

**Emmanuel Reformed Church
of the United Church of Christ
3618 Hills Church Road
Export, PA 15632
www.hills-church.org**



A decorative banner for the month of February. The word "february" is written in a large, bold, black serif font. Above the letter "e", there is a stylized heart with three vertical lines inside. Below the word, a black scrollwork flourish arches across the page, featuring small floral motifs and five five-pointed stars. The banner is centered on a red background.



2016

HILLTOPPER

February, 2016

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas & I want to wish all a Happy New Year! Even though we were sick and didn't get things done until the last minute... if at all, my family enjoyed time together, the lights and decorations!

I want to catch everyone up from the past month. The children and I had the pleasure of lighting the advent wreath and reading to the congregation. We made Christmas cards for our members who are unable to attend church.

On Christmas Eve we did our program during service as many of you had the pleasure of watching. I'm sure you will all agree that the children all did a wonderful job reading and playing their parts. I am so proud of them!

In class I have been trying to teach them that Jesus is the Reason for the Season! That it's not about the gifts!

On Sunday December 27th the confirmation class students, as well as some of our Sunday school children went Christmas caroling. We all had a great time and enjoyed the smiles on everyone's faces!

This month now that the cold weather has finally reached us, we are going to try to stay warm while working on some winter lessons and activities! For anyone who can help I am also in need of some toilet paper and paper towel tubes for crafts with the children. Thank you in advance! *Heather*

Consistory Elders and Deacons

Elders:

Randy Steele
Carolyn Graham
Mike Bartlett
Roy Murdick
Jim Pees
Shirley Veahman
Linda Dulaney

Deacons:

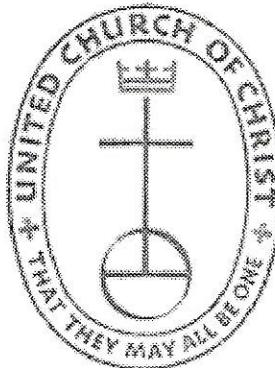
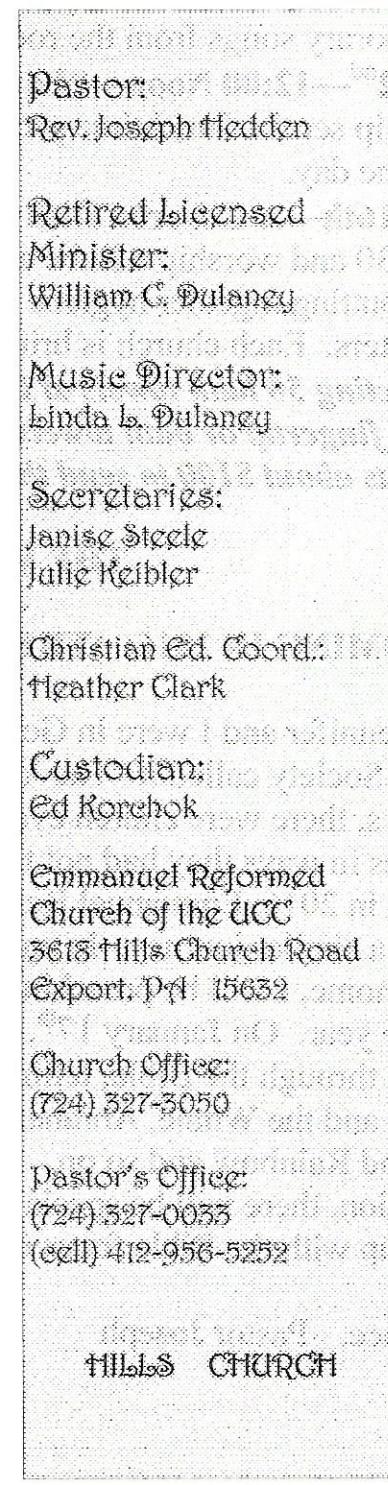
Cheyrl Chizmar
David Chizmar
Bill Dulaney
Cathy Hanks
Amanda Steele
Alex Graham

Snyder Fund:

Alex Graham
Jerry Moore
Sandy Sinan
Dan Swank

Trustees:

Alex Graham
Roy Murdick
Randy Steele



Lenten Opportunities to Serve

Westmoreland Cluster Services: Five local churches gather together to fellowship, worship and work together: Emmanuel Reformed (Hill's) UCC; Denmark Manor UCC; Harrison City UCC; Trinity (Delmont) UCC; and First (Apollo) UCC. . This year, instead of weekly Wednesday gatherings, we are have 3 events. They are as follows:

- **Friday, February 5th**—At Hill's Church. **U2charist Worship Service.** 7:30 p.m. U2charist is a communion service which uses contemporary songs from the rock band U2 in the place of hymns.
- **March 2nd—12:00 Noon**—“Launch into Lunch” at Harrison City. A worship service/lunchtime program for those who are available during the day.
- **March 16th**—A **Covered Dish** at Denmark Manor UCC. We will eat at 6:30 and worship will be at 7:30. A highlight of the worship will be putting together hygiene kits for refugees and people displaced by disasters. Each church is bringing items to make 50 kits. *We will be collecting 50 bath towels at Hill's measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels). We are also collecting cash—it also costs about \$100 to send these kits. The deadline is March 15th.*

THE WORD

COMING IN 2016: ‘THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE’

When Jennifer and I were in Germany more than ten years ago, the German Bible Society called it “The Year of the Bible.” Bookshops had special displays, there were church events, and people were encouraged to use their Bibles in ways they had not thought about before.

