

THE REPORTER

The Reporter is published monthly by:
PENBROOK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
56 BANKS STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17105

*An Open and Affirming Congregation
Of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday Service at 10:30 am
Sunday School at 9:15 am
(717) 236-5275 office@penbrookucc.org www.penbrookucc.org

ONE VOICE

As I write this I am aware that we have come through eighteen months together; and, we have begun a new year. It occurs to me that we may not be aware of how much we have accomplished together. When we stop to look at the calendar and realize how many “daily” activities consume time and energy – things like office visitors, hospital and nursing home and residence visits, meetings both at Penbrook UCC, with the Harrisburg Association Ministerium and the Association and meetings at the Penn Central Conference office with the ONA Commission, the Interim Ministry Community of Practice, the Inter-Religious Forum and the Interfaith Women’s Gatherings, it’s sometimes difficult to realize that we are doing significant ministry together. But we are!

The heart of our ministry occurs when we gather to worship and offer our praise and thanksgiving to the God who calls us and sustains all our efforts. Our worship is blessed and enhanced by our wonderful musical leadership in Brian, Rita and Ruth, the choirs – both bell and vocal -- and the gifts of the River City Singers; and, by all of you who have offered your time and talent to share in worship leadership as liturgists, lay readers, greeters, ushers and acolytes and providing the Moment for the Young at Heart.

We continue to do ministry in our work with MANNA -- thanks to all the faithful volunteers who show up twice on Thursdays and on Friday morning and who help support MANNA by participating in the Move It for MANNA walk/run as well as all who contribute sundry non-food items for MANNA’s guest shoppers. Our support of the Penbrook Learning Center and the educational blessing it provides to nearly 100 children is also our ministry. The visitation ministry with our home-bound members and friends remains a gift to them as well as to us who visit. All of this combined with our participation in rallies and marches for justice and equality, hosting the World Religions Day Celebration, bussing to Baltimore to participate in

worship at the General Synod certainly reflect Penbrook's ministry and contribute to our efforts to ***Be the Church.***

This year has not been without its surprise opportunities and challenges. We have been privileged to share space with and be blessed by the gifts of the River City Singers. We are challenged by our loss of substantial income when Infinity Charter School moved to its own building and plunged PUCC into serious and severe financial debt. Our response to that challenge has been to evaluate the level of our commitment to the PLC and to seek other entities to share the classroom space.

Another opportunity presented itself in the form of an offer to explore the possibility of shared ministry and mission with Ridgeway Church of the Brethren. Conversations around all the possibilities continue to take place and shared meals and worship are also part of the getting-to-know-you dance. These explorations will unfold as 2018 progresses and information will be shared as we move forward.

The Search Committee and the Transition Team continue to work together and the profile is nearing readiness for submission to the Conference and ultimately to the wider UCC. Our ministry here is to keep all who are working on our behalf in the search process in our hearts and prayers for God's refreshment and renewal and for discernment and wisdom.

I am grateful for your openness to doing things a little differently over the year. Several times this year, we've had fun eating breakfast together before informal worship ~ y'all make some good breakfasts! It was also fun to reflect Penbrook's diversity in the creating of the nativity on the chancel this year; and, I thank you for your contributions.

There is much to celebrate as I look back on 2017; and, I am grateful to God and to you for allowing me to share this journey of transition and transformation with you.

Abundant joy!

Rev. Karin

NEXT COMMUNION

We will have the pleasure of celebrating Communion at Penbrook Church on the first Sunday of the Month, February 4. Please plan to join your brothers and sisters in Christ at the Lord's Table on this occasion.

SCHEDULE FOR LENT

Ash Wednesday March 1, 2017 7:00 pm

This will be a brief service that will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Adult Christian Education Dates and times to be determined

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 SERVICE AT RIDGEWAY

A REMINDER: Sunday, February 11, we will worship at Ridgeway Church of the Brethren at 10:30 am. Following worship, we are invited to share lunch with them. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please sign up so we can give Ridgeway an idea of how many will be staying for lunch and community time with them.

THE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

February 4, 2018 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 11, 2018 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6 (UMH 783)
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 14, 2018 Ash Wednesday

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6 (UMH 783)
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 18, 2018 Lent I

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 25, 2018 Lent II

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31 (UMH 752)
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

MISSION OFFERING SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 18)

Our February third Sunday second-mile offering will be dedicated to the PUCG Projects: Rebuilding Our Foundations. We look to build on the successes of 2016 in re-establishing our financial foundations. February's mission focus will be on rebuilding our savings and assuring more solid financial footings as we move forward.

