

CONCORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Baden, PA 15005
www.concordchurch.org
724.869.9135

CONCORD GRAPEVINE

A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. Jean Smith

On January 18, 19 and 20, I attended the “Covenanting Conference” of the Fellowship of Presbyterians in Orlando, Florida. The conference was outstanding. The worship was vibrant. The speakers were well prepared and extremely articulate as they presented the newly unveiled organization called THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT ORDER OF PRESBYTERIANS (ECO). This is not just a newly formed denomination but a new way of doing and being the church. While I am still sorting out all that was presented, let me share with you some of what I learned.

First, this is not a denomination for the faint of heart. It is not a denomination for those who wish to do things “business as usually” and simply escape the PCUSA because of its abandonment of Biblical standards for ordination and its terminal complacency when it comes to pursuing the things of God and making disciples of all nations. It is about covenanting with God and with one another to nurture, encourage and hold each other accountable to the essentials of the Reformed Faith and to providing an atmosphere where believers can thrive and not just survive. It is about seeking and saving the lost and developing new worshipping communities. It’s about having a vision of the New Testament understanding of community and allowing that vision to inform our strategy and our structure for how we do church.

Second, this is an organization that celebrates the place of women and ethnic minorities in ministry and doesn’t just tolerate them. This was a breath of fresh air to this woman in ministry. At all times there was a balance between men and women and people of color on the platform of presenters. It is an organization that celebrates God through a wide variety of worship styles and strives for excellence in all things. Our worship experiences included a Tazai service which utilizes repetitious chants and prayers and silence all keeping to the Reformed understanding of who God is and who we are and how we get to God through the one mediator, our Lord Jesus Christ; a service using Southern Gospel music and Black Soul music; a traditional service with full choir and orchestra praising God with the great hymns of the church and high church liturgy; and a service lead by a contemporary Christian music band using guitars, keyboard and drums. It was made clear that God loves variety both in the people He calls in to relationship with Him and in the way He has inspired people to worship Him.

Third, this is an organization that is in process. It began with the creation of a group called The Fellowship of Presbyterians. These are individuals within the PCUSA who hear a higher calling to a more Biblical life and world view. They are not leaving because they are angry. They are leaving because they believe God desires something greater for the church, something more like the first century Christian community where people nurtured one another in faith and held each other accountable to meeting together to study the

teachings of the apostles, to giving to the needs of the poor and oppressed, and to prayer. They believe God is calling us to witness to the power of Christ in our lives and to call others to repent and believe in the name of Christ.

Fourth, this is a missional organization. It is dedicated to “depopulating hell” and that doesn’t happen by praying for the dead but by evangelizing the living. This denomination is evangelical at its core. It is focused on reaching the lost and bringing people to Christ.

Joining the Fellowship of Presbyterians involves making a personal decision to enter into a covenant relationship with others. *It acknowledges that something beyond us is more important than ourselves. It is only in the keeping of such personal commitments however, that meaningful communities are formed and life in the church flourishes.* It involves entering into a covenant, a contract if you will, to be accountable to others for what you believe and how you live that faith out. Here is the covenant one must sign to join the Fellowship of Presbyterians:

I. Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

- *Because Jesus Christ is Lord, I will seek to be subject to Him in all areas of my life: (Matthew 22:37-40)*

II. You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. (1 Corinthians 6:19b-20)

Because my life is not my own...

- *I will take responsibility for my thoughts and actions: (1 Timothy 6:11b-12)*
- *I will make the glory and enjoyment of God my focus: (Westminster Larger Catechism, Q-1)*
- *I will, relying on the Holy Spirit, rejoice in the Lord at all times: (Philippians 4:4-7)*
- *Scripture will be my final authority in all decisions, choices, and actions: (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

III. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

Because the church is not my own...

- I will actively support, pray for, and encourage the ordained leaders of my congregation, serving when called in accordance with my spiritual gifts: (Hebrews 13:7)
- I will fulfill my part of the baptismal covenant, nurturing children and those new in the faith: (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
- I will hold my personal preferences lightly and guard the good of the whole: (Philippians 2:1-4)

IV. The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it; the world, and all who live in it...(Psalm 24:1)

Because the world is not my own...

