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**FEBRUARY IS WOMEN'S MONTH!**

On Sunday, February 3, we will honor the faithful presence and contributions of the women in our church, in our lives, and throughout history with our annual "Women's Sunday" worship service, led by several of our members.

This event follows the Women's Breakfast, which will be held on February 2 at 8:30am (snow date February 9). The theme will be "Breakfast on the Titanic." We'll enjoy a meal prepared and served by the men of St. James UCC, with speaker Rev. Robert Gerhardt, who will tell of the adventures of local native, Annie Funk, who perished on the Titanic.

The cost is \$10 and will be collected at the door. See you there!

**CONTACT THE CHURCH**

321 South Limerick Rd.  
Limerick, PA 19468  
610-489-0990  
[www.stjames-ucc.org](http://www.stjames-ucc.org)

Pastor: Rachael Pryor  
[pastor@stjames-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@stjames-ucc.org)  
(610) 705-2000  
Hours  
Mon. 8am-3pm  
Weds. 10am-6pm  
Phone Hours  
Tues. & Thurs. 1-5pm  
*Additional availability by appointment. Fridays are observed as a Sabbath day.*

*Minister of Music:*  
Donna Pinto  
[music@stjames-ucc.org](mailto:music@stjames-ucc.org)

*Office Assistant:*  
Sandy Chang  
Mon. & Thurs. 10am-1pm  
[office@stjames-ucc.org](mailto:office@stjames-ucc.org)

*Communications and Events Manager:*  
Jill Kauffman  
[news@stjames-ucc.org](mailto:news@stjames-ucc.org)

*Office Volunteer Coordinator:*  
Betty Lou Wilson  
Wed & Fri 12-3pm  
[betty9234@verizon.net](mailto:betty9234@verizon.net)

**DONATION LIST**

In addition to soup, items requested are:

- Winter hats
- Tooth-paste
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Bottled water
- Protein bars/ breakfast bars (low sugar)
- Deodorant
- Small/sample-size laundry detergent packs

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

In years past, we have collected canned soup for Project Outreach the week of the Super Bowl.

This year, however, we are going to have some friendly competition and extend our offerings to include both Project Outreach and Hope Rescue Mission in Reading!

On Sunday Jan. 27 & Sunday Feb. 3, you can put items into one of two boxes to earn points for the team of your choice: Baltimore Ravens or San Francisco 49ers. One item equals 1 point; and there will be an envelope for cash/check donations, \$1 = 1 point.

Refer to the list to the left of this article to see what items are needed. Remember, the more items you donate, the more points your team will earn!

**2013 CONSISTORY**

Rich Fiedler, President  
Rugene Caldwell, VP  
Kristen Serina, Secretary  
Nancy Ewing, Treasurer  
Tom Mogel, Financial Sec.  
Ruth Borneman, Historian

# Worship

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Feb. 13 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. We mark the evening with a quiet, reflective service worship at 7pm, including an ancient practice of imposing ashes. In contrast to the Resurrection to come at Easter, Lent is a season when we remember our mortality. We consider ways in which practices of more intentional and thoughtful living, both spiritual and material, can lead us into better discipleship in this world. This time of repentance prepares us for the joy of the Easter season, and the ways in which we can already begin to live in God's kingdom of eternal life and compassion.

## SCOUTS SUNDAY

Every Monday night, Boy Scouts Troop 10 meets at our church. On Feb. 10, scouts will participate in worship, meet the congregation, & share about their activities. Please be sure to welcome them as we celebrate our sponsorship & our mutual stewardship of the church.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORKSHOPS BEGIN FEB. 20!

During the 40 days of Lent (Sundays don't count!), we prepare for Jesus' coming by looking at ways in which we can live more Christ-centered lives. Although fasting from rich foods is a common way to think about Lenten observance, there is a deeper root to fasting that relates to freeing ourselves, through discipline, for better spiritual focus. In our busy world, fasting may mean finding a way to make more time for spiritual growth by reducing time spent at work, watching TV, or even doing chores!

