

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

416 Crescent Avenue, Ellwood City, PA 16117

Phone: (724) 758-6278 Website: www.firstumcec.org

Rev. Patricia Cleary

Pastor's Page – September 2015

Reflections and Transitions

The end of August and the beginning of September is a transition time for just about everyone. Here are some reflections on what's going on.

School is starting back up and here at ECFUMC our Sunday School program is, too. Find out what's going on by coming to a tureen breakfast at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, September 13. Plus, be on the look out for information regarding a new, church-wide learning opportunity beginning in November. It's called The Story and it's written by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. It is the Bible streamlined to give the "big picture" of how God saved the world. Every member and/or family will want their own copy of The Story (\$2 each) to be able to follow along in Sunday School, worship and small group study.

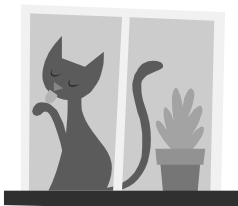
With the end of summer also came the conclusion of the feeding program for children held at Walnut Ridge community center. Our church took a step of faith by saying we would provide volunteers on Friday. When we started we weren't sure of a lot of things: would we have volunteers, could we handle the duties of meal preparation, would children show up, etc. Now we have the answers and they are all YES! Thank you to the eight folks from ECFUMC who gave of their time, plus three from Wurtemberg Presbyterian who regularly helped us out. Although I didn't keep track of how many children we served on Fridays, across our area 40,000 meals were served in 37 locations. It is sad that so many children needed to be fed. It is also a blessing to be able to feed hungry children because what we do unto the least boy or girl, we do to Jesus.

I am excited about the upcoming CROP Walk scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 27 in Ewing Park. I trust that by now you've heard about it. I hope everyone will be either 1.) a walker or 2.) a sponsor of a walker or walkers. If you are looking for someone to sponsor, I plan to walk. Or check out the sign-up sheet for whom else is walking. Church World Service is the organization the walk supports. The money we raise is divided between fighting hunger in our own community (25%) and around the world (75%).

Last but not least, preparations for Church Conference are getting underway. Due to Rev. Garrett's treatment for prostate cancer, some things might need to be adjusted. But he assures us we'll get it done.

As our Bishop says: *"The journey continues..."*

Pastor Pat



I HAVE THE POWER OF PURR. THE POWER OF PURR IS TO MAKE MYSELF AND EVERYONE WHO HEARS ME PURR HAPPY. EVEN IF YOU CAN'T PURR, YOU HAVE THE POWER OF PURR, TOO. JUST MAKE PEACEFUL, CONTENTED SOUNDS AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

- GEORGE, THE PARSONAGE CAT

