Emilie United Methodist Church

Volume 1, Issue 9

November 19, 2020

Emilie Outreach Newsletter

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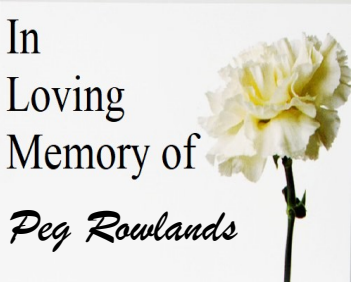
If you have prayer requests or other needs, please contact the church office. You are loved and valued



Check us out online at www.EmilieUMC.com

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Christ UMC will be hosting our annual Thanksgiving Eve worship service to thank God for His many blessings this year.
Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00p.m.
Online: Facebook - Christ UMC Fairless Hills
Call-in: 415-655-0001
Access Code: 1262309875 Password: 77887399
Radio: 87.9 FM radio in the parking lot outside Christ UMC.
Traditionally this is shared with all of the churches in our Mission Cluster. Although we cannot be together in person, we are encouraging everyone to participate through Facebook, calling in by phone or listening on the radio.

Online & Call-in Worship ONLY
November 29th & December 6th

There will be no in-person worship the 2 Sundays following Thanksgiving. Please make arrangements to worship with us online or by phone these 2 Sundays.

WORSHIP connect to God

Emilie UMC Worship Services premiere live on our Facebook page every **Sunday at 9:30am** and are then available to watch anytime thereafter.

Contact the church office for information on the weekly Call-in Worship option.

Find us on Facebook

Stay connected with us on Facebook @EmilieUMC

Advent Missions Focus

Sunday, November 29th – First Sunday in Advent: HOPE

Mission Focus: Spread hope to children with new toys distributed through our Toys for Tots collection.

Toys can be dropped off Sat. Nov 28th 10-11am, during regular office hours M-F, 9am-1pm, Thurs. Dec 3rd 6-7pm, Sat. Dec 5th 10-11am

Sunday, December 6th – Second Sunday in Advent: FAITH

Mission Focus: Show an example of faith through small gifts to the children of Emilie Christian Day School, Head Start, and the Intermediate Unit. We are collecting boxes of crayons (new only), full size candy canes, packages of cookies, and card games for preschoolers (ie: go fish, uno, playing cards)

Items can be dropped off: Thurs. Dec 3rd 6-7pm, Sat. Dec 5th 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F, 9am-1pm

Sunday, December 13th – Third Sunday in Advent: JOY

Mission Focus: Spread joy by writing Christmas cards to shut-ins and other members of our Emilie family. Donations of stamps are greatly appreciated!

Cards & stamps can be dropped off: Saturday, Dec 12th 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F, 9am-1pm

Sunday, December 20th – Fourth Sunday in Advent: PEACE

Mission Focus: Spread peace through the collection of nonperishable food items to feed the hungry.)

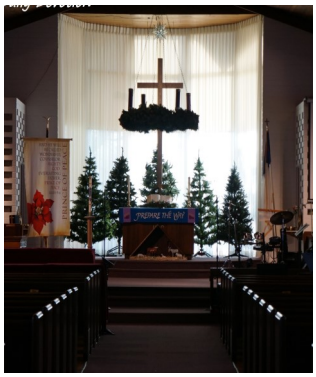
Items can be dropped off: Saturday, Dec 19th 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F, 9am-1pm

Share A Christmas

As we honor our Mission statement to "Serve people through Christ" this Christmas season, we are once again blessing families in our church and community through our Share A Christmas program.

Please stop by and grab an envelope off of our Share-A-Christmas Tree in the Narthex or use your own envelope to be used to submit your donation. Donations can also be mailed to the church, please note: Share a Christmas on the envelope or check. Last year we blessed over 100 families because of your generosity!

Thank you for staying faithful during this difficult time and continuing to give.



Advent Preparations

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning coming or visit, begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians. Please join us Nov 29th—Dec 24th as we celebrate Hope, Faith, Joy, Peace, and Christ.

