



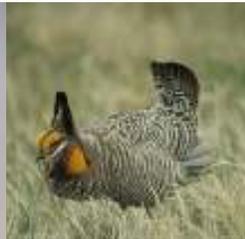
Wentz's United Church of Christ

September 2018

Sunday School Rally Day Pancake Breakfast

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 9**. We begin with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Stewardship Committee at 8:30 am Sunday School Rally Day is at 9:30 followed by the 10:45 worship service. A free-will donation for the breakfast is appreciated.

Please note that we are using the same Sunday School Curriculum as we have in the past.



Sunday Gatherings in September

- September 2— Psalms: Filled with Emotions
Service at 9:30 a.m.
- September 9— Why This Church Matters
Service at 10:45 a.m.
- September 16— Life in 10 Objects
Service at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
- September 23— Life Design
Service at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
- September 30— Clear Vision
Service at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Micah 6:8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

What does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to
love kindness,
and to walk humbly with
your God?



What is the Purpose of an Interim Minister?

An Intentional Interim Minister provides for the ongoing worship life of the congregation, offers basic pastoral care and administrative leadership, and helps guide a church through the unique complexities, challenges and opportunities inherent in an “in-between time.”

This minister has specific training to help a congregation address complex issues: conflict with the previous pastors; conflict related to denominational identity; ethical violations by laity or previous pastors; relation challenges; the grief that may follow the departure of the previous pastor. (Section 2-6 from *A Pilgrimage through Transition and New Beginnings*)

The Intentional Interim is for a short period of time—2 -3 years—and is not to be considered for the settled position. This person will help members to find out who they are as a congregation absent a pastor and also to discern who God is calling them to become. This is a time of looking at why we do what we do as a church. Do we do this because we believe this or because that is the way we have always done this?

Please know that the Intentional Interim may cause “ruffling of feathers” because their job is to bring areas of ministry to the surface so that the congregation can have discussions about where God is calling them. Many times, these conversations can cause people anxiety, but they are very necessary for a church to understand who they are and why they do what they do.

Doing this hard work now will make the selection and arrival of your settled pastor a much more pleasant experience.

Rev. Sharron Morris—Associate Conference Minister



Sunday Morning Adult Ed

John Grebe will begin a Bible study on the book of Ecclesiastics beginning on Sunday, September 16 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Confirmation Class

Parents of Youth in 7th Grade or older are invited to attend a meeting on Monday, September 10 at 7pm in the Guild Room. We will review the program and decide on dates and times of confirmation.

Sunday Morning Cafe

Join us September 16, 23, 30 at 9:30 in the Guild Room for a discussion of Worship. Recent changes will be discussed and explored along with other ideas people may want to bring about our time together on Sundays.

Scott Lovaas—Leader

Fear is a disease that eats away at logic
and makes man inhuman.

—Marian Anderson, singer

The Power of Yes

Not too long ago, a consultant was contacted by a record company to help with sales and marketing. The consultant was a leadership coach and a psychotherapist. The consultant was brought in to help with a music diva. His goal was to revive her and the record company sales. As he sat listening to people make suggestions to turn things around, he took notes. The word no was used 76 times in response to a proposed plan. Yes or any other encouraging word 11 times. Over the next few weeks the team focused on what it would be like if, before anyone opened their mouth to respond, they went into a 'yes state' to open one's mind, a state of open possibilities.

Over time, the record company ideas began to flow and responses were yes why not. The Diva's record started selling again as they embraced new models.

In my house I said no a great deal. With three teenage girls recently at home I got a fair amount of requests. Can you take my friend and I out to eat now? Can you drive me to so and so's house? Will you buy me shoes? Can you fly the French exchange student and myself to New York for a weekend to visit my older sister?

Ironically, when we lived in South Africa, I found myself saying yes much more. I am not sure what it was. Even when we were there a few years ago, I was saying yes much more. It is very liberating to foster the quest of others.

It is reported that John Lennon strolled into Yoko Ono's art studio in 1966 and encountered a ladder. A sign at the bottom invited "Step Up." He climbed, expecting the words at the top to read "Get Lost!" Instead, he read YES. It was, he said, like the sun coming out. He credited it with an extraordinary shift inside himself personally and musically.

The word yes opens up doors.

