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

Dated Material: please deliver promptly

Upcoming Events

December 3	Cookies from the Heart / The Art of the Nativity
December 4	Communion
December 10	Three Rivers Ringers
December 11	A Christmas Brunch
December 18	Christmas Fund Collection
December 18	Youth Babysitting
December 24	Christmas Eve Services
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	Communion

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2011/2012

St. John's
United Church of Christ of Evans City
December/January Newsletter

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

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service 9:30 A.M
Office email-stjohnsevanscity@zoominternet.net

Greetings to the Members of Penn West Conference:

The Penn West Conference Board of Directors is delighted to announce the Calling of the Rev. Ms. Char Burch to serve as our Interim Conference Minister. To introduce Rev. Burch, we enclosed a brief overview of her extensive interim ministries in Conferences from Hawaii to Pennsylvania.

The Board devoted more than an hour to a conversation with Rev. Burch about her experience and her approach to interim ministry. As noted in the overview, she spoke about the uniqueness in each setting and the need to "get grounded" in the Conference as we work together. Asked what the shortest and longest interims she served were, she noted the interim in Hawaii was "only 11 months" to the groans of the Board members. Her longest was in the Northwest Ohio Association for five years during a Conference wide reorganization. One member of the search committee spoke for the search committee about Char's experience: "I am excited about the possibilities that Char can bring to PWC and our churches. She has helped conferences across the country identify who they are and who they want to be, while starting the process of implementing change as well as vision for the future." Her interest in and excitement for the ministry in the Penn West Conference was evident as the conversation continued.

Moderator Earl Mostoller reviewed the interim search process for the Board before introducing the Rev. Burch. The committee, under the guidance and assistance of Ms. Susan Towner-Larsen, Minister for Conference Relations of the United Church of Christ, and comprised of Assistant Moderator Rev. Glenn Sadler, Secretary the Rev. Dr. Verna Call, Treasurer Mr. Tom Croner, Past Moderator Rev. Barry Fillman and Moderator Mr. Earl Mostoller, prepared a job description and composed a publicity blurb designed to publicize the position. Very quickly, ten persons expressed interest and eight submitted profiles.

After reviewing the profiles and references, several were selected and the candidates were personally interviewed. At the conclusion of the process, the committee introduced the Rev. Char Burch to the Board as their unanimous choice as Interim Conference Minister.

After completing her term as Associate Interim Minister of Penn Central Conference on December 31, 2011, Char will begin her duties on January 15, 2012. She has pledged to remain as Interim until a permanent successor to Rev. Alan McLarty is named.

Please plan to attend an installation and "Get acquainted" reception will be held in early 2012.

In the service of Christ,

Penn West Conference
Board of Directors
L:\Alan\Board of Directors 2011-2012\Burch announcement ltr.doc

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Worship Information

December 4 Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11
Mark 1:1-8
Sermon **"**Flagman Up Ahead"
Skit Life is But a Dream

December 11 Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
Sermon **"**Discovering the Gift of Joy"
Skit Baby Talk

December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38
Sermon "How Can This Be?"
Skit The Not-So-Silent Night

December 25 Christmas Day
"The Twelve Days of Christmas"
Christmas Day, Dec. 25 – Luke 2:7
Day 1, Dec. 26 – Saint Stephen's Day– Acts 6:8,9a; 7:54-60
Day 2, Dec. 27 – Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist– John 21:20-24
Day 3, Dec. 28 – The Holy Innocents– Matthew 2:13-18
Day 4, Dec. 29 – Nativity – Luke 2:13-16
Day 5, Dec. 30 - The Holy Family – Luke 2:25-32
Day 6, Dec. 31 – Watch Night – Matthew 25:31-36, 40
Day 7, Jan. 1- Mary, Mother of Our Lord – Luke 2:16-19
Day 8, Jan. 2 – Incarnation – John 1:14
Day 9, Jan. 3 – Baptism – John 1:26-27, 29-30
Day 10, Jan. 4 – Peace – "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 1,2 Chalice Carol #2
Day 11, Jan. 5 – Eve of Epiphany – Matthew 2:1-2
Day 12, Jan. 6 – Epiphany – Matthew 2:9-1
Skit: A Savior in a Manger

January 1 New Years Day/Communion
Psalm 148
Luke 2:22-40
Sermon **"**A New Day is Dawning"
Children's Message Anna and Simeon

January 8 The Baptism of Christ
Genesis 1:1-5
Mark 1:4-11
Sermon **"**New Beginnings"
Children's Message Washed with Water

January 15 Second Sunday after Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10
John 1:43-51
Sermon **"**Called and Recalled"
Children's Message Hearing God's Message

January 22 Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah3:1-5, 10
Mark 1:14-20
Sermon **"**Moving Forward"
Children's Message Following Jesus

January 29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Mark 1:21-28
Sermon **"**With Authority"
Children's Message Healing Touch

Christmas Eve Services

Join us for a family service at 7:00 pm. We will worship with familiar carols and a special skit, "Mary, Joseph and the Baby". We will have communion and the singing of Silent Night by candlelight.

