

# EmmanuelLife

Newsletter of Emmanuel United Church of Christ



Rev. Kenneth D. Peterkin

February 2026

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## From the Transitional Conference Minister . . .

**W**hen the Gospel of John opens it does not begin with the nativity – it begins before time itself. John lifts our eyes from the manger to the cosmos. He stretches the horizon until we are no longer standing in Bethlehem alone, but at the edge of creation itself. The light that shines in the darkness is older than the stars and stronger than any night.



Rev. Carrie Call

On New Year's Day, as the Penn Central Conference gave way to the Keystone Conference, John's vision was especially fitting (John 1:1-18). Endings often keep us focused on what is close at hand – on what we are losing, what we are leaving behind. We ache for what is passing away. Yet the Gospel calls us, again and again, to lift our eyes. To see out beyond the immediate or close-at-hand. This Christ we follow is not confined to familiar structures or cherished histories. The Word made flesh continues to speak, create, and renew. In Christ, God's grace expands our world, widening our sense of what is possible together. As we cross this threshold into a new year and a new Conference, we do so grounded in the intimacy of God-with-us and buoyed by the vastness of God-for-the-world. The manger assures us that God is very near. The Word assures us that what God is doing among us is larger than we can imagine. With that confidence, we step forward, always trusting that the light still shines, and the darkness has not overcome it. Amen.

To the Penn Central Conference family: Thank you for inviting me to be a part of your life and history in the wider United Church of Christ. Serving you as your Conference Minister has been the best calling I could have received and my gratitude is endless. I ask for your prayers as we become Keystone and I become your Transitional Executive Conference Minister. All the relationships made over the past six years will continue to bless me in my work, I have no doubt. Please join me in embracing what is to come, trusting that God is walking closely beside us.

~Carrie

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call  
Transitional Conference Minister, Keystone Conference

## Calendar Highlights

### **Sundays, February 1, 8, 15, 22**

*8:30 am—Adult Learning Hour  
10 am—Worship in person and  
live streamed on YouTube*

### **Sundays, February 1 & 15**

*6 pm—Mindfulness at EUCC*

### **Mondays, February 2, 9, 23**

*1 pm—Compassionate Crafters*

### **Thursdays, February 5 & 19**

*1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games*

### **Monday, February 16**

*Office Closed for Holiday*

### **Wednesday, February 18**

*7 pm—Ash Wednesday Service*

## A Look Ahead

### **COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES**

- **Beijing Guitar Duo, March 15,** 3pm: A pair of classical guitarists bring cross-cultural flair.
- **John Samuell, April 19,** 3pm: An emerging young pianist.
- **Westminster Ringers, May 3,** 3pm: Regional handbell choir.

COMPLETE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

# Give comfort and warmth on CWS Blanket Sunday

Many things have changed in the last few years. Prices, from groceries to homes, continue to rise. The earth's climate is changing. Many of us have trouble keeping up with the changes in technology. And we could go on about the many changes we face.

Some things haven't changed: A warm and comforting blanket from Church World Service still costs only \$10. Last year CWS distributed over 17,000 blankets around the world. No matter how their circumstances change, people continue to need hygiene supplies. CWS Hygiene Kits cost only \$15 and include self-care items from shampoo to toothpaste.

CWS Blankets and Hygiene Kits are distributed in the U.S. and worldwide to people affected by displacement or disaster. Your donation can make a real difference to a person who faces difficult changes.



**A guest of the community meal at the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland, Ohio, receives a fleece blanket. The mission provides meals, temporary housing, and support for displaced families.**

■ **CWS Blanket Sunday is February 1**  
Use an offering envelope or make checks to Emmanuel UCC with "Blankets" in the memo.

## ■ Greetings from India

November 25, 2025

Dear Sponsor,

Firstly I would like to say "Tashi Delek" (blessings and good luck) to you and your family members. How are you? Here I am doing great with the grace of God. I am enjoying with my friends. In my school, all the teachers and my friends are really good. The teachers, they teach us very well. We just had finished our 3rd periodic test, I did very well from my side. Our annual exam is also approaching, so I am preparing for it.

Lastly I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and Merry Christmas in advance to you and your loved ones as we celebrate the holiday season

and look forward to the New Year. And in the holiday season I am going to my home town. In my home town there are so many animals like yak, horse, rabbit, red panda, etc. Even there are waterfall, mountain peace and clean areas.

