to hold a fundraiser to help in the future. Any questions please contact Bonnie Yost.

Apple Butter Is Coming!

On September 28, 2019 we'll have our annual Apple Butter Festival. This is the biggest, most important fundraiser of the year for our church. There are opportunities for all to join in the fun and share in the festivities. Beginning in June we'll be having organizational meetings every other week after Sunday services to help keep us thinking of our plans for this grand festival. In June we'll be meeting on the 9th and the 23rd. In July, we'll meet on the 7th and the 21st. Mark your calendars to help plan this year's event. Bring your fresh ideas and a willingness to share. Talk to Todd Speece (610) 639-9269 if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!

Food and Grocery Donations

The Mission and Outreach team at UCCEG have agreed that going forward all food and grocery donations will be given to the **West Chester University Resource Pantry**. Our collection focus will change every few months to match their needs. For June and July 2019, the focus is on PERSONAL



HYGIENE AND PAPER PRODUCTS. All those extra toothbrushes and toothpaste, body wash and sanitary products you have lying around are desperately needed. Stick some extra paper towels and toilet paper in the cart on your next grocery run! Please bring to church at any time and leave your donations in the labelled boxes for delivery to the Resource Pantry. Thank you for your continued support of those in need in our community!

Amazon Smile

Thank you to those who have shopped on Amazon Smile and chosen UCCEG as their charity! Please spread the word and encourage your friends and family to choose UCCEG. Every little bit helps! Amazon’s fundraising program will donate .5% of all qualified purchases directly to UCC EG. Log on to smileamazon.com. Select United Church of Christ East Goshen (spell out full name) as your charity. You will see the same website as amazon.com. So, shop as you normally would and support UCC East Goshen while you shop at smile.amazon.com.

Flowers at the front of the Sanctuary



If you are interested in sponsoring flowers in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an event, please pick a date and sign up on the sheet hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex!

The cost is \$15.00 for one vase or \$25.00 for two vases.

Election Day Bake Sale

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Women’s Group Bake Sale on Election Day! We sold \$300.00 of homemade goodies. We also sold all but one jar of the remaining Apple Butter and some of the Equal Exchange chocolate. It was a good day for UCCEG!

JUNE CALENDAR

June 1	5:30 PM	Roots & Roofs Worship
June 2	10:00 am	Sunday Worship
	11:15 am	Fellowship
June 4	10:30 am	Café Script
June 6	10:30 am	Salvation Army Meal
June 8	5:30 pm	Roots & Roofs Worship
June 9	10:00 am	Sunday Worship,
		Pentecost
	11:15 am	Fellowship
	11:30 am	Apple Butter Meeting
June 11	8:30 am	Senior Center Breakfast

	10:30 am	Café Script
June 15	3:30 pm	Baptism
	5:30 pm	Roots & Roofs Worship
June 16	10:00 am	Sunday Family Worship
		Father’s Day
	11:15 am	Fellowship
June 17	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
June 18	10:30 am	Café Script
June 22	5:30 pm	Roots & Roofs Worship
June 23	10:00 am	Sunday Worship
	11:15 am	Fellowship
	11:30 am	Apple Butter Meeting
June 29	5:30 pm	Roots & Roofs Worship
June 30	10:00 am	Sunday Worship
	11:15 am	Fellowship
	11:30	Apple Butter Meeting
Every Sunday 3:00 – 5:00 pm – Concordia Choral Arts		
Every Monday 7:00 pm – AA Meeting		
Every Tuesday 7:30 pm – GA Meeting		
Every Tuesday and Thursday 9am-3pm – Surrey Services for Seniors		

JULY CALENDAR

July 2	10:30 am	Café Script
July 6	5:30 pm	Roots & Roofs Worship
July 7	10:00 am	Sunday Worship/ Communion Shared
	11:30 am	Apple Butter Meeting
July 9	8:30 am	Sr. Center Breakfast
	10:30 am	Café Script
July 13	5:30 pm	Roots & Roofs Worship
July 14	10:00 am	Sunday Worship
July 15	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
July 16	10:30 am	Café Script
July 20	5:30 pm	Roots & Roofs Worship
July 21	10:00 am	Family Worship
	11:15	Fellowship
	11:30 am	Apple Butter Meeting
July 23	10:30 am	Café Script
July 27	5:30 pm	Roots & Roofs Worship
July 28	10:00 am	Sunday Worship
	11:15 am	Fellowship
July 30	10:30 am	Café Script