

Emmanuel
United Church of Christ
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Rev. Bert C. Ambrose, Jr.
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Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

The Latch - May 2018

Lenten Fish Fries Had a Great Turnout

A note from Celeste Scheutzow:

The Evangelism Committee would like to thank everyone for supporting the Lenten Fish Fries this year. Words cannot express my delight with the great turnout we had. I'm happy to say for the first time we actually worried, "will we have enough food?" We were pleasantly surprised by the number of dinners sold, and made \$1,600 after expenses.

So, thank you for supporting our dinners. Thank you for donating and a special thanks to Chris Piovarchy for donating the fish and to Judy Schwartz for making the coleslaw — it was delicious. And so were all of the desserts!

Finally, thank you to all who helped and gave up their Friday nights. We have a great group of teens that do a fantastic job.

Thanks so much!

EUCC Missions Updates

The April Mission Bank donations were designated for the Oasis of Hope Pregnancy & Parenting Support Center in Medina. Monies collected in May will be donated to the Children's Cup Night at the Races, which is sponsored by the Children's Center of Medina County.



Thank you to those who have already donated your gently used eyeglasses. We will continue collecting eyeglasses for the needy in Nicaragua (Central America). Please look for the collection basket near the sanctuary.

Strengthen the Church

The annual Strengthen the Church mission offering will be received on May 20. This offering largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

Thank you for your support!



From Pastor Bert's Desk - May 2018

Dear Friends,

In the beginning God created the heavens and earth. Now the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the earth, while the wind/breath/Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1-2

. . . then the LORD GOD formed the human from the humus, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the human became a living being. Genesis 2:7

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Acts 2:2

But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; James 1:6

We were returning home from Florida on I-77, on that stretch in southern Virginia that winds through the mountains. That area where in daylight you can gaze east down into the fertile farm valleys (well the passenger can, but the driver has to be paying considerable attention). On that stretch of road there was a High Wind Warning posted, and the changeable speed signs had a lowered speed of 50 mph posted. I was definitely two hands on the wheel. Considering that a High Wind Warning is for gusts over that lowered posted speed, it was a challenging few miles to drive. Oh! And it was snowing . . . and dark!

Any time I experience the challenge of wind gusts it reminds me of all the references to wind in the Bible. A great wind blew the ship Jonah boarded; the wind blew up storms as the disciples crossed the sea; the winds that challenged the voyages of Paul.

I am also reminded that the word translated "wind," can also be translated as "spirit" or "breath." "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." These are Jesus' words to Nicodemus, in John 3, as Jesus is explaining how one is born anew.

You cannot see the wind, only the things that it moves and touches. Wind makes no sound. What we hear is how it is reacting to what it is passing through or past. Nor can we see breath, (well maybe on a cold morning but that is moisture), but we feel the life it gives to us and we know when we are short of it.

Such is how the Spirit works in the gathered community known as Emmanuel. We cannot see it. We only see the positive effects brought about by its movement. We can only hear it in joy spoken, and the laughter of love and fellowship and service.

May the Spirit, Breath, Wind of God blow the sails of our community toward and into continued mission and discipleship. With the Spirit's power in our sails, what can stop us?

Stop - listen to the wind - to where is God moving us? Hold on to your hats!

Peace and Prayers,
Pastor Bert



Our Website is Under
Construction

Check for Updates at
euccvalleycity.org

Special Occasions & Dates to Remember - May 2018

May Birthdays

Charles McCullough 5/1
Pamela Pasku 5/2
Robert Morton 5/4
Ellison Mack 5/5
Christopher Ewing 5/8
Kora Seeley 5/9
Erna Mastney 5/9
Cody Reynolds 5/10
Robert Schneider 5/11
Olivia Piovarchy 5/12
Katherine Mason 5/15
Jill Morton 5/16
Doris Nolan 5/17
Robert Young 5/19
Sandy Berger 5/21
William Good 5/21
Debi Sheffler 5/22
Stephanie Beuther 5/22
Jeffrey Burcher 5/22
JoAnn Campbell 5/24
Erica Roth 5/27
Kenneth Kessler 5/27
Wendy Casada 5/31

May Anniversaries

David & Laura Toth 5/4
William & Betty Good 5/7
James & Gretchen Checkelsky 5/17
Sylvester & Chris Balash 5/23
Tim & Kristin Seeley 5/25



May 13, 2018

Confirmation/Youth Membership Class

Begins on May 20

A class for students just completing 6th grade through high school will meet after church the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please make plans to attend — it's the same Sundays that Youth Group meets.

Giving Report

2018 Budget (Weekly Need) \$3,000

Year-to-Date Giving (Short) -\$6,409

As of 4/25/18

May 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2 Bible Study 9:30 AM	3 Men's Breakfast 8:30 AM BHWF 3:15 PM Martha's Circle 6:30 @ Riverstone	4	5
6 Worship 10 AM	7 BHWF 2:00 PM	8	9 Bible Study 9:30 Choir 7:00 PM	10 BHWF 3:15 PM	11	12
13 <i>Mother's Day</i> Worship 10 AM	14 BHWF 2:00 PM	15	16 Bible Study 9:30 Choir 7:00 PM	17 Third Thursday Lunch 12:00 noon BHWF 3:15 PM	18	19 Garden Club Plant Sale 9:00 AM Wedding 11:00 AM
20 <i>Strengthen the Church Offering</i> Youth Confirmation Class after Worship	21 BHWF 2:00 PM	22	23 Bible Study 9:30 Choir 7:00 PM	24 BHWF 3:15 PM	25	26
27 Worship 10 AM	28 <i>Memorial Day</i> NO BHWF	29 Property Committee 7:00 PM	30 Bible Study 9:30 Choir 7:00 PM	31 BHWF 3:15 PM		

Third Thursday Lunch

May 17, 2018 @ 12:00
Menu: Ham Loaf, Scalloped Potatoes
& Salad
Cost: Donation

Valley City Garden Club

Spring Plant Sale @ EUCC
Perennials—Annuals—Seedlings
Herbs & Vegetables
May 19, 2018 @ 9:00 AM

Being Healthy With Friends

Spring/Summer Schedule
Monday @ 2:00 PM
Thursday @ 3:15 PM
No Class on Memorial Day