Starting in 2016, Emmanuel Reformed (Hill's) Church will be embarking on a similar journey. In an effort to really drive the “Year of the Bible” theme home, I will be preaching on Essential Bible Stories throughout the year. On January 17th, I began with the story of Creation and we will march through the Bible, telling amazing stories the whole way! Such as Jonah and the Whale, Abraham and Sarah, the Beatitudes, Joseph, Noah’s Ark and Rainbow and so on.

In addition, there will be special Bible Activities all through the year which match up with the Bible focus of 2016. Check it out!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Joseph

CONSISTORY MEETING

NOVEMBER 11, 2015

- I. OPENING DEVOTION – Pastor Joseph
- II. CONGREGATIONAL CARING – Bertha King is home; no one in hospital at present time
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. READING AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES – motion Mike B.; second Jim Pees
- V. REPORTS

A. Pastor

- 1. Proposed Stewardship Program – Consecration Sunday, November 15; luncheon after service – a good response to invitation – calling lists handed out to consistory to contact those not yet responding.
- 2. Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 pm with Communion and children's program
- 3. Eagle Scout project, "Names in Stone", updated by Pastor Joseph and available for viewing online – local paper will be notified and project publicized
- 4. Julie Keibler will resume her previous schedule in the office
- 5. Wedding for Katy Cline approved for December 19

B. Association News

- 1. November 22, Judith Tobias, Pittsburgh Seminary graduate, to be ordained and installed in Larimer, a Calvin Synod church
- 2. Valerie Poole will be installed in Christian Education at 1st Reformed Church in Greensburg on Dec. 1

C. Financial Reports

- 1. Treasurer – Mike Bartlett, written report; 2 deposits from Snyder Fund made in October to keep money available to pay bills
- 2. Snyder Fund – Alex Graham, written report; motion made to approve deposit to Building Fund - M. Bartlett, 2nd Casey Hanks
- 3. Building Fund – Jerry Moore, written report; Randy will contact Dan Stevens re: investing CD monies
- 4. Financial – Sue Gay, written report; Karen Ferri to audit
- 5. Cemetery – Stones were spread on the cemetery road by Chip Kirkland at no charge

D. Trustees

1. Parking lot sealed – per Randy, some touch-ups need done before payment
2. Floors – done – company said floors should be touched up every 6 months
3. Jim Costabile Painting – will do some inside work on pews with sun damage

E. Worship Committee – November 28, Hanging of the Greens; December 6, Christmas Party

F. Program Committee – none

G. Christian Education – Heather Clark written report; St. Martin's day November 17 at 6 pm; Shirley V. will sub for Heather on Nov. 15

D. Deacons – ok, per Alex

I. Elders – Communion on Christmas Eve

J. Women's Guild – none

K. Philippine Committee - \$114 sent to Philippines to buy Christmas gifts and school supplies

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Auditors – Karen Ferri to audit Financial Secretary

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee to find 2 people to fill in for those going off Consistory

B. Congregational Meeting – December 13, will announce election of officers and for anyone interested in serving on Consistory

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – next Consistory meeting is on December 9, 2015, at 7 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:40 p.m.

In attendance: Randy Steele, Alex Graham, Carolyn Graham, Jim Pees, Casey Hanks, Mike Bartlett, Dave Chizmar

Others: Pastor Joseph

Recording Secretary: Shirley Veahman

CONSISTORY MEETING

DECEMBER 9, 2015

I. OPENING DEVOTION – Pastor Joseph

II. CONGREGATIONAL CARING

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. READING AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

V. REPORTS

A. Pastor – Communion, 1; Bible Study, 5; Confirmation, 1; Hospital visits, 1; Home visits, 5; Pastoral conversations, 33; Pastoral contacts, 17; Meetings, 12

B. Association News - Valerie Poole installed December 1 at 1st Reformed Church, Greensburg

C. Financial Reports

1. Treasurer – M. Bartlett, written report

2. Snyder Fund – A. Graham, written report

3. Building Fund – J. Moore, written report

4. Financial – S. Gay, written report

5. Cemetery – per Randy

D. Trustees

1. Parking lot sealed

2. Floors done

E. Worship Committee – December 6 was the Christmas Party with a visit from Santa

F. Program Committee – none

G. Christian Education – Heather Clark, written report

H. Deacons – ok, per Alex

I. Elders – served Christmas eve communion

J. Women's Guild – none

K. Philippine Committee - monies donated by Hills Church aided in completion of ordination of minister in sister church in Philippines.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee – going off Consistory: Casey Hanks, Logan Clark; nominated as Deacons: Amanda Steele, Cathy Hanks, Bill Dulaney; Elders: Linda Dulaney

B. Congregational Meeting – December 13, for approval of Consistory nominations

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Next Consistory meeting is on January 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Thanks to Carolyn Graham for taking notes for December Consistory meeting.

Recording secretary: Shirley Veahman



**The Chancel Choir will
Meet on Mondays
at 7PM.
Hope to see you there!**

EMMANUEL REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for the
March
Newsletter Articles:
February 25, 2016**

**SAVE POSTAGE AND PICK-UP
YOUR NEWSLETTER
BEFORE CHURCH WORSHIP**



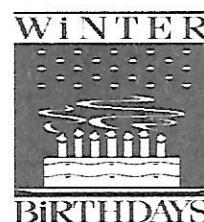
www.hillschurch.wordpress.com



**Emmanuel Reformed Church
of the U.C.C.
Monday—Friday
10:00a.m.— 3:00p.m.
724-327-3050
hillschurch@windstream.net**

**Pastor's Office Hours
Mon.— Thurs. 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.
Office: 724-327-0033
Cell: 412-956-5252
pastorjoseph@windstream.net**

www.hills-church.org



**COVERED DISH
LUNCHEON
First Sunday of every month
February 7, 2016**

The luncheon will recognize those having birthdays and anniversaries during that month.
Please plan to attend and join fellow members in celebration and fellowship.

