

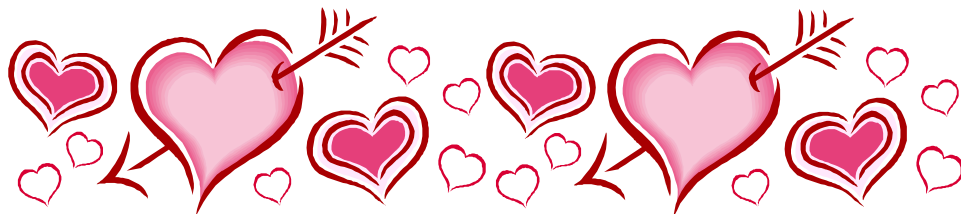


St. John's United Church of Christ
501 East Main Street
Evans City, PA 16033
February Messenger

Dated Material: please deliver promptly



- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 5 | Communion |
| February 12 | Healing Service |
| February 19 | Transfiguration Sunday/Baptism |
| February 22 | Ash Wednesday |
| February 25 | Chili Cook-off, Bingo Night and Solid Rock Cafe |
| February 26 | Lenten Luncheons begin |





2012

St. John's United Church of Christ of Evans City February Newsletter

Rev. Dr. Verna Call - Pastor
revcall@zoominternet.net
Office – 724-538-8124
www.StJohnsEvansCity.com

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Worship Service 10:00 A.M.
Office email-stjohnsevanscity@zoominternet.net

News from Penn West Conference



Interim Conference Minister Char Burch

The Penn West Conference is looking forward to meeting and working with Rev. Char (Charlene) Burch as she begins her ministry with us January 15, 2012. Her previous experience in a wide number of Conference settings as interim Conference Minister and Conference staff and her knowledge of and experience in the wider UCC and colleagues is a wonderful resource for the next part of the Penn West Conference journey.

The interim or transition is similar to the experience of local churches. The interim time is a reflective time to look over the past to carry forward that which is valued and the essential ministries and missions, discern a vision and

mission for the Conference, enhance partnerships with the ministries and missions carried out through churches, pastors and lay leaders, and look to welcome new ministerial leadership. Recently in Greensburg to look for housing and to meet with Moderator Earl Mostoller and Alan McLarty, Char expressed her excitement and anticipation in the opportunities in the Conference. "As people have heard I am coming to the Penn West Conference," she noted, "I have had many pastors and lay people tell me about their past ministries and families in the area. This has picked my interest even more."

WHERE'S PASTOR?

- February 3 Bible Study at Ritzert Hall @ 10:30 am
- February 6 Exec. Association Meeting at Trinity UCC, Dorseyville @ 1:00 pm
- February 9 Evans City Ministerium meeting @ 10:00 am
- February 24 Penn West Board Meeting in Greensburg from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Worship Information

February 5 5th Sunday after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Sermon "Sustaining Ministry"

Children's Message Spread the Good News

February 12 6th Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 5:1-14

Mark 1:40-45

Sermon "Healing Presence"

Children's Message Healing Touch

February 19 Transfiguration

2 Kings 2:1-12

Mark 9:2-9

Sermon "Thin Places"

Children's Message Elijah

February 22 Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon "Stepping Out"

February 26 First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

Sermon "Stepping Out with God's Promises"

Children's Message The Streets

Daffodil Days

St. John's will be participating in the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days. Celebrating Daffodil Days is much more than enjoying beautiful flowers; it's about sharing hope for a world free of cancer.



You can place an order for the following products by signing up on the sheet in the narthex or calling or emailing your request to the church office by February 15th.

Bunch of Daffodils	\$10.00
Mini Potted Daffodils	12.00
Vintage Vase and a Bunch	15.00
Bear and a Bunch	25.00

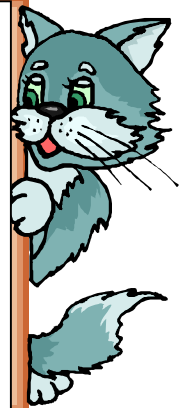
Delivery will be on Sunday, March 25, 2012.

Thanks for your support!

A Word of Thanks;

Thanks to my church family for all the phone calls, cards, prayers and well wishes during my down time in Jan. The surgery went well and I know that it helped knowing I had so many folks sending good thoughts my way!

