

# *Denmark Manor United Church of Christ*

## **HILLTOP ECHOES**

**Rev. Donald C. Watkins**

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**February – March 2020**

### **A Note from the Pastor:**

Happy February my church family!

Wow! It is hard to believe that the first month of 2020 has already come and gone! Time sure is flying by. In a few short weeks we will be wearing our ashes as distributed on Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent offers a very heartfelt and meaningful time of the year in our church calendar, if you let it be so. It seems as if our lifestyle these days sets us on an almost dizzying schedule. Excessive hours spent at work, dealing with the demands of family life, taking care of the house, fixing the car, and all those other things that come along on a daily basis! Whew! Exhausting, isn't it? I have a suggestion! Slow it down during Lent. Put some of those non-critical issues in your schedule on hold. Cut back on the social schedule a little. Keep the television turned off more than turned on. Tell the kids that they are going to have to stay at home a little more for the next six weeks or so, and turn the cell phones and computers off at a respectable hour for some quiet time.

Folks, this is serious business not just for your physical health and well-being, but it is critical for your spiritual health as well. Lent is a time for quiet, meaningful reflection and self-examination. It can also be a time for families to join together and have soft spoken conversations with one another about what is happening in their lives. It may open the doors to invite Jesus into the family setting to help settle issues, problems, and create open and meaningful communal prayer time. I urge you to re-set your schedules to enable the Holy Spirit to embrace you and bring you into a spiritual connection with God so that you may renew your spiritual relationship to receive God's unending Grace into your lives. (pg. 2)

May you seriously accept this challenge to re-adjust your lifestyle during this coming season of Lent so that you may adequately prepare yourself to celebrate the Risen Christ at Easter! Practice your 4 – R’s my Denmark Manor Family: REFLECT within yourself, RECOGNIZE your sin, REPENT of that sin and be REDEEMED through God’s unending Grace! May you have an effective, meaningful, and successful Lenten Season. May God’s blessings be with you all.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Don

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**\*\*Our Consistory Members for 2020 are:**

**Elder (President):** Don McIlvaine  
**Elder (V. Pres.):** Scott Hartung  
**Financial Sec.:** Joni Mattei  
**Trustees:** Steve Cherep, Rob Klingensmith  
**Deacons:** Trude Hayes, Renee Hartung, Fred Hayes, Suzanne Bell

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**\*\* Congratulations to Reverend Donald Watkins on his recent Ordination! It was held on January 12, 2020 at First Reformed UCC in Greensburg, PA. It was a beautiful, spirit-filled event and was well attended with members of Denmark Manor, First Reformed, as well as friends and family of Pastor Don.**

**\*\*The official Installation for Reverend Watkins will be on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Denmark Manor UCC. This will be followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall. All of the food is covered. If there are any questions, please call Debi McIlvaine.**

**We had our first Movie Night at Denmark Manor on December 27, 2019. It was complete with fresh-popped popcorn and candy in the Sanctuary. The featured movie was “The Polar Express”. It was attended by over 30 people, and a great time was had by all! Watch the bulletin, Facebook and webpage for our next event!**

**Souper Bowl of Caring** was greatly represented by our church this February. We collected \$161.87 in change donations to go to the foodbank. We were also able to donate lots of cans of soup this year to the Westmoreland County Foodbank to help start off the 2020 year! **Way to go Church !!!**

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## **Lenten Service Schedule 2020**

- Wednesday, February 26, 2020 will be our Ash Wednesday service at Denmark Manor at 7:00 p.m. We will celebrate Communion, as well as distribute ashes.
- Saturday, March 28, 2020 will be a Lenten Retreat at Denmark Manor UCC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a light lunch.
- Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020 will be a Meager Meal at 6:30 p.m.; Service at 7:30 p.m. at Denmark Manor UCC. (Please sign up on bulletin board.)
- Easter Sunday, April 12, Easter Breakfast before service at 9 a.m.; Service at 10:30 a.m. at Denmark Manor UCC.