Please bring a covered dish to share.



February 14, 2016

January 31, 2016

Adjourned
Congregational Meeting
There will be a
Congregational Meeting
following Worship on
Sunday, January 31st.
Please plan to attend
and bring your February
Newsletter with you for
reference to the Annual
Reports and other
Documents.



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

**Ash Wednesday
February 10, 2016**

**Souper
Bowl Sunday**



February 7, 2016



Thank you to Bill and Linda Dulaney and Lois Grudowski for the Festive Winter decorations in the Steele Fellowship Center.
They are wonderful!

**THANKS TO THOSE WHO QUIETLY
REACH OUT TO MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION
WHO ARE SICK OR IN NEED OF SUPPORT.**

Thank you to Bill Dulaney for preaching on Sunday, November 29, 2015 while Pastor Joseph was away for the holiday.

Thank you to the Carroll family and the Hedden family for your Camp Song Sunday on November 22, 2015. We all enjoyed your music.

Thank you to all of our volunteers on Saturday, November 28, 2015 for the Hanging of the Greens : Allison Bassett-Carmichael, Heather Clark, Linda Dulaney, Carolyn Graham and Sandy Sinan and Amanda, Randy and Janise Steele.

Also thanks to Donna Carroll for your Thanksgiving Altar decorations and windowsill decorations. Everything was so festive!!

Thanks to Philip and Karen Reiche for your donations of sugar, yellow sugar packets and cups and bowls for our special fellowship hour after worship. It was so nice of you! Thank you also for your donation of a Christmas Tree!

Thanks to Sandy Sinan for your donation of pretzels and coffee for Fellowship Hour.

A great big Thank you to Cathy Hanks and Amanda Steele for hosting the Annual Secret Pal Christmas Party on December 1st. A great time was had by all.

Thank you to Heather Dulaney for your donation of all th Grape juices for our Holy Communion. Appreciated very much!

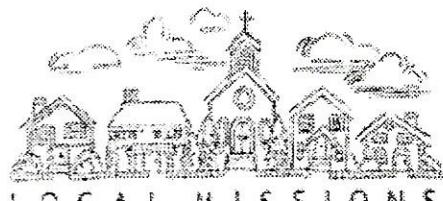
A great big thank you to Sandy Sinan, Tom and Lois Grudowski and Janise Steele for decorating the snowman tree in the Fellowship Hall. Also, a thank you for assembling the Bethlehem City display also in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to Linda Dulaney and The Chancel Choir for their Christmas Cantata. "A Child is Born". It was beautiful music and enjoyed by all!

Thank you to Linda Dulaney for coordinating the poinsettia flowers for our Sanctuary. The flowers beautified our Sanctuary. Thanks to all who participated!

Thank you to everyone who helped (you know who you are) with taking down and putting away the decorations after church on Sunday, January 3rd. Your help is appreciated very much!!

Thank you for your donation of 174 pounds of food on Nov. 23, 2015, which has been put to work to provide for hungry people in our county. On behalf of every-

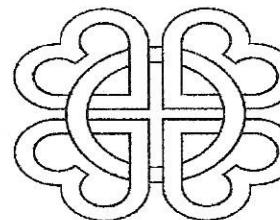


LOCAL MISSIONS

The Choir is collecting used greeting cards for St. Jude. A box is located near the organ in the sanctuary.

Linda Dulaney is collecting Box Tops for Education and Campbell's labels. A box is located near the organ in the sanctuary.

Volunteers are needed:
Meals on Wheels
Murrysville Christian Concern
Salvation Army
Check: www.Murrysvillegov.org



**"One in the
Bond of Love"**

If you know of someone in need of prayers, please contact Linda Dulaney to initiate the Prayer Chain (724-325-3785).



THE PRAYER CHAIN is in need of some volunteers. If anyone is interested in being part of this chain please contact Linda Dulaney or call the church office (724)327-3050. Your name can be added at anytime.

one associated with the Westmoreland County Food Bank thank you for being a partner in our work to end hunger at home.

Thank you to Sue Gay and Donna Carroll and to all those who helped assemble the baskets, donated fruit and delivered them.

A special Thank you to all who helped with the fruit basket assembling and delivery. This was very much appreciated!

Thank you to Brian Compton, Jr. and Aria Dulaney for the donation of toys for our Nursery.

Thanks to the members of your congregation for their very kind donation of several boxes of needs List items to Blackburn Center. We depend on contributions from the community to help meet the needs of thousands of people each year. Your donation of goods allows us to invest more of our resources in services critical to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition, it gives assurances to the women and children in our shelter that someone cares. Thank you for joining with us as we accept the challenge to overcome the violence that impacts our homes and communities. Keep up with the good work you are supporting — and all the ways you can continue helping Blackburn Center.

Thank you so much for the Fruit Basket, Shirley Kemerer.

Thank you to Dan Swank for your nativity set on display at Hill's!

A Great Big Thank you to Melissa A. Sullivan, BSN, NHA Executive Director at Golden Living Center, 3300 Logan Ferry Rd., Murrysville, PA 15668 for all the fellowship supplies and coffee donated to Hill's. This was a gracious donation from your facility and appreciated very much!! Thanks a bunch!

Dear Secret Pals, Thank you so much for all of the beautiful gifts from your "Angel Tree" this year. You have helped many less fortunate people to have a real nice Christmas. We appreciate the fact that you selected us to distribute these wonderful gifts! May God Bless you for your kindness. Delmont Salvation Army.