Join us for a traditional service at 9:00 pm. Pastor Verna will share the message "The Reason for the Season" and there will be special music. This service will have communion and the singing of Silent Night by candlelight.

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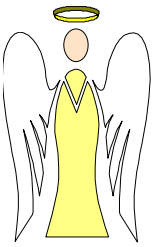
Minister's Reflections

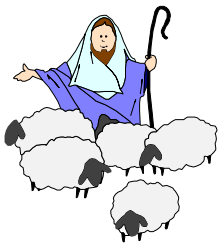
"For Unto Us a Child is Born"

From the desk of Pastor Verna

There is a memory of Christmas that I cherish from my childhood. Every year we had a Christmas Pageant at my church. Adults, teens, and children in the church took part in the story of Christmas presented to our community. The story each year was about the first Christmas complete with angels, shepherds, wisemen, and of course the holy family. It did not matter if the scripts we used were different each year. What did matter was hearing the story retold of the birth of baby Jesus. It was just as important as putting up a Christmas tree or placing a wreath on the front door. Christmas would not have been the same.



As a child, I got to be one of the children that had nonspeaking roles. We dressed in Biblical outfits often as small shepherds or angels. The most prized nonspeaking role was to be chosen as the chief angel standing over the Christ child in the manger scene. My turn finally came to be that angel and I was thrilled. My job was to stand as still as I could on a platform with arms raised up wearing the traditional halo, white gown, and angel wings. I thought this would be easy until I tried keeping my arms up wearing my angel outfit with spotlights over head. I gained new respect for angels facing difficult assignments from God. But no itchy nose, aching arms, or sweating forehead kept me from being the angel who got to stand over the holy family, visiting shepherds, and Magi.



During the Advent season, we will be lighting a special Advent Wreath that depicts scenes of the main characters in the nativity story. On the first Sunday of Advent, we will be lighting the Candle of the Angels. The angels were the messengers from God who spread the good news of Christ's birth and served as guardian angels over the Christ child. On the second Sunday of Advent, we will light the Candle of the Shepherds. These lowly vagabonds were the first to hear the news from the angels and the first to visit the Christ child and spread the word. On the third Sunday of Advent, we will light the Candle of the Magi. They traveled from distant countries to pay homage to a new born king and brought him gifts.

Finally on the fourth Sunday of Advent, we will light the Candle of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She traveled to Bethlehem with Joseph in a time when few women traveled while pregnant. Unlike my role of being a very still angel, each of these characters had places to go and things to do that were important to the mission of sending God's son into the world.

We, too, are on a journey to see once again the wonder and joy that came down that first Christmas, when a child born in a stable offered salvation to the world. The incarnation of God taking on human form and entering our world simply out of love for us is a story that inspires us all to make a difference in a world that still needs to hear the angels say: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!
May you be blessed with peace and happiness in the New Year.

Pastor Verna and Tom

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News Around The Church

Confirmation News:

November found our Confirmation Students being very creative. They sent cards to all the Shut-ins that included a picture of the four of them and a note from one of the students. To write the note they needed a little back ground on the person they were writing to. So you could say it was a St. John's History class, as well as confirmation class. They did a terrific job, and were very creative.

Sixteen jars of bread were baked and yes….they all sealed. With Michael running the mixer, and Corrina and Elizabeth measuring everything we had the jars ready for the oven in no time. The convection oven baked them all at once in record time. These will be distributed to the Evans City Meals on Wheels clients.

Finally after Thanksgiving they will be packing the Evans City Food Cupboard. How fast can 4 confirmation students pack 140 bags? We will let you know!!

This December the students will be helping with the Sunday School appreciation luncheon after church on December 11th. You will get to taste their cooking expertise, so mark your calendars and we hope to see everyone that special day.

