

# The Challenger

Heidelberg United Church of Christ  
... A Faith Community with a Place for YOU  
1101 Cowpath Road, Hatfield, PA 19440

Telephone: (215) 368-0442  
Website: [www.heidelbergucc.org](http://www.heidelbergucc.org)

## *Happy New Year!*



From Pastor Marianne

Dearest Family in Christ!

How WONDERFUL and GENEROUS and LOVING you are. Once again, you have made Heidelberg an INCREDIBLE place to serve our Lord together. The Christmas bonus was an AMAZING gift and I thank you from the depths of my heart. Most of you know, John and I will be using some of the gift to go see Shen Yun and now we have AWESOME seats, center, Row E!!!!

All of the Christmas activities were EXTRA SPECIAL. I made "book thongs" with beads for my hymnal and Bible at the Advent Workshop and a really cute "snow man and girl couple" electric candle lights. I also enjoyed stenciling a gift bag.

Women's Fellowship dinner was really YUMMY and Doris Gerges' reading of "A Cup of Christmas Tea" was certainly a highlight.

Caroling to our shut-ins always makes Christmas more meaningful as we bring the joy of our Savior into their hearts.

The Christmas Cantata was a joy to sing even though it kept me awake too many nights with the tunes repeating in my brain! It was a very dedicated effort for many of our members with extra rehearsals and a second performance at Peter Becker. Erin and Al's solo parts were EXQUISITE!

We had EXCEPTIONAL turnout from the community for our Living Nativity. The animals were the perfect companion to our setting—just the right size! Our new crèche was erected by the Boy Scouts and Jerry hung the lights for the star. We had WONDERFUL conversations with our neighbors in the Hatfield area. Thanks to all who participated and made it EXTRA SPECIAL!



Christmas Cantata December 17th



At Peter Becker Community, January 3rd Christmas Eve morning, we had the opportunity to hear the voice of Sue Camuso sing "Mary Did You Know" with Erin as we focused on the lyrics. Nancy and Randy, Judy, and Cindra helped with our early service Christmas Eve focusing on the theme of Peace with our Confirmation Class taking special parts. Erin sang a solo for both the early and late services and lit the sanctuary with candles in the eaves as had been done in years past.

Thank you to everyone who decorated our beautiful church for Christmas. Thank you Nancy Kohler and Peggy Michener for taking up the position of chair after Barb Stoudt's many years of service as chair and thank you Bev Lersch for taking care of the poinsettias.

Thank you Judy and Jerry for kicking off our prayer breakfast in January.

Thank you also to everyone who donated funds for the new pew Bibles which will be dedicated January 14<sup>th</sup>.

And thank you John for teaching "Survey of the New Testament" in the adult Sunday School class. We are currently studying "The Purpose Driven Church" and in Lent will be studying "The Imitation of Christ".

We are practically jumping from Epiphany to Lent as we worship February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 for the Ash Wednesday Service with the imposition of ashes for those who desire to receive them. Wednesday evenings at 7:30 will be our usual worship in the various churches in Hatfield. The schedule will be posted in the bulletin and on our website.

If you get the North Penn *Reporter*, don't forget to check out my column under Faith in the "Lifestyles" section. It runs the first Saturday of every month.

Blessings to all in 2018. I hope to see you in worship and at our many activities coming up. Please feel free to invite your friends so that they may also benefit from God's Amazing Grace.

Peace And Love To All,



Rev. Dr. Marianne Unger

---

## Bible Jeopardy



- Judy Stimson

1. On this day, Jesus rose from the dead.
  2. In memory of Jesus we give thanks in this way.
  3. First town in which Jesus began his ministry and was rejected.
  4. Age at which Jesus started his ministry.
  5. Jesus performed this miracle on the Sabbath.
- (Answers on page 7.)

---

## Recipe Corner

- Judy Stimson

What a cold start to 2018!!! Many of our church friends will be heading to warmer places in the coming weeks and months. However, many of us will be staying close by, so let's bring a little bit of paradise into our winter. Enjoy some Sweet Hawaiian Chicken for dinner. It will delight your taste buds and be an easy recipe for the cook.

### \*SWEET HAWAIIAN CROCK-POT CHICKEN\*

- 2 lb. Chicken tenderloin chunks
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup soy sauce

Combine all together, cook on low in Crock-pot 6-8 hours...that's it! Done!