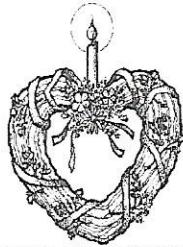
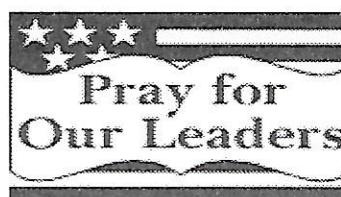
Thank you to Tom Grudowski for repairing the lectern stand. This was very much appreciated!

Thank you for the fruit basket. Delouris Keibler

Thank you for the fruit basket. Edna Martinella

CROP Hunger Walk Success Story—Thanks to all! All of the local pledges have now been received From our local CROP Hunger Walk that was held this past Oct. 11, 2015 and we are waiting for a final report from Church World Service, organizer of the annual walks around the country. Our current figures indicate that 81 walkers of all ages from 6 congregations will have raised \$6,139.00 to fight hunger around the world. Of the total amount raised, 25% will be returned to our local area to Help those in need. These local funds will be distributed equally between our Loaves and Fishes Emergency Food Pantry and the Westmoreland County Food Bank distribution centers located at Mother of Sorrows and Cornerstone Ministries. Our walk team raised a total of \$185.00! Local walk Chairperson Roger Schneider wishes to thank all those who walked and everyone who contributed so Generously. Be sure to mark Sunday, October 9, 2016 on your calendars for Murrysville area CROP Hunger Walk!

Continue to pray for all the military families and those who have loved ones in the Armed Services serving in difficult situations and deployments.



With Sympathy

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Rita Remaley's twin brother who passed away in November, 2015.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the Stan Ignatius family. Stan passed away November 24, 2015 and is the husband of Cheryl Ignatius and son-in-law of Edith Letham.

Our Christian Sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of Richard Kemerer who passed away November 26, 2015. Richard is the husband of Beverly and brother of Rose Smith.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Paul Watt who passed away in December, 2015. Paul is the husband of Kathy Watt.



Lawrence Stokum
57 Karl Ave.
Belleville, WI 53508



Ellen and the late Frank Ruzbarsky are great-grandparents to Kessa Ray, 6lbs. 9ozs. Born Sunday, 12-13-15.

Congratulations to Katie Cline and Craig Slafka who were united in marriage on December 19, 2015 at Hill's.



February 7, 2016

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

To order Memorial Flowers, please call Linda Dulaney or Heidi Compton at 724-325-3785. The prices are Altar—\$25.00 Chancel—\$50.00



OUR NEWSLETTER PRAYER LIST:

Please call or email the church office if you see a name missing and needs added to our prayer list.

Daneen Matthews
Elsie Hockenberry

Vicki Hill
Trudy Hill
Rick Hill

Patty Duncan
Joan Dixon

Bobby Eberts
Debbie Jones

Ellen Jack
Jim Ebdy

Betsey Cline
Catherine Cline

Nora Cline
Cheryl Ignatius

Stan Ignatius
Edith Letham

Virginia Forgie
Jim Kirkwood
Leonard Holt
Donna Cline

Brandon Humberger
Bonnie Humberger

Bonnie Yanko
Madge Remic

Cindy Allingham
Bertha King

William Hoffman
Peggy McNaughton

Gary Curl
Sandy Smail

Milton Thompson
Debby Simko

Doug Keibler

Hospital Update

In the Hospital:

Madge Remic @ William Penn Care Facility

Donna Cline @ William Penn Apartments

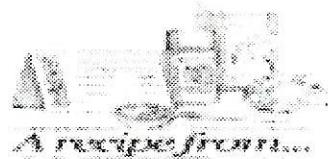
Ellen Jack @ Golden Living
Barbara Karp @ Clare

Bridge Memory Care
Dorothy Daw @ The Palms at O'Neil

Home From The Hospital:

Dorothy Daw
Bob Holt

The Recipe Corner



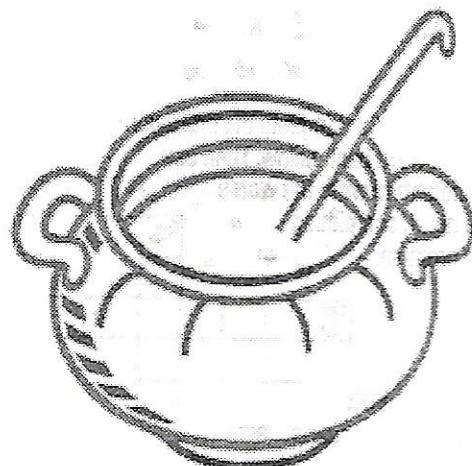
Lois Grudowski

Cranberry Cookies

*1/2 cup margarine, softened
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
1/4 cup milk
2 tbsp. orange juice
1 egg
3 cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1 cup chopped nuts
2 1/2 cups coarsely chopped cranberries*

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Cream margarine and sugar. Stir in milk, orange juice and egg. Mix in remaining ingredients. Drop dough by teaspoon about 2 inches apart onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-15 minutes. Makes 6 dozen.

Souper Bowl Sunday
Sunday February 7th, 2016
Immediately following worship



Bring your best soup recipe to be judged

And a donation for the food bank

Good Luck! Hope to see you there!



SWEETHEART PASTA DINNER

Get your cook on! Following the church service on Sunday, February 14th, we will hold our annual sweetheart pasta dinner. Please bring a pasta dish to share! Salad, bread and butter would be a fine addition to our feast, and what would a Sweetheart dinner be without some sweet treats as well!