We hope you will consider our Wednesday Evening Lenten Workshops as an opportunity to "fast" from your distractions, whatever they may be; and to set aside a time for focused prayer, Bible study, and reflection. Workshops will take place in the parlor from 7:00-8:30pm, for five Wednesdays in Lent (Feb. 20 & 27; March 6, 13, & 20). We will use the resource *Sleeping with Bread: Holding What Gives You Life* by Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn, and Matthew Linn. Copies of the book will be available for purchase (\$10) but are not necessary for participation. No sign-up is necessary, and each workshop theme will be independent, so participation in the entire series is not required. Childcare will be provided during the workshops if you let Pastor Rachael know in advance.

## DAFFODIL SUNDAY

St. James will once again be participating in the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days. This year's Daffodil Days will take place March 18-24, 2013. Celebrating Daffodil Days is much more than enjoying beautiful flowers; it's about sharing hope for a world free of cancer. Last year, St. James raised an amazing \$1,047.00 for the American Cancer Society!

On Jan. 27, Feb. 3, and Feb. 10, orders will be taken before and after church. A bunch will be sold for \$10, pots sold for \$12, and a vase and a bunch of daffodils will be \$15. A special Boyd's Bear designed exclusively for Daffodil Days can be ordered as part of the Bear and a Bunch for \$25.

We will also offer two special donations: *Gift of Hope* and *Project Care*. The Gift of Hope program allows bunches of daffodils to be delivered anonymously to cancer patients in hospitals, treatment centers, and other facilities in our local community. Project Care helps to comfort children in our community by giving a special Boyd's bear to them in their time of need for a \$25 donation. Bears are also delivered anonymously.

Orders must be in by Feb. 13, 2013, payable to "St. James UCC" with "Daffodils" written on the check. Please contact Joy Rubeo if you have any questions. As in the past, St. James will integrate this event into the church service on Sunday, March 24. Please mark your calendars! This service is always one of hope and inspiration for cancer survivors, caregivers, and anyone who has been affected by cancer.

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# Outreach

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## ENTRANCE GARDEN

The Welcome Committee is accepting donations towards the Entrance Garden project.

The Entrance Garden is a beautification project that will enhance the church entrance. Plants include the Nepeta plant and Inkberry Bush, with prices ranging from \$5 to \$125.

For a complete list of plants and prices, please see the showcase in the narthex. If interested in donation, please label and place an envelope "Entrance Garden" with the Sunday collection.

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## POTATO LUNCHEON

Back by popular demand, Great Strides will be hosting a Potato Luncheon on Sunday, February 17th.

Great Strides is the St. James Relay for Life team. Their efforts help the American Cancer Society create a world free of cancer.

The proceeds will benefit the Great Strides team. Cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for ages 3-6. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

So, come on out for a great time of good food, friends, and fellowship!

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## STEWARDSHIP

Now that we have completed our financial reports for 2012, it's official: we are in the black for the year! The Stewardship Committee is thankful to all of our St. James members and friends for your diligent support of our church operations and missions. The generosity we have shared as a community means we will fulfill all of our missions giving commitment for the year! This means we will contribute more than \$50,000 (approximately one quarter of our budget) to those working in service for the building up of God's love, hope, and compassion in the world through missions like Project Outreach, Urban Promise, Christian Veterinary Mission, and more.

Our stewardship goals were achieved in two ways: through an increase in offerings, as well as through careful management of our existing resources and budget, so that we came in under-budget for the year even after the unplanned purchase of a new copy machine for the office. In the year to come, we will continue the wise stewardship of our resources; and we will also continue offering opportunities, both during worship and at other times, for us to grow as a congregation in our awareness and practices of financial giving. In this way, we hope not only to continue the growth of our church and its programs; but even more importantly, to nurture the spiritual growth of our congregation through grateful and generous use of the blessings we receive abundantly through God's grace.

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## BLANKET SUNDAY

We will be taking collection for Blanket Sunday on February 17. This is a Church World Service event that helps people worldwide.