Carol Kingsbury



Bible Study will resume on Monday, February 13th at 10:00am. It will be held every Monday, **except** for the first Monday of the month. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Pastor Verna.

Minister's Reflections

STEPPING OUT

From the desk of Pastor Verna



Above is a photo of my grandson, Will, in a multiple shot of him jumping. Oh, to be young again and have the physical ability, fearlessness, and agility to take such a leap. As I get older, I worry about breaking bones instead of having the sheer joy and freedom of just stepping out despite the risks. I may not be able to jump with ease anymore, but I can still recapture some of the same feelings when stepping out with courage to face life's dangers and tough moral decisions.

What helps us to be able to face those difficult moments and act with courage is our faith in Jesus Christ. He not only showed us the way through his teachings and life, but also through providing us the power of the Holy Spirit and the support of fellow disciples in a spirit-filled community. We need a moral compass that is open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a world where our culture encourages us to look out for one's self, instead of embodying the altruistic sacrificial love of Christ.

Consider the difference between the captain and the violinist on the doomed Costa Concordia. While the captain is accused of abandoning his ship, the violinist on board spent precious moments helping numerous children put on their life jackets before perishing while trying to retrieve his violin. It is

obvious who acted in a more Christ-like way. The one guided by values of caring became a hero, while the other driven by self-preservation became a coward. Few of us will be tested in such a horrific way, but none of us can escape making tough decisions about doing the right thing at our workplace, at school, at home, and in our communities. When based on strong Christian values, our actions can be life-changing and affirming.

It is during this season of Lent, that I invite you to step out in faith and join us, starting with the Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd. Each Sunday of Lent, I will offer a deeper understanding of how Christ stepped out in his lifetime and how we can step out as disciples today. My sermons will cover how to step out: with God's promises, in the face of risks, with justice, in the light, with passion, and in faithfulness.

As in the past there will also be Lenten lunches. This year, there will be a showing of a new movie entitled, "Courageous" which will be presented in five installments followed by a brief discussion. It is described as: "Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. When tragedy strikes home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering." It shows how when men have the courage to make the right decisions as fathers, their actions can change lives, including their own. This is a message that is not limited to fathers, but is for all who seek more meaningful and committed relationships in their lives.

It is time for us to claim our role as Christians and not be afraid to stand for the values that make us strong in the face of difficulties. *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."* (John 15:12-13)



News Around The Church

January Consistory Meeting Highlights

Your 2012 Consistory met for the first time on January 9th. Pastor Call installed Chip Mohan into the position of Elder, and your 2012 Consistory is ready to begin an exciting year at St. John's UCC.

And begin we did, with the wonderful news from our Treasurer Cindy Princeler: **"St. John's ended the 2011 year in the black with a balance of \$1,369.00!!!"** That was not all the good news. We had \$921.00 remaining in the benevolence fund that was to be distributed. Many requests were received for the congregation, and consistory thanks everyone for their input on this decision. We will be sending \$200.00 to the Evans City Salvation Army, Hoffman Homes, The Lighthouse, and VOICE. Pastor Call has an account that she uses for people referred to her that need assistance. The final \$120.00 was put into that account. What a wonderful way to begin the year!

Some upcoming events approved by Consistory during the December and January meeting are:

- Chili Cook Off, February 25th
- Daffodil Days March 19-25
- The return of the Three Rivers Ringers April 21st
- Penn Mar Dinner featuring the North Allegheny Fiddlers May 1st
- Cookies From The Heart and Nativity Display December 1st

Pastor Call reported that the Evans City Ministerium is sponsoring an Evans City community Day at PNC Park June 8, 2012. This event will be a fundraiser for the Evans City Food Cupboard. How many Evans Cityian's can we get in PNC Park? I guess we will find out June 8th!

This year's Consistory Members and Officers are:

Bruce Kingsbury	President
Carl Jones	Vice President
Cindy Princeler	Treasurer
Sue Ann Jones	Secretary
Claudine Grochalski	
Craig Iman	
Gary Marburger	
Chip Mohan	
Beth Painter	
Stella Rape	

St. John's is a busy place! We thank all of you for doing your part to make St. John's **"Someplace Special!!!"**



Gift Card Update

It's hard to believe that we have been selling Giant Eagle Gift Cards for three years now! By the beginning of December of 2011, we had sold \$95,000 worth of cards that have earned us \$4,750.00 !!! Those monies are used in The Shine Campaign.

