

Please note that our online newsletter is modified from our print edition. If you would like to receive our unmodified newsletter, please contact the church office at 717-944-6181 or eumch.org/contact-us



The Messenger

Evangelical United Methodist Church

157 East Water Street, Middletown, PA 17057
717.944.6181 www.eumch.org

From the Pastor's Pen



Gratitude was an essential part of the apostle Paul's ministry. When you read his letters, he is constantly thanking God. Paul thanks God for the faith of the early churches. He gives thanks for their ministry.

Paul seems keenly aware that ministry is a cooperative effort. We cannot do anything apart from the grace of God. So, Paul is so thankful for the grace and gifts God pours on him and the churches. He encourages the Thessalonians to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thess. 5:18, *NRSV*). God's grace and love abounds in every situation.

Paul also thanks God for the churches. One of Paul's top priorities was to share the good news that in Jesus' death and resurrection, the world is now different. God defeated sin and death. In Jesus, we have hope in the future. Jesus proved the ways of the world are inferior to God's way. The powers and principalities of this world are no match to the lordship of Jesus. Everything is different, and the world needs to know.

As one person, Paul could only be in one place at one time with one community. He needed partners in ministry. Paul's letters show his gratitude that God was not only working through him, but also through the churches. Together, by the grace of God, they could share the good news that everything was different now because of Jesus' death and resurrection

I am thankful for all of you. My ability to be in ministry depends on God's grace and your co-ministry. We are in it together. I am thankful that we are working together.

Our time together has been hard. As a country, we are struggling to love each other. The polarization makes it harder to get along with each other, as the ways we perceive reality diverge. An ever-changing pandemic makes it hard to feel confident in what the future will look like or how to plan. At Evangelical, like many churches, we wrestle with demographical trends working against us. Replacing an HVAC system and paying for it is no simple or cheap matter.

Amid our challenges, I am thankful to God for all of you. You have shown such faith and grace. We cannot escape conflicts. Problems inevitably arise. There is no smooth sailing or straightforward path if you travel together any lengthy distance. What matters during conflicts and problems are how we respond. For Paul, he prioritized faith, love, and hope. Here at Evan, you abound with faith, love, and hope.

I am thankful you have been working with me on mission and vision. God is still calling the church to share the good news of what Jesus has done for us and for the world. As we discern how God is calling us to share the good news and even live out this good news, I believe God will give us the grace we need to take our next faithful steps. If you have yet joined us in this process, you can watch our previous meetings on our website (<https://www.eumch.org/mission-and-vision-2022/>). Our next session will be Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 PM in Room 3 (off of the fellowship hall) and on Zoom. I give God thanks for the chance to continue to discern and dream with you.



<p>September 4 (Labor Day Weekend) Focus: The world is not as God wants it-waiting for redemption Sermon Series: Troubles Scripture: Romans 8: 18-25</p>	<p>October 2 (World Communion Sunday) Focus: Lamenting Sermon Series: Will Scripture: Psalm 35: 19-28</p>
<p>September 11 Focus: God works for good for those who live according to his purpose Sermon Series: Troubles Scripture: Romans 8: 26-30</p>	<p>October 9 Focus: Questioning Sermon Series: Will Scripture: Job 24: 1-12</p>
<p>September 18 Focus: Nothing to fear-God's got us Sermon Series: Troubles Scripture: Romans 8: 31-39</p>	<p>October 16 (Laity Sunday/Children's Sabbath) Focus: Praying Sermon Series: Will Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12: 1-10</p>
<p>September 25 Focus: Trust Sermon Series: Troubles Scripture: Romans 11: 25-36</p>	<p>October 23 Focus: Surrendering Sermon Series: Will Scripture: Luke 22: 39-46</p>
	<p>October 30 Focus: Peace from God Sermon Series: Will Scripture: Philippians 4: 4-9</p>

COMMUNITY DINNER

The committee has decided to have community dinners on the following dates on a **Saturday** evening from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. (or until sold out):

September 17 Roast Turkey w/stuffing, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, cranberry sauce, including beverage and dessert

Head Chef: Lori Miller

October 8 Roast Turkey Head Chef: Lori Miller

November 12 Pulled pork Head Chef: Pastor Andrew Burd-Harris



Because of the increase in food products, we had to raise the price to \$12 for adults & \$5 for kids under 12.

The **Adult Sunday school class** recently completed a summer series called "Taste and See" by Margaret Feinberg. It taught us about the importance of different foods in the Bible and in our daily lives: Bread, Figs, Olives, and Salt. Each week, class members brought in items that either represented the main topic of the week, or their favorite foods. The picture is of the food that was brought in and was delivered to the Middletown Interfaith Food Bank.





FUND RAISING

HVAC BENEFIT

Did you know that during WWII the church had printed “First United Brethren Service News”? The first edition, January 15, 1945, was printed by H.B. Barnet of Pine Street. He was a veteran of WWI. The monthly papers were mailed to all our servicemen.

These original papers included a short message from the pastor, highlights of the month and news from our servicemen. The notes are especially interesting, some received shortly before they were reported missing in action.

The December 15, 1945, Christmas edition contains the names of all our members who served in WWII – 114 in all! This list records who was discharged, who re-enlisted, and those missing in action. There is also a special VICTORY edition published at the war’s end.

There are 10 different issues in all. They are being offered as a set going to the highest bidder. Bids are being accepted until 11:30am, Sunday, October 2, 2022. You may send bids to office@eumch.org, Attn: Sue Neiman or mail to Evangelical United Methodist Church, 157 E. Water Street, Middletown, PA, 17057.

CHICKEN BBQ at Evangelical UM Church

Saturday October 1, 2022

157 E. Water St., Middletown, PA 17057

Pick up between 12 Noon and 2pm

Tickets \$12

Meal includes: Half Chicken, Bake Potato, Dinner Roll and Applesauce

If you would like tickets, or like to sell tickets

Please stop in the office between 9AM-1130AM Mon-Fri

OR

call Tad Romozi at 717-672-8464 or Wendy Kauffman at 717-919-2338

This is a fundraiser for the HVAC project.



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ELIZABETHTOWN, PA

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

The Messenger



Sunday, Nov. 13, 4PM

Winter Blessing Kit assembly
with
Chili/Soup Dinner

Cluster Mission Project
to be held at
Wesley UMC

Sept/Oct 2022