Serve with brown rice and you have a complete, easy meal.



---

## Living Nativity

- Ashley Paskill

On December 22, Heidelberg held the annual Living Nativity for the community. This year, we had sheep, a calf, goats, and a donkey. We also had a new crèche made for an Eagle Scout project from Troop 141. Volunteers from the congregation braved the cold to act out the parts of Mary, Joseph, the angel, and shepherds, giving spectators a glimpse at what it must have been like on that night in Bethlehem.

Those from the community who came out to view the nativity enjoyed the scene, especially the animals. Thank you to all who made the event happen, from setting up, acting out a character, or for just coming out! It was a memorable night for all.



---

## Flowers/Bulletins/Greeters

---

**Note – 2018 Charts are up in the Narthex!**

### Flowers:

**Jan 7** – Gwen Heinel and Barb Clipsham in memory of their beloved sister, Lynda

**Jan 14** – Doris Gerges in memory of Margaret Watson

**Jan 21 and Jan 28** – Open

**Feb 4** – Lois and Frank Wonder in memory of Ike Feusner

**Feb 11** – Elaine and Chuck Moser in honor of their 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**Feb 18** – Open

**Feb 25** – Russ and Becky Burger in honor of their 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary

### Bulletins:

**Jan 7**- Roger and Carol Freidinger

**Jan 14, Jan 21, and Jan 28** – Open

**Feb 4** – Lois and Frank Wonder in memory of Ike Feusner

**Feb 11 and Feb 18** – Open

**Feb 25** – Russ and Becky Burger

### Greeters:

**Jan 14** – Fred Capanna

**All other dates** – Open!

---

## Help Wanted

---

We have a number of positions open for just the right persons. Must be able to extend hand and clasp another person's hand warmly yet gently, while smiling. Must be friendly, and be able to enunciate the word "hello" enthusiastically (no experience required!). That pretty much describes our whole congregation, and we need you to be a greeter!

Sign up on the chart in the narthex.



---

## Stewardship Update

---

- Curt Michener

**Haven of Hope** and the **Williams Family** mission will each receive \$435.13 as a result of our contributions to the **Advent and Christmas Eve offerings**. In addition, we contributed \$498.80 to the Christmas Fund offering in support of retired pastors and their families. Thank you for your generous contributions to these missions.

On **February 4**, we will have the opportunity to contribute to the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. Nationwide, in this campaign last year, churches and other groups and individuals raised over \$10 million for charities of their choice (see [Welcome to Souper Bowl of Caring](#)). A soup tureen will be placed in the Narthex for our contributions, which will be given to Manna on Main Street.

The Stewardship Committee is again planning a trip to Old First Church in Philadelphia to prepare and serve a dinner to homeless men. We will be going on Friday, February 9, and all are welcome to participate.

A complete summary of Heidelberg's 2017 mission giving will be available in the Annual Report at the Congregational Meeting on January 28.

---

## Christian Ed Update

---

- Reggie Cunningham

The adult Sunday School has been covering the Survey of the New Testament, which concluded a couple weeks ago. That was a very good and informative session. Pastor is now covering the Purpose Driven Church. The first session was very informative for issues affecting Heidelberg.

We are working on ideas for the Kids to get them more involved in the regular morning worship so that they feel a part of Heidelberg while growing up and so that they could possibly be grafted into ministry when they're older and while out with friends and the like.

I would like to set up a meeting with all of the teachers, helpers, etc. of Christian Ed. Just to touch bases with and share my vision or ideas. I hope to be able to do that real soon.

Please note: The Christian Ed Committee is looking for more members and Sunday School teachers. If you can help, please speak with Reggie or Pastor Marianne.

---

## Update from the Williams Family

---

- Sue Camuso

We haven't received a letter from Drake Williams for 2018, but on January 5<sup>th</sup>, Drake posted congratulations on his Facebook page to "Henry Williams and Laurie Harris on their wedding on 30 December 2017." Henry is Drake and Andrea's son. Here's a picture of the happy couple!