If you have purchased cards, thank you! You were part of a fund raiser that is quick and easy and adds up! If you haven't purchased any cards and need the details, just ask Carol Kingsbury or Stella Neely. It's easy to purchase the cards and you can use a check or cash. When you use your cards at the store for groceries or other types of gift cards, you earn fuel perks.

Thanks ! Carol Kingsbury

Confirmation News:

After a wonderful Christmas we welcomed the New Year, 2012. During January and February with the weather so unpredictable, we find doing our class work, and projects close to home a good idea. January 29th is an important date to the Students. That is the date their reports are due. They each chose a book of the Bible to read, and then were to write a description of the book, what they learned about God's people and God and/or Jesus, and what was their favorite passage. They will be sharing all of this with their fellow students and mentors, and I'm sure they would share it with you if asked.

During January we sent cards with a note to our shut-ins and member's that are ill, and will be creating Valentine's to send to Sergeant Michael Clawson serving in Afghanistan. Some upcoming dates to remember are:

- Tuesday, March 13th – Serving a meal to the Neighborhood Academy
- Wednesday, March 21st – Packing the Project Hope Bags and delivering the hearts made by the quilters for Project Hope
- Sunday, April 8th – Confirmation of Michael Iman

Watch for this group each Sunday serving as Acolytes and Lectors!!!

Sue Ann Jones

Just a Reminder



I know it seems like spring will never get here, but it is just around the corner. And with spring comes spring cleaning. Hopefully you will remember the St. John's Rummage Sale while you are busy cleaning and save any usable item you no longer want for the rummage sale.

Evans City Food Cupboard Item for February



Cereal

Thank You

A thank you for the continuing support of St. John's was received from the Evans City Food Cupboard. They have been serving an average of 95 families per month. They served 99 families in December and also gave Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to 110 families.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame and help support the Food Cupboard



The Evans City Ministerium is sponsoring a night at PNC Park on Friday, June 8th. The cost is \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for ages 14 and under. The Pirates are playing the Kansas City Royals and it is **FREE T-SHIRT FRIDAY**. This event will benefit the Evans City Food Cupboard. You can sign up at church or by calling the church office at 724-538-8124. Deadline is February 26th, so we know how many tickets to order.

February Anniversaries



27 Bert & Barb Enslin

Christmas Memories

I would bet each and everyone has a special memory from around the holidays. Perhaps as a child, you received a special gift or spent time with a cherished relative. Maybe as a parent, you saw the excitement and joy in your children's faces! The family dinners, the candlelight church services, the special family traditions, the Christmas story told again and heard anew, these are the things we hold dear.

Well, those of you who participated in this year's gift tree were part of someone's Christmas memories. We delivered eight gifts to Evergreen Nursing Home and eighteen gifts to the Evans City Elementary School. I must tell you that taking the gifts to the school, I barely got them all in my car. There were certainly some big ones this year!

What ever your situation is, I'm sure you'll all agree that we are very blessed. Thank you for sharing your time and money to give a gift this year and make a smile appear and a memory happen for someone in our community. Your kindness was greatly appreciated and I hope it was a sweet memory for you to be part of someone else's happiness.

Thank you, Carol Kingsbury

Thanks to all of my St. John's friends for your love and support in the recent passing of my mother, Ona Baird. She was a beautiful, gracious, giving servant of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I know that she is singing and dancing in the light of His eternal love now. Please continue to pray for our family as we make our way forward and discover life without her constant presence.

In Christ's love and peace-

Sincerely,
Sharon Baird Auth



Birthdays this month

4 Alexandra Miller	5 Helen Herb
5 Laura Kingsbury	7 Bob Yohn
9 Andy Parrotto	14 Kylee Smith
15 Pete Ekstam	18 David Jones
19 Dave Greenawalt	20 Bert Enslin
21 Sharon Auth	22 Tammy Herb
22 Carol Kingsbury	25 Stella Rape
25 Don Hicks	26 Judy Smith

**Deadline for
March Messenger
February 19, 2012**

Solid Rock Café Youth Group

The Solid Rock Café Youth Group will meet on Saturday, February 25, at the church to participate in the Mardi Gras Night at St. John's. We will participate in the Chili Cook Off and play bingo. Please let me know if you are interested in entering your own chili or if you'd like to help create the Solid Rock Café Chili.



