



## **Emmanuel United Methodist Church**

26 West Washington Street, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Sunday Worship 10 AM; Sunday School 10 AM

Web Site: [WWW.FleetwoodUMC.org](http://WWW.FleetwoodUMC.org)

**December 2016**

# **Merry Christmas**

### **Happenings at Emmanuel**

**Sunday, December 18 – Youth Program during Worship**

**Saturday December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 PM**

**Sunday, December 25 – Christmas – Worship 10 AM - enjoy some special hymns**

**(Presently no Administrative Board or Trustee meeting scheduled in Dec.)**

### **Happening in January to plan for -**

**Sunday January 8 - 4 pm " Little Christmas Gift Swop Pot Luck" All invited for fun and fellowship – bring a wrapped gift valued approximately \$5- 10.00 for each person who would like to participate in the swap. You need not bring a gift to enjoy our Christmas Pot luck fellowship**

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## **Pastor's Corner**

### **Trusting In God**

There probably has never been a period in the world's history as filled with as many unhappy people as the one in which we now live. In this country we have been blessed above any nation that has ever existed. These blessings have come because in the past this nation trusted in God and was known as a Christian nation. But things have changed and are continuing to change. More and more

individuals are putting their trust in pills, psychologists, drugs, alcohol, material wealth, pleasure, and in themselves instead of the living God. Tranquilizers replace the faith in far too many lives. It is estimated that 30 million sleeping pills were taken last night in the USA.

But "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of the drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit" (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

To be sure in each life some rain must fall; some days will be dark and dreary. By trusting in God these moments properly used make for brighter and better tomorrows. If there were no difficulties, there could be not triumphs. In dealing with life's problems Paul writes from his prison cell, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice! Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:4, 6). Just imagine a prisoner writing such words to men who were at liberty to go and do as they pleased. Another time when Paul was in jail we read in Acts 16:25, "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them." Paul certainly serves as an example of how we should trust in God.

As Christmas time approaches are we trusting in God. We have "the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). Because of our trust in God, "But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; let them even shout for joy, because You defend them" (Psalms 5:11). We should have great joy and gladness to know that we are God's children "for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Our trusting in God will help us to "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which has great recompense of reward" (Hebrews 10:35). Let's "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart" (Proverbs 3:5) so we can go to heaven. "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). We cannot even begin to imagine how wonderful heaven will be. So let's trust in the living God so we can go to heaven.

God Bless,

*Pastor Mark*

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## **Youth Activities**

**December 2016**

**Sun Dec 11 2-5 pm Pastor Mark & Annette's Christmas Open House – all invited!**

**Sun Dec 18 after worship- Christmas Caroling and then back to church for Hot Chocolate & Christmas Fellowship**

**Sat Dec 24 Church Events: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~Youth Reading~**

**~ "Mitten Tree" Christmas Faith in Action Project thru December – Youth doing advent reading; through Christmas Eve ~**



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## Christmas Open House

The Dricker's are having an Open House

Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> 2 – 5 PM

Feel free to stop by to share some Christmas Fellowship... whether you can stay for

a few moments or stay for a few hours...

Light refreshments and sweets on the menu..

108 Royal Horse Way, Reinholds, PA 17569

Home Phone: 717-484-1504

Directions from Church:

662 S to Pricetown Rd/ Rt. 12 (Make right onto Rt. 12)

Stay straight to go onto 422 W –

Stay straight to go onto 222 S –

Continue on Rt. 222 S to the Knauers/Adamstown Exit

Exit and at the bottom of the ramp make a right onto 272 S

Follow 272 S to the 2<sup>nd</sup> light Swartzville Rd/897 N.

Make a right onto Swartzville Rd/897 N.

Watch on the left for Smokestown Rd (approx. .8 mi.)

Make left onto Smoketown Rd and then the 1<sup>st</sup> right onto

Royal Horse Way...

We are the 4<sup>th</sup> house on the right with the full front porch.

