

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF

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DAFFODIL SUNDAY

This spring, St. James UCC is taking part in the last official year of the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days, from March 18-24. Our worship on Sun. March 24 will be a time for celebration and reflection in honor of this event.

Last year, St. James raised an amazing \$1,047.00 for the American Cancer Society! Our Daffodil Sunday service of worship is always one of hope and inspiration for anyone who has been affected by cancer. If you would like to sponsor a potted daffodil to be planted in the Memory Garden that will continue to bloom annually, please contact Joy Rubeo.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Palm Sunday & Daffodils March 24

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

-John 12:13

Along with Palm Branches and our Children's Easter Egg Hunt, we'll also celebrate Daffodil Sunday at the beginning of Holy Week this year!





Maundy Thursday & Good Friday

"Couldn't you stay alert one hour with me?"

-Matt. 26:40

March 28, 7:00pm ~ Passover "Seder" & Service of Communion

8:00pm ~ Prayer Vigil March 29, 7:00am ~ Prayer Breakfast

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Easter Sunday Worship and Breakfast March 31

"He isn't here, but has been raised!"

-Luke 24:6



Sunrise service 7:30am Easter breakfast 8:30am Service of the Word & Sacrament 10:15am Please see page 2 for more details about

all of our Holy Week and Easter Activities!

CONTACT THE CHURCH

321 South Limerick Rd. Limerick, PA 19468 610-489-0990 www.stjames-ucc.org

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

Office Assistant: Sandy Chang Mon. & Thurs. 10am-1pm office@stjames-ucc.org

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

2013 CONSISTORY

Rich Fiedler, President Rugene Caldwell, VP Kristen Serina, Secretary

Nancy Ewing, Treasurer Tom Mogel, Financial Sec.

Ruth Borneman, Historian

Betty Lou Wilson, Sexton

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Worship

MUSIC NEWS

Would you like to join in singing and ringing in our Easter season this year? We have some beautiful choir music lined up for Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday! Don't forget, Palm Sunday will also be Daffodil Sunday this year. If you'd like to sing, we'll rehearse together beginning the first week of March; please let Donna know so she can prepare a folder for you.

We also hope to offer music from a bell choir on Pastor Rachael's last day before her maternity leave, March 17; as well as on Easter Sunday. Playing bells is a "team sport" so if you are a team player, come and join the fun ringing with us!

QUIET DAYS

All are welcome Tuesday March 5, 9:30am-1:00pm, to our monthly morning retreat for Sabbath time and renewal. We explore new avenues for communing with God, and share faith journeys and stories. This month we will meet at New Goshenhoppen UCC (1070 Church Rd., East Greenville). 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; however, a minimum donation of \$5 is recommended.

HE LIVES! HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT ST. JAMES

Be sure to sign up in the narthex or by emailing the office to bring food for our Passover Seder, Good Friday Breakfast; for an hour of watching and praying with Christ during our overnight vigil; and for our Easter Breakfast!

Looking for more information about our Holy Week activities? Our **Passover "Seder" & Supper** on Maundy Thursday is not exactly a dinner, but a symbolic meal and series of interactive readings. We will learn about the Jewish observance of the "Festival of Unleavened Bread," or Passover (which lasts for a week each Spring, beginning March 25 this year). Passover is the root of our Communion, so we will also share the Lord's Supper around the table, just as Jesus and his disciples did 2,000 years ago.

Afterwards, all are invited into the sanctuary for a **Maundy Thursday Vigil** of prayerful watching and waiting with Jesus, as we remember the night of his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane when he asked his friends to keep awake and pray with him. Children are encouraged to participate. We'll close the vigil with a brief **Good Friday Prayer Service & Breakfast.**

Then we'll gather once more on Easter to celebrate Christ's resurrection and triumph over death and darkness! Our simplified Sunrise Service begins in the garden (weather-permitting); and our full Service of the Word and Sacrament is at 10:15am as usual. Don't forget to come early for breakfast at 8:30!

