

Hilltop Echoes

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

April 2021

Our Church Family News

HE IS RISEN!

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” John 3:16

NOTES FROM OUR PASTOR:

Greetings to my Denmark Manor Family!

Happy Spring to everyone! Oh my goodness, what a long winter season it seems to have been, and personally I am glad it has come to an end. Let us all take a moment from our busy schedules to bask in the sunshine for a few minutes and experience the warmth and vitamin D that emanates from its golden rays! Maybe there is more that we should bask ourselves in that comes from the heavens as well. For example the brightness that shines from the true Light of the world, Jesus Christ! As the Easter season draws to a close and the decorations are boxed up and put back in the attic, let's not close up Jesus in that box as well. The celebration of the Risen Christ is not just a one day event, it should well be a celebration that we recognize and give thanks for each and every day.

As we embrace and appreciate the beauty in the new growth that comes through the spring growing season, open yourself to new growth as well. Take time and relish the beauty and renewal that comes to our hearts and souls as we let the Light of Christ dwell within us through the presence of the Holy Spirit! Engage the Spirit often through prayer and quiet time, and let the effects of a relationship with Jesus Christ live within your daily journeys. Be cautious, too much time in the sun can cause a burn; however, too much time with the Son can help you learn. Let's celebrate spring everyone! May your growing season be rich and fruitful!

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Don

OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Thursday

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Worship Service Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Prayer Service Thursday 10:30 a.m.

www.denmarkmanorchurch.org

denmarkmanorucc@outlook.com

724-744-4218

Looking Back over 2020.....There were 3 new air conditioning/heating units installed in the sanctuary and 1 in Fellowship Hall. This was due to the generosity of Millicent Fitzgerald and her two donations to Denmark Manor UCC. This project is currently still in progress.

Also, there was insulation installed in the sexton's house, repairs on a stained glass window in the sanctuary, and new wiring installed in the old kitchen on the failed electrical panels. A new electrical panel was also installed at the bottom of the library steps.

Through 2020 the sexton's duties were shared by Pastor Don, members of the Consistory and congregation, and a cleaning service. We also had the mowing handled by Joyfa Kelly's grandson, Patrick Schall.

A special thanks to all who have worked so hard to get these projects underway!



Thanks to our "***COOL TEAM***" our Denmark Manor sanctuary now is.....

Air Conditioned!

These heat/air units were installed in August of 2020 and have made an amazing difference on those 90 + Sunday mornings!

Special thanks to:

Steve Cherep , (and his co-worker),
Pastor Don Watkins ,
Allen Mattei, Dan Bozym, and
Scott Hartung.

**Outdoor Easter Service
to celebrate the**

Resurrection of our Lord:

Sunday, April 4, 2021, 9 a.m. in our church Parking Lot. You will be able to sit comfortably in your cars and listen to the service via an FM station. Holy Communion will be served, along with special music and scripture. Share this special service by inviting friends and family to attend!



***We now have a new Railroad at
Denmark Manor:***

Construction was started on the Denmark Manor UCC Railroad, but had to be stopped due to the pandemic. We are hoping to get everyone "all aboard" the new ministry outreach that will bring our church families closer together while learning about God's word. There will be train tracks, platforms and tiny cities to build. There will also be railcars and background design to be painted.

If you have any questions about this, and would like your family to be a part, you can ask Pastor Don or contact the church office at 724-744-4218.

New Saturday Service:

Watch for details of the new, alternative style Saturday night service in Fellowship Hall. This will hopefully begin in the fall.

We are looking for a Sign Team! These volunteers will be responsible for posting the sermon title each week on the sign in front of the church, along with special events that are planned. If you are interested in: ***“SIGNING UP” - -please contact the office.***

If you have an address or life change, please let the office know so it can be updated in our records. There is also an Online Church Directory(Instant Church Directory.com) that has the current contact information for everyone in the congregation. If you have not had your picture taken for the directory and would like to have it put in, please contact Allen or Joni Mattei.

Also, if there are any 2021 GRADUATES that need to be recognized, please let the office know so that they can be announced.

Denmark Manor is also looking for a team of volunteers to act as “Turnkeys”. This would be a small group of members that would take on responsibilities of opening the church, turning on heat/air as needed for special events such as weddings, graduation/ birthday parties, or any special event regarding rental or use of the church’s facilities. If you are interested in helping the team, please contact the office or a Consistory member.