---

## What is God Really Like?

---

- William R. Cunningham

I had a short discussion with an atheist a few weeks ago. I asked him why he didn't believe God existed. He informed me that he does not believe God exists because he cannot reconcile the world around him with a purported loving, all-powerful, and all-knowing God. I find this to be common among people who blame God for things or are atheists. They don't know who God is or what he is really like. This state of humans (not knowing God) leads to destruction (See Hosea 4:6).

So, what is God really like and how can we know what he is like? We can know God from two forms of revelation. We can know God from examining his creation (See Romans 1:19-20). This is called general revelation. We can also know God more precisely by what he specifically reveals

to us, which is recorded in the Bible. This is called special revelation. In the Bible we see how God interacts with people, His disposition, his response to certain things, etc. We can more precisely know what God is like by examining the life and ministry of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible. Jesus said that he and the Father are one (John 10:30) and that if you've seen him then you've seen the Father (John 14:9-11). The Bible also declares that Jesus is the express image of God (Hebrews 1:3).

Since we were not walking the earth with Jesus about 2000 years ago, we must rely on the historical record of his ministry as recorded in the Gospels to know Jesus and subsequently the nature of God. Christian education is therefore an important aspect of a Christian's life because through it, we become more familiar with and knowledgeable about our heavenly Father, thus mitigating "destruction through ignorance." As we become aware of God in our daily walk (Proverbs 3:6), interact with him through prayer, worship, and conversation, we can also get to know Him through experience each and every day.

One more aspect of knowing God through Jesus is that we (Jesus' disciples) are the light of the world and a pointer to Christ. How can people believe unless they hear and how can they hear unless someone preaches, i.e., proclaim the Gospel (See Romans 10:14). We are, to many, a visual representation of God through our lifestyle and love for one another.

So study the Bible. Commune with God and get to know him more and more so that not only you would be edified, but those around you who may be seeking too.

---

## Prayer Breakfast

---

- Judy Stimson

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

All are invited to Heidelberg's Prayer Breakfast Sunday February 4, 2018 at 8:30 AM. Come join your Heidelberg friends as we all enjoy a delicious breakfast and then take time to pray for our church family and friends.



The month of February is being hosted by Becky Burger and Judy Stimson. Wouldn't it be wonderful if so many of us came that all the serving plates are left empty.

Pastor Marianne guides as we all feed our souls in a morning of fellowship and prayer.

## CALENDAR!

Please confirm committee meeting dates and times with your committee chairperson.

January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15 Martin Luther King Day	16	17 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	18 Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 - 3:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	19	20
21 <b>Food Cupboard</b>	22 Worship Committee 7:30 PM	23	24 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	25 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	26	27 Pinewood Derby 9:00 AM - Noon
28 <b>Congregational Meeting &amp; Luncheon</b>	29	30 Tech Meeting 7:00 PM	31 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	FEB 1 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Property 7:00 PM Compassionate Care 7:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	FEB 2 Happy Groundhog Day!	FEB 3

Please confirm committee meeting dates and times with your committee chairperson.

February						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 <b>Prayer Breakfast 8:30 AM</b> <b>Souper Bowl</b> <b>Challenger News Due</b>	5 Membership 6:30 PM	6	7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	8 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	9	10
11 <b>Scout Sunday</b> <b>Coffee Hour</b> <b>Challenger Distributed</b>	12 Finance 7:30 PM	13 Consistory 7:00 PM	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday <b>(Communion)</b> @ Heidelberg 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal After	15 Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 - 3:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	16	17
18 <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Food Cupboard</b>	19 President's Day	20	21 Community Lenten Service 7:30 PM	22 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM	23	24
25 <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b>	26 Worship Committee 7:30 PM	27 Tech Meeting 7:00 PM	28 Community Lenten Service 7:30 PM			

Please note that each church has its own worship service on Ash Wednesday, but our Community Lenten Services begin on February 21st. The schedule will be published in the bulletin and the next issue of The Challenger. Choir rehearsals will be adjusted to Thursday nights when the services are held at other churches. Watch for more information.

