

THE PARISH CRIER
EMMANUEL (BAUST)
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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From the Pastor's Desk

December 2020

I suppose none of us knows what December holds in store for us this year. COVID-19 seems to be coming back with a vengeance. Many states, including Maryland, have gone back to more stringent policies on numbers of people at gatherings, social distancing, and other disease prevention protocols. Will family gatherings be affected? Will church gatherings be affected? It seems like they will and there are lots of plans left to be made or revised.

Baust Church is continuing with many of its traditions, some in a revised fashion. We are still decorating the sanctuary for Christmas, selling poinsettias, selling Christmas cookies and fudge, still having a Christmas Eve service. We still are not sure what form our Christmas Eve service will take but we will send out notification in December on this item.

This is a season that most of us look forward to, especially at Baust Church. It is disappointing to most folks this year not to be able to celebrate like other years. We all hope and pray that this terrible disease will not linger much longer. But you know, Mary and Joseph had disappointments too. They had to make a long journey when Mary was VERY pregnant. They could not find a place to stay that was very comfortable. Mary had to deliver her baby in a barn of sorts instead of at home. They had to pay their taxes. They were confronted by all sorts of people making comments and asking questions about their new born son. They had to run away to Egypt to save their son's life. The list goes on and on.

My thought is, if Mary and Joseph willingly went through all of that for God incarnate in Christ, we can certainly weather this COVID storm, and all the troubles that seem to have accompanied it, for the same Christ in 2020. Hang in there, it is not easy being a Christian but we are not really that threatened just inconvenienced. Let's just pray that we can learn something from all of this and continue to build a better kingdom for God in this world.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jeff and Cathy

Greetings Fellow Church Family Members!



I want to start this article off by wishing each of you a heartfelt Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year! The still growing pandemic outside our church notwithstanding, the Advent Season and Christmas holidays that have arrived are a special time. I hope that each of you are able to enjoy them with an ample measure of peace and happiness.

Here at Baust Church this is a busy time. The annual meeting is now in the record books, our church sanctuary has been decorated for the holidays. The cookie and bake sale is underway, poinsettias have been ordered and final preparations are being made for our Christmas Eve service. The service will be a little different this year as the Worship Committee has been busy planning for a way that keeps everyone safe, but as of this writing and barring any further restrictions being put in place by Gov. Hogan, Christmas Eve service will be held in the Church Sanctuary with any overflow in attendance going to the Parish Hall. Many thanks to Sandy Stonesifer, the members of the committee and all of the volunteers who helped decorate, bake cookies and pick up poinsettias for their hard work and commitment to doing what is best for our church family.

Over this past year our church family has done a terrific job making the best of a difficult situation and doing whatever it takes to keep our church active and ready to support our members and the community around us. It takes a team to accomplish what we have been able to do. A Big Thank-You to everyone for taking the time out of your schedules to pitch in and help whenever you were asked. Your time is greatly appreciated. We should all be very proud of our church and the positive impact we continue have on our community and our members. When we unite as one, we are a strong force that does many wonderful things.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your Consistory President. Last January when I accepted the call to serve our church family as President, I knew it would be challenging, especially since it would be my first time in this role. Needless to say, I had no idea what was coming! I shouldn't have worried so much though. I can't think of a single time when I reached out to a member of our church family, a former Consistory President, or any one of our members in a paid or volunteer role that my call wasn't answered or returned, always with a willingness to give me the advice, guidance or feedback I needed to deal with an issue I could see coming our way. My fellow members of the Consistory have been just great tackling the myriad of truly unique challenges we've faced in 2020, always coming up with a solution or approach to resolve the issues and keep our church on sound footing, always moving forward. In other words, I could never have served you as your President without all of the help that was always right there.

Blessings to all and thank you again for your support.

Stay healthy, stay safe.

Peace be with you.

Mike Paxton, Consistory President



Betty Gross has moved to Lorien in Taneytown. Her new address is: 100 Antrim Blvd., Rm. 220, Taneytown. MD 21787. Because of COVID-19 she cannot have visitors at this time. Her phone number is: (443) 918-8830.

What's the Pastor Reading Now?



We are once again entering into the Advent and Christmas season and our Bible Study group is reading a book entitled, "Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas," by Adam Hamilton. You may not have time to attend Bible Study during this busy season but this book is not like a traditional Bible study so I encourage you to read it just for its message that will prepare you for a more meaningful Christmas celebration. Hamilton focuses on the significance of the Christ-child for our lives today by examining the meanings of the names for Jesus. We know his parents called him Jesus. But the prophets, shepherds, wise men, and angels addressed him by other names--- including Messiah, Savior, and Emmanuel. Join Hamilton as he explores the meaning behind these titles, what they tell us about the baby whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, and the significance of that Christ child for our lives today.

Cookie & Fudge Sale



The ladies that are in charge of the cookie and fudge sale have been in contact with our church bakers. There has been an overwhelming response from our bakers that they wish to continue the sale. Susie Lawrence and Jane Rodkey have finalized the list of cookies offered this year. A Cookie & Fudge order form is included with this newsletter.