If you are not able to attend church, you may view the services on You Tube after they are recorded each Sunday. A link will be sent via e mail to the congregation taking you directly to the channel.

**Watch us and like us on Facebook at:
Denmark Manor United Church of Christ**

Our current Consistory members: Scott Hartung, President, Robin Brautigam, Pastor Don Watkins, Renee Hartung, Trude Hayes, Joni Mattei, Allen Mattei, Dave Conner, Mark Brautigam, Steve Cherep, Cathy Higgins recording secretary.

Our Consistory meetings are on the first Monday of the month. Anyone may attend should they have something to discuss with Consistory.

Our current Worship Planning Team members: Renee Hartung, meeting facilitator, Pastor Don Watkins, Joni Mattei, Robin Brautigam, Myrt Driscoll, Cammy Young, Margie Voytek, Don McIlvaine, Trude Hayes, Cathy Higgins, recording secretary. *

The Worship Team meetings are the second Tuesday of each month from September—May.

Our Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, March 21, 2021

following worship. The issues discussed were:

Approving minutes of meetings from 2019-2020, projects completed and in progress, the benevolences given over the year, and we are 5 for 5 church! There will be a campaign to fund a new electronic sign down by the road, the new Saturday worship service, a youth Cornhole League, and the Denmark Manor Railroad. There are many community outreach ministries planned for 2021!

Mission Team

There is always a way to help out with the needs of the community by reading the newsletter.

In February, the Mission team collected mac and cheese, and boy, were there lots of boxes! Our community is hurting now, and every little bit helps more than you could know! Thank you to all who contributed and continue to be a shining light in this area.

In the month of March they collected peanut butter and jelly for the Salvation Army. In April, they will collect pancake & waffle mixes, syrup, hot & cold cereals, as well as gluten free items. You may leave your donations at the church on Sunday, Monday or Thursday.

They are still collecting for the “Laundry Love” project. This is a project which is headed by the Episcopal Church in Jeannette. They raise money to help people in need of laundry services at an Irwin laundromat. In the month of March the Mission Team collected \$25.00 toward this outreach.

“God is still speaking....”

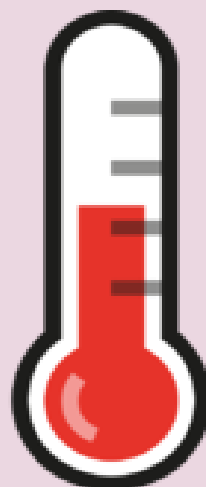
Denmark Manor UCC has received “Thank you’s” from their end of year benevolences from:

UCC Cornerstone Fund, Officers of the UCC, CASA, Welcome Home Shelter, Salvation Army, Westmoreland County Foodbank, Blackburn Center, Living Waters, PT Backpack Program, Penn West Conference, Harrison City/Claridge VFD, Open Your Heart to a Senior, St. Paul’s Home, Lancaster Theological Seminary, and community outreach. Your gifts and special offerings go a long way to help!

WAY TO GO CHURCH!!!

New Sign campaign for September 2021 !

This April will be the kickoff to raise funds to purchase a new electronic sign to replace the one by the road. The existing sign is outdated and difficult to use, along with that, there is a need for volunteers to change the sign weekly, and the letters have become faded and brittle. Because of this, Consistory has decided to start a campaign to raise the money to replace it with a modern, electronic version. There is a ‘thermometer poster’ in the sanctuary to gauge the growth of this fund. This fund has been started with a grant from PWC for \$500.00, and an additional donation of \$3,000.00 If you would like to contribute to this, please mark your check with “New Sign” in the memo section. The total amounts raised will be marked on the sign as it grows!



Total to date: \$3,715.00

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of:

Emanuel & Freda Frescura

Frank Maldonado

Ruth Jean (Conner) Seminary

Family of Robert Florek

If you have a prayer request, you may contact Joyfa Kelly, Gerry Hartung or Cathy in the church office .

Please remember our Shut-ins:

Here is a list of folks who would love to have your prayers, cards and letters.

Their addresses may be found at the church office.

Janet Antal

Elma McKee

Marian Comfry