One of the most important efforts of Blanket Sunday is providing durable wool blankets that are essential to disaster relief efforts. These blankets can be used for warmth, tents, and emergency stretchers, among other things.

These efforts are priceless to communities, whether they are struggling after a disaster or providing shelter and warmth to the homeless. Blankets have been donated across the world and throughout the United States. Recently, blankets were sent to New Jersey in the Hurricane Sandy relief effort.

Please consider this offering on Sunday, February 17. Though it may seem simple, a blanket can make all the difference to someone in need.

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# Faith Formation

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## Hallelujah! The Bible and Handel's *Messiah* Resumes in Lent

Through the season of Epiphany, we will continue during our 9:00am Sunday Bible Study with an introduction to the Gospel of Luke (Sun. Feb. 3 & 10). Then, starting Sun. Feb. 17, we'll pick up where we left off in Advent with the remaining five sessions on the music and Scriptures of Handel's *Messiah* as they relate to the meaning of Lent and Easter. No sign-up necessary; come on in and enjoy the fellowship, coffee, and baked goods as we explore our faith together!

## Nursery Wish List

As we celebrate the addition of Michele Barrett to our church staff as nursery attendant, we can already see many wonderful ways in which she is leading the charge to create a safer, healthier, friendlier, and more up-to-date space for the care and nurture of our infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Volunteers to assist in the nursery or to help with caring for the space are always welcome and needed. However, you can also help us at any time with donations to our ongoing wish list. Items we can use include sanitizing hand wipes for toddlers; simple shelf-stable snacks like animal crackers, fruit snacks, goldfish crackers and juice boxes; and new board books, beginner puzzles, and CDs with Biblical themes (check with Michele or Pastor Rachael first with questions about appropriateness of theme or age level). Thank you for considering the faith formation of our youngest members!

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# Polity & Property

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## Church Clean-Up

Help St. James get a jump on spring cleaning! Join us at 8am on Saturday, February 9 for a church clean out day. The cleaning will be concentrated to the High School room and the Storage Room in the hallway. We will sort, organize, and determine what we need and what we don't! All are welcome. Doughnuts and coffee provided for the first 50 volunteers! See you there!

## Welcome, 2013 Consistory Elders and Deacons!

According to the vote of the November 2011 Congregational Meeting, our 2013 consistory officially began its term on January 20 with a Leadership Retreat from 5-8pm at the church. We especially welcome our new members: Ellie Wellman beginning a first term as Deacon; Joan Rosen completing a partial term as Deacon; and Charlotte Fiedler completing a partial term as Elder. As usual, the first order of business was to elect officers for the year. With deep gratitude we announce **Rich Fiedler as Consistory President**, continuing for a second year; **Rugene Caldwell as Vice President**; and **Kristen Serina as Secretary**, also continuing for a second year. Please take an opportunity to thank these servants of our congregation for their dedication and leadership.

## Annual Reports

2013 Church Directories, including the 2012 Annual Report, are ready for pick-up. Directories not picked up by Feb. 10 will be mailed. **Special Notice for those Receiving the Newsletter by E-Mail:** your copy of the Annual Report will also be sent electronically! However, if you would like to have a paper copy of the *directory only*, they will be available on request in the office beginning Feb. 3. Thank you for your understanding as we work to conserve paper & reduce postage expenses.

# February Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2  Women's Fellowship Breakfast 8:30am
3 4th Sunday after Epiphany  Women's Sunday Svc of Word & Sacrament  Ps 71:1-6 1 Cor 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	4	5  Worship Committee 7:00pm	6  Prayer Shawls 7:00pm	7  Pantry Day 9:00am  Choir 6:30pm	8	9  Closet/HS Room Clean Up 8:00am
10 Transfiguration Boy Scouts Sunday  Ex 34:29-35 2 Cor 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36  Great Strides Soup Sale	11	12  Consistory 7:00pm	13  Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm	14  Choir 6:30pm	15	16
17 1st Sunday in Lent Blanket Sunday  Ps 91:1-2, 9-16 Rom 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13  Potato Luncheon	18  Great Strides 7:30pm	19  Prayer Group 9am & 6:30pm	20 Fellowship Dinner 5:30pm  Lenten Workshop 7:00pm	21  Choir 6:30pm	22	23
Great Strides Capt'n Chucky Fundraiser, February 18-23						
24 2nd Sunday in Lent  Gen 15:1-12, 17-18 Ps 27 Luke 13:31-35	25	26 Welcome Comm. 1pm  Pastoral Relations Comm. 7pm (tentative)  Women's Fellowship 7:00pm	27  Lenten Workshop 7:00pm  Endowment 7:00pm	28  Choir 6:30pm		