Baust Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive. Baust will be holding our annual Christmas Food Drive to support the Taneytown Food Bank. Each day of the month of December up until Christmas Eve place designated item for the day into a box. Once your box is full, you can drop it off at church (either in the Good Shepherd room of the church or the back porch of the Parsonage) by January 3rd. The donations will be delivered to Taneytown Caring and Sharing in early January. If you do not want to shop you can make a donation to the church (designated "Food Drive") and Beth Raver will do the shopping for you! Donations can be placed in the offering or mailed to the church. Each box is approximately \$40. Any extra will be used to purchase toiletry items to add to the boxes. Contact Beth Raver with any questions - 717-965-7019 or ravers.mail@gmail.com. See insert for the list of items for each day. While earning your daily bread, be sure to share a slice with those less fortunate.



DECEMBER



2 – Lisa Brower
5 – Casey Staubs
5 – Anna Dalley
6 – Beth Raver
6 – Joan Wantz

5 – MacKenzie Barnes
13 – Chris Raver
14 – April Raver
18 – Mike Rodkey

1 – Sylvia & John Miller

**ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER
ARE DUE TO HELEN MILLER BY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH.**



Emmanuel (Baust) United Church of Christ
 2950 Old Taneytown Road, Westminster, MD 21158

2020 Christmas Cookie/Candy Order

Orders due by December 1st to Sandra Stonesifer
 410-857-0416 or sandys46@netscape.com

Pickup December 12th , 9 to 11:30 a.m.

dozen Cookies \$5/dozen or \$2.50/half dozen

- Black Walnut (crisp butter with black walnuts)
- Chocolate Chip
- Chocolate Crinkle
- Oatmeal Raisin
- Peanut Butter
- Snickerdoodle (cookie rolled in cinnamon & sugar)
- Spritz (press cookie in Christmas Shape) (24 cookies/doz)
- Sugar (drop rolled in red or green sugars)
- White Chocolate Macadamia Nut

dozen Special Dietary Needs \$5/dozen or \$2.50/half doz

- Diabetic Butterscotch Crispie
- Gluten Free Chocolate Chip
- Gluten Free Oatmeal Raisin

lbs Candy \$6.00/pound or \$3.00/ half pound

- Chocolate Fudge
- Maple Walnut Fudge - contains nuts
- Peanut Butter Chocolate - contains nuts
- Peanut Brittle- contains nuts

Customer Name:

Customer Address:

email address

BAUST UCC REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day of December add listed item into a box. On Christmas Eve bring your box to church and place in Good Shepherd room. All of the boxes will be donated to the Taneytown Caring & Sharing Food Bank.

December 1 – Box of Cereal

December 2 – Jar of Peanut butter

December 3 – Box of Stuffing mix

December 4 – Box of instant potatoes

December 5 – Box of Macaroni and cheese

December 6 – Can of fruit

December 7 – Can of tomatoes

December 8 – Can of tuna

December 9 – Dessert mix

December 10 – Jar of applesauce

December 11 – Can of sweet potatoes

December 12 – Can of cranberry sauce

December 13 – Can of beans

December 14 – Box of crackers

December 15 – Box/bag of rice

December 16 – Box of oatmeal

December 17 – Box of pasta

December 18 – Jar of spaghetti sauce

December 19 – Can chicken noodle soup

December 20 – Can of tomato soup

December 21 – Can of corn

December 22 – Can of mixed vegetables

December 23 – Can of carrots

December 24 – Can of green beans

If you cannot bring your box on Christmas Eve you can bring it any time before Sunday, January 3rd, 2021. Thank you for your support! Contact Beth Raver with questions at (717) 965-7019 or email ravers.mail@gmail.com

Altar Flowers For 2021

It's time to reserve your dates for altar flowers for 2021.

Our friends at The Cutting Garden again will provide arrangements for our two altar vases for \$40.00, and they are very willing to work with us on specific colors and types of flowers, as well as other sizes and prices. The Cutting Garden will deliver the bouquets each week and will put them in place on the altar. Containers are in the small back room for you to use to pick up your flowers after worship. Please remember to return the green vase inserts and the containers used to carry your flowers home.

To reserve your date, here's what you need to do. Indicate the date of your choice by completing the order form below and return it along with payment to Susan Hardinger. Pay by cash or check; make your check payable to EBUCC and note "altar flowers."

If you wish to provide your own flowers, you will also need to complete the form, return it to Susan, and make delivery and payment arrangements yourself.

If you have provided flowers in prior years, you must - again - reserve your specific dates for 2021 by completing this form and returning it to Susan (1147 Humbert Schoolhouse Road, Westminster, MD 21158, shardinger@aol.com, 443-789-0142).

2021

([red] = date already reserved)

<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEPT</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>
3	7	7	4	2	6	4	1	5	3	7	5
10	14	14	11	9	13	11	8	12	10	14	12
17	21	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	19
24	28	28	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	28	26
31				30			29		31		

2021 Date flowers to be placed in church: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Phone number: _____

Bulletin listing and liturgist's announcement:

"Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God, in loving memory/honor/celebration (circle one)

of _____

by _____"

_____ I would like you to order flowers for me. _____ check or cash enclosed OR
_____ I will provide my own flowers.