As the leader of Indian nationalism in the 1930's and 40's Mahatma Gandhi was convinced he could gain independence for his country without firing a bullet. "How, Lord Mountbatten asked, did Gandhi expect the British to depart?" "I expect you will just walk out." The viceroy found the idea inconceivable. Gandhi simply did not see the No. At the end of the day, the British left peacefully and an international movement for nonviolence protest was born.

For the church to be sustainable, viable, and relevant it will need to follow the great commandments—Love God and Love our neighbor. Another way to follow the commandments is to grow. And we can grow by saying yes.

I encourage you to count the number of time you say yes or no during a day. Norman Gottman, a marriage researcher uses a five to one formula. He suggests that every time you say no or something negative, you need to say yes or something positive five times.

Saying yes, is actually really good for you as well. Saying no often sets up barriers, roadblocks, and defenses.



At this church we will try and find ways to say yes, to new models, new ideas, and new patterns. The kingdom of God is about saying yes to new experiences, new relationships new avenues of growth. We just need willing hearts. When we start to say 'yes,' like the mustard seed, and we can grow beyond measure.

I will end with a poem written by Dawna Markova on the night her father died.

I will not die an un-lived life.
I will not live in fear of falling or catching fire.
I choose to inhabit my days,
To allow my living to open me,
To make me less afraid,
More accessible;

To loosen my heart
Until it becomes a wing,
A torch, a promise.

God has much in store for you-say yes to those things,
people and experiences God places in front of you.



Scott Lovaas

Consultant Search

The Congregation of Wentz's UCC is struggling with the transition from our retired pastor to our interim pastor whose job is to help us define who we are as a church. Once we agree on who are we can find the right person to be our settled pastor. In his final month, Pastor Tony told us each week that this would be a difficult time in the life of our church. He warned that members would be upset and that there would be sadness, confusion and anger at him and anger at the change. What we did not expect was that the anger would manifest itself as unacceptable behavior such as shouting, personal attacks and threats. None of these behaviors allow us to have discussions about our fears and concerns. Rather they throw up barriers between us so that we cannot have a dialogue to decide who and what our church will be going forward.

The members of Consistory feel that, as a body, Consistory does not have the skill set to develop a Code of Conduct that will enable us to have the needed discussions in an atmosphere where we can all listen and learn from one another as we define the church we will leave for our children and grandchildren. We need everyone to feel that Wentz's is a safe place and that is not the case now.

To this end, Consistory formed a committee to interview consultants who specialize in group behavior to help us become that safe place. The committee is Bob Dubree, Rita Cipriano and Kathy Wells. We are interviewing at least 3 candidates. Each candidate will be asked to provide a plan, timeline and costs. There will be small and large group meetings and all members of the congregation will be invited to participate in our guided sessions. We hope to make our selection very soon and to begin the process within the next few weeks. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any member of Consistory about our selection process. Pray for Wentz's.





Please keep in your Prayers

Robert Darde, Bill Detwiler, Nancy Domurat, Irene Ferguson, Jay Fenstermacher, John J. Grebe, Donna Kriebel, Claire Metzger, Pauline Thacker, Betty Emma Wells

The following list consists of family and friends in need of our prayers. Please take a moment to pray for each of them as the comfort of the love of Jesus Christ descends upon them.

Jeff Alisauckas, Danny Applewhite, Barbie Augustine, Karen Barrett, David L. Boyer, Sr. Bill Fisher, Seth Fulmer, Becky Geremia, Edward Gresch & Family, Kimberly and Adon Gross and their families, Nancy Gross, Doug Grunkley, Linda Hauck, Bill Heuer, Jr. Rich Higgins, Jessica Jannenga, Mary Lou Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Jamie Jordan, Dorothy Klock, Edith Kallensee, Don Krapf, Kari Kurtz, Agnes Lafiata, Dave and Mary Livezey, Brian, Tracy & Sophia Lukens, Norma Marshall, The family of Pat Montenegro, MaryAnn Morris, Nathan Morton, The Moyer Family, Terri Neubauer, Mia Nguyen, Nunes Family, Connie Patterson, Deidre Robinson, David Roper, Mary Jane Roth, Matt Scott, Stephanie Simak, Arlene Siron, Brian Tew, Mabel Weidman, Ty Wihite, Wayne Wilkie, Harry Wilmore, Iva Zanoni *

**Please make sure we have permission to add names to the prayer list. Please contact the church office if you would like your loved one to continue to be listed on the prayer list next month.*



DINING-OUT at P.J. Whelihan's, located at 799 Dekalb Pike in Blue Bell on **Thursday, September 13.** Family and friends of Wentz's UCC can enjoy lunch or dinner and PJs will donate 15% of your food bill to our church.

