

The Congregator



From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Dan's Doctorate Update

Many of you have been asking about Pastor Dan's doctorate. He has completed four of his seven chapters for his thesis. He is spending a lot of time writing. He needs to have draft one of his complete thesis done by the end of January. At the time of printing this newsletter, Pastor Dan is on pace to complete the first draft by the end of January. In early April, Pastor Dan will need to defend his thesis in front of the faculty and his colleagues via an online conference. Then, God-willing, Pastor Dan will graduate from Lancaster Theological Seminary with his Doctorate of Ministry on Saturday, May 4 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Prayers for him to focus on his work are invited and appreciated.

February Birthday Dinner

For the winter months, we will be celebrating our monthly birthday dinners after worship on the last Sunday of each month. So February birthdays will be celebrated on Sunday, February 25. Please bring a dish to pass or just join us during the coffee hour.

Ash Wednesday to Ash Sunday

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. So as not to compete with this happy holiday, we will be incorporating the imposition of ashes into the first Sunday of Lent on February 18.

In Memory

Long time member Joan Edson passed from this life to the next on January 27. Joan was a member of our church for 68 years. Information for her celebration of life is pending. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Prayer List

Active Prayers

Phyllis Roh, Ron Sovereign, and our elderly and home-bound members.

Continual Prayers

Darleen Behrens, George Drayton, Helen Emelander, Jeanne Haynor, Paul Kunde, Alice Perrin, Delores Wheelock, & Al Wooton.

Church of the Month

Of our 23 UCC churches and agencies in our Grand West Association, we will pray this month for Lowell UCC. Let us remember their mission and ministry in our prayers for February.



Organist

Recently, our beloved organist, Bob Ruddy informed us that he is retiring from guiding us in worship. Bob has played for us for the past several years. We will certainly miss his excellent playing and his cheery personality. We wish him well in his retirement. A search has begun for a new organist. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let Pastor Dan know.

Reception of New Members

On Sunday, January 28, we welcomed three new members to the congregation. Andy Lockwood is Kelly Lockwood's husband. Andy is a builder. Sandy Dimes is a retired accountant. And Laura Pickerd is a homemaker, mom, wife, and baker. Welcome new friends!



A Moment in Church History

Rev. Bowen was called as pastor in 1963. He served until 1967. His wife was actively involved in the music program for the church. They had five children - four boys and a girl. Vacation Bible School in 1964 had an attendance of 75 pupils and 12 teachers. A Sunday evening program for the family was initiated in the same year. The Wednesday evening program was discontinued. By 1965 it was necessary to hold services at 8:30 AM and 10AM. A young people's fellowship was begun again showing an attendance of 12 people.

Volunteer Schedule

Offering Counters

February 4: Christina Breen & Ruth Broderick
February 11: Dave Bendert & John Parker
February 18: Taliyn Merchant & Sandy Lyon
February 25: Katrina Furman & Taliyn Merchant

Lay Readers

February 4: Ruth Broderick
February 11: Alec Vieau
February 18: Al Kramer
February 25: Kevin Boggs

Greeters

February 4:
February 11:
February 18:
February 25:



Birthdays

Paul Kunde - 2/2
Terry Slagter - 2/2
Ashlyn O'Hair - 2/4
Cathy Hogle - 2/6
Ellie Korienek - 2/9
Kathy Vander Markt - 2/12
Keegan Korienek - 2/12
Ellianna Ferguson - 2/16
Al Kramer - 2/20
Joe Perrin - 2/22

Kristine Roberson - 2/22
Kevin Boggs - 2/22
Shannon Visser - 2/22
Howard Perrin - 2/25
Dick Van Dyk - 2/25

Anniversaries

Scott & Taliyn Merchant - 2/6
Dan & Melissa Huisman - 2/11

Missions Update

Hand2Hand

Here we are in a new year, and it is time to stock our pantry shelves for our food distributions to South Elementary. The Mission Board is offering not one but two fun ways to seek your donations and remind you to think of H2H when you go shopping. First, stop by the ice fishing pond in the warm narthex and catch a fish or more. Each fish will remind you of a food item we are in need of for the pantry. Pick a fish and fill that need. Monetary donations can also be made at the pond. Second, we are bringing back the tradition of SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY! We would like everyone to bring a can of soup (kid-friendly or cream) to Church on that other Super Bowl Sunday for the pantry. You can drop these cans off early in the shopping cart or the blue bucket. Our congregation has always been SO generous in supporting H2H, we thank you in advance for any donations you make. Everyone giving a little, adds up to a lot. Your Mission Board

Christian Ed

Happy February from the Christian Ed Team! In our meeting in January, the team decided that a change to the schedule of Sunday school is necessary for the next few months. Going forward from February 4, Sunday school will not meet on the first week of the month, so the kids can sit in with their parents in "big church" and continue participating in taking communion. Nursery will still be available all Sundays.

We are also looking for nursery volunteers! If you want to hang out with some cute little kids and play games like "Food Truck" and making block towers, we have a place for you! The team is looking for volunteers for week 2 and week 4 of the month.

February Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Pickleball 3:30-6PM Soccer 6-8:30PM	2	3
4 Worship 10AM Missions 11:15	5 Finance Team 6:30	6 Soccer 5-6PM Basketball 6-8PM OWL Class 6-8PM OACFP 6:30PM	7 Basketball 5:30-8:30PM	8 Pickleball 3:30-6PM Soccer 6-8:30PM	9	10
11 Worship 10AM	12	13 Soccer 5-6PM Basketball 6-8PM OWL Class 6-8PM	14 Basketball 5:30-8:30PM	15 Pickleball 3:30-6PM Soccer 6-8:30PM	16	17
18 Worship 10AM	19	20 Soccer 5-6PM Basketball 6-8PM OWL Class 6-8PM	21 Basketball 5:30-8:30PM	22 Pickleball 3:30-6PM Soccer 6-8:30PM	23	24
25 Worship 10AM Birthday Dinner 11AM	26	27 Election 7AM-8PM OWL Class 6-8PM Facility 7PM	28 Basketball 5:30-8:30PM	29 Pickleball 3:30-6PM		



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