- I will commit to a biblical tithe of my assets, joyfully giving additional offerings whenever and wherever possible to support the work of the gospel and the welfare of God’s people: (2 Chronicles 31:12)
- I will consider my tithes and gifts as an expression of gratitude to the One who has been extravagantly generous toward me: (Psalm 116:12, 17)
- I will be a faithful steward of God’s creation. I will treat the creation as a gift to be cared for and used in ways which honor and glorify the Creator: (Genesis 2:15)
- I will behold the creation as a ‘theater of God’s glory’; praising God for every reminder of His presence and love: (Psalm 119:1)
- I will honor the sanctity of human life above the claims of human freedom: (Psalm 8:4-5)
- I will treat others with respect, honoring the image of God in them, however broken. I will seek God’s peace and biblical reconciliation in all times and places: (1 Peter 2:17)

- I will sacrificially provide for the needs of the poor and oppressed, the neglected and the abused, the widow and the orphan: (*Isaiah 58:6-7*)

V. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

Because the Holy Spirit nurtures new and fruitful lives...

- I will yield to the work of the Spirit in my life so that I will be transformed from the inside out: (*Romans 12:1-2*)
- I will pray that God's transforming work in my life will serve Him: (*Ephesians 2:10*)
- I will set my gaze upon Jesus so that I may become what I behold, for the good of the church and the glory of God: (*2 Corinthians 3:18*)

VI. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (*Hebrews 12: 1-2a*)

Because I do not journey through this life alone, but in the company of others and under a great cloud of witnesses...

- I will be an encourager of my brothers and sisters: (*Hebrews 3:13*)
- I will gather regularly with my brothers and sisters, hearing the word of God, participating in the sacraments and preparing to be sent into God's world: (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)
- I will give others who sign this covenant permission to both nurture and admonish me: (*Proverbs 1:5*)

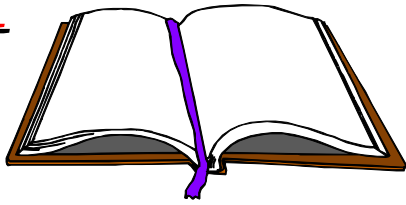
Name _____ Date _____

Joining the Evangelical Covenant of Presbyterians (ECO) is not as simple as signing the above covenant and mailing it in to the Fellowship of Presbyterians. It is a process a church undergoes that is still being developed. Churches may separate from the PCUSA and join ECO **or** they may belong to both. The PCUSA allows union Presbyteries (Presbyteries that are part of another denomination and the PCUSA). This is the option the Beaver Butler Presbytery is exploring. That relationship will be marked by grace, civility, humility and passion. An individual pastor may join ECO but unless they are serving an ECO congregation, they will have voice but not vote at their presbytery meetings. When a congregation joins they will be grouped into a presbytery of 10-25 churches and no more.

To join ECO all congregations and pastors must adhere to the theology and polity of ECO. These documents are still evolving and yet fairly well developed. ECO is a confessional church meaning it holds to the creeds, confessions, and catechisms on the Book of Order.

I hope this has been helpful. If you would like more information about the Polity and Theology of ECO you may find it at www.fellowship-pres.org Scroll down to January 19, 2012. There you will find bullet points for EVANGELICAL COVENANT ORDER, POLITY and THEOLOGY. I encourage you to take the opportunity to explore these documents and prayerfully seek God's leading. It will be to something and not just away from something.

Lent



MESSAGE FROM REV. JEAN SMITH

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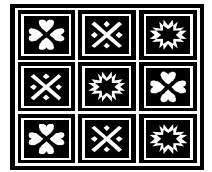
People

February Birthdays/Anniversaries
Worship Volunteers

February Calendar

THE CHURCH IN MISSION

Weather permitting, we will continue to meet every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. in February.



We continue to provide pillowcases to the troops. If you have any clean, used pillowcases or sheets, that you no longer need, please consider donating them to us. Just bring them to church.

Also, we are able to provide a blanket for an autistic child. If you know of a child who would find comfort in a blanket, please make your request known.

Helpers are always welcome!



The We Care Food Pantry, a ministry of the Baden United Methodist Church, welcomes our involvement each month.

Volunteers from Concord Church have been helping on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the delivery of food items from the Pittsburgh Food Bank was delayed a week. That means we are helping this **Tuesday, January 31st from 5 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.** They appreciate our help immensely. We have been serving by helping the shoppers select their food items and then carrying them to their cars.

Please contact Pastor Jean if you would like to car pool to the Baden UM Church or just show up there at 5 p.m.

Monthly Prayer Schedule

On the table in the lobby, please take notice of the log house. This is a reminder that although most of us have a comfortable home that we live in; there are many individuals or families in our local area that are not so fortunate. Many struggle with utility bills and/or even a place to live. Some have a place to live, but are struggling to pay the rent or pay the mortgage of that "warm place of their own."



Session continues to urge you to join us in prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. If you feel out of your comfort zone by praying aloud, you are still welcome to join us and pray in silence. Take a half hour out of your busy life for Christ...isn't your eternal life worth it?



This list needs to be kept up-to-date, so if you have put someone's name on this list and it becomes no longer necessary for them to remain on the list, please notify Rhoda directly.