You must present a flyer to your server to participate. Hope to see you there!

Flyers can be found on the Welcome Desk at church.

Bibles for Second Graders

Second Graders will be presented with their Bibles on September 16th. Parents should make a point to have their 2nd grader at church that day. They will be presented during the service.

Christmas Pageant Director



We are in need of someone to direct the Christmas Pageant this year. If interested, please contact Debi Kinsky in church or call: 215-872-0951. We need to select the pageant and order it soon so that we can prepare.

Christian Ed Needs You

Christian Ed is looking for a new committee member. If you are interested, or need additional information, please contact Debi Kinsky: 215-872-0951.

Feathers in the wind

Once upon a time there was a woman who loved to gossip. Every day she would sit with her friends gossiping about the bad things others may have done. "Can you believe he did that?" "Can you believe she said that?" "And did you see what he was wearing? A man of his age..." On and on and on she would gossip.

One day the Rabbi asked to see her. "There's something I want you to do for me," he told her. He gave her a cushion and told her to go outside, cut it open and release all the feathers to the wind. "But why?" she pleaded. "Just do as I ask," he told her.

The woman went outside, slit the cushion open and released all the feathers to the wind where they were quickly blown far and wide and out of sight.

'Now,' said the Rabbi, "I would like you to go out and bring back all the feathers."

"But I can't," she pleaded. "They've been blown from pillar to post, down the street, over the hill. I'll never be able to bring them all back."

The Rabbi looked at her sternly. "And so it is with words and idle gossip," he told her. "Words once spoken can never be taken back. There is no telling how far they will travel and what harm they could do. From now on, I want you to think before you speak."

And she did.



Two Wolves

One evening, a Cherokee elder was teaching his grandson about life.

"A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves. This battle that goes on between the two wolves is inside us all.

One wolf is Evil. He is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego."

He continued, "The other is Good. He is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf will win?"

Wisely, the grandfather simply smiled and replied, "The one you feed."

8 Signs

Church Consultant, Tom Rainer wrote an article on May 17, 2017 entitled “Eight Signs Your Church May Be Closing Soon.”

He states if your church has more than four of these signs, it is likely in deep trouble. You can read the list and make your own decision.

1. There has been a numerical decline for four or more years.
2. The church does not look like the community in which it is located
3. The congregational is mostly comprised of senior adults
4. The focus is on the past, not the future.
5. The members are intensely preference-driven.
6. The budget is severely inwardly focused.
7. There are sacred cow facilities. i.e. parlor, pulpit, Bible,....
8. Any type of change is met with fierce resistance.

Churches with four or more signs have three choices: do nothing, manage their decline, or embark on a process of change and revitalization.

The Apostle Paul writes in Colossians 1:28 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

“It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”

Walking 6—7pm



Join us Wednesday evenings at Wentz’s parking lot as we walk for one hour along Zacharias Creek Trail and in Heebner Park.

But the beauty is in the walking - -we are betrayed by destinations.
- Gwyn Thomas, writer

If you seek creative ideas, go walking. Angels whisper to a man when he goes for a walk. - Raymond I. Myers





Wentz on Tap
Thursdays at 7pm
Pizza Time Saloon

Reaganomics, Southwest Airlines, Pet Rocks, the Protestant Reformation. All these things can trace their origins to a god conversation in a pub. Join us at Pizza Time Saloon, 1900 West Point Pike, in West Point and see what we come up with next.

Come in for a pint and good conversation at our weekly gathering.

Coffee 10:30am

Every Wednesday in September join us at the Italian Market in Skippack for a cup of coffee and conversation. This is open to any and there is no agenda—simple conversation about life, love, church, sports, travel, prayer, and family..



*Women of Wentz's (W.O.W.) Guild meeting is scheduled
for September 17th, 2018 at 7:00 pm,
at Wentz's UCC church.*

*The "Guild" is operated by the women of Wentz's and
sponsors three events a year.*

**Fastnacht dinner, which occurs the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday
and is a covered dish with Fastnacht donuts for desert.*

**The annual Wentz's Christmas Bazaar*

**Outreach luncheon (formerly known as Mother-Daughter Banquet).*

**There are three to four meetings a year.*



Youth Group News

All youth group members need to complete the Wentz's UCC Information Sheet with your insurance information in order to participate in youth group events. This form can be found online at: www.wentzsucc.org and on the youth group bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall.