This year's curriculum is a study of the Bible. The students, as well as the Mentors, have homework for each class. We are all learning about the Bible together. This past Sunday Pastor distributed "21 God Beliefs". We read them and discussed whether we would answer..Yes or No. When you have 4 Students, 4 Mentors, a Pastor and Me, you can come up with many different thoughts. Here are a couple of examples:

- I believe that God created the world and directs the happenings in it. Yes/No
- I believe that God is aware of what I do. Yes/No
- I believe that God gets involved in human affairs when God wants to. Yes/No
- I believe that the Bible is the word of God. Yes/No
- I believe God exists only inside of people. Yes/No
- I believe that praying can benefit the person who prays, even if God doesn't listen. Yes/No

Makes you think, and creates good conversation!

As always these kids are not only busy, but they are learning…learning what it is to be a Christian, and a member of St. John's. They love t tell you about their activities, and if you have a suggestion let us know.

Sue Ann Jones

December Birthdays

4	Arlene Purvis
5	Mary Jo Yohn
7	George Spithaler
7	Mary Kosinski
8	Tim Iman
10	Dana Sailer
17	Natalie Enslen
17	Bill Rape
23	Chip Mohan
24	Brad Schmid
29	Diana Miller
31	Nancy Miller

December Anniversaries

20	Dave and Sue Ann Jones
30	Tom and Verna Call

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November Consistory Highlights:

Good news from our Treasurer, Cindy Princeler. Our current fund balance remains in the black!! It is news like that, that reminds everyone how blessed we are at St. John's. What a wonderful way to start the business end of a Consistory Meeting! Some of the wonderful happenings discussed were:

- The upcoming Children's Thanksgiving Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, November 19th. Reservations are needed. Have fun being served by some very special **short** members of St. John's family.
- St. John's Got More Talent is scheduled for 11-11-11 with a free will collection to benefit the Evans City Food Cupboard. Word has it that there will be some special talent numbers…..two seasoned trumpet players will dust off their instruments to entertain all.
- Cookie Sale and Nativity Display will be December 3rd. This is a Church fund raiser for the Current Fund. We hope to have lots of bakers, shoppers, and visitors at this wonderful event.
- The Three Rivers Ringers will be performing December 10th.
- Our own team of Bert Enslen and Roe Herb have been at it again….Gutter work has been completed, heat tape installed on the roof area, the front main street doors have been painted, and it never seems like they run out of jobs. Many thanks to both of them for all their hard work!
- St. John's will be hosting the community Thanksgiving Worship Service November 20th.
- Approval was given to purchase 8 MP3 players to start recording our Sunday Services. We will need several people to help trade out the MP3 player each week with our shut-ins. If you would like to help with this outreach project please contact a member of Consistory.
- Approval was given for Steve Umpirowicz to begin the change of our Web site. We will soon have a new web page. One of the links on the page will allow anyone who missed the Sunday Service, or event held in the sanctuary, to go to the web page, and with just a click listen to what happened at St. John's. What a wonderful outreach this will be for not just our shut-ins but for everyone.
- Pastor Call will be taking a 6 week sabbatical in lieu of her 3 month contractual sabbatical in 2012. Details and exact date of the sabbatical are yet to be finalized.
- Fair Trade Coffee and Tea prices will be going up. We use the purchased Coffee during all the dinners and fellowship times at St. John's. With the increase in prices we will not be able to keep this service in the black. There will be a collection basket in the Narthex to help offset the cost of the coffee.
- Christian Education Committee asked that the Tiny Tot's Sunday School room not be used for rummage sale items. There is talk about needing that room this spring for some new Tiny Tot's!!

Whew! What wonderful things are happening at St. John's!! It is the time of year that we all realize how blessed we are. We, your Consistory Members, would like to take this time to thank all of you at St. John's for all the work you have done to complete the many projects that have happened this year. I'm sure when the Annual Report is printed we will realize why we were so tired, but in looking back it was a "Good Feeling"! As you travel and spend time with Family and Friends have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sue Ann Jones
Consistory Secetary

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You may order a festive poinsettia to adorn our sanctuary during the holiday season. Orders need to be in the church office by Dec. 18th.

Poinsettia Order Form

Number of Flowers _____ **@ $4 each**
Amount Enclosed _____

Your Name:

_____

In Memory of:

_____

In Honor of:

_____

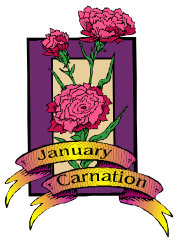
Other:

_____

I will pick up _____
Leave for Shut in _____

January Birthdays

7 John Bouck
10 Claudette Malick
10 Lauren Bouck
12 Gary Marburger
13 Ernie Calwell
16 Kayla Enslen
16 Benjamin Schmid
16 Madison Parrotto
16 Nicholas Parrotto
17 Mary Remele
17 Sophie Waugaman
18 Beth Painter
19 David Miller
20 Tim Green
28 Ray Cumberledge
31 Lucy Senn



January Anniversaries

18 Don and Cindy Princeler

On December 18, from 4-8 pm the teens and sponsors of the Solid Rock Café will be offering a **FREE** babysitting service to parents that would like to spend some time together or finish up that Christmas shopping without the kids! Dinner will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. This is an excellent way to serve one another!