# Congregational Care

## Prayer Group

On Tues. Feb. 19, our monthly drop-in time of prayer will be held again at 9:00am and 6:30pm. Pastor Rachael will lead this month's topic on the Ignatian practice of "Examen," a daily process of prayer and contemplation that can help us to understand more fully how God is working in our lives, and what God may be calling us to become as Christian disciples. We'll look at two resources together. One is a cycle for daily Scripture reading and prayer produced by the Irish Jesuits, which can be accessed by anyone at no cost via [www.sacredspace.ie](http://www.sacredspace.ie) (a book version is also available for purchase). The second is our Lenten Workshops book for 2013: *Sleeping with Bread: Holding What Gives You Life* by Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn, and Matthew Linn. In addition to exploring these two resources we will, as always, gather in prayer for one another, for our congregation and its members, for the community, and for the world. All are welcome ~ no experience or sign-up is necessary!

## Lenten Awakenings

Each year, the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC offers a "Lenten Awakenings" book study. Join with your neighbors at other local UCC churches to participate in a discussion and time of fellowship. This year's book is *Following the Path: The Search for a Life of Passion, Purpose, and Joy* by Joan Chittister. Sister Joan is a Benedictine nun, speaker, and author of more than 45 books. She is well-loved as a wise and accessible writer of spiritual themes with practical application; and she is also known as a leading voice for the empowerment of women in the Church.

This year's gatherings will be hosted by the following churches:

- St. Luke's UCC, Trappe ~ 9:30-11:00am Saturdays Feb. 16 & 23; March 2, 9 & 16
- Maiden Creek Church, Blandon ~ 9:00-10:30am Saturdays Feb. 16 & 23; March 9 & 23
- Immanuel UCC, Shillington ~ 10:00-11:30am Tuesdays Feb. 19 & 26; March 5, 12, 19, & 26

The cost of \$20 includes the book & light refreshments; scholarships are available. You can register through Pastor Rachael or by going to [www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org) and clicking on "PSEC Events."

## Great Strides: Soup & Seafood ~ Eat to Fight Cancer in February!

On February 10th, Great Strides will hold a Soup Sale. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. They are also holding a Lenten fundraiser. Purchase items and gift cards at Capt'n Chucky's during the week of Feb. 18th-23rd and mention our team "Great Strides" and Capt'n Chucky's will donate 15% of your purchase to the American Cancer Society through our team. Pamphlets will be in the narthex. This is for the Trappe and Blue Bell locations only. See any team member for details.

## BIRTHDAYS

2 Dolores Slough  
3 Crystal Boyer  
3 Coleen Tursi  
5 Joan Rosen  
5 Donald Grisdale  
6 Jody Voorhees  
7 Linda Klaus  
8 Marion Hentz  
10 Jim Cossaboon  
10 Barbara Waltz

10 David Swinehart  
10 Brian Coseo  
12 Anna Rebecca Hendricks  
13 Larry Hennessy  
14 Nona Breaux  
17 Amy Baranoski  
17 Jessica Mogel  
19 William Earnshaw  
19 Steve Lightcap  
20 Ed Myers  
20 Joy Rubeo

20 Christine Sekkes  
23 Ken Raspen, Jr.  
25 Katelyn Gelwicks  
25 Adrien Cibulsky  
26 Jennifer Blackner  
26 Phil Levering  
27 Kim Murphy  
27 Barbara Fritz  
28 Eleanor Donofrio  
28 Sandy Koenig  
28 Pete Mogel

