

*THE PARISH CRIER*  
**EMMANUEL (BAUST)**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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*From the Pastor's Desk*

**September 2020**



Here is what we look like now - a bunch of Lone Rangers! We have about 15 people attending in person on Sundays and another 20+ households signing-in on Zoom. So our attendance is pretty much what it always is during the Summer months. Actually, it might be a little greater depending on how many people per household are watching from home.

This is no doubt difficult for all of us and it has required us to minimize or forego some of our programs this year but Baust Church still functions well. Our outreach and mission may be somewhat dampened but certainly not destroyed. We all pray for a swift end to this pandemic but we continue on.

Our Bible Study and Literary Society (book group) continue to function pretty much as we always have but we do observe the appropriate precautions. Starting in September we need to be thinking of creative ways to continue our Fall and Winter programs and holiday celebrations. Although your Pastor and Consistory will be having discussions concerning these issues, we are always in need of input and suggestions from you, the congregation. If you have ideas on how we can create or continue our relevant programs please let me know. I am open to all ideas and suggestions.

We need to continue to pull together for the kingdom of God and our congregation's part in it. We are experiencing some restraints and hardships but we keep on moving along. With this in mind, it may be a good time to remember our past. The Baust congregation endured the War of Independence, our Civil War, Two World Wars, and a lot more. I am absolutely confident that the current problems we are facing are just drops in the bucket compared to what we survived in our past. Pray about it. We are strong in the Lord and the Lord will prevail.

Have a great September!

***Pastor Jeff and Cathy***



### **Greetings Fellow Church Family Members!**

I hope each of you have been doing well while finding creative ways to make the best of what will go into the books as one of the most unusual summer seasons we've ever experienced. It strikes me that the past couple of months the articles I have written to keep you informed have been focused on steps being taken to adjust to the Pandemic while continuing to serve our congregation. This month I'm going to touch on some of the other activities your Consistory has been involved in because there has been a lot going on in addition to making the necessary adjustments for Covid-19.

The work on the choir loft chairs has been completed. The chairs now have new cushions and new upholstery fabric and the broken chair in the Good Shepherd room has been repaired and also re-cushioned including new fabric. All of the work was done by a local, Taneytown based company. The total cost for the project was \$900.

Four new sets of paraments for the pulpit and lectern along with two new frontal coverings for the alter, representing the four seasons of the church liturgy have been ordered and are expected to arrive in September. These beautiful, new paraments and coverings will replace the ones we currently have that are showing quite a bit of wear. While this was an expensive undertaking I'm both happy and extremely grateful to report that the entire cost for this initiative is being covered by a donation from the Simmont and Raver families. Our church is truly blessed with a congregation whose members always step forward with care and support when and where its needed. I'd also like to thank Pastor Jeff for all the time and effort he spent in leading the search for the new paraments and frontal coverings.

New smoke detectors have been ordered for the Parsonage and Parish Hall. These detectors have the ability to automatically issue a call to phone numbers entered into their memory whenever smoke or fire is detected. The cost for the new detectors is \$800 which includes installation. They should be installed in early September.

On Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Pastor Jeff and Cathy will be away. The list of fill-in pastors that we would normally turn to is suspended due to the pandemic so, on that date Sunday Service will only be available on the church's Facebook page and website. *THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY OR ON ZOOM.* Please mark your calendars.

Lastly, we desperately need volunteers who are be willing to learn the process of setting up and running the equipment we currently use to stream the weekly Sunday Service via Zoom and record it for posting on the church's Facebook page and website. Kent Kallay volunteered to do this and with one exception has been the person who has devoted his time and expertise every Sunday since we started streaming the Sunday Service online. A big thank you to Beth Raver who recently volunteered to serve as a backup for Kent but, to continue to provide adequate coverage for what has become an important part of the weekly services our church provides, we need additional volunteers that are trained and available to support the weekly streaming initiative.

With that I have reached the end of this month's update.

Stay healthy, stay safe.

Peace be with you.

***Mike Paxton, Consistory President***



### **What's the Pastor Reading Now?**

The book I am reading this month seems very relevant to any small parish and surely it gives our congregation at Baust Church lots to think about. This small work by G. Jeffrey MacDonald, a part-time UCC pastor and full-time freelance journalist, sheds some interesting light on how small congregations can make the most of what they have. The title is, *Part-time is Plenty, Thriving without Full-time Clergy*. Published in 2020, this book is filled with true stories of excellence and creativity that are current and inspiring. It shows how to best utilize the time of a part-time pastor and how to uncover the God-given talents of laity. In a time when some small congregations are considering closing their doors, MacDonald gives them an alternative that draws from the church's challenges of the past and puts a current spin on ministry.

I realize this seems like a book that the Pastor and some committee should read but really it is for all who worship in the small church setting. At just 154 pages it is manageable and exciting. Why not give it an try and see what you have to offer to our Baust Church ministry!

**ARTICLES FOR THE OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER  
ARE DUE TO HELEN MILLER BY  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>.**



## SEPTEMBER



1 – Gloria Oxley  
4 – Jim Myers  
8 – Jim Craig  
19 – Chris Overholtzer  
19 – Alice Eccleston  
22 – Amber Seibel  
22 – Allison Kim

23 – Jane Rodkey  
23 – Cameron Derr  
24 – Corey Wilt  
24 – Meredith Paulsen  
26 – Claire Krieg  
27 – Kathy Caprarola  
29 – Cathy Dull

1 – Lois & Bick Bickerton  
6 – Jonathan & Chrissy Killmon  
18 – Adam & Katie Brower  
21 – Nicole & Chris Overholtzer  
29 – Cris & Jeff Hevner

## Christmas in July

Our Christmas in July food drive was a great success! Baust UCC delivered a truck bed full of non-perishable items to Trinity Lutheran Church food pantry in Taneytown on August 19th. The food pantry volunteer was quite shocked by the large donation and couldn't say **Thank You** enough. We donated everything from canned goods to boxed foods to toiletries. We even included some sweet treats! Thank you to **ALL** who donated boxes or money to help fill more boxes. These donations will help meet the needs of many individuals and families. Approximately 15 boxes were donated. Each box contained 31 individual items. That is 465 items that the food bank is able to use to fill their care bags. Even during these tough times for EVERYONE, Baust church still **ROCKS!!**

Look for information on our reverse Advent drive coming up in December. Much of the same items will be collected if you want to start getting your shopping lists ready.

**Beth Raver**

