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MAIN ST. CAFÉ

Hungry before or after church? Head to the Main Street Cafe, 263 Main St. in Royersford! If our church members eat there before or after church on Sundays, the cafe sends a percentage to the church. So far in 2012 we have received two checks for about \$45 total. Just let them know when you pay that you are with St. James UCC in Limerick. This is a great way for local organizations to support each other. Stop by for some breakfast and bring a friend!

HARVEST HOME CELEBRATION

“Psalm 67: God’s Blessing for All the Nations” is the theme for this year’s Harvest Home celebrations. Our Harvest Home service of worship is slightly later than usual this year, on November 18. This way, our offerings and food drive for Project Outreach can coincide with the Nov. 21 Spring-Ford Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship service. We will be asking all of our neighbors to bring food donations and help make this year’s Harvest Home collection our biggest yet!

Please sign up to help decorate our windows with an international theme this year! Perhaps you would like to display foods from your ancestral homeland, or from your favorite kind of ethnic cuisine. General “harvest”-theme materials are also available to help with decorating; please ask Sue Myers for details. *(continues on p. 3)*

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

On Wed. Nov. 21 at 7:30pm, we will host our 2nd Annual Spring-Ford Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service. Beginning in 2011, this service was expanded from St. James UCC and our sister church, St. James Lutheran, to include all of the Spring-Ford Ministerium churches. More than 20 congregations are invited to bring food donations, and an offering for Project Outreach will be collected. Our goal is to meet this year’s projected shortfall for funding the heating program for low-income families.

Our ecumenical service will include a meditation on Faith and Thanksgiving; stories of thanksgiving from our congregations; traditional and contemporary music, and a combined choir. We’ll gather after the service for food and fellowship. Dessert donations are welcome! Anyone is welcome to participate in the choir by attending at least one of our regular Thurs. rehearsals by Nov. 15, and the 6:30pm rehearsal on Nov. 21.

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

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

FAMILY & HOLIDAY TUNES

Our Family Choir is off to a great start with 20 singers on Oct. 21! This is a new way of sharing music traditions with our children while also including adults who like to sing but can't always make the regular commitment to our choir.

The November Family Choir will be for our Nov. 18 Harvest Home celebration, so that our entire church family can be part of dedicating the day's special offerings. We'll meet that morning at 9am to learn a simple tune that everyone will sing together as the anthem.

As Advent draws near, we are forming two Christmas choirs, for singing and for playing bells. (What's Christmas without some bells ringing?)

The Christmas choir will sing one Sunday in December and the bells will play on a different Sunday. Both choirs will also both participate in the 9:00pm Christmas Eve service. Rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings and possibly on Sundays after services. Dates will be determined once we hear back about your interest and availability.

Please contact Donna if you'd like to participate in either or both of these choirs. It's a very short commitment, so if you'd like to make everyone's Christmas a little merrier, lend us your gifts!

ALL SAINT'S DAY OBSERVANCE

On Sunday, Nov. 4, we will observe the annual celebration of All Saints' Day. This is an opportunity for us to give thanks for the "saints" of our congregation and in our lives: those who have long since passed away and those who live on as witnesses to the Gospel of mercy and the love of God. We will take a few moments as a part of our prayers and communion celebration to especially remember those in our congregation who have died during the past year and who rest now from the labors of life in God's eternal embrace. If you would like to be sure that we commemorate the passing of a beloved friend or family member over the past year, please be sure to contact Pastor Rachael or Charlotte Fiedler.

THE FAROLITOS OF CHRISTMAS

This year's Christmas pageant will have a "Southwest" twist, based on the children's book *The Farolitos of Christmas* by Rudolfo Anaya. Set during World War II, the book tells the story of a young girl who waits for her father to return after being injured as a U.S. soldier. Unable to cut wood for the usual Christmas bonfires, the children create small paper lanterns (*farolitos*) instead, which light the way for Christmas pilgrims as they remember the journeys of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi. The lanterns also light the way for one unexpected pilgrim's return to his hometown!

During our December 23 worship service, the children and adults of St. James will share the story of this pilgrimage with songs, acting, lanterns, and Bible verses. Children will hear the story on Nov. 25 and rehearsals will be held Dec. 2, 9, & 10 during Children's Church as well as after worship as needed. Speaking and non-speaking parts are available for children, youth, and adults; we also need lots of extra prop and set designers for children who are a bit shy about acting or singing. Music soloists are also welcome; please let Pastor Rachael know if you're interested.

BIBLE SPONSORSHIPS

Many thanks to all sponsors of Bibles for our sanctuary! As of our Sept. 9 dedication, more than 20 families had sponsored 75 Bibles. By the end of October, we received 20 more sponsorships!