## ANNIVERSARIES

9 Anthony & Linda Alexander  
14 Paul & Faye Sweigart  
15 Brian & Paula Coseo  
21 Bob & Lori Stauffer

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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 Steve & Mary B., Frank and Ellie D., Earl Z., Betty W., 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., Jeffry, Ken & Diane R., Tony, Steve K., Patsy and Bob, Dave, Evelyn P., Diane P., Rene L. and others with ongoing health concerns and challenging life circumstances, we pray for 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., Michelle R., Matthew, Lillian W., Bridgette L., 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 Sara M. and Dick M.; and for all who grieve at the deaths of those they deeply love and dearly miss, we ask that they might know the comfort God offers through the community of faith as we surround them with our prayers.

*Eternal God, by a star you led magi to the worship of your Son. Guide your disciples and all the nations of the earth by your light, that the whole world may see your glory; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 office phone or email.*

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# From the Pastor's Desk...

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## QUIET & A WORLD THAT CAN'T STOP TALKING

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*Can the Church stand out in the time to come as a place that empowers us to say "no" in a world that demands "yes" all the time?* For about a year now, a noteworthy book has been on my mind as it generated a fair amount of buzz on the radio & internet. The book's title is *Quiet: the Power of Introverts in a World that can't Stop Talking* (it's due out in paperback this week). You might be surprised to learn that, along with the majority of pastors, I am an introvert. We learn to function as extroverts when needed (and genuinely enjoy being around people), but much of our time is spent alone and in silence: studying, writing articles and sermons, preparing materials for worship, retreats, and committee meetings; or in one-on-one counseling settings. Author Susan Cain presents research showing that while our culture tends to emphasize the importance and success of "extrovert" characteristics, many of the world's greatest innovators and leaders have been true introverts. But since we have learned to reward outgoing personalities (and negatively label quieter people as shy or withdrawn), Cain argues that we've forgotten the equal importance of silence and contemplation.

Even without Cain's observations, we can see all around us the pressure to get involved in everything: a variety of sports, school activities, clubs, community organizations, classes, social groups, you name it. All of this is on top of a culture of workaholism, in which many Americans don't even use their annual vacation time. We measure the rewards in job success and financial security... but what about the losses to health? To family? To faith? The Power of Introverts can be the power to say "no," reserving the time needed for the care of quiet space in our lives.

As we approach the season of Lent, I hope you will consider our opportunities for prayer (p. 6), Lenten workshops (p. 2), and the PSEC Lenten Awakenings (p. 6) as offerings that help you say no to more busy-ness and yes to some time for quiet, prayer, and self-care. Perhaps it will be the first step for us, as individuals and as a church community, to create more space for spiritual growth.

-Pastor Rachael

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

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FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

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# Communications

**Materials for the March newsletter are due February 17.**

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## MENSCH MILL CLOSING WORSHIP

A special invitation is extended to all those wishing to remember, appreciate, and celebrate the our UCC Conference's Mensch Mill camp & retreat center. On February 16, there will be a day to commemorate Mensch Mill and remember the joyful and sacred moments spent there.

On February 16 at 3:00 pm, there will be a gathering at the Kline Center for a closing worship. Dinner and a Fellowship time will follow at 5:00pm. After dinner, there will be Evening Vespers around the campfire.

All are invited to join in. More detailed information will be coming soon; please save the date and check your Communitas or the PSEC website for updates.

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## SAVE THE DATE: TAVERN TALKS

St. Luke's UCC and Ursinus College sponsor monthly discussions called "Tavern Talks," held at Appalachian Brewing Company (50 W. Third Avenue, Collegeville Station 2nd Floor, Collegeville PA. )

On Feb. 21 at 7:00pm Dr. Sally Kuykendall of St. Joseph's University will lead a discussion on "Truth and Reconciliation in Bullying Prevention." All are welcome! Talks are held in a private room at ABC, just ask the hostess when you arrive.