**Easter Lilies/Flowers will soon be on sale! There will be order forms in the bulletins or on the back table in the sanctuary three weeks before the due date, which is Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please fill out your forms and return them with payment to Cathy in the office. No orders will be taken after April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

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**The Mission team asked: Could everyone who gets an Upper Room please save them when you are done with them and bring them back to church to be re-distributed to nursing homes to keep spreading the Good News to others?**

**Our church, headed by the Mission Team, had an awesome year of service in 2019. Donations included Veterans of the Cross, Blackburn Center, Open Your Heart to a Senior, Annual food collection for Thanksgiving, Backpack program for children in school, and of course, the Christmas gift giving for children in cooperation with the Salvation Army. They continue to also send birthday, holiday and special occasion cards to all our shut-ins. Thank you to everyone who helped with all of these programs that help our community so much!!**

*It's that time of year again-----"All you can eat"*

***Family Style Roast Beef Dinner 2020!!!!***

*On Saturday, April 25th, 4 to 7 p.m.*

***Tickets on sale March 15<sup>th</sup>!***

**Denmark Manor United Church of Christ**

2003 Denmark Manor Road, Export, PA 15632

**Please print, fill in your information and mail with your check to the church by April 15th to reserve your seat(s). (If sitting with a group, please arrive together for seating.) Take out will be available.**

**NO MEAL CAN BE SERVED WITHOUT A TICKET**

**\$14 Adults \* \$7 Children 4-12 \* 3 & under Free**

***Please call 724-744-4218 with inquiries or to modify your order.***

**My DMUCC Roast Beef Dinner Reservation-Mail before Wednesday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**No. attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **#Eat In** \_\_\_\_\_ **#Take Out** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE** provide your email if possible, for future events:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address

Correction: \_\_\_\_\_

\*No reservations will be confirmed without a check. Mail to: DMUCC, 2003 Denmark Manor Rd, Export, PA 15632 by April 15th. If you'd like ticket(s) sent to you, please include a **self-addressed, stamped envelope**.

**Thank you!!! See you at the dinner !**

*Why cook this weekend at all? After enjoying a Roast Beef Dinner with your friends and family at Denmark Manor UCC on Saturday, the next day you can head over to the:*

## **APRIL 2020 HOSS'S FUNDRAISER**

**On Sunday, April 26th at Hoss's in Murrysville all day. The church will earn 10% of all sales using our Group #, which you can get at the Roast Beef Dinner or from the office. This number must be given to your server before ordering.**

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### *We are Praying for:*

Emanuel & Freda Frescura, Gregory Thomas, Sergey Ozhiganov, Theda Ulishney, Janet Antal, Marian Comfry, Mike Demark, Dottie Demarchi, Keely & daughters, Katlyn & Dan Golias, Rich Schall, Dottie Demarchi, Sara Stumme, Bill Hutchison, Mark Brautigam, Family of Sylvia Duncan, Family of Roberta Gagner, Evangeliste Family, Linda Rowe, Allen Rudick, Grace Zimmerman, Emily Klingensmith, Tyler Wycoff, Gwen Primrose, Millie Cappa, Cami Hall, Matt, Danielle & baby Caleb, Karen Connor, Pastor Mike Byrd

\*Our Prayer Lists are kept on the back table in the Sanctuary. There also is a box for prayer requests. Names will be kept on the list for 90 days, following removal unless otherwise asked to keep them on. When you fill in your slip, please include your name, phone number, date you put the person on, and a general description of their condition, such as 'health', 'well-being', 'support', etc.

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*As we approach graduation in June, if you will have a child graduating from high school or college, please let the church office know so their achievements can be recognized.*

***February Birthdays:***

**9** - Dan Bozym

**19** - Harry McElwain

**9** - Maureen Anderson

**21** - Edward Iannacchione

**10** – Michael Fularz

**27** – Margie Voytek

**12** - Dorothy McIlvaine

***March Birthdays:***

**1** - Kimberly Gnesda

**27** - Joyfa Kelly

**8** – Rob Klingensmith

**27** - Ethan Correll

Please forgive us if anyone was left out. We are in the process of updating all information.

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March Anniversaries:

**14** - Rev. Don and Donna Watkins

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**\*\*Watch for news about a new service coming to Denmark Manor UCC! It is our hope that the summer of 2020 will bring changes for an alternative worship service that will be a different style and flavor from the traditional service offered on Sunday mornings. It will be a new and exciting way to worship our Lord! Keep looking for changes on our webpage: [denmarkmanorchurch.org](http://denmarkmanorchurch.org) and on Facebook at Denmark Manor United Church of Christ.**

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**United Church of Christ**

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