EMMANUEL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
END OF YEAR REPORT FOR 2015

Balance brought forward
\$14,663.61

Perpetual Care Investments

Cole Capitol (now Select Income) REIT	\$11,000.00
Hines Global Real Estate Investment Trust	\$10,000.00
Franklin Templeton Mutual U & H	\$25,000.00
Franklin Templeton Mutual I	\$25,000.00

Receipts From Investment Interest:

Franklin Mutual U	\$ 504.69
Franklin Mutual H	\$ 493.19
Franklin Mutual I	\$1,132.08
Cole Capitol – Select Income REIT	\$ 649.92
Hines Global REIT	<u>\$ 631.93</u>
Total	\$3,411.81

Receipts – Other:

Grave Excavations	\$6,650.00
C.H. Snyder Fund	\$ 31.59
Flea Market Sales	\$ 119.00
Donations	\$ 570.00
Mary Rohm Pearson Trust	\$1,200.00
Cash-in-lieu of fractional share of Select Income REIT	<u>\$ 11</u>
Total	\$8,570.70

Receipts From Investments	\$ 3,411.81
Receipts From Other sources	<u>\$ 8,570.70</u>
Total Receipts	\$11,982.51

Expenses 2015

Charles Kirkland Grave Excavations	\$3,600.00
Roy L. Murdick Sr. Cemetery Mowing	\$3,900.00
Fletchers Outdoor Equipment Service	\$ 193.42
Norwin Rental Equipment Service	\$ 310.99
Bondi Printing	\$ 68.90
Lou's Gas and Car Wash	<u>\$ 218.77</u>
Total	\$8,292.08

Receipts	\$11,982.51
Expenses	<u>\$ 8,292.08</u>
Net Gain	\$ 3,690.43
Ending Balance	<u>\$18,354.04</u>

Unaudited, January 3, 2016

Submitted by Randall A. Steele, Secretary

December 2015	Month Totals	YTD Totals	December 2014	Month Totals	YTD Totals
General Fund			General Fund		
Current	\$ 9,813.00	\$ 67,682.00	Current	\$ 8,036.00	\$ 74,318.00
Sunday School		\$ -	Sunday School		\$ -
Loose	\$ 677.48	\$ 2,612.70	Loose	\$ 604.63	\$ 1,550.95
Advent	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	Advent	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Lent		\$ 45.00	Lent		\$ 35.00
		\$ -			\$ -
		\$ -			\$ -
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,525.48	\$ 70,374.70	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,690.63	\$ 75,953.95
Benevolences:			Benevolences:		
General	\$ 750.00	\$ 2,296.00	General	\$ 430.00	\$ 2,960.00
Christmas Fund	\$ 95.00	\$ 95.00	Christmas Fund	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
One Great Hour of Sharing		\$ 216.00	One Great Hour of Sharing		\$ 95.00
Neighbors In Need		\$ 45.00	Neighbors in Need		\$ 65.00
Strengthen the Church		\$ 60.00	Strengthen the Church		\$ 110.00
Westmoreland Food Bank		\$ -	Westmoreland Food Bank		\$ -
Souper Bowl Sunday		\$ -	Souper Bowl Sunday		\$ -
Living Waters Fund		\$ -	Living Waters Fund		\$ -
Hoffman Home		\$ -	Hoffman Home		\$ -
MEAM		\$ -	MEAM		\$ -
Layman Fund		\$ -	Layman Fund		\$ 20.00
Bread for Life		\$ 15.00	Bread for Life		\$ -
TOTAL Benevolen	\$ 845.00	\$ 2,727.00	TOTAL Benevolen	\$ 630.00	\$ 3,450.00
Other Income			Other Income:		
Pittsburgh Foundation		\$ 2,953.00	Pittsburgh Foundation		\$ -
Reimbursements		\$ 731.20	Reimbursements		\$ 878.07
Other		\$ 20.00	Other		\$ 842.45
Other special Offering		\$ -			\$ -
		\$ -			\$ -
		\$ -			\$ -
TOTAL Other	\$ -	\$ 3,704.20	TOTAL Other Incor	\$ -	\$ 1,720.52
ALL TOTALS Abo	\$ 11,370.48	\$ 76,805.90	ALL TOTALS Abo	\$ 9,320.63	\$ 81,124.47
Snyder Fund Monies			Snyder Fund Monies		\$ 48,000.00
Building Fund:			Building Fund		
General		\$ -	General		\$ -
Memorial		\$ -	Memorial		\$ -
Flowers		\$ -	Flowers		\$ -
Hymnals		\$ -	Hymnals		\$ -
Other/ Quilt		\$ -	Other/ Quilt		\$ -
TOTAL Building F	\$ -	\$ -	TOTAL Building F	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL ALL	\$ 11,370.48	\$ 76,805.90	TOTAL ALL	\$ 9,320.63	\$ 129,124.47
Electronic Transfe	\$ 425.00				

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YEAR END REPORT 2015

I started off in April working on a lesson for Palm Sunday using a power point presentation and a craft. Then on Easter Sunday I did a hands on lesson with resurrection bread. Next was Doubting Thomas, we heard the story and then used a Thermal Imaging camera to see our hand prints on the wall. The Lord is my Shepard was next, we read the scripture and colored a storyline. The children were then separated into Shepard's and sheep. The sheep were blind folded and had to listen for Their Shepard's voice. It was a lot of fun. The Branch and the Vine was our next lesson. I did a demonstration of pruning a vine while I read them the passage. That same week we began working on our Mothers Day cards. This past Sunday we revisited the lesson of the Branch and the Vine, reminding the children of how God is our gardener, while we planted our flowers for our Mothers Day gifts.

The Sunday after Mother's Day, we did a lesson about friendship/hospitality. We talked about how Jesus had friends, and did some of the same things we do with our friends. We read a story about Peter Simon and Andrew who were friends of Jesus. The children colored a friendship web and shared them with one another. They were also given the task to show kindness, friendship, and hospitality to anyone that crosses their paths. Next was the week of Pentecost. We colored Doves and a flame on laminate paper to hang in our windows as sun catchers. The children were also presented with a gift for the church's birthday. Inside were the following items that had a special meaning: a heart, bible, praying hands, family photo, and 2 flashlights, one with batteries and one without. On Trinity Sunday we talked about what the word Trinity meant: The Father, the Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit/ Ghost. We then read a story about the origins of the pretzel. Then we toasted up some soft pretzels to enjoy for a special treat.