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You're invited to . . . . .

A CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Sponsored by
Sunday School Classes
(Preschool – Senior High)

WHEN: Sunday, December 11
TIME: 11:00 am (after worship)
WHERE: Naftsinger Social Hall

Come enjoy the food and entertainment provided by the Youth of St. John's. This is their Christmas present to you.

TRUNK-or-TREATING

Was

SPOOKTACULAR!!!!

Many thanks to all who helped make our "indoor" trunk-or-treating so much fun.

To the "trunk" and "caldron" sponsors, we thank you for the delectable sweets.

To our official photographer, Stella, thank you for helping to capture the excitement of the day.

Special thanks to Bill Malick for the awesome Halloween Train display!!!! It was the best treat of the day.

Everyone had a great time and we are already planning new "haunts" for 2012. See you next year ---- if you dare!!

GLADE RUN

"a bridge to a brighter future through lifelong learning"

Hi, my name is
LOVE, the Pig

You can find me sitting on the small table at the back of our sanctuary.

You may not know this, but I have a really important job. I help to support the Glade Run Adventures Therapeutic Animal program at Glade Run in Zelienople. I'm not a picky eater – I like all types of coins and paper money. Everything I eat goes toward helping the kids at Glade Run.

Next time you pick up your bulletin for worship, stop and say hello and if you want drop a snack or two for me to eat. I'm always hungry and your "treats" will never go to waste!

God Bless, Love the Pig

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December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 **Bible Study** 9:00 am	2 Consistory Reports Due	3 **Cookies from the Heart** 10:00 am - sold out **The Art of the Nativity** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
4 **Confirmation**-9:00am **Sunday School**-9:00am **Worship**-10:00am **Handbells**-after worship	5 **Consistory** 7:00 pm	6 **Called to Care** 6:30 pm	7 **Musicians** 6:00 pm **Praise Music** 6:30 pm **Choir** 7:15 pm	8 **Bible Study** 9:00 am	9	10 **Three Rivers Ringers** 8:00 pm
11 **Sunday School**-9:00am **Worship**-10:00am **Christmas Brunch** 11:00am	12 **P^{3}T** 7:00 pm	13 **Quilters** 6:00 pm	14 **Musicians** 6:00 pm **Praise Music** 6:30 pm **Choir** 7:15 pm	15 **Bible Study** 9:00 am	16	17
18 **Confirmation**-9:00am **Sunday School**-9:00am **Worship**-10:00am **Handbells**-after worship **Free Babysitting from 4 – 8 pm**	19	20	21 **Musicians** 6:00 pm **Praise Music** 6:30 pm **Choir** 7:15 pm	22 **Bible Study** 9:00 am	23	24 **Christmas Eve Services** 7:00 pm 9:00 pm
25 Merry Christmas **No Sunday School** **Worship**-10:00am	26	27 **Quilters** 6:00 pm	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

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

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January
2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **Sunday School**-9:00am **Worship**-10:00am	2	3	4 **Musicians** 6:00 pm **Praise Music** 6:30 pm **Choir** 7:15 pm	5	6	7
8 **Sunday School**-9:00am **Worship**-10:00am **Handbells**-after worship	9 **Christian Ed.** 6:00 pm **Consistory** 7:00 pm	10 **Quilters** 6:00 pm	11 **Musicians** 6:00 pm **Praise Music** 6:30 pm **Choir** 7:15 pm	12 **Bible Study** 9:00 am 	13	14
15 **Confirmation**-9:00am **Sunday School**-9:00am **Worship**-10:00am **Handbells**-after worship	16 **Spring Planning** 7:00 pm	17 **Outreach** 7:00 pm	18 **Musicians** 6:00 pm **Praise Music** 6:30 pm **Choir** 7:15 pm	19 **Bible Study** 9:00 am 	20	21
22 **Sunday School**-9:00am **Worship**-10:00am **Handbells**-after worship	23	24 **Quilters** 6:00 pm	25 **Musicians** 6:00 pm **Praise Music** 6:30 pm **Choir** 7:15 pm	26 **Bible Study** 9:00 am 	27	28
29 **Confirmation**-9:00am **Sunday School**-9:00am **Worship**-10:00am **Handbells**-after worship	30	31				

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