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H A I N ' S H A P P E N I N G S

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Dear Friends,

The Phillies are down at Spring Training getting ready for the upcoming season. How will the Phillies do this year? Only time will tell...it always does. Hopefully, their work on hitting, fielding and pitching will get them ready for a championship season! It's very unlikely that a great year will happen if they just show up and play without taking advantage of this important time of preparation.

Could it be similar for followers of Christ? Do we need religious practices to help us be prepared for living life as one of Jesus' followers while we walk upon this Earth? I think so. How about you? Below are several exercises that the church, over the centuries, has shown can help us grow in our faith and ability to embody it in our words and deeds.

Worship Services- Worship services remind us that a life of faith is to be lived more for God and less for ourselves. It's a place where we are reminded of who God is and who we are as his family. It's a time we can be with other believers for encouragement and support. We have services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., and through most of March we will offer services on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study- Just like a good meal feeds our bodies for the day, so the Scriptures feed our spirits for a life of faith. In addition to your home devotions, we currently offer two Bible studies: one on Sunday mornings at 8:15 a.m. and another one on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Giving Alms- In the time of Jesus, it meant helping the poor with money. It still does; however, I think that it can be expanded to helping people in need with our time and talents, as well as treasures. Cultivating a habit of helping others in need is a great way to grow as a Christian.

Prayer- A lot of people struggle with prayer. But really, it's just a dialog with God; sharing with God what's on your heart and listening for anything that God might share with you. It's a time to speak and a time to listen. Feel free to pray as you want to. There's no one right way to do it...just pray what's on your heart as if you're talking to a good friend and see what might happen over time.

Hospitality- Biblical hospitality is the practice of welcoming the strangers in our midst and opening up our life to them in a meaningful way. This is how strangers can become acquaintances and friends. This is how gifts can be exchanged and the world be made a better place. Yes, this can be a risky practice. However, think about it; all our friends and family were at one time strangers.

I invite you to add a few of these religious practices to your weekly routine for three months and see what happens! I believe that you will see growth and improvement in your Christian walk. Also, I'd love to hear from you in about three months from now to find out how things went for you!

May the Lord richly bless us that we might be a blessing to a world much loved by God!

Pastor Mark



NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Greetings church! As a church that follows the liturgical calendar, we move throughout the year from seasons of preparation to those of celebration. Each season affords many opportunities for our Hain's musicians to help us move meaningfully and powerfully through this yearly journey.

This Lenten season, the Wednesday night services feature many meaningful collaborations between music and the word. We began Lent with a hauntingly beautiful piece called *Meditation* played by the Bell Choir. On March 20, Paul Becker and Annamae Loose will share a medley of Lenten meditations with solo handbells. Then, during Holy Week, the Chancel Choir sings a lovely and meaningful arrangement of the poem, *My Song is Love Unknown*, and Hannah Gelsinger on solo flute guides us through the extinguishing of light during the reading of Christ's last words from the cross on Good Friday.

I hope you will come and experience these moments with us as we strive to *Grow As Christ's Disciples* and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.

Blessings to you all,
Marie Miller, Director of Music Ministry



ANNIE GAUL CONCERT SERIES

The March Annie Gaul concert will feature the Quadrants Handbell Quartet from Princeton, NJ. This program will be presented on Sunday, March 3, at 3:00 p.m. All members of the ensemble are graduates of Westminster Choir College and the Westminster Concert Bell Choir. Quadrants performs regularly throughout New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. One of the members, Robert Lamb, has presented handbell workshops for our own Hain's Bell Choir.

BIBLE STUDIES AT HAIN'S UCC

We now have two weekly Bible Study options for your consideration! On Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., we meet in the conference room to study the book of Genesis. On Sundays from 8:15 to 9:10 a.m., we gather in the conference room to study Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Come to one, or both, and grow in your faith, both in understanding and in action! Feel free to bring a friend ... or two.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 24 and the retelling of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.



On Maundy Thursday we will remember the Upper Room and the Last Supper.

On Good Friday we retrace the last hours of Jesus' life here on Earth.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate Christ's resurrection and victory over sin and death that he has obtained for all who accept this good news!

All of these are powerful, thought-provoking services and well worth attending. Special music is planned for these services as well. These events are also a good opportunity to invite some family members and friends to attend and experience some of the good things that the Holy Spirit is doing at Hain's UCC!