In June the children learned a lesson on patience. We talked about what that meant. Then we used dolls/puppets to tell an example/ story of why we need patience. We patiently strung beads in a pattern for a bracelet. The next week we celebrated the baptism of Ian Carroll. After the baptism the children made a craft representing the baptism of Jesus. They also colored a picture of a baby being baptized. During the week prior to homecoming I tried to put up more children friendly bulletin boards. That incorporated the children. Homecoming Sunday was a very busy day for us! The children had a wonderful time collecting for noisy collection, which benefited St. Jude's Children's Research Institute. We really enjoyed watching the baptism of Rocco Didomenico! In the classroom we made picture frames and cards for our Dads to celebrate Fathers Day! The children gathered around and listened to a story that taught them about bicycle safety. After church we enjoyed time celebrating our church's Homecoming with a St. Jude's Trike a Thon. We raised \$111.00 for St. Jude's. The next week the children heard how God's love can be healing. Also how Jesus was able to heal sick. We prayed for those that need healing. We also worked on our Fruit of the Spirit Tree bulletin board in the classroom. At the end of June we had our first VBS, A Cruise to the Philippines!

In July the children learned about Jesus and A Prophet Without Honor, in Mark 6. We talked about faith and how it makes our lives better. We made a scratch art rainbow sheet. To show that having faith can wipe out the darkness in our lives and reveal the hidden beauty. The next week we talked about how having God and Jesus in our lives makes us sparkle! Without them our lives are dull like a bottle of water. When we add religion, it's like adding glitter to the water. Making us come alive! We made

sensory bottles to help us calm ourselves and remind us of the sparkle our faith gives to us. On the next Sunday the children shared with us about all of their summer camps. We then talked about our Fruit of the Spirit Tree, we added some leaves to it. Miriam taught the children a camp song, "Johnny Apple Seed." Finally the children listened to the scripture from mark 6: 30-34, 53-56 and we drew a picture to go with the reading.

We held a carnival/fun day towards the end of July. We played corn hole, bowling, ring toss, and did a duck pond. After the games the children received balloon animals and face paints. Then all got to choose a stuffed animal prize, a toy from the prize box and a bag of mixed candy. Then we all enjoyed the cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, and hot dogs. Lots of fun was had by all! Prior to the fun day the children's sermon was on wearing name tags. The children heard a story of how the zoo animals wore name tags and one day the monkey decided to switch everyone's tags. In the end they realized they didn't need the name tags because people could tell by looking what they were. Just like with us, we don't need tags that say "Hello I am a Christian!" Others can tell who we are by our actions and how we live our lives. The final week of July we did a lesson on "The Bread of Life." We read the scripture from John 6: 24-35. Then we discussed how God and Jesus give us what we truly need in our lives. We made painted toast to enjoy as a snack.

In August we listened to the story of Elijah's encounter with God. Was God in the wind? Earthquake? Fire? Or was he the whisper? We discussed how God may not answer our prayers as we would always like him to, however in wonderful moments He comes to us. Even when we don't understand the path He has us on, we know in the end our lives will be better. We made pinwheels to remind us to see the signs and listen to the whispers in the wind. On the next Sunday we listened to the story of King Solomon. We learned that when God gave him a chance to wish for anything, he asked for wisdom. We talked about what we would have asked God for. Then we colored a picture to reflect our discussion. The next week was Vacation Bible School, "Camping with Christ." We learned about Pentecost and the Fruit of the Spirit. We made prayer flags, painted fruit rocks, and Jesus Loves You S'More foam hangers. We sang songs, played games, wrote in journals and had a talent show! At the talent show the children performed all the songs they learned at both VBS's over the summer. We also had a blessing of the backpacks. To finish our camping VBS we had a small camp fire. We roasted hot dogs and made smores, all while enjoying the company of our members! The next Sunday the children listened to the passage from 1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43. We discussed things that were temporary and things that were permanent in our lives. We colored a picture of Solomon praying to God in front of all his people at the temple. The last Sunday of August we discussed everyone's return to their schools. Our lesson was on the Ten Commandments. We read the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. Then we played Bingo using cards themed around the Ten Commandments. After worship Sunday August 30th some of the congregation went on the Gateway Clipper, for an ice cream social. Everyone had a wonderful time sailing and sightseeing. The children especially loved the magician and of course the ice cream sundae they got to make!

The week of September 6th Shirley filled in for me while I went to a family reunion. This week I planned a lesson on Abraham following God from Genesis 12. They played God says (Simon says) to help the children remember to follow God. They also discussed promises and how God kept his promises and they should do the same. Finally they colored a picture of Abraham. The week of September 13th Jennifer filled in for me while I was suppose to be on vacation. She taught the children a lesson I planned on the cost of following Jesus. "If anyone wants to follow me, He must forget about himself, pick up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and for the Gospel's will save it. What good is it for man to have everything in the world, but to lose his own soul?" Then they played a musical game (musical chairs) of following in the footsteps of Jesus. Using large footprints. The week of September 20th the children learned about the righteous and the wicked with a lesson from Psalm 1. We imagined a beautiful tree in the rainforest full of life beside a stream of water (life of the righteous). Then we imagine a dead dried up old tree in the

desert (life of the wicked). We also painted a picture of each type of tree. The last week of September we learned a lesson on 1 kings 17. "For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry." The children learned that if they fully trust and rely on God he will love them and always take care of them. We used construction paper, feathers, and croutons to make pictures of Ravens carrying bread to Elijah.

