



Walking life's road with Jesus.

Daily trusting God's Word.

A Congregation of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

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Submissions for the newsletter should be made by the end of the third week of each month. Thank You.

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A Thought from Pastor Wayne-

A man I know of had a severe spinal injury. Let's call him Bob. Doctors estimate that Bob had lost about 80% of the strength in his left side. Three fingers had no feeling at all. The slightest movements sent pain hurtling down his left side. He had to stop working and wear a neck brace 24 hours a day.

On one particular day, Bob was sitting on his back porch. I was cold and windy but he needed a change of scenery. On that day, a little bird landed on the railing and began to sing. It was *terrible* weather. Bob couldn't believe that the bird wanted to leave his nest, let alone sing so brightly, but had no choice but to sit there and listen. '*Stupid bird,*' he thought.

The next day he was on the back porch again and again the bird showed up to sing. This day was a bright and beautiful spring day.

Then Bob realized: the bird sang in the cold wind and in the sunny warmth. His song wasn't altered by outward circumstances, but it was held constant by an internal condition. Through that bird God said to Bob, "you have the same choice. You will either let external circumstances mold your attitude, or your attitude will rise above the circumstances. You choose."

From the Elders-

You have hopefully received a card in the mail from regarding our financial preparations for R2E's ministry in 2019. In that mailing, (and available at the church) are two planning cards.

The pink card asks you to indicate your plans to support the general budget. The general budget supports things like staff salaries, property and building costs, curriculum for Sunday school and Bible studies, outreach efforts and mission work.

There is also a purple card which asks you to indicate your support of our future ministry location. As you know, our current lease for Suite 2 will be finished at the end of 2019. There are many options before us, including extending our current lease. Our prayer, however, is that we would outgrow this space and need to find a new location that would accommodate future expanding ministry.

Please remember that even as we dream about the future God has for us, our day-to-day needs are ever-present and will continue to grow.

Thank you for the support you have given over these first years of our ministry together!

- The Road to Emmaus Session

Treasurer's Financial Update

Tithes & offerings received in September were \$12,930. Year-to-date is \$106,874. Through September there is a \$1474 deficit.

Building fund through September totals \$21,126.

ECO MEN'S RETREAT

This year's retreat was at the Black Rock Retreat Center in Quarryville, Lancaster County. Five men from R2E participated along with two other ECO congregations. The sessions were fun and insightful as we explored what our purposes as Christians should be. Start planning to participate next fall in this great weekend of Christian fellowship.

HYMN FACTS

"Now thank we all Our God" is a favorite hymn that we will sing on Sunday, November 18th. It was written by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), a Lutheran pastor in the German village of Eilensburg. The hymn was written during the Thirty Years' War when the village of Eilensburg was invaded several times by various armies and suffered much from disease and the ravages of war. Written in German, it was translated into English by Catherine Winkworth in 1858.

The first stanza of this hymn is an expression of gratitude to God and his "countless gifts of love". The second is a petition for God's care and keeping. The last stanza is praise to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

LADIES PARISIAN CHRISTMAS TEA

Please join us on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 3.30 p.m. for our Ladies Parisian Christmas Tea. Please put your name and the number attending on the sign-up sheet. Feel free to bring a guest. The cost is \$5 for ages 12 years and older.

Questions: See Melissa Wentz.



MISSION AND OUTREACH NEWS

2019 Mission Trip

Planning for our 2019 mission trip has begun. We are planning to go to Winchester, KY, from June 22nd through the 29th. This is geared toward youth; anyone 12 years and older may participate. Adults are also encouraged to participate. A background check is required for anyone 18 or older. This year we have a new request of our mission trip participants: In order to register, there will be a cost of \$50. Please write your check to Road to Emmaus Church and put 'mission trip' in the memo line. You can mail it to the church office or hand it to Pastor Lowe at church on Sundays. If this is a financial burden, please let the pastor know and an accommodation can be made.

Beginner Guitar Lessons at R2E

The free beginner lessons are almost over for the fall session. There have been six regular students, all with smiles as they learned guitar basics. A spring session is being considered.

Annual Samaritan's Purse Shoobox mission

We will once again be participating in Samaritan's Purse Shoobox Ministry. This year we will pack 100 boxes. The Mission Committee is providing the boxes and the mailing labels. As a change from last year, the congregation is being asked to provide the contents for each box. Detailed information on the desired contents is available. The "Blessing of the Boxes" luncheon will be on Sunday, November 11th.



