

**Emmanuel**  
**United Church of Christ**  
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**Rev. Bert C. Ambrose, Jr.**  
Phone: 330-844-3870  
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**Sunday Worship 10:00 AM**

## The Latch - February 2019

### MISSIONS UPDATES

#### Oaks Family Care Center

We are supporting the Oaks Family Care Center's "Life" baby bottle program this winter. The program provides funding for the Center's pregnancy services. Loose change, bills and checks are accepted. Please remember that all baby bottles should be returned by February 17, 2019.

#### February Mission Bank

February Mission Bank monies will go toward the purchase of Legos for the Lodi Family Center to use in an afterschool program. Donations of Legos are being accepted – new or gently used.

### ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Following a positive discussion about 2018's finances, the 2019 EUCC Budget was approved at the Congregational meeting on January 27. Council officers and members for the new year were announced as well. Officers for 2019 include: Jill Morton (President), Chris Piovarchy (Vice President) and Karen King (Treasurer).

### ANNUAL REPORT EXCERPT

In 2018, a number of long-time EUCC members and friends passed away.

We Remember:

*Charles A. "Chuck" Kugel*  
5/6/28 – 1/19/18

*Esther Grabenstetter*  
4/4/24 – 1/26/18

*Nancy A. Sheffler*  
1/24/33 – 5/23/18

*Dennis A. "Denny" Meyer*  
12/16/45 – 8/13/18

*Lavern J. Lingruen*  
7/12/24 -12/10/18

*David W. Nolan*  
9/29/57 – 12/21/18

We apologize that David Nolan's birthdate was listed incorrectly in the Annual Report.



### 2019 LENTEN FISH FRY DATES

There are 3 "Fry-Day" night fish fries scheduled at EUCC for the upcoming Lenten season. Mark your calendars now!



March 8

March 29

April 12

# FROM PASTOR BERT'S DESK

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## FEBRUARY



February 2, Groundhog Day, is almost here but I haven't seen any Groundhog Day decorations in the craft stores. There isn't a whole section of greeting cards for the day, no celebrations or parties planned. Well there is that little one in Punxsutawney, PA. I guess it is not much of a profitable holiday, right there in the cold middle of winter.

I've heard it all my life, you've probably heard it too: Mr. Groundhog comes out of his den on February 2nd and if it's a cold, blustery, overcast, sleeting or rainy day, Mr. Groundhog stays out and spring arrives, right?

If it's a beautiful, sunny day, Mr. Groundhog comes out of the ground, sees his shadow, gets scared, dives back into the ground, and we get six more weeks of winter! I've heard that all my life and it never made any sense.

Groundhog Day is a throwback to ancient bear and badger cults from Europe. These folks didn't so much worship these critters as much as they watched them. They watched these hibernating animals go into the ground in the fall and they didn't come out. It was as if they died. The next spring however, when the world was being born anew they would miraculously rise up out of the earth as if they, too, had been reborn. The ancient ones realized that the lifecycle of these hibernating animals is a great metaphor for the human spiritual journey.

We all have a shadow that's with us for all the days that we walk this earth. When we die and they put us in the ground, and when that hibernating animal goes into the ground in the fall, the shadow disappears. That shadow, the symbol of the soul, is set free and the animal sleeps the sleep of death. It becomes a part of the underworld – one with the earth.

Early in spring as the time of rebirth and renewal approaches, the animal emerges from the underworld and if some of that old shadow – the old soul – is still attached, the process isn't complete so the animal must return and continue sleeping that sleep of death until it is ready to be reborn completely anew.

In chapter 3 of the Gospel of John we hear,

*"<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born anew.' <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You all must be born anew.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"*

Hmmm . . . . .

Blessings,

**Pastor Bert**



Did you know ??  
 EUCC has a Facebook page!  
 Look for us at:  
[www.facebook.com/euccvalleycity](http://www.facebook.com/euccvalleycity)  
 "Like" us today!



Office Hours  
 Monday 8:30-12:30  
 Tuesday 7:30-11:30  
 Wednesday 8:30-12:30  
 Thursday 8:30-3:00

## Special Occasions & Dates - February 2019

### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Jacob Valente 2/1  
 Morgan Valente 2/1  
 Denise Piovarchy 2/4  
 Tyler Piovarchy 2/4  
 Karen King 2/8  
 Nancy Jackson 2/9  
 Roger Mack 2/10  
 Gene Reusch 2/12  
 Pete Berger 2/12  
 Lowell Wolff 2/14  
 Dave Gavlak 2/22  
 Wayne Pressnell 2/23  
 Hayden Piovarchy 2/26  
 Landon Piovarchy 2/26

### **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Bill & Sharon Davidson 2/14  
 James & Darla Phillips 2/29

### **GUEST MINISTERS**

This month we will have two guest ministers joining us for Sunday Worship.

Rev. Jim Kulma will serve at EUCC on February 10th and 24th.

Rev. Gary Halstead will lead Worship on February 17.

### **TAX TIME REMINDER**

If you would like to receive a 2018 Giving Statement for your contributions to EUCC, please call the church office and leave a message or send an email. Statements will be mailed to individuals that request one.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

There are many dates available in 2019 to order altar flowers in celebration of a special event or loved one. Flowers are provided by Hill Haven Greenhouse.

Prices this year are: \$19/vase. Signup sheets are currently located in the narthex.

### **GIVING REPORT**

2019 Weekly Budget (Need)	\$3,200
January Giving	\$8,201



*Please remember the church in your financial planning and will.*

# February 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 BHWF 2:00	5	6 Bible Study 9:30 AM Choir Practice 7:00	7 Men's Breakfast 8:30 AM BHWF 3:15 Martha's Circle 7:00 Riverstone	8	9
10	11 BHWF 2:00	12	13 Bible Study 9:30 AM Choir Practice 7:00	14 BHWF 3:15	15	16
17	18 BHWF 2:00	19	20 Bible Study 9:30 AM Choir Practice 7:00	21 BHWF 3:15 VC Garden Club 7:00 PM	22	23
24	25 BHWF 2:00	26 Church Council 7:00 PM	27 Bible Study 9:30 AM Choir Practice 7:00	28 BHWF 3:15		

## **Being Healthy With Friends**

BHWF's chair yoga classes will meet in the Sunday School room until Fellowship Hall renovations are completed.

Cancellations due to bad weather are communicated to everyone on the call list.

## **Schedule Changes**

- There will NOT be a Third Thursday Luncheon in February.
- The Property Committee will NOT have a February meeting.

## **Martha's Circle**

The ladies are meeting for dinner at Riverstone on February 7.

## **VC Garden Club**

The location of the February Garden Club meeting will be announced soon!