CHRISTIAN ARTISTS SINGERS CONCERT

On Sunday, April 28th at 3:00pm, St. James will host the Christian Artists Singers. We are very excited for this choir, directed by Dave Nicol. Their members have beautiful voices and will perform a varied program of sacred music to be enjoyed by all.

The Christian Artists Singers have been performing for over thirty years! They come from a variety of backgrounds and affiliations, but come together with the common goal of spreading sacred music to churches, nursing homes, and community organizations.

This concert is open to the public, so invite your friends! Admission is free, with a free will offering being taken. Look for more details about the program in our April newsletter.

To learn more about Christian Artists Singers, please visit their website at http://christianartistssingers.org.

Outreach

ENTRANCE GARDEN

Donations are still being accepted towards the entrance garden project. So far, approximately \$800 has been raised - over halfway to our goal! Order forms with a complete list of plans and prices are still available in the narthex. Completed forms can be submitted to the office or in the Sunday collection (make checks payable to St. James UCC with Entrance Garden on memo). We are aiming for an early April planting, when we will dedicate donations made in honor or memory of loved ones.

FLAPJACKS FOR A CURE

Save the date, and get your tickets now! On March 9, the St. James Great Strides team will be hosting a flapjack breakfast to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Great Strides team members will be greeting, seating and serving you breakfast, so please come visit us and bring your friends and neighbors!

8-10am on Sat. March 9 All-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage & beverages!

Cost: \$7 per person, \$4 for children ages 3-6 Applebee's in Royersford (70 Buckwalter Road)

Tickets: email Linda Nuccitelli (nuccitel@verizon.net) or sign-up in the narthex.

MISSIONS UPDATE

Thank you to our entire St. James community for your generosity with several of our recent missions collections. In December 2012, our "mitten tree" project was a huge success. We collected 33 pairs of gloves and mittens, 17 scarves, and 35 hats. The items were then sent to Ponca Creek UCC in South Dakota. Judy Hanson from Ponca Creek told Phil Levering of our Missions Committee that the children were very happy to gets these items as winter there is brutally cold and long. They sent along thanks to St. James for the generous donation.

We also had a fun and friendly competition for our annual Souper Bowl of Sharing! The final was 211 points, with the Ravens winning! Half of the donations went to the Hope Rescue Mission in Reading (all of the instant soup and toiletries); and the rest of the donations of shelf-stable food items went to Project Outreach.

Finally, on February 17, we raised \$480 for our Blanket Sunday collection! 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. Your generous donations can mean the difference between life and death in the most critical moments of disaster response. Thank you for reaching out in the spirit of Jesus Christ to those who are most in need!

ONE GREAT HOUR

On March 10 during our worship service, St. James will participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Mission Offering. This collection united 8 different Christian denominations in gathering funds that can be dispersed immediately in times of the most critical need. In 2012, over \$1 million was distributed worldwide. Our church missions were there to offer help in response to disasters like drought and famine in East Africa and Ethiopia, humanitarian and refugee aid in Syria, earthquake relief in Japan, and more than half a million dollars to the earthquake response in Haiti.

In the United States, nearly \$300,000 was used to continue recovery work from Hurricane Katrina and the Joplin tornado; to equip volunteers across the country with disaster clean-up training and supplies; and for flood relief and recovery right in our area. One Great Hour of Sharing uses funds to assist people across the United States and throughout the world who are affected by natural disasters, conflict, and poverty. Please consider participating in this special offering, which brings hope and life to our neighbors around the world.

Faith Formation

Hallelujah! The Bible and Handel's Messiah for Lent

On Sunday Feb. 17, we resumed our study from 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! Please note that we will meet in the fellowship hall for these sessions, through March 17. 9:00am Bible Study will not be held on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

Spring Youth Event: Jesus Freaks and God Geeks

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." -Rom. 15:7 Our Pennsylvania Southeast Conference invites all youth ages 13-18 to a weekend retreat at High Point Camp in Birdsboro, **Friday April 12 at 5:00pm to Sunday April 14 at 12:00 noon.** Have you ever been misunderstood? Were you ever judged because of the way you look, act, or talk? Regardless of whether you have or you haven't, you're welcome here! Come take pride in being a freak or a geek! At this event run by all teens you will learn about many problems that plague our generation. The workshops include depression, confidence, communication, and special needs. You'll also have a great time meeting new Christian friends! If you have questions or need additional information, please contact: John Folk: 484.575.1011 or jfolk@stpaulsfleetwood.org; or Rev. Shawn Van Dyke: 570.385.2049 or firstuccpastor@verizon.net.