CONRAD WEISER MINISTERIUM LENTEN SERVICES

Noon-time Lenten services sponsored by the Conrad Weiser Ministerium continue through the month of March. The theme of this year's Lenten series is *Faith Development: Learning from People in the Bible*. Each preacher will select a person from the Bible and offer insights for faithful living in our time and place. A free-will offering has been designated to go to Freedom and Restoration for Everyone Enslaved (FREE). This ministry helps people who have fallen victim to trafficking in Berks County. A luncheon for all will follow each service at the host church. The date, location and preacher for the remaining services are listed below:

March 6 at United Church of Christ of Robesonia

Pastor Shelley, St. Daniel's Lutheran Church

March 13 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Robesonia

Rev. Mark Johnson, St. John's (Hain's) UCC

March 20 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wernersville

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz, United Church of Christ of Robesonia



LENTEN MID-WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue our Lenten journey with mid-week worship services in the chapel. The services will begin at 7:00 p.m., will include communion, and will be live streamed on our Facebook page. Services through the month of March are as follows:

March 6
The Christian and Worry
Matthew 6:25-34

March 13
The Christian and Judging
Matthew 7:1-6

March 20
The Christian and Discipleship
Matthew 7:21-23

**WEAR GREEN ON
ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for March 17! Since St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday this year, we will have a special celebration that day. Everyone is encouraged to wear some green for the day. This is a day that everyone can be a little bit Irish...and bring some lucky charms if you have them!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves us in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, we are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.



Through OGHS we engage in holistic development programs, including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response and recovery networks, our contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put us in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. Immediate needs are met and the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place are addressed. Please use the attached giving envelope to contribute to this UCC mission.

CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS!

We give thanks to God for these young adults who on January 28 made their public confession of faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and committed themselves to following him in the days ahead. We praise God for this good news!



Our Confirmands
Skylir Nicole Berger
Dylan Elizabeth Bossler
Macey Isabelle Fessler
Aden Jon Hummel
Cody James Hummel
Ryan Elizabeth Stopper
Nathaniel Curtis Stopper

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

On February 18 at our 9:30 a.m. worship service, we welcomed five new members with gifts of roses, prayer shawls, and even some chocolate! We praise God that they have decided to continue their spiritual journeys with us here at Hain's UCC.



Robin and Dennis Lamm

Robin and Dennis live in Newmanstown and are the parents of Denielle Bossler and Katie Spengler and grandparents of Dylan, Dexter, Lukus and Lucy. Dennis is a CNC machine operator at Kountry Kraft Kitchens and Robin is the Branch Manager at Lendmark Financial Services. They enjoy taking their 1966 and 1967 Ford Fairlanes to car shows and following their grandchildren's activities.

Scott Kulikowski

Scott is the son of Thelma and the late Charles McCane. He is retired after a 40-year career in the insurance industry and is active in music programs, both here at Hain's and in various other venues. He also enjoys hunting, and while visiting the "outhouse" at hunting camp, a black bear surprised him by sticking his nose between the door and the main structure!

Margaret Kulikowski

Although she was unable to attend the service, Scott's wife, Margaret, was also received as a new member.

Raymond "Ray" Bomberger

Ray lives in Ephrata and has known Pastor Mark for over twenty years. He is a person of faith and has been very active in the life of the Church. He has a daughter, Melissa, who is a French professor and married to Jacob. Ray is a proud Army veteran and has a love of antique and classic cars. He was a construction manager and built, among other buildings, the Ephrata Recreation Center. He has been with his companion, Donna, for over twenty years. Ray enjoys a good bowl of oyster stew when he can get one, and he is glad to be a part of the congregation of Hain's UCC.



- To outgoing Consistory members Dennis Klinger, Donna Lamm, Todd Rathman and Greta Frasch for their committed service to Hain's UCC
- To Denielle Bossler, Robin Lamm, Katie Spengler, Sue McKendrick, Greta Frasch and Linda Staudt for providing refreshments after the worship service in January
- To Linda Staudt, Robin Lamm, Christine Lamm and Sue McKendrick for providing refreshments after the worship service in February



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT VACANCY

St. John's (Hain's) UCC is seeking an experienced administrative assistant, effective June 3, 2024. This is a part-time, 25-30 hour/week, Monday through Friday position. The successful candidate must be proficient in Word, Outlook and Excel; be a self-starter and able to work independently; possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills; be organized, detail oriented, and able to multitask. Responsibilities include but are not limited to assisting staff, Consistory and congregation members; preparing bulletins for weekly worship services, special services, concerts and funerals; preparing and overseeing bulk mailing of monthly newsletter; and preparing Annual Report. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Interested candidates should contact Mike Kauffman, Chairperson of the Elders, at 610-678-5450 or luv2cruise217@comcast.net.