The Youth Group will meet on **Sunday, September 16th at 6:30pm** . Come and join us as we make plans on upcoming Youth events and fundraisers.

Please contact Chip Kinsky: chip8691@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Happy September!

Wow! What a difference a year makes! This time last year we weren't sure when we would be able to start school because the construction project and the licensing process were both trying to get done.

This summer, we provided 9 weeks of camp program for our little ones, including a full week of Vacation Bible School! There were about 54 campers over the course of the summer weeks. Some students received therapy sessions from several providers (Speech, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Special Instruction, One on One wrap around, and Behavior Therapy) offering nearly 80 hours of service to the children of our community. We provided a consistent program over the course of the summer that kept their services intact and ready to continue into the fall without interruption.

Wentz's is proud to announce that we are heading into our 60th year as a kindergarten/day school/nursery school/preschool! We invite you to help us celebrate. We're planning a picnic at the end of the year, and want to invite every past director, teacher, parent and student to a reunion! As we progress through the year, watch for details, and help us spread the word! Our first day of school is September 4. If you know of anyone looking for a great preschool experience for their little one, please tell them about us! We currently have a few openings in each class.

Many thanks to the generous members of the congregation who have stopped by to drop off juice, crackers, napkins, cups, plastic spoons and forks, coffee filters, paper plates, baby wipes, tissues, markers, and other various craft supplies this summer. We are going into the year in GREAT shape! Thank you!!

Kim Bauer



Looking Forward...



World Communion Sunday
is October 7

On Saturday, October 13, beginning at 9:30am, Wentz's UCC is excited to be hosting the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Celebration. Please see Rick Wilkie for more information.

The Stewardship Committee has organized another Garage Tour on October 14. Contact Gerald Rader for information on this fun event.



Wentz's Annual Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday, December 1. To help prepare for the Bazaar, we will begin our cookie baking and packing on **October 22** and continue on the following dates: October 23, 29, 30, and November 5, 7, 12, 13, and possibly the 14 if needed. *Please contact Rita Cipriano if you are interested in volunteering . rjcup@yahoo.com*

Back by popular demand.....The Stewardship Committee is planning Designer Bag Bingo on **Friday, November 2.**



☼ 8:30am & 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
 9:30am Sunday School 9am Saxophones
 Cherub Choir/Junior Choir/following Children's Message at
 the 10:45am Service of Worship; 10:30am Prelude chimes
 & Allegro Ringers
 †Summer Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2†	3 6:30 pm AA (Women Only)	4 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers 7:30pm AA	5 10:30am Coffee at the Italian Market, Skippack 6pm Walking 8 pm AA	6 7pm Wentz on Tap 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	7 8pm AA (Men)	8
9☼ 8:30am Stewardship Pancake Breakfast 9:30am Rally Day 10:45 Worship Service	10 6:30 pm AA (Women Only) 7pm Confirmation Orientation	11 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers 7:30pm AA	12 10:30am Coffee at the Italian Market, Skippack 6pm Walking 6:00pm Elders Mtg 7:00pm Consistory Mtg 8 pm AA	13 Dining Out 4-9pm PJ Wheliihans 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	14 8pm AA (Men) <u>Articles for October Newsletter Due</u>	15
16☼ 6:30pm Youth Group Mtg Junior Choir begins Prelude Chimes begins 9:30 am Sunday Café 9:30am Ecclesiastics Bible Study begins	17 6:30 pm AA (Women Only) 7pm Guild Meeting	18 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers 7:30pm AA	19 10:30am Coffee at the Italian Market, Skippack 6pm Walking 8 pm AA	20 7pm Wentz on Tap 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	21 8pm AA (Men)	22
23☼ 9:30 am Sunday Café 9:30am Bible Study	24 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	25 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers 7:30 Christian Ed 7:30pm AA	26 10:30am Coffee at the Italian Market, Skippack 6pm Walking 7pm Stewardship Mtg 8 pm AA	27 7pm Wentz on Tap 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	28 8pm AA (Men)	29
30☼ 9:30 am Sunday Café 9:30am Bible Study						