To prepare your hearts for Christmas we have a daily devotional. It will be posted daily on our Emilie Facebook page or you can pick up a copy from the church office. This devotional involves preparing a manger with slips of paper hay each day. You can make one, use a basket, or pick one up from Emilie UMC.

We also suggest that you have an advent wreath at home to light each week. You can make one like the children's church one pictured at the right or you can use five candles. More ideas will be posted on our Emilie Facebook page.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are moving forward and planning to offer an in-person option for Christmas Eve Worship.

HOWEVER...

Church leadership is closely following the guidance of the UMC Conference, County Health Dept, and CDC to determine if in-person worship is still a safe option.

Please make arrangements to worship with us online or by phone if it is determined that in-person is no longer a safe option.

Christmas Eve Worship Options

Please join us for our Christmas Eve candlelight service!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

ONLINE WORSHIP (EmilieUMC on Facebook):

5:00pm - Online Family Worship Service*
7:00pm - Online Candlelight Worship Service*

*Online services will premier at designated time, and can then be viewed at your convenience after premiere ends.

Church Facebook page - Emilie UMC

CALL-IN WORSHIP

8:00pm - Call-in worship service. 1-929-205-6099
Meeting Code: 839 2612 4450 **Passcode:** 07300

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (if possible): 7:00pm and 9:00pm

Please call the office or sign up at https://bookapew.com/app/pa/emilieumc.

As the holiday approach we welcome you to worship where you feel most comfortable. There are now many options to be a part of our worship services and we are excited to be reaching people with God's word, both near and far with our online presence. Whether you come in person or enjoy from the comfort of your home, have a light ready to shine!

(flashlight, cell phone, battery operated candles, etc.)

Advent Family Night
5pm Sunday Dec 6th on Zoom

Hang out with your Emilie family via zoom, create a nativity and sing Christmas carols.

RSVP by Tuesday, Dec 2nd by calling the church office or via google form at Emilie UMC.com. Your family craft kit can be picked up Sat Nov 28th 10-11am, M-F 9am-1pm, Wed Dec 3rd 6-7pm, or Sat Dec 5 10-11am after you RSVP.

Building Access & Update

We would like to remind everyone that Emilie's building remains closed for all purposes outside of the operations of the Day School, Bucks IU and church staff. Every effort is being made by both schools as well as the church staff to keep all operations separate to minimize potential exposure and spread of the virus. **We ask that anyone who needs to stop into the church office for any reason to please do so during office hours and to <u>ONLY enter the building through the church office entrance.</u>**

Within the past week there have been 2 individuals in our school programs who have tested positive for Covid-19. These individuals were not in contact with each other and there is no reason to believe they contracted the virus on-site. The department of Health was contacted and all proper protocols were followed.

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed on the following dates:
November 26-27, 2020 in observance of Thanksgiving.
December 24—January 3 Christmas break.
Office hours will resume on Monday, January 4th.

Pastor-on-Call: Please phone (215) 945-5503. The pastor-on-call is available outside regular office hours for those experiencing true emergencies, such as a critical hospitalization or urgent physical, emotional or spiritual need

Day School Update

It is with heavy hearts, that we have to announce that after 3 years, Tami Lewis our Director at Emilie Christian Day School will be relocating. Tami has been a blessing during this time and we wish her tremendous success in the future. The board is currently seeking our next Day School Director.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Operation Christmas Child. This year we have collected 43 boxes to be sent around the world for children truly in need.

Thank you for being a blessing and helping to impact their lives in a positive way this season!

Tri-Club
Sunday School for Adults

Tri-Club (Adults of all ages) meets Sundays at 10:30am via Zoom. Our adult class uses Cokesbury's Adult Bible Studies, a quarterly study presenting stimulating lessons that explore biblical messages and how to apply them to daily life. Adults of all ages are invited to participate in this engaging class.

Tri-Club meets on Zoom - Sundays at 10:30am.
Winter study begins December 6th
Contact the church office for more information.