Our goal is to sponsor at least 50 more Bibles by Easter. Bible sponsorships make an excellent birthday or Christmas gift to honor someone who already has everything. We will be happy to provide you with a gift card denoting your Bible sponsoring, upon request. Please direct future sponsorships or questions to Jill Kauffman; and allow two weeks' notice for any gift card requests.

Evangelism

MISSION UPDATE

At the end of September, we observed the Neighbors in Need Mission Offering. Thanks to your generosity, our Neighbors in Need offering totaled more than \$700!

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.

Thank you to all who participated in this special offering!

SPECIAL MORINGA COMMUNITY GUEST NOV. 4!

We joyfully look forward to welcoming special guest Abubakar Abdulai of the *Moringa Community*, along with local partners Jeffry & Linda Lohr, during and after our service of worship on Sunday, Nov. 4. Abu is the Ghanaian co-founder of Moringa, who brought his story and a deep willingness to learn when he arrived here to study woodworking with Jeffry. Years later, Abu continues to develop and lead the various projects of the Moringa Community School of Trades in Breman Baako, Ghana. Moringa is an inspiring example of local Africans seeking self-sustainability through education, building on initial investments and donations from Western partners, and creating a place of opportunity and hope in one of the most destitute regions of the world. The school offers training in Food Preservation & Nutrition; Agriculture and Farming; Machine-Based Woodworking; Weaving, Soap Making, and other traditional craft-related trades. Their mission is to fight poverty through empowering underprivileged people to create practical, locally appropriate small businesses that can sustain them and their families.

After a very long wait, Abu has finally obtained the necessary visa to travel to the U.S. once more, this time to share his story and thanksgivings with many faithful sponsors and supporters of the Moringa Community. St. James UCC has been honored to be a small but foundational part of supporting Moringa's success; and we hope to continue with Mission Partnership support pending the acceptance of the 2013 budget at our next Congregational Meeting. We encourage you to come to church on Nov. 4, meet Abu, and hear about the latest new developments at Moringa!

Harvest Home, continued

Window decorations can be put up any time after Oct. 28 and we would like them to be completed by Nov. 11. We will also begin collecting food around the altar on November 11; you can bring items in at any time during the week (see the calendar for times when the church will be open for other meetings; or weekday mornings during preschool hours). Please come in during the week of Nov. 26-Dec. 1 to remove your decorations so we can get ready with new decorations for Advent! (*see back cover*)

Our local food pantries continue to experience higher levels of need than usual, so please know that your offerings make a difference in the lives of our neighbors, especially during the holidays. After our Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Nov. 21, we'll be gathering the food in boxes so that it can be transported to Project Outreach. We are collecting empty boxes, so please bring yours in and place them behind the altar instead of recycling them! If you can help load and transport food, we'll gather in the sanctuary following Thanksgiving worship and some time for fellowship.

Faith Formation

CHILDREN'S CHURCH CONTINUES WITH BIBLE STORIES & PAGEANT

Our elementary-age children have been enjoying a new Bible storytelling program called Godly Play. This creative approach to exploring the Bible also allows time for seasonal crafts and games, and makes it easier for children to return to the sanctuary for the last part of worship. In November, we'll continue with a few more stories from the Old Testament before we take a break for some Advent-season activities.

November 4: The Exile and Return

November 11: The Holy Family

November 18: We'll create fruit baskets to bring to homebound members and friends

November 25: First reading of our pageant story, *The Farolitos of Christmas*

In December, all classes (preschool, elementary, and confirmation) will work together to rehearse for the pageant or create props and sets according to each child's interest. We're always looking for more pageant assistants, even if you can only help out for one Sunday! Let Pastor Rachael or Linda Nuccitelli know if you'd like to help or participate; and please see page 2 for more details.

Hallelujah! The Bible & Handel's Messiah

Our Sunday Morning Bible Study continues every week at 9:00am through November with the Acts of the Apostles, in part three of a study by the Rev. Martin Copenhaver, a UCC pastor and writer. Then, for Advent, we'll begin a 4-week study (Dec. 2, 9, 16, & 23) on the Scripture and music of Handel's Messiah. The study will also continue in 2013 with a six-session Lenten series leading up to Easter, and the big "Hallelujah!" moment of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For these Messiah studies, we will meet in the High School room directly across from the office (for acoustic reasons).

One local opportunity to hear the Messiah is coming up at Ursinus College. This December will mark the 75th anniversary of Handel's Messiah performances at Ursinus College. The piece will be sung by the College Choir and Meistersingers on Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m.; & at a matinee, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m., in Bomberger Auditorium. Tickets are \$10; let Pastor Rachael know if you'd like to order Sunday tickets through church so we can attend as a group.