TEAM ONE:27

The latest newsletter from Team One:27, the organization we work with to support the orphans of Divine Ministries in Haiti, is now available on the bulletin board in the foyer by the mailboxes. There is a website and an address listed at the bottom of the newsletter if you feel so moved to help the kids, or you can contact Darryl Steffey at 610-587-7746. Please prayerfully consider supporting this fine mission. Thank you.



HAIN'S PRIME TIMERS SCHEDULE CHANGES

The Hain's Prime Timers meet the first Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. in the church social room. The meeting begins with lunch at a cost of \$7, followed by entertainment and/or games/cards/bingo. (In June and December, a potluck lunch is scheduled, and there is no charge for lunch.)

Please note the following changes in the program schedule for the months of March and April. Upcoming events include:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 5 | Regular Meeting – Lunch/Fellowship/Bingo
Program: Angie Farrell, Sweet Ride Ice Cream |
| April 2 | Regular Meeting – Lunch/Fellowship/Bingo
Program: Kate Sweinhart, Berks Encore –
How to Make the Most of Your Doctor Visit |
| May 7 | Regular Meeting - Lunch/Fellowship/Bingo
Program: John Rauch – Life Is Many Times
Stranger Than Fiction |

All are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship. For more information or questions concerning the meetings, please contact either Jim Ohlinger at 610-693-5754 or Linda Gartner at 610-698-9085.

PRIME TIMERS APRIL TRIP

On Wednesday, April 10, the Hain's Prime Timers will travel to Lanchester Landfill in Honey Brook. Upon arrival at the landfill, we will go into their office where Teresa Devine, an employee of the landfill and a member of Hain's Church, will show us a presentation on the landfill and its operations. After the presentation, Teresa will join us on the bus as we drive through the landfill to see the operations. After the tour, we will travel to September Farms for a delicious lunch and ice cream and for shopping on your own in their beautiful store and bakery.

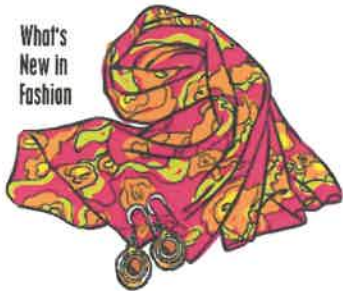


April 10
(Wednesday)

Lanchester Landfill & Lunch at September Farms
Depart at 10:15 a.m., return at 3:30 p.m., cost: \$68

If interested, you can sign up at the next Prime Timers meeting or contact Jim Ohlinger at 610-693-5754 or Linda Gartner at 610-698-9085. Payment for the trip is due by March 5. We hope you will join us and bring a friend!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Our March meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2024, in the chapel. The program will be presented by Kim Young of From The Heart Consignment Shop, who will present fashion ideas to the group. Everyone is welcome to attend and share in fellowship. Women's Fellowship continues to have many ongoing projects throughout the year. All monies raised are used to support our church and various local organizations.

WESTERN BERKS SHEPHERDING NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Western Berks Shepherding Ministries (WBSM) provides transportation to those who live in Conrad Weiser, Tulpehocken, Wilson and Wyomissing School Districts and are in need of transportation to medical appointments and/or treatments, to pick up prescriptions, and for grocery shopping. There is no charge for this service; however, clients can make a donation to WBSM. In 2023, WBSM served 533 clients, provided 918 services, and had 69 new clients enroll in the program. Volunteers provided 1,943.75 hours to help these clients. WBSM is in need of volunteer drivers. Only two new volunteers were added in 2023. If you have free time, like to drive, and want to help others, WBSM could use your help. You can volunteer as much or as little as you choose. For more information, please call Lisa Snyder or Jodi Eisenhauer at 484-294-7394.



SYMPATHIES AND PRAYERS

We ask God's blessing on the family and friends of Kenneth Planer, who passed away on February 2, 2024, at the age of 79. May they be comforted by the hope that we have in Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit.



MEMORIAL GIFTS

A gift was made to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Fred Dundore and Mary Bender by Hain's Prime Timers.

A gift was made to the Church Organ Fund in memory of Roy Lape by an anonymous donor.

CEMETERY NOTICE

As per our rules and regulations, all decorations of any kind must be removed from the cemetery by March 15 each year. Easter decorations may be put out beginning March 25. Thank you for helping us maintain the order and beauty of our cemetery grounds.