Prayer List

The people listed below are those with various ongoing needs for whom we are praying on a regular basis, including each week during worship. If you would like to include someone's name on this list, please provide the pertinent information to Rhoda Grossman.



Please take a moment and thank God for what you have. Then consider helping those who do not have what most of us have. Please take a C.A.S.T. form and indicate how you would like your donation spent. Make a check out to C.A.S.T. or cash donations are accepted. Place your donation in the envelope provided and put it in the log house.

May you be blessed by God many times over for serving in His name. Any questions call or talk to Warrena Merryman 724.462.8438.

THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

Prayer Chain

Alice/Jim Ward 724.266.6776 ↓
Pat Guthrie 724.869.2705 ↓
Robin/Dan Hall 724.869.0801 ↓
Bea Roby 724.869.9577 ↓
Eleanor Eisenbrown 724.774.1568 ↓
Shelda/Chuck Rudich 724.266.5403 ↓
Marie/Bob Dewar 724.869.5278 <i>(leave message on Church machine)</i> 724.869.9135

The Prayer Chain consists of those who are available for special prayer in time of emergency need. If there is a special need which needs immediate prayer, please call anyone on the prayer chain to activate the chain.

DAVE AMES – (member of Concord)
Heart-related issues

WINNIE BOWMAN – underwent back surgery

ANN BUFALINI – (Cindy Hartsell's friend)
Battling lupus and cancer

DEBBIE CROSBY – (Kathy Jones' sister)
Needs heart transplant

DIANE CUTCHALL – (Karen Wylie's niece)
Undergoing tests

JOHN DEWAR – (Bob Dewar's brother)
Suffered stroke

MARIE DEWAR – (member of Concord) Job concerns

DORIS EASTERDAY - (member of Concord)

COLLIN FRITZLEY – (member of Concord)
Experiencing seizure-type convulsions

DALE GASS – (Greta Penn's father)

TAMMY GREEN – (Rhoda Grossman's co-worker in Arkansas) Battling breast cancer

EARL GREENWALD (member of Concord)
Recovering from knee replacement surgery

JOYCE GRIFFIN – (Jim/Karen Wylie’s daughter)
Continued prayers for good health

LINDA GROSSMAN – (Rhoda Grossman’s sister)
Prayers for health and well being in Portland, OR

CINDY HARTSELL – (member of Concord)

CHUCK HAWK – (Judy Hawk’s husband)
Tractor trailer accident in Ohio

BOB JOHNSON – (member of Concord)
Pneumonia, then colds, flue and weak health

MARIE JONES – (member of Concord)

PAUL JONES – (member of Concord)

RALPH JONES – (Janet Gilson’s father)

BETTY KARDASZ – (Virginia Kardasz’s mother-in-law)
Health problems

KENNEDY FAMILY – (Gilson family friends)

NATHAN DANIEL KUSTRA – (grandson of Fred Simonds’ friend)
Born with spinal bifida

AGNESS LAUDENSLAGER – (John Laudenslager’s mother)
Fell and broke hip

JOYCE LINT – (Shelda Rudich’s mother)
Battling pneumonia and leg pain associated from a stroke

HUXLEY LIPSCOMB – (member of Concord)

JESSICA MARCHIONDA - (Linda Martin’s daughter)
Battling cancer

DEBBIE MCGILL – (member of Concord)
Diagnosed with Parkinson’s

JEFF NEELY – (member of Concord)
Suffered massive heart attack; recuperating after successful bypass surgery

TODD NEELY – (member of Concord)
Serving in the Marines

JEANINE OWENS – (Dave Jones co-worker’s wife)

ANN PARKS – (Concord member)
Recovering from hip surgery

KAROL PONEVAC - (Pearl Dunlap’s friend)
Suffered a stroke

GLORIA PRIESTLEY – (member of Concord)

LINDA PROFOZICH – (Greta/Mike Penn’s close friend)
Recovering from breast cancer surgery along with potential thyroid problems.

BEA ROBY – (Concord member)

SARAH RUDICH – (Daughter of Chuck/Shelda Rudich)
Spiritual well-being and Hannah’s health

AMY SCHNEIDER – (Dick Schneider’s daughter)
Battling MS and depression

JAYNE SCHNEIDER – (member of Concord)
Recovering from back surgery

CAROL SIMONDS - (member of Concord)
Health concerns

TOM SMITH – (Sue Laudenslager’s brother)
Suffers from a muscle deterioration condition

TIARA ANN - Battling cancer

CINDY WILLIS – (Karen Wylie’s friend)
Underwent recent breast cancer surgery

SHELLE WINTERHALTER – (Chele DiCioccio’s friend)
Undetermined health issues

JAMES YOUNG – (Doris Easterday’s co-worker)
Battling lung cancer again

CHURCH LIFE

Pastoral Nominating Committee

Update



With approval by the Session and the Presbytery, the PNC will be entering the next phase which is to begin accepting Pastoral candidate applications.