*Thank you to  
Jack and Mary Palko  
and  
Diane Pierson  
for sponsoring this issue!*

## Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM): Changing Lives

[From the United Church of Christ website]

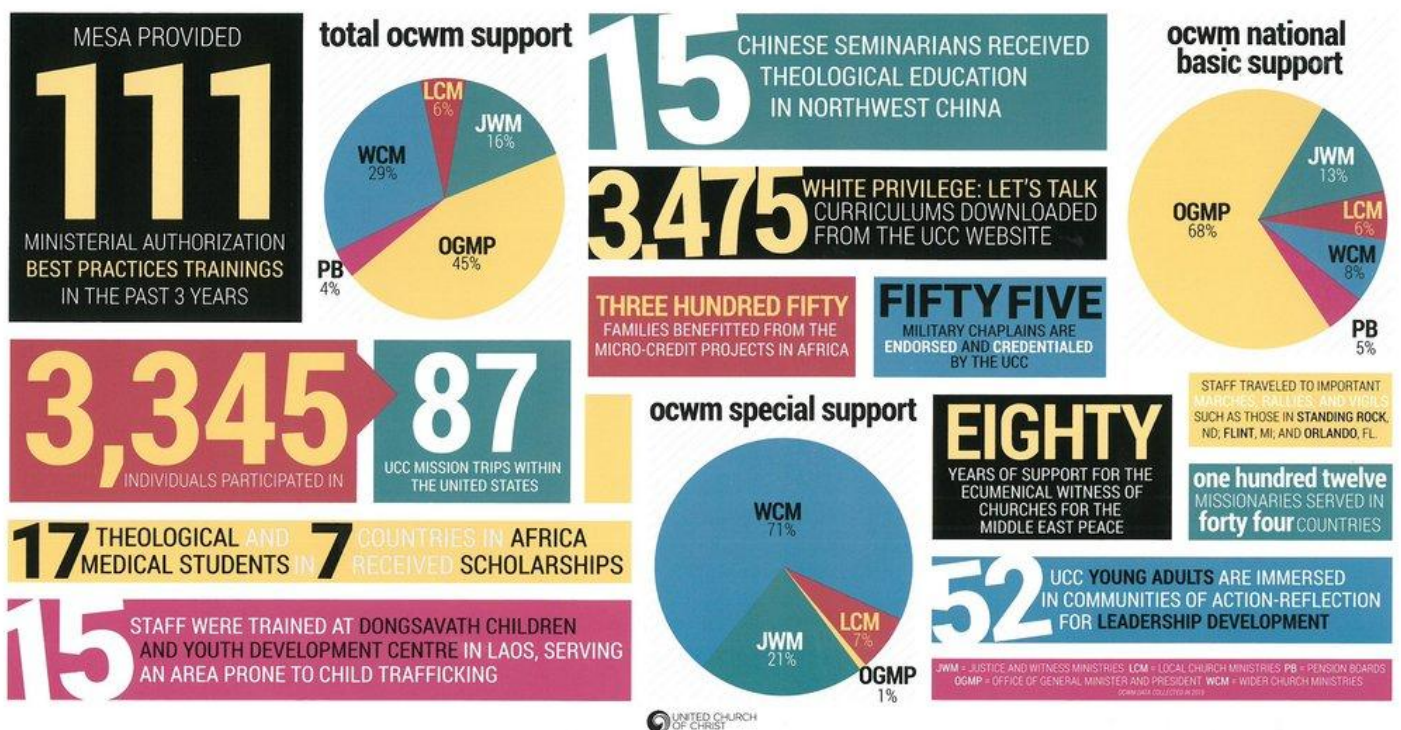
OCWM is the shared funds of the United Church of Christ that makes all we do at Association, Conference, national, and global levels possible. And it starts with local congregations!

Local congregations make important decisions about how much OCWM they will give to support the wider ministries of the United Church of Christ, and from there, OCWM dollars are split between our local Conference and the national setting.

Your gifts to OCWM ensure that the ministry of the United Church of Christ in all its settings continues to matter and make a difference in times when our bold witness is increasingly important.

## WHY DONATE TO OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION?

Our Church's Wider Mission makes it possible to live out the vision of the United Church of Christ: *United in Christ's love, a just world for all.*



Please remember to support Our Church's Wider Mission in your regular offerings!

## His Unfailing Presence

Author Unknown

Another year I enter  
Its history unknown;  
Oh, how my feet would tremble  
To tread its paths alone!  
But I have heard a whisper  
I know I shall be blest;  
"My presence shall go with thee,  
And I will give thee rest."

What will the New Year bring me?  
I may not, must not know; will it be love and rapture,  
Or loneliness and woe?  
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper;  
I surely shall be blest;  
"My presence shall go with thee,  
And I will give thee rest."