On Sunday October 4th the children sang a melody of songs themed around "Jesus Loves the Little Children" to the congregation. Then we went to the classroom and discussed why Jesus thought it was important to have children hear him talk about God, even though the disciples tried to send them away. We also made a Jesus Loves Me door hanger. On Tuesday October 6th I changed the bulletin boards and decorated the classroom and nursery for fall. On Sunday October 11th the children heard about the saying Jesus said to the disciples, "it would be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to pass into Heaven!" We had a discussion about greed and selfishness. Then we worked on our songs for the Children's Sabbath. That afternoon we also went on our annual corn maze, hay ride, and fire at Gearhard Farms. We had wonderful weather! Everyone really enjoyed themselves and expressed how they can't wait to do it again next year! On Sunday October 18th we celebrated the Children's Sabbath. The children really enjoyed decorating the sanctuary with balloons and streamers. As well as being the greeters. They loved performing their songs for the congregation. We also had a discussion on being helpers to everyone, just like Jesus is a helper to us all! We worked together to help decorate the classroom windows and door for Halloween. Pastor and I as well as our families came in the evening of October 23rd to decorate the steel building for Halloween. On Saturday October 24th we held our annual Fall Festival Party and Trunk or Treat. Despite the rain I think it was a huge success with a large turn out. On Sunday October 25th the children learned a lesson about seeing in different ways not just with our eyes. We talked about the blind man that knew Jesus was coming and he tried to warn others. They didn't believe him and wanted to just quiet him down. When Jesus came the blind man asked him to heal his eyes so he could see again. Jesus said that because he believed he would heal the man, and instantly he could see. We also made a spider craft for Halloween.

On Sunday November 1st the children learned a lesson on where Halloween or All Hallows' Eve, got its name and why it is celebrated on the 31st of October. Then we discussed All Saints Day and what that meant. We made candles for those that we lost and wanted to remember. Then the children helped me in getting our classroom a little back together after getting the floors done. I tried to make stations for free play after our lessons. On Tuesday November 3rd I finished taking down the Halloween decorations. Changing the bulletin boards to fall themes. On Sunday November 8th we recognized Orphans Sunday. The children listened to how orphans live and how they are grateful for everything they have. We talked about what we are thankful and grateful for. We also discussed how there are times when we could be more like orphans and be more appreciative of what we have. We discussed how sometimes the greed of the world comes out in all of us, especially over materialistic things. Then we made a Venn Diagram or Word Web to show how our children and orphans are alike and different. The word webs to show what we are grateful for. Shirley filled in for me on Sunday November 15th so I could take my Dad to a Steelers game for his birthday. I planned lessons from 2 Corinthians, God loves a cheerful giver and also that a Thankful heart gives willingly. They discussed ways that they could be cheerful givers and ways they could willingly help those in need. They made a little plaque craft and colored a picture that coordinated with the lesson. On Tuesday November 17th we hosted a Messy Church night. We did a Saint Martin's Day festival. It was very interactive with the children dressing up for the roles of the story, making crafts, and enjoying a special treat from Shirley! On Sunday November 22nd we all enjoyed staying in service for Camp Song Sunday. The children and I really enjoyed singing along! We also loved learning about the colors of the church year and coloring our coordinating paper. On Sunday November 30th the children and I had the pleasure of lighting the advent wreath and reading to the congregation. We then went to our class to discussed the colors of the candle and what they meant. We colored a matching coloring page.

On Tuesday December 2nd I changed the bulletin board by the nursery to a Christmas theme. I decorated the classroom and nursery for Christmas. On Sunday December 6th the children picked out their parts for our Christmas Eve service. They listened to one of the songs that isn't in our hymn books, in order to be familiar with it. On Sunday December 13th the children practiced their speaking parts for the Christmas Eve service. We also listened to one of the songs and practiced it as well. We then made a winter picture frame craft for them to take home. On Sunday December 20th the children made Christmas cards for our members who are unable to attend church. We then tried on our costumes for the Christmas Eve service. After worship we did a run through of the program for Christmas Eve. On Thursday December 24th we had our Christmas Eve program during service. The children all did a wonderful job reading and playing their parts. We received many compliments and praises!

On Sunday December 27th the children and I discussed gifts we receive. We talked about the best gifts. We talked about the worst gifts. We talked about our reactions to both. We discussed the gifts God gives to us. We tried to look at what we considered terrible gifts from a different persons eyes. We learned that somethings we take for granted, other cherish. That maybe we should learn to appreciate all our gifts a little more. We also made a craft with a baby Jesus and a note that said Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

That evening for confirmation class we took the students, as well as some of our Sunday school children Christmas caroling. Everyone had a wonderful time, they even were rewarded with candy and treats as we went around! We can't wait to go again next year!

Heather Clark

(724) 493-1779

2015 Vital Statistics
Emmanuel Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ

Members 01/01/2015	163
2015 Deaths	(3)
2015 Removal	(1)
2015 New Member(s)	<u>(1)</u>
Members 12/31/2015	160

DEATHS:

01-10-15	*Blanche Highducheck	Rev. Joseph W. Hedden
01-27-15	Elizabeth Smail	Rev. Joseph W. Hedden
02-17-15	*Frank Patek	Rev. Joseph W. Hedden
03-15-15	*David Lynn Dwan	Rev. Joseph W. Hedden
06-14-15	Vivian Hill	Rev. Joseph W. Hedden
07-12-15	*Christopher Grabowski	Rev. Joseph W. Hedden
08-30-15	*Charles Rogers	Rev. Joseph W. Hedden
09-22-15	Jeffrey Hanks	Rev. Joseph W. Hedden