Sending you love, joy and peace during this holiday season. May you be blessed with joy, good health and success in all areas of your life. Once again, Happy New Year and Merry Christmas. Also I want to tank you so much for always being there to support me.

Your lovely daughter,  
Phurbu Dolma

*Phurbu is a boarding student at the Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Center in Darjeeling, India.*



**Phurbu sent a new photo with her letter. She is now 13 years old and in seventh grade.**

# Missions Giving Calendar 2026

The initiatives here show opportunities to help our neighbors in need, locally, nationally and globally. We hope this calendar helps you to choose what your passions, heart and faith lead you to support.

## First Sundays

**Communion Giving:** Please mark your calendars for the first Sunday of each month, when we bring our Communion Gifts of food, hygiene and cleaning products for our local food banks.

## February 1

**CWS Blanket Sunday:** For refugees and disaster victims in the U.S. and around the world.

## March 15

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** UCC offering for health, education, agriculture, refugee & disaster relief

## May 3

**Heifer International:** Supports agriculture, community initiatives, combats climate change, and more

## May 24

**Strengthen the Church:** UCC collection for new & renewing churches

## June 7

**Missions Sunday:** Local faith-based agencies share how they support our community, and

receive donations from Missions funds

## September

**Homewood at Plum Creek Auxiliary Membership Drive** begins

## October 4

**Neighbors in Need:** UCC offering for justice and compassion ministries in the U.S.

## October

**CWS Crop Walk:** Fundraiser for worldwide hunger relief

## November 8

**Fisher House Foundation:** Supports hospitalized veterans and their families

## November 1-22

**Communion Gifts & Harvest Home:** Offering of food, hygiene and cleaning products for local food banks

## December 20

**UCC Christmas Pastors Fund:** For needy UCC pastors, their families, and lay employees

## Events & Activities

### **Meet Conference minister**

*2 pm Sunday, March 1*

The Gettysburg Association will welcome Keystone Conference Region 3 Conference Minister, Rev. David Ackerman.

All are welcome to meet Rev. Ackerman and his wife and celebrate with fellowship and refreshments at Trinity UCC, 60 E. High St., Gettysburg. No Rsvp needed.

### **Lunch Bunch**

*12 pm, second Sundays*

The group will gather for food and fellowship after worship on February 8 at



Longhorn Steakhouse, 20 Wilson Ave., Hanover. RSVP to Sandy Rebert at 717-586-2136.

### **Mindfulness at EUCC**

*6 pm, February 1 & 15*

Join Karen Jones first and third Sundays at 6 pm for free 45-minute drop-in sessions in King Auditorium. The mindfulness and stress-reduction practices are open to all. For a Zoom link or questions, email kjones @mindfulnessandmotion.com.

### **Afternoon of Games**

*1-4 pm, February 5 & 19*

Joins us in King Auditorium first and third Thursdays for Scrabble, cards, board games, snacks and fellowship. New players are always welcome! Call Carol Giese at 717-632-2665 for info.

### **Compassionate Crafters**

*1-4 pm Mondays*

*(No meeting February 16)*

All crafters are welcome to bring a project, swap techniques and enjoy fellowship. For info, call Sandy Rebert at 717-586-2136.

## Additional Missions Initiatives

- **Provide-A-Lunch:** Consider whether you can help serve lunch at HACC one of the 5-6 times a year when Emmanuel volunteers.
- **Annual Yard Sale:** Support our child sponsorship programs.
- **Feed-A-Friend Marathon:** New Hope Ministries' December event to combat food insecurity locally.

## CONSISTORY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December minutes were approved January 19

### **Consistory Minutes — December 15**

- Treasurer's Report: A motion to approve the November Treasurer's Report subject to audit was made by Sean Moore and seconded by JJ Dugan. Notes: Income was helped by a check from the York County Community Foundation of almost \$90,000 in November, which is normally received in December; expenses are fairly close to the budgeted amount. We have gone over with utility costs.
- President's Report: We will reorganize Consistory in January, thank you Judy and Alec for serving three consecutive 3-year terms; Jan Hagenberger and Dan Trimmer were voted into Consistory at the December Congregational Meeting and will begin their terms in January; we will need a new VP starting in January.
- Property Committee Report: For snow removal, A new contract was made for \$350 per weather event for salt and snow removal; the boiler looks like it will make it through the rest of the winter season but Sean shared different options that we have for replacement. The proposed cost of the options has not been received.
- A motion was made to approve \$14,624 from the Memorial Fund to be used to pay for asbestos abatement by Clay Reichart and seconded by Alec Sivel.