R2E BOOK CLUB

The book club will next meet on Saturday, January 5 at 10 a.m. The book for discussion is *Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig.

November Birthdays

Trevor Lauffer	November 2nd
Andrew Lowe	November 5th
Melissa Pierce	November 9th
Calvin Lowe	November 21st
Ruth Blinebury	November 25th
Joshua Lowe	November 31st

If the birthday list does not have your birthday on it, please let Pastor Lowe or Linda Parkin know so it can be added.



Music Opportunities

Music fellowship - Bring your horn, clarinet, etc., Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

See Becky Lowe if you have a musical talent you would like to share.

Fall Adult Bible Studies

The following are weekly Bible studies available to all. Invite a friend and enjoy fellowship.

Sunday Study Group - Sundays after 9:30 worship—*Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*

Monday Morning Study Group - *Romans Part 1* (Precept Ministries International) with Ellen Carahan at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday Night Discussion Group— with Tom Chilcote at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at the hope of Frank and Netta Caswell.

Thursday Morning Discussion Group - 7:00 a.m. at Panera Bread (Paxton Towne Center).

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Dan Hassel

I am from Erie, and was raised Catholic, because my mother's family is Catholic. Although we attended church on Sunday and I went to CCD classes, it all seemed like empty rituals with no basis in reality. By the time I became a teenager, I rebelled and decided I was an atheist.

However, God had a different plan. I had some friends who were attending a Presbyterian Church youth group in Erie and they invited me to join them. The youth leader and the pastor both patiently answered my many questions. At a church retreat, I responded to an altar call and gave my life to Christ.

I continued to attend the Presbyterian Church and eventually decided to go to Westminster College, a small PCUSA school in New Wilmington PA. While there, something very important happened: I met a beautiful girl named Ellen while we were both getting ice cream in the cafeteria. Once we started to date, there was no looking back.

I finished college a year early and left for graduate school at Carnegie-Mellon University, in what was then the School of Urban and Public Affairs. During the summer between my two years at CMU, Ellen and I were married and moved into a tiny one-bedroom sublet in Pittsburgh.

When one of my professors moved to Harrisburg to take a job with the PA Department of Revenue, he asked me to join him. I was there for 5 years, and then took a job in the Capitol with the Senate Appropriations Committee staff for the next 9 years. During those years, we had three children, Ben, Rosie and Lydia. We bought a little house, and started working on renovating it.

Since 1995, I have worked for the Department of Revenue in various roles, under Governors Ridge, Schweiker, Rendell, Corbett and now Wolf. I am now serving as the head of the Department for the second time.

I am sometimes asked how working for the government relates to my faith. The truth is that more than once I have asked God why He has put me in this position. The answer seems to be that public service is a calling, where the salt and light provided by believers is needed now more than ever. That calling is worth far more than any title of honor that the world can bestow.

Throughout all these years, we have been blessed by God beyond measure many times over.

Road to Emmaus Presbyterian Church

November 2018

	5 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am Ministry Teams Meeting 7:00pm	6 Tuesday Night Fellowship at the Caswells, 7:00pm The Guitar Gathering 7:00pm	7 Music Fellowship 7:00pm	8 Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am	9	10
						
11 Sunday Worship and Joyful Noise Offering 9:30am Fellowship, Sunday School & Blessings of the Boxes	12 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am Deacons Meeting 7:00pm	13 Tuesday Night Fellowship at the Caswells, 7:00pm	14 Music Fellowship 7:00pm	15 Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am The Guitar Gathering 6:00pm		
18 Sunday Worship 9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow	19 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am Session Meeting 7:00pm	20	21	22	23	24
						
25 Sunday Worship 9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow. Hanging of the Greens	26 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am	27	28 Music Fellowship 7:00pm	29 Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am	30	1
						
2 Sunday Worship and Communion 9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow ADVENT BEGINS	3 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am Ministry Teams Meeting 7:00pm		5 Music Fellowship 7:00pm	6 Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am Ladies Tea at 3:30pm	7 Adult Fellowship Christmas Open House at the Bentz's	8
		DECEMBER				
9 Sunday Worship and Communion 9:30am CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT	10 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am Deacons Meeting 7:00pm	11	12 Music Fellowship 7:00pm	13 Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am	14	15