Thank you everyone!

Outreach Committee is excited by the giving of **Time, Talent and Treasure** at St. John's UCC. Our church family has again stepped up to the plate in 2011. There is another article in this newsletter about the giving of **Treasure** for benevolence, but there are also many thank you's to be said for the giving of **Time & Talent**.

Thank you's to our pastor for all her time and caring for us, to Nancy for all she does as secretary, to those who shared their speaking talent and interests with us, to the Consistory members and president Bruce, to Donna for sharing her musical talent with us, to Patty and Bob, our associate organists, to Diane and all her teachers and helpers for the Sunday School classes, to Sue Ann for planning all the Confirmation Class activities, to Amber for taking care of the nursery every Sunday, to Susan and those involved in the *Called to Care* mission, to Carol for her leadership for Lenten lunches & other projects, to Mary for decorations and paraments, to Steve for his work on our webpage and recording our services.

There are also many thank you's to the Property Committee for keeping us warm and safe, to our sexton for cleaning the church, to the P3T members for planning our evolving worship service, to the sound crew members, to the announcers and lectors on Sunday mornings, to the choir and musicians each Sunday, to all the other various committee members, to the helpers & people who donated for the rummage sale, cookie bakers & helpers for *Cookies from the Heart*, to those sharing their talent at *St. John's Got Talent*, to the preparers of fellowship goodies, to all the supporters of our programs.

We know that this list will never be complete for there are many unsung heroes in our community who are very much appreciated and are also important to the vibrancy and

ministry of St. John's now and in the past. We encourage you to express your thanks to those who give so much of their time and talent at St. John's.

A very heartfelt thank you to everyone!

2011 Benevolences

Our giving to benevolence for 2011 totaled \$9,438 and all of it was sent out to good use.

Through Penn West Conference:

OCWM	\$3,000
Neighbors in Need	371
OGHS	978
Strengthen the Church	132
Veterans of the Cross	447

Yeah! 5 for 5 again!

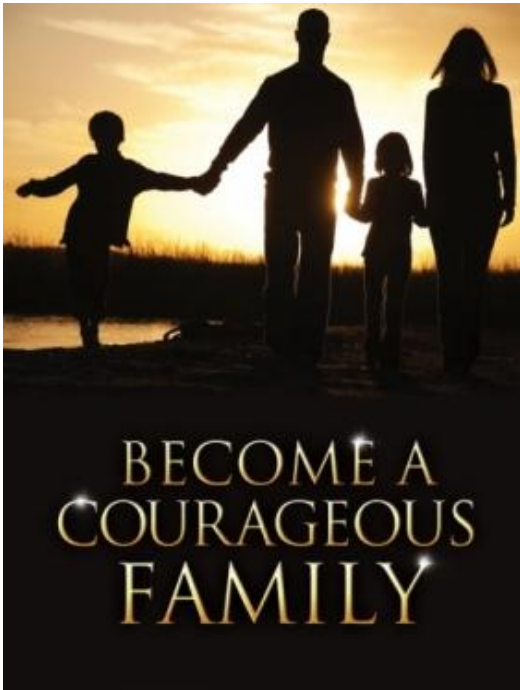
St Paul's Home	163
PWC Capital Improvements	500
PWC 2012 Budget Support	200
Living Waters Camp	500

Other Benevolences:

Amer Cancer Daffodils	274
Critter Care (VBS)	352
Confirmation Class Breast Cancer Walk	60
Pgh Assoc Apportionmt	415
EC Food Cupboard	500
EC VFD	500
Lancaster Theo Seminary	125
The Lighthouse	200
Pastor's Fund-gas cards	120
Hoffman Homes for Youth	200
EC Salvation Army	200
VOICe	200

Be Courageous this Lenten Season

During the Sundays in Lent, St. Johns will provide a light lunch in the Narthex. Following lunch, you are invited into the Sanctuary where we will watch and discuss the movie "Courageous". Courageous is about four men who are called to serve and protect. When tragedy strikes, they are left wrestling with their hopes, fears, faith, and fathering. Protecting the streets is second nature to these men. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous.