OUR SYMPANTHY

We offer our condolences to the family of Robert Louis Emerick. Robert's memorial service was held on Feb 3. at the church.

MANNA FOOD PANTRY

A Ministry of Penbrook United Church of Christ
in Partnership with Penbrook Church of God

On behalf of the Manna Board of Directors I would like to thank all of you, especially our wonderful volunteers for making Manna Food Pantry what it is today.

We are consistently registering new clients and children almost every week. We take walk-ins if we have open spots on the client list. Manna serves on average 700 to 800 adult clients and on average 200 plus Power Pack kids per month.

The Penn State Hershey Med resident students and nurses continue to visit the pantry twice a month. They gave out free flu shots again this past fall.

Someone does the food ordering and picks up as much healthy and fresh produce on Thursday mornings at the CPF. St. Thomas UCC still delivers bread and pastries from the Weis Market on Tuesday morning. We pick up baked goods, etc. from Panera Bread on Thursday morning.

We want to purchase four more shelves for the Storage room so we can get more items up off the pallets. We can't do this until the leaks are fixed.

The Move it for Manna 5K committee is working on the 2018 5K fund raiser scheduled for Saturday April 7, 2018.

Please keep our clients, volunteer's, and board members in your prayers.
If you or someone you know would like to be considered for the Coordinator (Director) position of Manna Food Pantry please send an email to: manna.foodpantry@gmail.com

Blessings to you all,
Sarah Kempf
Administrator
Manna Food Pantry

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

February Reporter Update

Greetings from your Pastoral Search Committee. The committee consists of the following members:

Tita Domingos
Kim Evanoff
Olivia Grier
Richard Heiss-Chaplain
Linda Houseal
David Salapa-Chair

The Pastoral Search Committee and Transition Steering Committee have finalized the local church profile and forwarded it to Consistory for review and approval. The Consistory has reviewed the local church profile, provided some minor revisions and returned it to the Pastoral Search Committee and Transition Steering Committee. After The Pastoral Search Committee and Transition Steering Committee review and incorporate the revisions to the local church profile, it will be sent to Penn Central Conference for review and validation.

Once Penn Central Conference reviews and validates the local church profile, it will be posted on the UCC web site. Interested ministers will submit their profiles to Penn Central Conference. Penn Central Conference will forward the profiles to the Pastoral Search Committee.

The Pastoral Search Committee will then review the ministerial profiles and interview candidates.

As we move into this next phase of the pastoral search process, please continue to hold the members of the committees in your prayers.

MOVE IT FOR MANNA

Greetings from the Move It For Manna 5K Team! Planning is underway for our **5th Annual Move It For Manna 5K Run/Walk** to be held on **Saturday, April 7th!** The 3.1 mile race will follow the same course as in previous years. Beginning and ending at Penbrook UCC, the course winds through the quiet streets of Penbrook, and includes a beautiful one-mile stretch of the Capital Area Greenbelt. Lots of fun, great post-race refreshments and awesome door prizes await you!

Awards will be given to the Top Overall Male and Female finishers, as well as the 1st and 2nd place finishers in each age group category (20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+).

New this year is our **Youth Division!** Make it a family event -- bring the kids along for some great exercise and family fun! Prizes will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place finishers in the following age categories:

10 & under
11 - 15
16 - 19

Thank you for your past participation and support of the Manna Food Pantry. We hope you can join us again this year as we celebrate 5 years of raising hunger awareness and preventing food insecurity for hundreds of families in Penbrook and surrounding communities.

Registration is open on Active.com. Just follow the link and sign up online today! T-shirts are guaranteed for those who register by March 21st.

<https://www.active.com/harrisburg-pa/running/distance-running-races/move-it-for-manna-2018?int=>

If you prefer to submit a paper registration, you can find the form on the PUCG website at penbrookucc.org. Just print, fill out, and send to the church along with your registration fee.

Not able to participate, but still want to be involved?? Volunteers are needed for various aspects of the event. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex soon!

COME ONE, COME ALL TO MARDI GRAS!

This fun filled annual event will begin in Fellowship Hall Friday February 9, at 6:00 pm. Bring finger food to share AND a white elephant OR homemade item (food, photography, pottery, crochet, etc.) for the Auction. EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE \$1000 in PUCG BUCKS TO BID ON ITEMS!!!! We will have lots of Mardi Gras beads, music from New Orleans, our CAKE WALK IN THE DARK and Fan Favorite, BALLOON VOLLEYBALL!!!! Olivia Grier will be supplying the King's Cake this year, as last year's winner of the "baby". See Becky Boone for more information.

GREEN JUSTICE UPDATE!