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[December Birthdays](#)

December 3 – Darlene Gorski  
**December Anniversaries**

Dec 3 – Jamie and Chad Evans

Dec 15 – George and Christine Whitfield

Dec 20 – Brad and Deanne Hamilton

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*S.M.I.L.E and Thoughts for December*

**PARAPROSDOKIANS**

The definition of a paraprozdokian: "Figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation." For example, "Where there's a will, I want to be in it," is a type of paraprozdokian.

Ok, so now enjoy!

1. Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
9. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
10. A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.
11. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.
12. Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
13. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
14. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

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## *Some Additional Thoughts*

As I put together this newsletter for Emmanuel I received an email from the First Methodist Church in Frostproof, FL. That is where Pat and I attend church when we are in Florida each winter. In the email was a note from Pastor Brian Smith that I thought was particularly relevant to the times we are living in and I am going to share it with you here.

Dick

When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, In God I trust; I will not be afraid.  
What can mortal man do to me? – Psalm 56:3-4

Dear Church Family,

This month we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus with ChristmasFest, Christmas parties and gatherings, Christmas cantatas, Christmas plays, Christmas worship, Christmas lights and decorations, Christmas cards, Christmas carols, Christmas gifts, Christmas parades, Christmas cookies and goodies, and the Christmas story of a Savior who was born in a manger in Bethlehem. In a world that is often dark, hard, and cold and where fear grips the heart of many, Christmas is a reminder that God has not abandoned us. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us.

The word “fear” appears over 500 times in Scripture with the phrase “fear not” or “do not be afraid” occurring over 100 times. Fear is an emotion that has been around for a very long time and something that we all can relate to. I like to picture fear as the thing that is blown up on the movie screen of our heart and imagination at any given moment. Whether it is a worry that we wake up with in the middle of the night, angst over relationship, concern over health or finances, an upcoming event that we are dreading, stress at work or school, or an ongoing concern that we have carried for years, we are all familiar with fear. Fear has a way of getting into our hearts and minds and wreaking havoc in many ways. It is no wonder the Scriptures address this issue so frequently. So, what is one to do about the weight of fear? I haven’t yet found the switch to turn it off. The Bible’s advice to “fear not” can seem impossible and even condemning. I believe the answer to that question has everything to do with Christmas.

It is interesting to note that the Scriptures admonish us to “fear the Lord” over and over with the familiar passage out of Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” I used to think it was odd that the Bible would say to fear God until I began to understand fear as the main object blown up on my movie screen. When I see God in this light, I have a better grasp of the truth that God is ultimately the one who holds it all in hand. I believe the fear of the Lord is not only the beginning of wisdom, but it is also the beginning of getting free of the fear that often grips us. To the degree that God becomes my all in all, everything else is put in proper perspective.

There are certainly times that we should be afraid and that fear can motivate us toward needed action. We have very legitimate reasons to fear in our world today with terrorism, hate, disease, financial concerns, and great cultural shifts. In our own nation, there has been great conflict and tension with the recent presidential election. Fear is one of the emotions that God has given us for our own well-being. The fear that Scripture reminds us to let go of over and over, however, is the on-going fear that God does not have us well in hand. As God becomes front and center and the main object blown up on the movie screen of our heart, mind, spirit, soul and body; everything else loses its grip on us.

Christmas is a reminder to us that God is not a distant bystander, but very much with us. At the birth of Jesus, God entered our world of darkness and fear to bring the light of love. My hope for us this Christmas is that we will let the “fear of the Lord” be the beginning of wisdom; the beginning of freedom from all other fears that grip us; the beginning of knowing Emmanuel – God with us and the

beginning of sharing the Good News with everyone. Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Merry Christmas!

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**Reminder - Newsletter Deadline**– If you have **articles for January's** Newsletter be sure to email them to Dick Tracy at [dtracy@ptd.net](mailto:dtracy@ptd.net) or call him at 610-207-2016 **not later than Wednesday December 28th**. **I am always looking for articles to share so please feel free to email me with anything you feel appropriate to share!**

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Never a bad day, just some better than others!