



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:

'Almost, but not yet.' This is a way of describing the time we live in. It is an 'in between' time. Advent reminds us of this.

As Jesus was humbly born in Bethlehem at the dawning of the first century, we recognize that God has come among us. This is the historical event that we celebrate in Christmas. The cultural celebration of "the most wonderful time of the year" misses the point. God so loved the world that He entered into our material and finite existence in order to lovingly rescue us from the effects of our sin.

But there is more to celebrate in Advent. There is an Advent that is still on history's schedule in his coming again. That Advent will be very different than the one we celebrate from history past. It will be a coming, not in the littleness of an infant, but in the power and glory and might of the reigning King of kings. Unlike his first advent, no one will mistake what is happening in his second coming.

Today, we live between these two Advents. It can feel like a long time of waiting until God shows up again. It is easy to feel like He is distant and, for now at least, we are apart from Him while we wait.

A little girl asked her father, "Daddy, can we play?" Her dad was in the middle of working on something at that moment.

He said, "I'm very busy at the moment. In about an hour, we can play."

"Ok," she said. "When you're finished, I will give you a great big hug."

She went to the door, then did a U-turn and came back to give her dad a big squeeze. "You said you were going to give me a hug *after* I finished," her dad said teasingly.

"I just wanted you to know what you have to look forward to!" the little girl said.

God wants us to know, through things like the celebration of his first coming at Christmas, how much we have to look forward to in his great second coming.

As you fellowship at parties, give gifts to each other and sing the songs of Christmas, may all of our celebration in this season of the year be that hug from God that causes us to look forward.

The Message paraphrase of Romans 8:18-21 reads like this...

"That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens."

For this reason, may your Christmas be merry!

- Pastor Wayne



Treasurer's Financial Update

Tithes & offerings received in October were \$9,885. Year-to-date is \$116,609. Through October there was a \$4,140 deficit.

Building fund through October totals \$22,275.

Advent Events

December 7th, 6:30 p.m. - Adult Fellowship Christmas Open House at the Bentz's home.

December 9th - Children's Christmas Pageant during the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

December 19th - Christmas carols, prayers and cookies, 7:00 p.m.

December 24th - Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Bring A Friend!

HYMN FACTS

"O come, O Come, Emmanuel"

This song, sung during the Christmas season, is from the 12th century. It is a collection of expressions of spiritual truths. The tune was originally a plainsong or chant. It was translated into English from its Latin and Greek origins by John M. Neale in the 1800s.

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel."

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 Spaghetti Dinner

Our November Spaghetti Dinner was a huge success. Over 50 people were served great spaghetti and meatballs, with salad and dessert. The cooks and servers did an outstanding job. \$600 was raised to help fund the 2019 trip to Winchester, KY, June 22nd through the 29th.

Beginner Guitar Lessons at R2E

A recital was held on the evening of November 18th for family and friends of the students—a fun event! Get your guitar tuned for additional free beginner, plus somewhat more advanced lessons, being planned for late winter into early spring. More details are available on our website.



Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Mission

We once again participated in Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry. This year we packed 75 boxes. The Mission Committee provided the boxes and the mailing labels, and members packed individual boxes. The "Blessing of the Boxes" luncheon was on Sunday, November 11th. A job well done by all who participated in this mission activity.

Bethesda Mission

Members of our congregation are providing the food and servers for Christmas dinner at the mission. Volunteers to help the Sullivans are needed. A similar activity is planned for the Bethesda Women and Childrens' Mission over the Christmas holidays.

Individual Prayer

Each Sunday after worship the pastor and an elder will be available to pray with you. They will be stationed in the front right corner of the worship area.

R2E BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet on Saturday, January 3, at 10 a.m. The book for discussion is *The Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig. This is a nostalgic telling of an eleven-year-old boy's summer adventures, traveling to and from relatives in 1951.

December Birthdays

Joe Young	December 3rd
Hannah Chapman	December 7th
Cathy Bentz	December 9th
Linda Parkin	December 9th
Eric Ewing	December 13th
Lindsey Ewing	December 14th
Gerry Blinebury	December 26th

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.

December 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.

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

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



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Paul and Vilette Uhl



Paul and Vilette Uhl met on the 17th of January 2008 while working on Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Talk about the Love Boat!

Paul was the Youth Activities Manager, and Vilette was one of the Youth

Staff. A mutual friend started to drop some heavy hints on how they would be perfect for each other, and that is how they started to consider the possibility of becoming more than colleagues. They took it slow and easy, taking the time to get to know each other before becoming a couple. The last thing you want to do on a ship is become involved with someone you work with, and having no way out of the situation if it becomes awkward.

They worked on ships together for the next 2 years, getting engaged on an island in Vanuatu called Mystery Island. Paul had been asking Vilette repeatedly what she thought the mystery of Mystery Island was, so that when he asked her to marry him on that island, he started the proposal off with: "I have solved the Mystery of Mystery Island...God has sent you to me, will you marry me?"

They decided that Vilette will emigrate to the USA, although Paul was more than willing to move to South Africa. They were married in 2010 at The Chateau in Poconos. Newly married, they moved in with Paul's best friend for 3 months, until Paul could find a job and they could rent an apartment. Vilette was allowed to start working 8 months later when her Green Card arrived. They held separate jobs and a part time job together as Relief House Parents for Milton Hershey School. They bought a house. After 5 years they decided being without each other for the majority of the day did not make them happy, and they became full time House Parents at Milton Hershey School in 2014. The school serves underprivileged children, their mission is "To nurture and educate children to lead fulfilling and productive lives." Paul and Vilette were not blessed with their own children, but they continue to be a Mother and Father figure to 8 Elementary aged boys.

Life is grand, and both of them look forward to growing old together.

Road to Emmaus Presbyterian Church

December 2018 / January 2019

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	
9 Sunday Worship and Joyful Noise Offering 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			
16 Sunday Worship 9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow	17 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am Session Meeting 7:00pm	18	19 Cookies, Carols & Prayer 7:00pm	20 Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am			21
23 Sunday Worship 9:30am Fellowship to follow	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7:00pm	25					28
30 Sunday Worship 9:30am Fellowship to follow	31	1	2	3 Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am	4	5	
January							
6 Sunday Worship and Communion 9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow	7 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am Ministry Teams Meeting 7:00pm	8	9 Music Fellowship 7:00pm	10 Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am	11	12	
							