Congratulations to Mackenzie and Kristopher Weinhold and Olivia and James Grier for becoming our first Climate Change Heroes young people! They follow in the footsteps of Robin Wheeler, who became our first Climate Change Hero. All of our Heroes completed 10 different activities that showed their understanding of what each of us can do to treat our planet responsibly.

PUCG CELEBRATES 125 YEARS IN 2018

Join PUCG as we celebrate our 125th Anniversary in October 2018. If you would like to help with the preparations, please contact Linda Grier at 717-695-7764 or 717-439-4858

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Believe it or not, Lent is just around the corner! In fact, Ash Wednesday is February 14 -- that's right, Valentine's Day! Just in case that wasn't enough, Easter Day also does double duty as April Fool's Day! You can already imagine the multiple distractions that will attempt to keep us from our observance of this high holy season. Worship will take place as usual with the addition of an Ash Wednesday service, a shared meal and Communion on Maundy Thursday, and a Good Friday Service. (Check the calendar for details.)

With all that threatens to distract and clutter our lives, I know that I need incentive to sit quietly in the spirit of the season and reflect again on my personal and our collective journey to Jerusalem and the cross. To help with our observing quiet, reflective time, the God is Still Speaking writers have produced a devotional guide for Lent entitled *Lovers and Fools*. The booklet will be available in the Narthex as long as the supply lasts. You are invited to help PUCG cover the cost for the books as you are able.

Read, reflect and be blessed!



PUCC WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY, 2018

<p>COMMUNION <i>Sunday</i> 2/4/2018</p>	<p>Liturgist: Linda Grier Greeter: Lorna Owens Acolyte: Children's Time: Head Usher:</p>
<p><i>Sunday</i> SERVICE AT RIDGEWAY CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN</p>	<p>Liturgist: Greeter: Acolyte: Children's Time: Head Usher:</p>
<p><i>Sunday</i> 2/18/2018</p>	<p>Liturgist: Sharon Bosworth Greeter: Lorna Owens Acolyte: Ann Bailey Children's Time: Head Usher:</p>
<p><i>Sunday</i> 2/25/2018</p>	<p>Liturgist: Ann Bailey Greeter: Acolyte: Ann Bailey Children's Time: Luke Ansel Head Usher:</p>

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BNE = Bhutanese Nepali Evangelical Church NA = Narcotics Anonymous	(ASSR) = Adult Sunday School Room (DSS) = Downstairs Sunday School Rooms	(FH) = Fellowship Hall (RR) = Ross Room	(OC) = Off Campus (TBD) = To Be Determined			
				9:30 am: Manna Preparation 6:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am: Manna Preparation	9:00 am: BNE (FH) 11:00 am: Emerick Memorial Service
4 COMMUNION 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:15 am: Men's Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am: BNE Church (FH) 10:30 am: Worship 6:15 pm: A-peeling Too 7:00 pm: A-peeling Praise	5 6:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	6 10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR) 7:00 pm: Manna Board (ASSR)	7 7:00 pm: NA (FH) 7:00 pm: Consistory (ASSR)	8 9:30 am: Manna Preparation 6:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	9 9:30 am: Manna Preparation (TBD)/Mardi Gras	10 9:00 am: BNE (FH)
11 10:00 am: BNE Church (FH) 10:30 am: Worship at Ridgeway 6:15 pm: A-peeling Too 7:00 pm: A-peeling Praise	12 4:00 pm: Delta (FH) 6:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	13 10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR) 7:00 pm: IRF (TBD)	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm: Worship	15 9:30 am: Manna Preparation 6:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	16 9:30 am: Manna Preparation	17 9:00 am: BNE (FH)
18 9:15 am: Sunday School 10:00 am: BNE Church (FH) 10:30 am: Worship 6:15 pm: A-peeling Too 7:00 pm: A-peeling Praise	19 6:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	20 10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR)	21 7:00 pm: NA (FH) 7:00 pm: White Privilege Study Group (OC)	22 9:30 am: Manna Preparation 6:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	23 Reporter Articles Due 9:30 am: Manna Preparation	24 9:00 am: BNE (FH)
25 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:15 am: Men's Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am: BNE Church (FH) 10:30 am: Worship 6:15 pm: A-peeling Too 7:00 pm: A-peeling Praise	26 6:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	27 10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR)	28 7:00 pm: NA (FH) 7:00 pm: White Privilege Study Group (OC)			

FACTS AND FIGURES

FINAL 2017

General Fund	December	YTD
Offering Envelopes	\$10,910.00	\$88,256.00
Budgeted Amount	\$9,615.00	\$100,00.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,295.00)	(\$11,744.00)

Building Fund

Offering Envelope	\$2,135.00	\$19,143.00
Budgeted Amount	\$2,308.00	\$24,000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$173.00)	(\$4,857.00)

2nd Century Fund

Total Giving	\$975.00	\$11,903.21
Budget Amount	\$2,330.00	\$24,250.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,355.00)	(\$12,346.79)

December Mission:

PUCC Christmas Fund \$580.00

SECOND CENTURY FUND

A donations were made by Bob and Elaine Lane and Lorna Owens in memory of Helen Marsh.