REMOVAL:

LETTERS OF TRANSFER IN:

LETTERS OF TRANSFER OUT:

03-13-15 Beverly Kemerer Congruity Presbyterian Church

REAFFIRMATION:

05-12-83 Justin Wojciechowick

CONFIRMANDS:

WEDDINGS:

06-20-15	*John DeStefano / Meghan Smirga	Rev. Joseph W. Hedden
12-19-15	Katie Cline / Craig Slafka	Rev. Joseph W. Hedden

*Non-Member

Youth Fund 2015 (unaudited)

Starting Balance— 409.04

2-3	Souper Bowl Sunday Food Bank	+39		448.04
3-5	Noisy Collection— Jan + Feb	+66.49		514.53
Ck 671 3-6	Pet Adoption League		-66.49	448.04
4-16	March Noisy Collection UCCP	+88.61		536.65
4-16	Easter Breakfast Donations Deposit	+198.56		735.21
5-14	April Noisy Collection UCCP	+89.21		824.42
Ck 672 5-14	Westmoreland County Food Bank Souper Bowl		-39.00	785.42
Ck 673 5-14	UCCP Donation		-177.82	607.60
5-22	May Noisy Collection (+ 25 for UCCP)	+69.11		676.71
6-25	June Noisy Collection (+ 25 for UCCP)	+118.46		795.17
Ck 674 7-1	Youngwood Synod Bus Trip Pass Thru		-30	765.17
Ck 675 7-1	Penn West Conference UCCP May/June		-50	715.17
7-2	Pass thru from 7-1	+30		745.17
Ck 676 7-8	St. Jude Hospital		-111	634.17

7-8	St. Jude	+20		654.17
7-26	Carnival Revenue	+92		746.17
Ck 677 8-20	Gateway Clipper		-499.80	246.37
8-24	July/August Noisy Collection + Gateway Clipper Reservations	+366.05		612.42
Ck 678 8-25	Smile Train VBS		-34	578.42
9-2	Gateway Clipper Reservations	+161		739.42
Ck 679 9-9	Hay Ride Reservation. Herb Gearhard		-50	689.42
9-9	Ice Cream Cruise Reservations	+87		776.42
CK 680 9-11	ERUCC Confirmation Books (3)		-42	734.42
9-25	September Noisy Collection	+47.49		781.91
10-5	Pass Thru Pastoral Care	+355		1136.91
CK 681 10-5	Pass Thru Pastoral Care		-355	781.91
Ck 682 10-11	Hayride— Herb Gearhard		-130	651.91
10-13	Hayride Deposit (130) and Pass Thru Pastoral Care (250)	+380		1031.91
Ck 683 10-13	Pass Thru Pastoral Care		-250	781.91
10-19	Pass Thru Pastoral Care	+75		856.91
Ck 684	Pass Thru		-75	781.91

YOUTH FUND 2015 (UNAUDITED)

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Pastoral Care				
11-14	October Noisy Collection	+48.50		830.41
CK 685	ERUCC Advent Pageant Book		-12	818.41
12-21	Nov & December Noisy Collection	+63		818.41

Emmanuel Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ
Pastor's Report--Year End 2015

Worship:	61	Visits:	93
Baptism	4	Hospital Visits:	20
		Talbot Wojciechowicz; Cameron Carmichael	
		Ian Carroll; Rocco DiDomenico	
Communion	11	Home Visits:	73
Weddings	2		
		John DeStefano/Meghan Smirga; Craig Slafka/Katie Cline	
Funerals	8		
		Blanche Highducheck; Elizabeth Smail; Frank "Bucky" Patek; David Dwan;	
		Vivian Hil; Christopher Grabowski; Charles Rogers; Jeffrey Hanks	
		Pastoral Contacts:	219
		Pastoral Conversations:	155
		Meetings:	140
Bible Study:	56		
Confirmation:	9		
Grace and Peace,		Hills Church:	72
Pastor Joseph		National Church:	1
		Conference:	27
		Association:	27
		Area:	13

February 2016

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- 2.** Gerald Cline
Joshua William Purcell
- 3.** Calley Elias
- 4.** Emily Glendinning
- 5.** Josh Smith
Joel Smith
- 6.** Maddox Morrison
- 7.** Alice Campos
Gregory Moore
Renee Tamarelli
- 11.** Deanna Purcell
Trenton Thompson
- 12.** Sue Baughman
- 14.** Barb Karp
Sadie Jobe
- 17.** Roy Clark
- 18.** Jill Dibert
Caroline Glendinning
Cody Zimmerman
- 20.** Trudy Hill
- 22.** Jeff Hill
- 25.** Howard Cline
- 27.** Rob Snyder
Joseph Harris
- 28.** Paul Cardoni
Parker Kemble

GREETERS:

FEB. 7 Dan and Doe Swank
FEB. 10 Ash Wednesday
FEB. 14 Shirley Veahman and Donna Carroll
FEB. 21 Ben and Marylou Walker
FEB. 28 Mike Bartlett and Jim Pees

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DEACONS:

FEB. 7 Alex Graham, Cheyrl Chizmar, Dave Chizmar and Bill Dulaney
FEB. 10 Ash Wednesday Service
FEB. 14 Cheyrl Chizmar, Dave Chizmar, Bill Dulaney and Amanda Steele
FEB. 21 Dave Chizmar, Bill Dulaney, Amanda Steele and Cathy Hanks
FEB. 28 Bill Dulaney, Amanda Steele, Cathy Hanks and Alex Graham

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

February 7, 2016

Elders are needed to help set up,
clean up and serve.



NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS (3 YEAR TERM)

Deacons: Bill Dulaney
Cathy Hanks
Amanda Steele
Elder: Linda Dulaney