We were made to be courageous.
We were made to lead the way.
We could be the generation,
That finally breaks the chains.
We were made to be courageous.

It's Back and Better Than Ever

In case you haven't already heard, the St. John's website is back in operation. Go to stjohnsevanscity.com to view it.

At this time there are seven sections to the website:

Home page – Mission Statement and recorded services

About Us – Office hours

News – Announcements

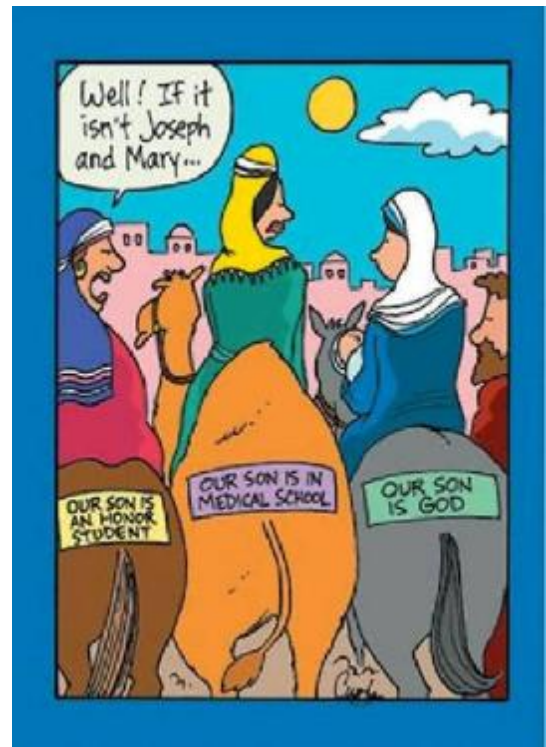
Our Ministries – Still being worked on

Newsletter – The church Messenger

Directions – Directions and maps to St. John's

Links – Links to websites of interest

Thanks to Steve & Kacie Umpirowicz for their hard work in designing the site.





&



Get your Chili recipes ready for the St. John's Chili Cook-off and BINGO Night.



Come and see who will be crowned . . .

Chili King or Queen

Mark your calendars and come join the fun.

WHEN: *Saturday, February 25*

TIME: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

COST: *Donations accepted*



KICK-OFF:

Sunday, February 26

COLLECTION:

Sunday, March 18



Hmmm. OGHS, Crayons, Chinese take-out container, chopsticks!

What does it all mean? How do they go together?

All will be revealed at the OGHS Kick-off on Sunday, February 26. See you then.



CHURCH INFORMATION UPDATE!

Have any of the following changed?

Address

Phone Number






Cell Phone Number

E-mail Address

If so, please contact the church office
at 724-538-8124
or stjohnsevanscity@zoominternet.net
so we can update your records.

Thanks!


February
2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>Musicians 6:00 pm Praise Music 6:30 pm Choir 7:15 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Ground Hog Day</p> 	3	4
5	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Consistory 7:00 pm</p>	7	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>Musicians 6:00 pm Praise Music 6:30 pm Choir 7:15 pm</p>	9	10	11
<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>Lincoln's Birthday</p> <p>Sunday School-9:00am Worship-10:00am Handbells-after worship</p>	13	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>Called to Care 6:00 pm Quilters 6:00 pm</p> 	15	16	17	18
19	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>President's Day</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 am</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>Mardi Gras</p> <p>Outreach 7:00 pm</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>Washington's Birthday</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm Choir after service</p>	23	24	25
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>Sunday School-9:00am Worship-10:00am Handbells-after worship Lenten Luncheon</p>	27	28	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>Musicians 6:00 pm Praise Music 6:30 pm Choir 7:15 pm</p>			<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>Chili Cook-off, Bingo Night, & Solid Rock Cafe 5:00 – 7:00</p> 

Get these printable calendars for any dates you need with CalendarsThatWork.com Full Access.