SECOND CENTURY BRICKS

2 Bricks each were donated by Muriel Bronakoski in memory of Helen Marsh.

1 Brick each was donated by Donna Bauserman in memory of Helen Marsh.

1 Brick each was donated by Lorna Owens in memory of her father, Julian DeVera Sr.

MEMORIAL FUND

Donations were made by the Heckler family in memory of Derek and James Heckler, Sr

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Karin Stork-Whitson
 Music Director: Brian Johnson
 Organist: Rita Oberman
 Bell Choir Director: Ruth Dunnewold
 Office Staff: George Long and Sharon Bosworth
 CMC Building Manager: Lisa Puliti
 Manna Food Pantry Director:
 Penbrook Learning Center Director: Deanna Hobbs

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT

8:30am to 12:30pm Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
 Telephone and Fax: 717-236-5275
 Email: office@penbrookucc.org
 Website: www.penbrookucc.org

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Articles for the February Reporter are due to the church office **by** than **FEBRUARY 22**. Please keep this in mind when submitting articles that are date sensitive. Thank you for your cooperation. Articles should be e-mailed to: office@penbrookucc.org

MEMBER ASSISTANCE FUND

The church maintains a fund for members and friends of the congregation who are in need of temporary financial assistance. People's rent is increasing, there are basic needs for gas and food. If you have a need for this kind of assistance, we encourage you to talk to Sarah Kempf. Please continue to give to this important fund.

ALTAR COMMITTEE

The altar committee needs more people to join us, (Men or Women). Please call the Church office and leave your name and phone number and I will get in touch with you. Thank you, Linda Grier.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Cancelled services and Manna Food Pantry caused by inclement weather will be announced on the following TV stations: ABC-27 and CBS-21, and on the church website.

OUR SHUT-INS

- **Walda Ansel**, Church of God Home, Personal Care Unit, Rm 223, 801 N Hanover St, Carlisle, PA 17013
- **Dorothy Baker**, Moravian Manor Lititz, 300 W. Lemon St., Rm 246D-HCW, Lititz, PA 17543
- **Charlene Delli**, Claremont, 1000 Claremont Rd., Rm 222, Carlisle, PA 17013
- **Marge Lippert**, 1020 N. Union Street, Room 135A, Frey Village, Middletown, PA, 17057
- **Bill Oberholtzer**, 45 Conestoga Drive, Lititz, PA, 17543, Phone #(717) 581-3372
- **Dot Rodriguez**, Manor Care Health Services, Rm #306, 1700 Market St., Camp Hill, PA 17011
- **Mary Sherk**, 4700 Oakhurst Blvd., Apt 202, Kindered Place. Harrisburg, PA 17110
- **Peggy Stellfox**, Room 235, Frey Village, 1020 N. Union St. Middletown, PA 17057
- **Jeannetta (Jeannie) Wagner**, Frey Village, Phoenix Unit, Room 220, 1020 North Union Street, Middletown, PA 17057

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



We would like to extend a very happy birthday to everyone who is celebrating a birthday in February.

Diane Geise	1 February
Marie Zinn Strobel	1 February
Lauren Wagner	2 February
Susan Sellers	10 February
Michael Ferster	15 February
Ronica Ansel	17 February
Deborah Chantiles	18 February
James Wheeler	20 February
Karin Stork-Whitson	20 February
Janet Hoadley	21 February
Rebecca Emerick	22 February
Gail Mahoney	26 February
Sharon Bosworth	28 February

Note: A complete year list by Month of birthdays are listed in the Church Directory

January Gift of Music

The Work of Christmas, River City Singers, 1/14/18
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDNpghh9iQ>

Penbrook United Church of Christ
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(717) 236-5275

E-Mail - office@penbrookucc.org

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL:

POSTMASTER: Please deliver between 29th through 31th, of January

February



MISSION STATEMENT

The Penbrook United Church of Christ is an accepting, caring, and nurturing community gathering to worship God and welcoming all persons in their journey on the spiritual path.

As faithful stewards, we follow the model of Jesus Christ through loving service to the local community and to the larger world.

We strive in all aspects of our life as a congregation to be a people of courage and a people of peace.