



Emmanuel United Methodist Church

26 West Washington Street, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Sunday Worship 10 AM; Sunday School 10 AM

Web Site: WWW.FleetwoodUMC.org

November 2017

Donna's 60th Anniversary as our Organist and Choir Director

Last Sunday we celebrated Donna Knarr's 60 years at the organ of Emmanuel Church. It was quite a joyous occasion, with most of her family in attendance. Bryn Werley opened with a prelude on flute and Donna added her special touches to all the hymns (which were chosen because they were her favorites.) Donna played a piano arrangement of *Higher Ground* for the offeratory and Andrea (Knabb) Fioriglio and Bob Fluharty sang solos. The men of the choir rounded out the musical presentations by singing the do-wop version of *Donna*, with new lyrics written by Ron Frey and Butch Barr.



The congregation gave Donna gift certificates to American Music Theater and Wyomissing Family Restaurant and a permanent remembrance in the form of an engraved crystal plaque, photo below. A cake and punch reception followed and we are looking forward to planning her 70th anniversary service!



The following is the information on Donna that was included as a bulletin insert.



***Congratulations to Donna Knarr
on 60 years of music ministry!***

Donna Knarr's first encounter with the Fleetwood United Methodist Church was in 1957 at the age of 15, while performing at a piano recital hosted by the church. After she played "Autumn Leaves" at that recital, Pastor Asher Gottshall, approached her and asked if she would be interested in studying the organ with the goal of becoming the church organist. The church was anticipating the retirement of their longtime organist and generously offered to pay for Donna's lessons. Donna says she was very appreciative of the opportunity this church gave her to learn under Marie Scheffly in Reading for 6 months. At the age of 16, Donna Knarr was officially hired as the church organist at Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church (which then became Emmanuel UMC in the 1968 merger of the two denominations.)

Thirteen years later, at the age of 29, Donna also became the choir director after Ruth Adams retired from that position. She recalls having had many wonderful, dedicated choir members throughout the years. After spending every Monday evening at choir practice together for the past 60 years, you develop some special bonds. Donna states that some of her fondest memories at this church include many of the Easter and Christmas Cantatas that the choir performed for our church members and the surrounding community.

Donna especially enjoyed the times when various community members would join us to assist in making beautiful music for our special Christmas programs. Dave Stahl, professional trumpet player and church member, Alton Smith (Donna's uncle) and trumpet player, Bobby Schaeffer, trumpeter and Rick Keller, trombonist, were some of the many musicians that assisted in making some wonderful musical memories.

For many years, Donna also led out with our church's junior choir. With the many talented youth from the Hunter, Werst and Frey families, to name a few, she also led a small youth orchestra with clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and flutes.

Over the past 60 years, Donna recalls working with a variety of pastors, 10 in all. She worked with Pastors Asher Gottshall, R. R. Umberger, G. J. Hunsberger, Susan Hassinger, John Taylor, Kenneth Kline, Colleen Kristula, Glenn Brown, George Sackett and currently, Mark Dricker.

There was one very important Sunday a very long time ago that Donna needed to have off and take a vacation day. She was not able to work the Sunday while on her honeymoon. This was very strategically planned, since that was the week that the choir went to perform at the prison and they were all placed on lock down during an attempted prison break.

Donna's most challenging moment at this church was at the age of 21, while 8 months pregnant, she was playing for a Christmas program. Right in the middle of playing the "Hallelujah Chorus", all of her organ music fell onto her lap. She continued to play with her right hand, while trying to pick up the music and return it to the music holder on the organ. Knowing Donna, she never missed a beat.

Donna acknowledges the support of her musical endeavors by her husband, Tom, during their 58 years of marriage. She also has 3 married daughters, 1 son, 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. When Donna has free time, she loves to play the piano, and attend band and Christian music concerts whenever possible. Donna and Tom love to travel and have been to 5 continents, and 38 countries.

At the age of 16, Donna says she never would have imagined, that she would still be playing the organ for this congregation 60 years later. She has thoroughly enjoyed her years here and loves the church family of Emmanuel United Methodist Church. May God continue to bless Donna's musical ministry here!

Christmas Gift Program for Concern

Once again this year we have the names of fifteen children in foster care at **Concern**, along with their ages and gift suggestions for Christmas gifts. The names and information will be posted on the bulletin board in the lobby. Please select one or two for whom to purchase gifts. You may buy what is on the list and add age-appropriate items as you see fit. They are to be in original packaging, NOT GIFT-WRAPPED, you may, but do not have to, include gift receipts. The deadline for them to be brought to the church is Sunday, November 26. See Julie Knabb if you have any questions.