#### New Business:

- W&M Committee discussed installation of an electronic sign outside the church to draw more attention to events. Concerns were raised regarding ordinances and cost. Brian will investigate pricing.
- Discussion took place regarding recognition of volunteers at the church.
- Tim Kress is working with us to see if we can locate a used oven to replace the current oven. The group decided that we wanted to set a \$2,000 limit for the replacement and \$500 for cleaning and installation.
- Discussion took place regarding promotion of letting members know how they could make a gift to the church in their estate planning. Will refer this to the Stewardship Committee.
- Discussion took place regarding holding another safety meeting with the congregation.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Missions Committee — January 14**

- God's Meal Barrel served 2,527 households in 2025, including 357 new households. Donations can be dropped off on first Saturdays from 8am-12pm.
- Emmanuel's commitment to serving PAL Lunches at the Hanover Area Council of Churches in 2026 will be March 31, June 30, Sept. 29, and Dec. 29. To volunteer, see Estelle King.
- The year-end report from Hoffman Homes includes

**Continued on next page**

## **2026 CONSISTORY OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	Brian Frederick 717-451-3977 brianfrederick44@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Dave Jones 717-451-3044 redcon1@comcast.net
<b>Secretary</b>	JJ Dugan 717-465-3549 jjdugan77@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Clay Reichart 717-521-9572 clayreichart@gmail.com

## **CONSISTORY MEMBERS**

Megan Alcott, Jan Hagenberger,  
Jeff Hopkins, Sean Moore,  
Sandy Topper, Dan Trimmer

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Bair 717-870-5597
<b>Caring</b>	Judy Morris 717-968-6998
<b>Christian Education</b>	Cheryl Fritz 717-698-1153 Consistory Rep: Megan Alcott
<b>Church Growth</b>	Charlotte Pinette 717-227-0262 Consistory Rep: Megan Alcott
<b>Fellowship Hour Coordinator</b>	Susan Hoke 717-817-1265 Consistory Rep: TBD
<b>Investment</b>	Dave Jones 717-451-3044
<b>Missions</b>	Carol Giese 717-632-2665 Estelle King 717-487-1906 Consistory Rep: JJ Dugan
<b>Pastor-Parish Relations</b>	Estelle King 717-487-1906
<b>Personnel</b>	Jan Hagenberger 410-829-9371
<b>Property and Safety</b>	Sean Moore 443-618-7481
<b>Stewardship</b>	Dan Trimmer 717-870-4539
<b>Worship and Music</b>	Charlotte Pinette 717-227-0262 Consistory Rep: Clay Reichart

## **Committee Reports, continued from Page 4**

information on how they are providing more widespread outpatient therapy by partnering with Hanover schools and with HACC.

- The Homewood at Plum Creek Auxiliary membership drive at Emmanuel resulted in a year-end total of 44 members and donations totaling \$224, plus a \$200 donation from Missions funds. Bingo prizes are always needed. The collection basket is in the auditorium. See Peg Moulton.
- Jody Adelsperger and her husband John were able to purchase 244 cleaning & hygiene items for the New Hope Ministries Food Bank with the \$350 donated from Missions funds.
- The January collection of Communion Gifts totaled 57.5 pounds of food, 27 hygiene items, 3 cleaning products, and a \$10 donation. No products in glass or expired items can be accepted. In addition, 116 pounds of oranges were collected and delivered to the York YMCA Welcome Center before Christmas.
- Crafters have received, made, bought, and bagged 189 winter items this winter season. Items will be available on the clothesline in the courtyard through March.
- We sent Christmas cards to our 3 sponsored children, and received a Christmas letter from Phurbu, our sponsored child in India.
- The York Welcome Center was very grateful for our donation of oranges for the Haitian immigrant community. They continue to face challenges, with 10 people detained by ICE. Local agencies are helping with paper work and legal assistance. We will explore how we can best donate much-needed items.
- The Rail Trail extension is now complete, with construction of a new trailhead parking lot on Route 116 (York Road) set to begin in the spring. We may schedule a walk on a Sunday afternoon, weather permitting. Contact Peg Moulton.
- The Red Kettle collection for The Salvation Army Hanover Unit was a real success, with a collection of \$8,090, well over the expected \$6,000. Thanks to all from Emmanuel who volunteered to help with the collection for three Saturdays at the Hanover Markethouse.
- We encourage volunteers to consider helping with future teas and church events such as Fellowship Hours and Concert Series receptions. We also suggest setting aside possible items for Emmanuel's Yard Sale in September.

