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## RALLY DAY

Worship returns to the Sanctuary at 10:15am on Sunday, September 9! We've had a beautiful summer, with the opportunity to be outside nearly every week, but now we're ready to get back to our regular schedule. Adult Bible Study will also begin at 9:00am on Sept. 9, and our choirs will be warming up once more (see page 2). We will mark the beginning of our "Harvest" season with the dedication of the pew Bibles we introduced last Spring. Sunday School begins as well, and we'll begin preparing soon for our annual CROP Hunger Walk. Lots of exciting times for fellowship, mission, and worship are coming up in our Fall calendar! Be sure to check out our new showcase display to find out how you can be a part of our many ministries.

## CONTACT THE CHURCH

321 South Limerick Rd.  
Limerick, PA 19468  
610-489-0990

Pastor: Rachael Pryor  
pastor@stjames-ucc.org  
(610) 705-2000

*Availability by appointment. Fridays are observed as a day of rest.*

*Office Coordinator:*  
Betty Lou Wilson  
Wed & Fri 12-3pm  
or by appointment  
betty9234@verizon.net

*Minister of Music:*  
Donna Pinto  
music@stjames-ucc.org

*Communications and Events Manager:*  
Jill Kauffman  
news@stjames-ucc.org

## CAR SHOW

The time has come for the 6th Annual Classic Car Show! Benefitting Project Outreach, this event has raised over \$10,000. There will be games, prizes, food, and fun.

The date is Sunday, Sept. 9 from noon to 3pm, with a rain date of Sunday, Sept. 16. The entrance fee for a car is \$10; checks can be made payable to Project Outreach.

For more information, please contact Lenny Baranoski.

## BUS TRIP

The Women's Fellowship committee is hosting a bus trip to Lancaster on Tuesday, October 9.

The cost is \$77 and includes lunch and gratuities. The itinerary for this fun-filled trip includes a guided walking tour of Landis Valley Village and Landis Valley Mansion, a meal at Plain and Fancy Restaurant, a trip to The Amish Experience Theater presenting "Jacob's Choice," and a visit to the Intercourse Canning Company.

The bus leaves the St. James parking lot at 8:30am, and the expected time of departure from Lancaster is 5:30pm.

To make reservations, please contact Mae Mogel. Payment is due at time of reservation, make checks payable to St. James Women's Fellowship.

Come out and join for a great day filled with entertainment and fellowship!

## 2012 CONSISTORY

Rich Fiedler, President  
Mary Lou Bryan, VP  
Kristen Serina, Secretary

Nancy Ewing, Treasurer  
Tom Mogel, Financial Sec.

Ruth Borneman, Historian

*Visit our website for even more info:*

**www.stjames-ucc.org**

"Like" us on Facebook!  
www.facebook.com/  
stjamesucc

# Worship

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## PRAYER MINISTRIES

Have you been looking for a way to become more involved in the support and nurture of our church, but you haven't found the right committee? Maybe you'd like to be a part of something, but the meetings are difficult to get to? One of the most important but often overlooked ministries of St. James is the prayer we offer for one another and for our community. Praying binds us together and helps us reach out into our world even as we deepen our relationships with God. There are several ways you can be involved:

- Pray for our church and community. You can use our prayer list as a guide; and you can sign up to be a part of the "Prayer Chain," so that you receive the list as well as updates by phone or email. Contact Charlotte Fiedler if you have questions or would like to be a part of our Prayer Chain.
- Join us every third Tuesday evening (time TBA) at the church to meet and pray together. No need to sign up! Just show up if you can offer an hour to prayer. Each month, we learn about a different type of prayer activity, or we read and discuss the writings of a spiritual leader; and we pray for the concerns and joys on our prayer list and in our group. Check the weekly email and bulletin for details, or call the office.

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## WORSHIP TEAMS

Over the next few months, we will be getting ready to try out a new plan for worship leadership starting in January 2013. Our idea is to create seven "Worship Teams," with each team led by a captain. Each worship team will include ushers, greeters, welcomers, communion assistants, an acolyte, a reader, and so on. Each team will serve only seven times in the entire year, covering every Sunday except Easter, Christmas, and the Sunday following Christmas. For special holidays, we'll recruit individuals instead.

The purpose of the worship teams is to organize our Sunday morning leadership so that we'll have fewer last-minute scrambles to find the leaders we need; and so that it will be easier for volunteers to plan ahead. So, if you would be willing to commit to something like being an usher just seven times over the course of the year, this is a simple and brief, but important way to support the worship ministry of our church. We are especially looking for our seven captains, who will help their teams remember the schedule, and will help find substitutes when needed. Please talk to Jack Morris or Pastor Rachael if you'd like to help out as a captain. We'll begin a survey in the bulletin and by email this October as a way to sign up for the various worship assistance positions.