Children's Church Schedule

Our program for children in grades K-5 that runs concurrently with 10:15am Sunday worship will continue this Spring with our "Godly Play" stories as well as some fun seasonal activities. In March we'll learn about some of the parables of Jesus; and in April we'll do some activities both inside and outside to celebrate and care for creation. Here is our weekly schedule for teachers:

March 3Amy	March 24Diana	April 7Amy	
March 10Linda	March 31Linda	April 14Cora	April 28Adrien

March 17.....Adrien

Polity & Property

Property Committee Updates

We are pleased to announce that Betty Lou Wilson will now serve as our sexton at St. James! Many thanks to Rene LaPish for your years of service. We know Betty Lou will serve our congregation with the same dedication and we welcome her with thanks for her commitment. We also want to thank Cora Smith for helping us to procure lovely new candles for our altar! Our acolytes thank you and look forward to having candles that light easily and stay lit!

Consistory notes: February 2013

At our February 12 meeting, consistory voted to approve the final draft of a covenant with our supply minister for Pastor Rachael's maternity leave, the Rev. Sara Jane Munshower. We also voted to use the Memorial Fund for the purchase of new altar candles and candlelighters and we heard a report for the revitalization committee. In the next month, we will be looking for a new volunteer, as required each year, to complete our audit (working with a volunteer from the previous year). Please let any consistory member know if you can help out in this way!

March Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
For pastoral care or ques	stions about worship after that time, please call ower. You may reach her via office message.				1 Conf. class to B'nai Jacob 5:30-9pm	2
3 Third Sunday in Lent Svc of Word & Sacrament Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 Luke 13:1-9	4	5 Missions Committee 7:00pm	6 Prayer Shawls 7:00pm Lenten Workshop 7:00pm	7 Choir 6:30pm	8	9 Great Strides' Flapjack Fundraiser 8-10am Applebees in Royersford (see p. 3)
10 Fourth Sunday in Lent Service of the Word Psalm 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Confirmation class 10:15am 12-3pm Great Strides Soup Sale One Great Hour of Sharing Mission Offering	Women's Fellowship: Royersford Historical Tour, 7pm (see back cover)	Consistory 7:00pm	Lenten Workshop 7:00pm	Choir 6:30pm Property Committee 7:00pm	15	16
17 Fifth Sunday in Lent Service of the Word Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 John 12:1-8 (Pastor Rachael's last Sunday before maternity leave)	18 Great Strides 7:30pm	Prayer Group 9:00am 6:30pm	Fellowship Dinner 5:30pm Lenten Workshop 7:00pm	Choir 6:30pm	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Service of the Word Luke 19:28-40 Daffodil Sunday	25	Welcome Committee 1:00pm	27	28 Maundy Thursday Seder 7pm Vigil 8pm	29 Good Friday Prayer Breakfast 7am	30 Holy Saturday
Please see the cover & page 2				+++		

Sunrise service 7:30am Breakfast 8:30am Svc. of Word & Sacrament 10:15am Please see the cover & page 2 for all the details about our Holy Week & Easter Activities!



Congregational Care

Prayer Group

Our monthly meeting for prayer will continue on Tues. March 19 at 9:00am & 6:30pm. Both groups meet for approximately an hour to read and reflect on Scripture and other prayers, and to spend time in prayer for one another, for our loved ones, and for our church. No experience or sign-up is necessary! Come and offer your prayers, or just join us in silence to be part of our praying community. For questions, please contact Charlotte Fiedler.