ST. JAMES PRAYER MINISTRY


All are welcome to our monthly gathering for prayer. Starting in November, there will be two prayer groups offered: a morning group and an evening group. The morning group will be from 9-10am the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The first morning session will be led by Eugene Caldwell and will be Meditation and Prayer. The evening group will meet the same day at 6:30pm and this month we meet on Nov. 20. Come out and join our group ~ no experience necessary! Please contact Charlotte Fiedler if you are interested in becoming part of the prayer group.

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days are held on the first Tuesday of each month after Labor Day from 9:30 am to 1 pm at the Mensch House at Mensch Mill Conference and Retreat Center, Alburtis, PA. Quiet Days are designed to open new avenues to communing with God, and to provide an opportunity for sharing faith journeys and stories. They allow for Sabbath time and renewal in the midst of our busy world. Each participant is asked to bring a Bible, journal, pen and a bag lunch. Come and see what God has in store for you! There is no formal registration, but a minimum donation of \$5 is requested on Quiet Day.

Calendar

NOVEMBER 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div>Pastor Rachael will be on vacation Nov. 14-20. Spiritual concerns can directed to Charlotte Fiedler at (484) 919-4464 in her absence. Non-urgent messages can be left at the office and will be checked regularly. <i>Our Consistory President can also be reached, as usual, with concerns related to congregational matters.</i></div>				1 Choir 7:00pm	2	3 Mensch Mill Clean-Up Day
4 31 Sun., Ordinary Time All Saint's Observed <i>Guest visitor:</i> Abubakar Abdulai of <i>Moringa Community</i> Svc/Word & Sacrament Ruth 1:1-18, Ps 146 Mark 12:28 <i>Daylight Savings Ends</i>	5 Animate: Faith study 7pm	6 <i>Election Day</i> Worship Com., 7pm Great Strides Hoagie Sale	7 Prayer Shawls 6:30pm Stewardship 7:00pm	8 Property 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm	9	10 PSEC Fall Meeting, Zwingli UCC, 9:00am
11 32 Sun., Ordinary Time Svc of the Word Congregational Mtg. Ruth 3:1-5;4:13-17 Mark 12:38-44	12 Animate: Faith study 7pm	13 Consistory 7:00pm	14 Fellowship Meal, 5:30pm	15 Choir 7:00pm	16	17
<div>Pastor Rachael on vacation until November 20</div>						
18 33 Sun., Ordinary Time Svc of the Word 1 Sam 1:4-20 Mark 13:1-8	19 Great Strides 7:30pm	20 Welcome Comm. 10:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm	21 Spring-Ford Thanksgiv- ing Eve Svc. At St. James UCC 7:30pm	22 Turkey Bowl 9-11am	23	24
<div>Pastor Rachael on vacation until November 20</div>				<div>TURKEY BOWL Come on out & work off those turkey calories in advance with a fun game of football at church at 9am on Thanksgiving. Players of all ages & ability welcome! Fans, photographers, & refs also needed!</div> <div></div>		
25 Reign of Christ Sunday Svc of the Word 2 Sam 23:1-7 Ps 132-12, (13-18) John 18:33-37	26 Animate: Faith study 7pm	27 Pastoral Relations 7:00pm Women's Fellowship 6:00pm	28 Christian Education 7:00pm	29 Choir 7:00pm	30	

Congregational Life

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DURING WORSHIP NOV. 11

All members are strongly encouraged to attend our Nov. 11 congregational meeting, which will be integrated with our worship service that morning. A quorum of voters is necessary for the meeting to take place! Official calls were mailed out last week. Items for voting include Consistory members and the annual budget.

FALL MEETING

Each fall, congregations of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ gather for a meeting of fellowship and conferring about the work of the Conference. This year's meeting will be held at Zwingli UCC in Souderton for a one-day gathering on Sat. Nov. 10, beginning at 9:00am. The theme is "Moving Into God's Future." This meeting has several significant agenda items for discussion, including proposed changes to the conference by-laws; the possible sale of Mensch Mill; and the possible sale of the Church House. Each congregation may send all available clergy delegates, as well as two additional voting delegates. However, anyone is welcome to attend as a guest. Please let Pastor Rachael know if you'd like to attend so that you can be registered for lunch.

HOAGIE SALE

Plan on an easy dinner for Election Day, Nov. 6, by signing up for hoagies prepared by our Relay for Life team, Great Strides. Ham & Salami hoagies are available for \$5.00 each; Turkey are \$5.50. Sign up in the narthex by Oct. 28 and indicate your choice of toppings. All proceeds support the team's fundraising goals for the 2013 Relay. Pick up begins at 5:45pm.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship rummage sale was a huge success! Profits were over \$770, almost reaching the all time record profit of \$800. Generous donations on the jewelry counter alone made over \$100. Our November meeting will be at Shearer Elegance Bed & Breakfast in Linfield. The date is Nov. 27 at 6:30 pm. Following the meeting we'll tour the house, which will be decorated for Christmas. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome to attend! A sign up sheet will be posted in narthex.