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## CHOIR INFO

Our new music season will be starting after Labor Day. The adult choir rehearsals will resume on Thu. 9/6/12 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. We welcome all existing members back and look forward to some new members joining to help us make a bigger, more joyful sound.

If you've been debating whether to join the choir, now's a good time to try it out. Everyone will start fresh, and we will be learning new material together. If you are not sure, just come to the first few rehearsals and get your feet wet. You won't know if you'll like it unless you give it a go.

We're also planning to have the bell choir more regularly involved by playing once a month during a morning service. This means we need dedicated ringers who can commit to playing each month. Ability to read music is preferable. The "ringing" choir will rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., prior to the "singing" choir.

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# Evangelism

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## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

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As part of our World Communion Sunday observance, we will be having a special offering for the Neighbors in Need (NIN) program. This special offering is separate from our regular offering and will take place on Sunday, October 7.

Neighbors in Need supports a commitment to justice and compassion through the United States and Puerto Rico. Two-thirds of Neighbors in Need supports the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries and one-third supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM).

These programs include justice advocacy and direct service projects such as just-peace programs and community grants. CAIM is the voice of American Indian members of the UCC and provides them support ranging from advocating for justice to supporting the work of churches and their pastors. Please consider this special offering as we participate in World Communion Sunday.

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## REVITALIZATION

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This summer, we continued with the beginning phase of our "revitalization" project. It is a program led by the Revs. Wanda Craner and Geneva Butz of our Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. The program is offered to congregations of the PSEC at no cost, and at the recommendation of Consistory, we were able to begin the process once we had completed our pastoral search by calling Pastor Rachael last year. Along with three other congregations, our team meets four times per year for a day-long workshop at Mensch Mill; and in between meetings, we have homework!

We are currently working on two projects that provide the foundation for the program. First, as you may recall, our congregation participated in a survey last Spring. We have the survey results, and our team is working on creating a presentation of these results, to be shared with the congregation in a variety of ways, including sessions for questions and discussion. Keep an eye out for more information in our October newsletter, as well as the weekly email and bulletin!

Our second project is to build a covenant that will help us in our ministry and communication together, especially for the leadership of our congregation. We began work on this project in July with a retreat for congregational leaders, and continued on August 30 with a follow-up session. Our covenant will lay out guidelines for how we believe Christians should love, honor, and support one another as we work together to share and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Such a covenant will also help us in the creative process of envisioning the future of our church. As part of this covenant-creating process, we will be also reevaluating our constitution and by-laws. Anyone who is especially interested in this activity should contact Jay Smith to find out how you can lend your voice to our conversations about covenant and constitution.

This summer was a time of transition and re-commitment for our group. Two of the group members prayerfully made the decision to resign from the core revitalization team, due to commitments with other ministries and with family. However, we have invited two new members to be a part of the team. Our St. James Revitalization Ministry is now led by Jay Smith (chairperson), Mae Mogel, Diane Raspen, Tony Nuccitelli, and Marion Hentz. Please feel free to share your questions, concerns, and ideas with this team at any point in the process! Later this year, we'll prepare for a congregation-wide Bible Study that will help make this project more visible to everyone, and give us all another chance to participate.

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# Faith Formation

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On Sunday September 9, we begin another year of Sunday School for all ages! Here is a preview of what's coming up, as well as some areas where we are looking for new leadership:

## **Nursery & Preschool**

At the last Consistory meeting, a recommendation was approved to hire a regular nursery assistant. We hope to begin interviewing candidates as soon as possible! In the meanwhile, we are always looking for more nursery volunteers. By hiring a regular assistant, we hope to make families with young children feel more welcome, knowing they can count on a familiar and dependable presence for our infants and toddlers, and so that parents can count on enjoying our worship service!

## **Elementary School**

Our teaching group is getting ready for the year once more, but it's never too late to join our teaching rotation as a regular or as a substitute. This year, we'll try out a new-to-us program called "Godly Play." It's a series that focuses on Bible Stories and is based on the principles of Montessori teaching. Children begin and end with worship in our sanctuary, so that they experience a part of our worship and feel connected to the whole community. For about 25-30 minutes, they gather in the classroom to hear the Bible story in an interactive way, followed by an activity. However, in late November and December, our focus will change as we prepare for the annual Christmas pageant.

## **Confirmation**

Confirmation starts up on September 9, with classes on most 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Youth are expected to attend worship frequently on the remaining Sundays. Families currently participating will receive a packet from Pastor Rachael, included an updated calendar and program of expectations. Children entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up are welcome to join our confirmation program. For more information, please contact Pastor Rachael. Our program is designed with flexibility in mind, as we work to minister with sensitivity to the demands of family life, school, sports, and other activities.