## **Worship & Music Committee — January 4**

- Upcoming services:
  - Feb. 1 - Communion.
  - Feb. 8 and Feb. 15 - Regular services.
  - Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm, to be livestreamed.

## **Help Wanted: Backup live stream tech**

We are seeking a volunteer to serve as a backup live stream technician to be responsible for the online broadcast of worship if our tech is away or ill. No experience is necessary, but if you can run a PowerPoint, you're qualified! Training will be provided. If you are interested, contact Andy Crone at 717-465-8242 or [alctec1969@gmail.com](mailto:alctec1969@gmail.com).

## ***Easter Flowers & Pastor's Care Fund***



To purchase flowers to decorate the sanctuary at Easter, please complete this form. Return to the office or drop in the offering.

# \_\_\_\_\_ Potted Lilies at \$15 each  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Potted Tulips at \$15 each  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Potted Hyacinth at \$15 each

**Flower total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Pastor's Fund Offering \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one:

In ~ Memory ~ Honor ~ Appreciation ~ of

**The flower order deadline is Friday, Feb. 27.**

Make checks payable to Emmanuel UCC. Donations to the Pastor's Care Fund are welcome at any time.

- Feb. 22 - First Sunday in Lent.
- March 1 - Communion.
- Future events of note include: Community Concert featuring the Beijing Guitar Duo at 3 pm on March 15; Palm Sunday on March 29 and Easter Sunday on April 5.
- The need for a substitute person to assist in the livestream program was outlined. An effort to seek a backup person will be noted in the newsletter and bulletin.
- The effort to find volunteers to assist as greeters and ushers was discussed. The importance of training the volunteers was expressed.
- Because of renovations to the Gitt Library, the annual outdoor service will not be held there this year. Possibly join with the Church Growth Committee to plan a function in the courtyard.

# Thank You

## From HACC ...

Dear Friends at Emmanuel UCC,  
On behalf of the entire team, thank you for your generous donation of \$360. Your contribution has been allocated to our Ruth's Harvest fund, enabling us to address the most pressing needs within our community.

Your partnership is vital to our mission, and we are truly grateful for your trust and commitment. Your donation ensures that we can continue providing essential assistance to those in need in our community.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and support. Together, we are making a lasting difference.

*Erika Gonzalez*  
Interim Executive Director, HACC

*Missions donated their funds remaining at the end of 2025 to Ruth's Harvest, HACC's child hunger program which provides meals to food-insecure students on weekends.*

## From New Hope ...

Your kindness reflects God's steady love! Thank you for your loving gift of \$1,000. Because of you, families receive food, housing, job training and spiritual encouragement at New Hope Ministries. Your generosity helps God's peace and provision shine in our community. We are truly thankful for the joy you've brought this Christmas season through your compassionate and kind heart. With great joy,

*Eric Saunders*  
Executive Director, New Hope Ministries.

*The Missions Committee gave \$1,000 to New Hope for its Feed-A-Friend marathon.*

## Inclement Weather Policy

For your safety and to facilitate the clearing of our sidewalks and parking lot... If the Borough of Hanover declares a Snow Emergency, church services, meetings and any other activities will be canceled or rescheduled. Check for updates at [emmanuelucc.org](http://emmanuelucc.org).



## From Homewood Living ...

The co-workers and residents at Homewood Living Plum Creek thank you for the hundreds of Christmas cards and the mountain of bingo prizes you collected and delivered to our campus. The festive cards will bring holiday cheer and the bingo prizes will last well into the new year!

We are forever grateful for the love and support you share with us.

It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside you. You have enriched my life.

*Megan Schuman*  
Homewood Auxiliary Staff Liaison  
*Megan retired from Homewood at the end of December.*

## Homewood Auxiliary news

■ **FUNDRAISING TEA:** The support of the 2025 Tea enabled Homewood Living at Plum Creek to give \$6,500 for wish list items for residents as well as funds toward renovating the multipurpose room in Terrace Living.

■ **BINGO PRIZE COLLECTION:** The Homewood Living Plum Creek Auxiliary is seeking prizes for Bingo, held twice a week for Skilled Care and Personal Care residents. Please donate new, non-perishable prizes like word search puzzle books, costume jewelry, small hand lotions, window clings, small stuffed animals, holiday trinkets, assorted greeting cards, and chocolate. Place in the Bingo Prizes basket in King Auditorium.