ENDOWMENT

This August, the Endowment Committee awarded \$1000 to the Project Outreach furniture fund; the fund was also supported by our September Classic Car Show organized by Lenny Baranoski. New applications for grants are encouraged and should be submitted prior to the next meeting on Wed. Nov. 27th. Application forms can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex or by contacting Nancy Ewing (chairperson). This will be the last meeting for 2012 funds dispersements.

BIRTHDAYS

1 Joseph Mazza
2 Rebecca Myers
6 Mark Williams
8 Donna Earnshaw
11 Mary Barnaik
16 Megan McMenamin
19 Rachael Pryor
20 Colin Monteith
22 Megan Hennessy

23 Mike Myers
23 Leah Laub
24 Lisa Nuccitelli
24 Eric Kramer
24 Jim Valerio
25 Bob Weidner
26 Wendel Koenig
27 Charley Hentz
28 Grace Astheimer
28 Althea Fizz

ANNIVERSARIES

2 Barry & Carolyn Craig
3 David & Joyce Swinehart
20 Bill & Elaine Burnett
26 Tony & Linda Nuccitelli

PRAYER CONCERNS

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., Betty W., Frank & Ellie D., Doris F., Pearl R., Pat M., Bob M., *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., Jeffery L., Marnie, John S., Donna A., Robert L., Bridgette L., Steve and Teresa K.; *and others with ongoing health concerns and challenging life circumstances, we pray for skilled and caring hands, hope to live each new day, and the reassurance of God's presence through the support of our congregation.*

For our friends Richard M., Steffy H., Paul R., Michelle R., *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 family and friends of Dorothy G., and Joe S., *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.*

For the new life of Keira Renee; for her parents Mike & Megan; *and for all await new births and care for young infants, we pray for patience, rest, health, and the fullness of love and thankfulness in the calling of parenthood.*

For our congregation and our leaders as we gather for our annual Congregational Meeting, *that we may be guided in all of our decisions and our stewardship by God's presence and calling to us in this place and time.*

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.

From the Pastor's Desk...

Forgiveness: Giving Power to the Future

Perhaps you feel like you've been hearing the word "forgiveness" a lot lately at St. James. The Revitalization Team includes "practice forgiveness" as one of the points in our congregational covenant, which will be shared as a first draft at our Nov. 11 Congregational Meeting. This working document includes feedback from nearly 50 of our congregation's leaders, so it's clear that many of you feel like forgiveness is a significant part of the life of faith. We also talk about forgiveness every time we pass the Peace of Christ during worship. Peter Steinke talks about forgiveness as something that "gives power to the future." This doesn't mean just any future, but one that is full of hope and healing. In forgiving another, Steinke suggests we must work through these ten steps in a gradual process:

We say...

- I have been wronged by you
- I have the right and reason to end any connection between us
- I have the right and reason to demand from you a payment or an apology
- My sense of dignity and my values require nothing less
- Nonetheless I refuse to let the wrong consume me in resentment;
- And I refuse to let the wrong come between us.
- I give no assurance that I'll be able to forget the wrong that you've done;
- I demand no condition. Whether or not you accept my forgiveness or ask for it has nothing to do with my offer;
- I want to be at peace with myself and be glad in your presence.
- I want to open the door to tomorrow.

As we are nearly all engaged at all times in some process of forgiveness, I offer these steps as one way to consider the great challenge and reward of our faith.

-Pastor Rachael

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

NOVEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

Communications

Materials for the December Newsletter are due November 18.

DECK THE HALLS! MUSIC, BAKING, & CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

This year our official Christmas decorating day will be Saturday, December 1 from 3-7pm. Come early to help put up ornaments and lights and decorate our sanctuary windows and narthex. We are also looking for extra help through the previous week to get lights ready and put up the large trees; please contact Sue Myers or Pastor Rachael if you're interested. On Saturday, we'll also bake & decorate cookies from 3-5pm to share with our homebound members. All ages are welcome and we are looking for donations of sugar & gingerbread dough and for cookie cutters to borrow. Christmas movies will be playing in the Fellowship Hall and music will fill the church! Then, at approximately 5:30pm, we'll hold a potluck dinner in our newly-decorated Fellowship Hall. After dinner, we'll gather in the sanctuary for a brief and festive time of worship and singing! Mark your calendar and set aside this afternoon apart from the commercial pressures of the holidays to enjoy a time of sharing, giving, and worship with family and friends.

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Christmas luncheon will be held after service on December 9. Please join us for food and fellowship as we celebrate the season.

There is no cost, just a free will offering. If you would like, feel free to bring a dessert!

See you there!