NEW DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY



Georgetown University's professor Deborah Tannen wrote *You Just Don't Understand*, an important volume on male/female communication. This is the book that brought gender differences in ways of speaking to the forefront of public awareness with a rare combination of scientific insight and delightful, humorous writing – a donation from the Jesuit Spiritual Center

Bunny's First Spring by Sally Lloyd-Jones - a children's book about a rabbit and his family experiencing the changes in their world from winter to spring.

EASTER CANDY MAKING

Volunteers are needed for our candy-making project on Tuesday, March 12, and on Tuesday, March 19. Please sign up on the volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the coatroom. Meet in the social room at 8:00 a.m. and bring a lunch if you plan to stay for the day.

You can place your candy orders on the order forms also posted on the bulletin board. Prices are:

Peanut butter and coconut eggs - \$12.50/pound

Non pareils - \$8.00/pound

"Bark" pretzels - \$5.00/half pound



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hain's is having fellowship and a Spring Craft Workshop on Earth Day Sunday!



With the successful return of the Advent Workshop last December, the Time With Young Christians Committee is energized to hold a similar event in the Spring. The date of the event is Sunday, April 21, after worship. The day will include lunch, interesting crafts for all ages and a good time for everyone in attendance. Since Earth Day is Monday April 22, the Sunday worship service will have a creation theme, and some of the projects might be Earth related. However, all spring-time ideas are welcome! We are looking for people to come up with project ideas and a willingness to oversee the projects. The cost of this day will be covered by the church. Please contact Pastor Mark if you are able to help out in any way on this day. Thank you!

FINANCIAL PICTURE

	Jan 2024	Jan 2023
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
71000 • Weekly Offering	23,333.39	18,454.48
72000 • Estates/Investment Income	8,980.36	7,509.69
73000 • Other Income	519.10	481.82
Total Income	32,832.85	26,445.99
Gross Profit	32,832.85	26,445.99
Expense		
10000 • PROGRAMS & ADMINISTRATION	3,184.28	3,872.75
20000 • Operating Expenses	6,860.75	6,213.16
30000 • Wages & Benefits	19,526.35	18,378.08
50000 • Other Expenses	0.00	15.90
Total Expense	29,571.38	28,479.89
Net Ordinary Income	3,261.47	-2,033.90
Net Income	3,261.47	-2,033.90

Restricted, designated & benevolent income and expenses are not included above.
If you have any questions, please contact the financial administrator, Tina Grindrod.



Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to Noon

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Bridal Shower - Social Room 10-5
3 ECL 8:15 am Worship Service with Communion - 9:30 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Concert 3 pm	4 Girl Scouts 6 pm	5 Prime Timers 11:30 am Elders 7 pm	6 Noon Lenten Svc. @ UCC of Robesonia Missions Comm. 6 pm Bell Choir 6:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm	7 Bible Study 10 am	8	9 Social Room Event
10 Daylight Savings Begins ECL 8:15 am Worship Service 9:30 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Cub Scout 5:30 pm Scouts 6 pm	11 Candy Making set up - Social Room WBSM Bd 1 pm WBSM Partner 2 pm (Conference Rm) Girl Scouts 6 pm Cemetery Board 7 pm	12 Candy Making - Social Room - 8 am - 4 pm - Consistory 7 pm	13 Noon Lenten Service @ Trinity Robesonia Bell Choir 6:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm	14 Bible Study 10 am	15 Hain's Happenings Articles Due Birthday Party Prep - Social Rm. 6-8 pm	16 Birthday Party Prep - Social Rm. 12-6 pm
17 ECL 8:15 am Worship Service 9:30 am Refreshments after the Service Chancel Choir 10:45 am Scouts Court of Honor 2 pm Cub Scout 5:30 pm	18 Candy Making set up - Social Room Girl Scouts 6 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	19 Candy Making - Social Room - 8 am - 4 pm Trustees 7 pm	20 Noon Lenten Service @ Trinity Wernersville Bell Choir 6:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm	21 Bible Study 10 am Women's Fellowship 6:30 pm	22 Girl Scout Sleepover 5 pm	23 Girl Scout Sleepover until Noon So. Heidelberg Twp. Egg Hunt - Grove 2 pm
24 Palm Sunday ECL 8:15 am Worship Service 9:30 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Cub Scout 5:30 pm Scouts 6 pm	25 Girl Scouts 6 pm	26 HH Assembly 9 am	27 Bell Choir 6:15 pm	28 Bible Study 10 am Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm	29 Good Friday Office Closed Good Friday Service 7 pm	30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 9:30-11:30 am Memorial Service & Lunch 1 pm
31 Easter ECL 8:15 am Worship 9:30 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am						