EMILIE UMC
7300 New Falls Road
Levittown Pa 19055
215-945-5502

We are on the web
www.emilieumc.com

A Note from Pastor Mike

Advent May Feel Different this Year

As the Covid-19 virus runs ramped throughout the land, many have surrendered to the notion that this pandemic may be with us for longer than first expected. As we approach what traditionally is referred to as the holiday season there is a spirit of melancholy among some of us. The media has a labeled this conundrum as Covid weary. Perhaps we might attribute our indifference to the upcoming holidays to Covid. However, I would like to draw a comparison to the season we find ourselves in to that of John the Baptist.

In the first chapter of Mark's gospel states that now the "voice of one crying in the wilderness" is John the Baptist, who was to arrive on the scene as a direct fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. John's primary focus was to announce the coming of Jesus Christ the Messiah. Jesus is the complete fulfillment of every promise God made to his people. John is a voice crying in the wilderness, from the wilderness. His dwelling place was the wilderness. His ministry began in desolate places east of Jerusalem.

So, why did John choose to live in the wilderness? One would think a young man with a spiritual lineage like his would seek the most influential synagogue around or better yet, in the temple and wait for the religious leaders to recognize his authority. But John chose instead to remain in wilderness. What did he know about the wilderness that we do not know?

Maybe John choose to live in the wilderness because he had heard enough of the history of Israel to know that God's expertise is in bringing good things out of gloomy places. Mark tells us that eventually Jesus joined John out in the desert and insisted that John baptize him. As soon as Jesus came out of the water, God's spirit descended visibly on him in the form of a dove, and a voice from heaven acknowledged Jesus' identity as the beloved son of God himself. You would think after such an incredible pronouncement, Jesus would move directly into his public ministry, but that is not what happened. The same Spirit who had descended on him like a dove led him to go deeper into the wilderness.

I recall that throughout Bible history many good things happened in the wilderness. While a desolate, isolated, dry, and empty often lonely place, the wilderness offers great possibilities for us even during this season of Covid. Perhaps less distracted by the trappings of the commercialization of Advent/Christmas, our focus on the Redeemer of our souls could bring us closer to him, and those in need of His ultimate gift to humanity.

Emilie Scrip Gift Card Program

As the holidays are quickly approaching, our Scrip gift card program is the perfect place to grab stocking stuffers and thoughtful presents for your loved ones! Purchase gift cards for daily use: things like gas, groceries, home repairs, dining out, clothing, etc. to help Emilie earn money for our ministries. There is no additional charge to you, just pay face value and the church will earn a percentage from each purchase.

Contact the church office to order by: December 6th to receive gift cards in time of Christmas.

Please make checks payable to: Emilie UMC Stewardship Account

Pick up: During office hours, Monday-Friday, 9:00am-1:00pm

Amazon—Walmart—Lowes/Home Depot—Target—Best Buy—Kohls—CVS
Bath & Body Works—Rite Aid—TJ Maxx/Marshalls/Home Goods—and more!

Check out shopwithscrip.com/brands to see a complete list of retailers you can order from.

shopwithscrip.com

Light of the World

November 16, 2020

Dear Christian Friends:

As the Advent season approaches our thoughts transition to the expected arrival of our Savior Jesus Christ. This year is much different than years past. In fact, we have not quite witnessed a year like 2020 in our lifetime. Yet, God has been good to us, in the midst of uncertainty, pandemic, political strife, and financial insecurity for most people. Our hope remains strong, our faith is vibrant, and our future is secure in Jesus. Advent reminds us of God's unfailing love, his sacrificial, unconditional gift to humanity. We are the recipients of his love, and beneficiaries of an eternal inheritance prepared just for us.

The Apostle Paul reminds us, "be not weary in well doing for in due time you will reap if you faint not" (Gal. 6:9). These are challenging times for many, and during such times we are called to persevere beyond obstacles, and circumstance which may imped the work of our Lord going forth. Would you prayerfully consider a special sacrificial Christmas offering to further the ministries here at Emilie UMC? Please remember that God is faithful and will complete the work he began in us. God bless, and keep you in his care.

Sincerely,

Mike

Pastor Mike

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. "
John 8:12