## **High School**

Our high school group is in the process of creating a "job description" for a volunteer youth leader. We do not currently offer a weekly class, but welcome our teens to participate in any of the "adult" offerings. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook page for updates about special activities for high schoolers, including the upcoming Fall Youth Event at Mensch Mill. We hope to present a regular high school gathering plan in the October newsletter.

## **Adults**

Our Bible Study resumes at 9:00am on September 9. For the month of September, Pastor Rachael will lead a 4-week study on the book of James, which also comes up in our lectionary at this time. In October and November, we hope to offer two studies led by St. James members. We'll also offer a small-group evening study for seven sessions, called "Animate." This study includes a journal and begins with a brief video presentation each week featuring a major leader in the Christian community today. We'll look at major topics of our faith (the Cross, the Bible, the Church) with some fresh perspective. Sign-up is necessary so that we can order the correct number of journals. You can preview the series at <http://animate.wearesparkhouse.org/>. If you'd like to be a part of this study, please contact Pastor Rachael or sign up in the narthex. We are hoping to find the time that works for the largest number of people, and we will offer up to two groups if needed.

# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time  Deut 4:1-2,6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23  Last Outdoor Worship 9:15am	3	4  Missions 7:00pm	5  Prayer Shawls 6:30pm	6	7	8  Revitalization Team Retreat at Mensch Mill
9 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Rally Day Project Outreach Car Show, 12-3pm  Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 James 2:1-17 Mark 7:24-37	10	11  Consistory 7:00pm	12	13  Property 7:00pm	14	15
16 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Rain Date for Car Show  Ps 19 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	17  Great Strides 7:30pm	18  Spiritual Life 6:30pm	19 Fellowship Dinner 5:30pm  Covenant Renewal Dinner 5:30pm	20	21	22
23 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time New Member Class/ Lunch 12-2pm  Ps 1 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37	24	25 Welcome Ministry 1:00pm  Women's Fellowship 7:00pm	26  Stewardship 7:00pm	27	27	29
30 Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50				<div> <p><b><i>Save the Date!</i></b>  <i>Saturday, October 13 at 10am is the Angel out of Blue Song Book workshop.</i></p> <p><i>Saturday, October 20 at 8am is the fall rummage sale! Please keep an eye out for further communication about where to leave items for the sale.</i></p> </div>		

# Congregational Life

## New Members Lunch Series

Are you considering membership at St. James? This fall, we'll offer a three-session informational lunch series on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, beginning in September. On Sept. 23, Oct. 28, and Nov. 25, we'll meet following worship for two hours (approximately 12-2pm). Lunch will be provided, and care and activities will be available for children up to age 14. New members will then officially join the church on December 9. Sign-up is necessary so that we can plan for the meal and for childcare; a sign-up sheet will be posted on the narthex bulletin board. You can also contact Pastor Rachael to sign up or with any questions.

## Spiritual Council Prays About Property Offer

On Aug. 22, our Spiritual Council met for an evening of discussion and listening regarding the spiritual health of our congregation. The Council is comprised of all ordained elders, both those who are actively serving on consistory, and those who have served in the past. One item up for discussion was an offer to purchase a large portion of our property. Any such decision would ultimately come before the congregation for consideration. However, at this time, the Elders have simply become aware of the prospect. We have begun some initial conversation around the idea. We are not looking at the specific details of the offer, but instead we are prayerfully discussing the best stewardship of our property in service to our mission of sharing the Gospel. Elders will continue to pray about this topic until we reconvene for another meeting in October, at which the time we will continue the discussion and offer a further update to the congregation.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

- Can you knit or crochet, or would you like to learn how? The prayer shawl group meets at church the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. Shawls of all sizes and colors (as well as hats) are made and donated to local hospitals or sent to church members and friends who are in need of warmth, prayer, and comfort. We can provide materials, especially for beginners; or you can bring along whatever you like. Join us for about an hour of knitting, chatting, and prayerful creation.
- We are also in the process of creating prayer cards for our pews, and of developing a trained group of lay ministers to visit the sick and homebound, and to bring communion to those unable to attend church.

If these possibilities sound like a calling to you, please let Pastor Rachael know about your interest!