This month's Schedule at Emmanuel

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| Saturday, November 4 | <i>Annual church charge conference at West Lawn UMC 9 am</i> |
| Sunday, November 5 | <i>Youth Group B.L.A.S.T. 11-1pm - Devotional Skit – games-snacks</i> |
| Wednesday, November 8 | <i>Trustee Meeting 7 PM</i> |
| Sunday, November 12 | <i>Last week for Christmas Boxes – Blessing of Boxes at Worship</i> |

- Monday, November 13** *Blood drive at Fleetwood H.S. 2:30-6pm Call Bonnie Fansler 610-944-7656 x2 for an appointment*
- Sunday, November 19** *Ozgood's Restaurant in Kutztown for lunch after worship and Zion Choral at Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship in Allentown 3pm*
- Tuesday, November 21** *Administrative Board meeting 7 PM*

Coming Events to plan for in December

- Sunday, December 5** *"Hanging of the Greens"- An Emmanuel Tradition to begin the Advent Season of Worship. Following the service will be a time of fellowship – Cocoa, Coffee, Cider & Cookies!*

Pastor's Corner

Our Attendance At Worship

Worship is a privilege only children of God have. There are many blessings we receive from faithful attendance in worship. God has commanded us to assemble regularly to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Hebrews 10:25-27 says, "**Not Forsaking The Assembling Of Ourselves Together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching. **For If We Sin Willfully** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **There No Longer Remains A Sacrifice For Sins**, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation." When we forsake the assembly of the church, except for sickness or circumstances beyond our control, we are not only disobeying God, but we are robbing ourselves of all the benefits of worship which would have helped us to grow and become spiritually strong.

By forsaking the assembly, we also endanger our souls because as the above verse says, "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for our sins." Christ is our only sacrifice for sin. When people reject their only sacrifice for sin there remains nothing but "a certain fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation."

When people fall away from the Lord, it is usually not a sudden thing. They usually start by forsaking the assembly on Sunday mornings. This is the usual path for most people

who fall away. Oh, some may come back and "visit" several times a year and a few may even attend our Sunday morning worship with little regularity.

Let's not lose our souls by unfaithfulness.

God Bless

Pastor Mark

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New Church Photo Directory Underway

If you have not already had your photo taken for our new Church Photo Directory we will continue to take photos for a few Sundays. People can update their info on a sheet that will be available. For those that cannot make it to church, call Nancy Kiesling or Julie Knabb and we will set up a home visit if needed. Nancy will be away for the 12th of November, but Elwood will be at church to take photos and Nancy will check her messages and return calls to people.

November Birthdays

November 12 – Betty Homan

November 8 – Julie Knabb

November 30 – Pastor Mark

November Anniversaries

None in November

Operation Shoebox

Operation Shoebox is underway – for distribution worldwide through Samaritan's Purse program. Last week for collection will be Nov 12.

Please check out the notice on the bulletin board in the hallway downstairs that our youth have prepared for more information.

Charge Conference

Charge Conference for this year will be on November 4th this year and will be held as a joint charge conference being held in West Lawn UMC. Our church leadership has a lot of information to gather and report for the conference.

UMC #GivingTuesday is Nov. 28.

We hope on Nov. 28, you will once again join United Methodists around the world to change lives on UMC #GivingTuesday.

In 2016, you were among the more than 2,550 people from 19 countries who gave gifts of more than \$850,000 toward Global Ministries missionary support and Advance projects. Thank you for your faithful giving through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church.

Frederick Buechner once described "calling" as the place "where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." One of the great things about The Advance is it allows you to invest your resources where your passion answers specific needs in the world.

The UMC #GivingTuesday theme this year is "Connect Your Passion with God's Mission." **One hundred percent of your gifts made online through [The Advance](#) goes to the missionary or project of your choice.**

Our impact areas this year are:

- Food and Agriculture
- Church Development
- Disaster Response and Relief
- Education
- Health
- Economic Empowerment
- Social Justice
- WASH/Water and Sanitation
- Women and Children
- Mission Personnel

Now is a great time to start thinking about how you want to connect your passion to God's mission on Nov. 28.

Visit umcmmission.org/give to learn more about missionaries and projects. Your gift on UMC #GivingTuesday will help bring hope and healing to a world in need.

Thoughts and Smiles for November

I heard about this little girl. She was sitting on her Grandfathers lap and she noticed how wrinkled his face was. And as she contemplated the difference between hers and his, she said , Gran Daddy, did god make you?

He laughed and said, Yes, honey, God made me a long time ago.

She said, Well, did God make me ? He said, Yes, god made you just a little while ago.

She thought about it a moment and said, Gran Daddy, God's getting better, isn't he ?











Reminder - Newsletter Deadline– If you have **articles or humor items for October's** Newsletter be sure to email them to Dick Tracy at dtracy@ptd.net or call him at 610-207-2016 **not later than Wednesday November 22nd**. **I am always looking for articles/photos to share so please email me with anything you feel appropriate to share!**