■ **FOR INFORMATION**, see Auxiliary Representative Peg Moulton or call her at 443-904-0234.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

New Address:  
**Donna & Buster Bair**  
20 Henry Street  
Hanover PA 17331



*Moved? New email? Please inform the office!*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The following members and friends of Emmanuel celebrate birthdays in **February**. We extend to each of you best wishes and many happy returns. May God bless you!

1—Harold Trone Jr.  
 5—Sandra Rosensteel, Kristine Carbaugh  
 8—Floyd Lohr Jr., Eleanor Bechtle  
 11—Jean Blood  
 14—Myron Bird  
 15—David Meyers  
 16—Barbara Trimmer, Fred Lohnes  
 20—Amy Groft  
 21—Vicky Robinson, Hannah Kowalsky, William Miller Jr., Jan Hagenberger  
 23—Bob Larsen, Larry Dubs, Sarah Wright, Lauren King  
 24—Abe Peterkin  
 25—Alyssa Meyers  
 27—Kristy Litzinger  
 28—Ryan Hikel  
 29—Joseph Zollickoffer

## Remembering ♦ Caring ♦ Reaching Out

**Terry Alcott** (Care South)  
**Barbara Cooledge** (Creekside 2209)  
**Julia Greth** (Care Central D-233-A)  
 Homewood, 425 Westminster Avenue,  
 Hanover PA 17331

**Peg Hull** (Room 406)  
 Tree of Life, 236 N. Railroad St., Hanover PA

► **Have some news?** Change of address?  
 New email? Let us know!  
 office@eucchanover.org  
 124 Broadway, Hanover PA 17331



**Emmanuel hosts meetings**  
 of the Girl Scouts, Hanover Area Diversity Alliance,  
 and Hanover Pride Trans Support Group.  
 ~ For info, contact the church office. ~

**Rev. Kenneth D. Peterkin**  
 860-581-0869 • pastor@eucchanover.org  
 Office Hours: 10am-1pm, Tuesday-Wednesday

## February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship with Communion Children's SS 11:30 am—W&M 6 pm—Mindfulness	<b>2</b> 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor 6-8 pm—Neighbors in Knead baking	<b>3</b> 1-2:30 pm—Neighbors in Knead food distribution	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games 7 pm—Adult Bible Study with Rev. Ken	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10 am—Worship Children's SS 12 pm—Lunch Bunch	<b>9</b> 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	<b>10</b> 1pm—Missions Committee	<b>11</b> 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel Open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship Children's SS 11:30—Church Growth 6 pm—Mindfulness	<b>16</b> ~ Office Closed ~	<b>17</b> 7 pm—Consistory	<b>18</b> 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel Open ASH WEDNESDAY 7 pm—Service	<b>19</b> 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship Children's SS	<b>23</b> 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel Open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>1 March</b> 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship with Communion Children's SS 11:30 am—W&M 6 pm—Mindfulness	<b>2</b> 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel Open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	<b>5</b> 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

**Emmanuel United Church of Christ**  
124 Broadway  
Hanover, PA 17331  
(Return Service Requested)

**Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Hanover PA 17331  
Permit #15**

**Congregational Meeting  
rescheduled!**

Due to inclement  
weather, the Annual  
Congregational Meeting  
will be held after  
worship on February 1.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ, 124 Broadway, Hanover PA 17331



**Worship Services**  
10 am Sunday

**Rev. Ken Peterkin**  
860-581-0869  
[pastor@eucchanover.org](mailto:pastor@eucchanover.org)

**Church Office**  
9 am-1 pm, Mon-Fri  
717-632-8281  
[office@eucchanover.org](mailto:office@eucchanover.org)

**Visit Online**  
[www.emmanuelucc.org](http://www.emmanuelucc.org)

## **February F.Y.I.**

### **■ CWS Blanket Sunday**

February 1: Sponsor a blanket for just \$10 to provide warmth, privacy, protection and comfort to those in need in the U.S. and worldwide. ~See Page 2



### **■ Ash Wednesday**

A service with the distribution of ashes will be held in the sanctuary at 7 pm February 18. Please join us as we begin the Lenten season.



### **■ 2025 Giving Statements**

Year-end giving statements for 2025 were emailed on January 13 and sent by mail to those without email addresses. For questions, a printout or a resend, contact Maria at [office@eucchanover.org](mailto:office@eucchanover.org) or 717-632-8281.