## BIRTHDAYS

1 Peter Cibulsky	19 Joyce Clarke	25 Kathleen Stengel
2 Ken Raspen, Sr.	19 Hannah Laub	26 Donna Serina
6 Paula Coseo	20 Alayne Frymoyer	27 Frank Donofrio
10 Kelley Williams	20 Patricia Earnshaw	27 Rebecca Mogel
10 Millie Alderfer	20 Kerry Ann Koons	28 Patricia Morris
11 Doris Frain	20 Tony Nuccitelli	29 Jody Williams
12 Amanda Kincaid	20 Evan Myers	30 Barry Craig
12 Jefferey Kincaid	22 Mindy Marchese	30 Ellen Hennessy
13 Graham Heath	22 Jessica Casey	30 Kelli Markoski
15 Arthur Gelwicks	23 Jennifer Clarke	
17 Janice Moore	23 Betty Lou Wilson	
	24 Dorothy DeWane	

## ANNIVERSARIES

2 Adam & Rachael Pryor
4 Vincent & Pamela Marino
7 Scott & Sue Swinehart
8 Brendan & Staci Fink
12 Mark & Jodi Williams
17 Erik & Mindy (Wilson) Marchese
20 Frank & Eleanor Donofrio
23 David & Mary Lou Bryan
23 Larry & Ellen Hennessy
23 Jim & Colleen Tursi
26 Walt & Rhonda Rusinski
27 William & Barbara Waltz
30 Wilmer & Millie Alderfer

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**PRAYER CONCERNS**

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For our friends Grace A., Shirley M., Melissa M., *and others who are in the hospital or a long-term care residence, we pray for comfort and peace.*

For our friends Dick & Janice M., Steve & Mary B., Earl Z., Pat M., Betty W., Doris F., Pearl R., *and others who are not easily able to leave their residence, we pray for companionship, healing, and respite from pain.*

For our friends Charlotte F., Bob M., Jeffrey L., Frank & Ellie D., Katherine, Christian J. *and others with ongoing health concerns, surgical procedures, and challenging life circumstances, we pray for skilled and caring hands and hearts, answers for those who await test results, hope to live each new day, and the reassurance of God's presence and the support of our congregation.*

For our friends Kelly L., Florence W., Richard M., Gene F., Lorraine T., Roger H., Connie *and all others who are cancer survivors, we give thanks for each day and we pray for treatment where it is possible and release from suffering where it is needed.*

For the friends and family of Howie S., Grace B., Robert K., and Ray C. at their passing into eternal rest in God's presence, *and for all who mourn the death of a beloved friend or family member, we give thanks for the life God called forth and we pray for comfort and reassurance through the difficult days of grief. Amen.*

Please note that we will remove names on the prayer list after one month, except for homebound and hospitalized members. Let us know if you would like to add or renew a request, by phone or email.

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## From the Pastor's Desk...

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### JAMES THE JUST

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The namesake of our church can lead to some confusion, especially for Christians who are less familiar with the litany of thousands of saints who are honored in our traditions. Traditionally, "Saint" James refers primarily to James the Apostle, called by Jesus. He was one of the sons of Zebedee, the brother of John the Apostle. He and his brother were called "sons of thunder" by Mark, which might mean they had fiery tempers! James is one of only three Apostles who witnessed Jesus' transfiguration on the mountaintop. He is the only Apostle whose death is recorded in the Bible (executed by sword at Herod's order). This is "our" St. James, whose symbol is the scallop shell, and who is venerated for travels and legends too numerous to recount here. In most languages other than English, his name is a variation of Jacob, rather than James.

But there is also another James! This is James, the writer of the letter that is recorded in the New Testament. About this James, we know even less. He seems to have been an important leader in the early church, and may even have been a Jewish priest during Jesus' lifetime. A few references call him "the brother of Jesus," though theologians have argued for centuries about what this means. In the letter (or *epistle*) traditionally attributed to him, James is concerned that the Christian life of faith cannot be complete without a thorough understanding of the "Law," meaning the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible. Perhaps his study of the law was the reason for his nickname, "James the Just," or perhaps his style of leadership earned him this title of respect. In any case, our 9am Bible Study for the month of September will be a great opportunity to uncover some of the mystery of this "other" James, as we also discuss and learn from the wisdom of his writings.

-Pastor Rachael

St. James United Church of Christ  
321 South Limerick Road  
Limerick, PA 19468

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SEPTEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

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# Communications

**Materials for the October Newsletter are due September 23.**

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## LETTER OF THANKS

I would like to extend my thanks to all of you for your contributions toward my Eagle Scout Project. With your support, I was able to donate over 2,200 items (food, clothing, etc.) to the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. I was also able to raise \$1,665 through raffle and breakfast ticket sales. This money has been donated to the ELCA's Good Gifts Program to help build up African communities. It will be used to purchase a share of a well, an irrigation canal, mosquito nets for a village, a family farm, a community garden, and more! Your generosity in helping both the local community and the world community as well as your efforts to make my Eagle Project a success, are very much appreciated. May God continue to bless us so that we may be a blessing to others.

Yours in Scouting,

Paul Bowman, Troop 10 of Limerick

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Women's Fellowship will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00pm. This Ice Cream Social will also be the Secret Pal reveal!

Join Women's Fellowship as we enjoy friendship, fellowship, and ice cream!