Bible Jeopardy Answers

- Judy Stimson

- 1. What is the third day?
- 2. What is the Lord's Supper?
- 3. Where is Nazareth?
- 4. What is 30 years of age?
- 5. What is healing the man who was born blind?

The Best Way To Pray?

A priest, a minister, and a guru sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

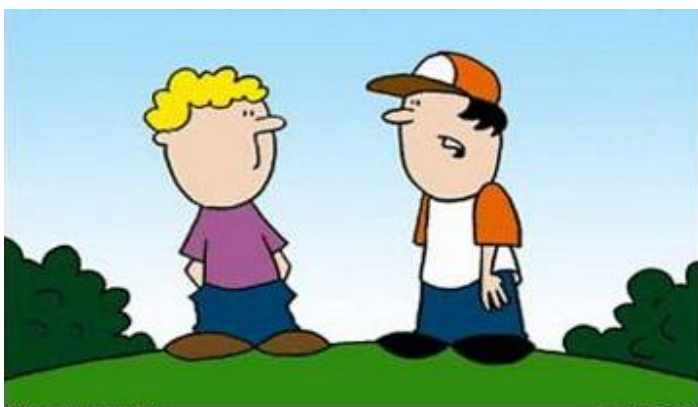
"Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray," the priest said.

"No," said the minister. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." "

You're both wrong," the guru said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

Well, That's a Joyful Noise...



(See psalm 100)

MOM SAYS WE SING HYMNS TO MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD ... I PERSONALLY LIKE TO YELL "YIPPEE" EVERY NOW AND THEN

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"No, Dolly, our father art downstairs watching TV."

Thoughts on New Year's Resolutions

"My resolution for this year is to keep LAST year's resolutions!"

"I think I made too many New Year's Resolutions this year. It took me almost a full day to break them all."

"My New Year's Resolution is to stop hanging around with people who ask me how I'm doing with my New Year's Resolutions..."

"This year I resolve to lose ten pounds... or my temper, whichever comes first."

"My wife challenged me to make New Year's Resolutions I can keep. So I'm determined and committed to becoming fatter, lazier, and older this year."

"My New Year's Resolution is to be more decisive. I just can't decide what I should be more decisive about."

"I don't have any New Year's Resolutions. You don't need them when you're perfect!"

"I decided to break all my resolutions early so I could start enjoying the rest of the year!"



Heidelberg United Church of Christ  
Rev. Dr. Marianne Unger, Pastor

January 2018

**Heidelberg United Church of Christ**  
**1101 Cowpath Road**  
**Hatfield, PA 19440**

Phone: 215-368-0442  
Website: [www.heidelbergucc.org](http://www.heidelbergucc.org)  
Pastor: [revm123@gmail.com](mailto:revm123@gmail.com)  
Secretary: [secretary@heidelbergucc.org](mailto:secretary@heidelbergucc.org)  
Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/heidelbergchurchhatfield](http://www.facebook.com/heidelbergchurchhatfield)  
Access our YouTube Channel  
from our web page.

**January 28 – Congregational Meeting & Luncheon**  
**February 14 – Ash Wednesday (Communion)**  
**February 18 – First Sunday in Lent (Communion)**

**Inside:**

Pastor Marianne.....Page 1  
Bible Jeopardy, Recipe Corner, Living Nativity .....Page 2  
Flowers/Bulletins/Greeters, Stewarship Update  
Christian Ed Update .....Page 3  
Update from the Williams Family,  
What Is God Really Like?, Prayer Breakfast Reminder.....Page 4  
Calendar, Sponsors .....Page 5  
Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) .....Page 6  
For Kids of All Ages.....Page 7



**Our Mission Statement**  
The mission of Heidelberg United Church of Christ is to know our Savior and to let Him work through us as we reach out in worship, service, and witness to all.

**Our Vision Statement**  
As Heidelberg United Church of Christ, we hear God calling us to accomplish the vision He has provided through: broadening the base of His church’s membership within our own congregation; communicating His gospel more effectively; serving the local community with greater commitment; to grow and strengthen in the faith with which God has entrusted us; and, in obedience to His command and call, ministering in those ways that will assure the growth and enrichment of congregational identity and Christian discipleship.