Our next scheduled meeting will take place on **Sunday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m.** and continue on Sunday evenings until the position has been filled.

Lent

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on February 22nd** which will include the Lord’s Supper. Our service starts at **7:30 p.m.**



Join us for this special time of worship and preparation as we look ahead to Holy Week and Easter.

Family Nights Resume

Join Our Family Tradition

Family Nights will begin again the end of February and run through the Season of Lent.

Those dates are:

February 28

March 6

March 13

March 20

March 27

Please mark you calendar and plan to join us for **dinner at 6 p.m.** At 6:30 the children will have Junior Choir with Chele DiCioccio and Stacey Chalupiak in the sanctuary.

The adults will remain in the fellowship hall and continue their study on Lead Beyond These Walls - a powerful study on the church and its role in the world.

All are welcome!

Calling all Military Veterans!



If you reside in Economy Borough and have served in any branch of the military, a master list is now being compiled with the goal of recognizing these men and women on Veterans Day, 2012.

Please submit your information including:

Name, Address, Branch of Armed Services and/or conflict directly to Courtney Barthelemy. She can be reached electronically at cbbesq@yahoo.com. Or you may forward the information to Economy Borough's secretary, Sue Blum, by phoning 724.869.4779.

Randy Kunkle, Borough Manager, reports this request will be published on the Borough

website, where the contact information will appear, hopefully in the near future.

Happy Anniversary

11 Linda/Dale Gliptis

Happy Birthday

- 1 Nicholas Dewar
- 2 Bev Thompson
- 6 Eleanor Eisenbrown
- 9 Isaiah Rudich
- 12 Marie Dewar
- 14 Austin Staving
- 14 Mike Settembrine
- 15 Allison Merryman
- 15 Paul Smith
- 16 Spring Rudich
- 17 George Smokovich
- 19 Collin Fritzley
- 23 Dave Ames
- 23 Mac McGill
- 24 Patty Jones
- 24 Meghan Kinkade
- 26 Karen Wylie

**FEBRUARY
W O R S H I P
V O L U N T E E R S**

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- 5 - Rudich**
- 12 - Laughner**
- 19 - Schneider**
- 26 - Riddle**

GREETERS

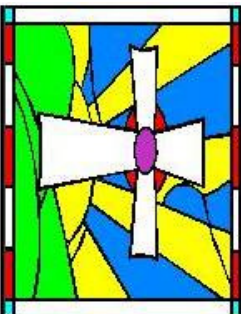
- 5 - Pearl Dunlap**
- 12 - Ed Eisenbrown Family**
- 19 - Gilson Family**
- 26 - Earl Greenwald**

LITURGISTS

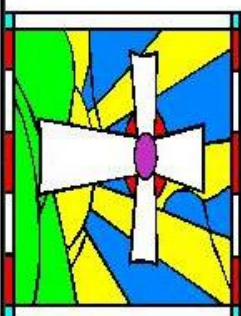
- 5 - Jayne Schneider**
- 12 - Marie Dewar**
- 19 - Jerry Chalupiak**
- 26 - Jeff Jones**


NURSERY ATTENDANTS

- 5 - TBD**
- 12 - Dave/Michele Jones**
- 19 - George/Terri Smokovich**
- 26 - Dave/Melissa Woten**



FEBRUARY 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 11:00 Praise Team 12:30 Sewing Group</p> <p>5:30 Cub Scouts 7:30 Sr. Choir</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 9:00 Worship/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Mission/Outreach</p>	<p>6 6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>7 6:30 Jr. Choir 7:00 Congregational Care</p>	<p>8 11:00 Praise Team 12:30 Sewing Group 6:30 Worship Comm. 7:30 Sr. Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Administration</p>	<p>13 6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>14 6:30 Jr. Choir</p> 	<p>15 11:00 Praise Team 12:30 Sewing Group 5:30 Cub Scouts 7:30 Sr. Choir</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:00 Worship/Baptism 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School</p>	<p>20 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Session</p>	<p>21 6:30 Jr. Choir</p> <p>MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>22 11:00 Praise Team 12:30 Sewing Group 7:30 Ash Wednesday Service/Lord's Supper 8:30 Sr. Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Administration</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 6:00 Family Night Dinner 6:30 Jr. Choir/ Adult Study</p>	<p>29 11:00 Praise Team 12:30 Sewing Group 7:30 Sr. Choir</p>	<p>MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 2.21.12</p>		