Lenten Workshop

Wednesday Evening Lenten Workshops will continue every week through March 20, at 7:00pm in the parlor. We will use the resource *Sleeping with Bread: Holding What Gives You Life* (copies available for purchase but not required). All are welcome to participate in this opportunity to "fast" from your distractions, whatever they may be; and to set aside a time for focused prayer, Bible study, and reflection. Each week's theme is independent, so please join in for all five weeks or even just one! No sign-up is necessary. Childcare is available if requested in advance (see Pastor Rachael).

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 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, Tony, Steve K., David B., Diane P., Rene L., Ellen H., Tammy, Russell B., Barbara B., 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 Arnie, Donald M., Natalie, and Mark; 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.

For our Revitalization Ministry team (Jay, Tony, Diane, and Marion) and for our Consistory as we continue in prayer and discernment to discover the calling and purpose God has set forth for our congregation, we pray for patience, wisdom, and enthusiastic dedication for the present and future ministries and missions of our church.

For Pastor Rachael, we pray for good health, a safe delivery, and a healthy new baby; for Adam and Henry, we pray for patience and love; and for Pastor Sara Jane, we give thanks that God has called her to care for our congregation in the months to come and we pray that our members might welcome her, support her, and be ministered to by her through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Guide us through this season of Lent, Lord Jesus Christ, and walk with us through the times of wilderness in our lives. Give us peaceful hearts and minds so that we might better hear your call and know your presence. 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.

BIRTHDAYS 1Melissa Gelwicks 3Kathy Long 4Amy Sarfert 4Anita Rogers 4Steve Barnaik 5Peggy Hillegass 5Cynthia Valerio 8Diane Raspen	9Bill Ebersole 13Kate Watts 14Sandie Fetterman 15Tonya Hillegass 16Holly McMenamin 18Michele Major 18Earl Ziegler, Sr. 18Chris Murphy 20DeChantel Smith	21Evelyn Phelen 23Bret Clarke 23Alexandria Mazza 24Terry Moyer 24Rich Fiedler 24Janice Hill 24Natalia Taylor 26Charlotte Fiedler 31Patricia Dalina	ANNIVERSARIES 4Tim & Jodi Little 16Brett & Kathleen Stengel 20Bill & Pauline Ebersole
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From the Pastor's Desk...

A Greeting from Pastor Sara Jane Munshower

Dear People of St. James, Limerick, PA!

One of my favorite songs is "Tis a Gift to be Simple." Being invited to be your supply pastor while Pastor Rachael is on maternity leave feels like one of those "turning, turning 'til we come 'round right" experiences that appear along the way when we are open to them. I can think of no better time to "supply" than this one... watching and waiting with a young pastor for the new life that she carries. I count it as a privilege to be with a congregation who is looking forward, not only with their pastor, but within themselves, to ways of being church in the 21st Century.

It was good to be with you in worship on February 10th and I am eager to begin with you on March 17th. As some of you know, I am a graduate of Spring Ford ('66), Kutztown State ('70), and Andover Newtown Theological School (1999). My ministry path has been a long one...from active lay person in First Church of Christ, Congregational (Glastonbury, CT), to a few courses at Hartford Seminary, to a CE position in a mid-sized congregation, to seminary and a 25-hour per week position as Parish Visitor in our home church (very large). I was among the generation of students who commuted for long years while juggling family and working. Now, I am glad to say, we are seeing more young people in our theological schools.

I grew up in Oaks and my husband in Phoenixville. We moved to CT in 1973 and worked for The Travelers (Bruce still does). We have a son and a daughter who live in Baltimore and Lake George, NY, respectively. My first church was in Tolland, CT where I served as an associate for three years. Since then, I have been kept busy as an intentional interim/transitional pastor, often as an associate, but also as the pastor with St. Paul's, Kutztown in 2003-2004. Currently, I enjoy supplying for sabbatical and medical leaves. I also have a growing practice as a spiritual companion/director. My preparation for that was completed in a program with Oasis Ministries which is based in Camp Hill (see www.oasismin.org). I also serve on their Board of Directors and will be somewhat occupied with them during the two months I am with you.

While in PA, I will be staying with a pastor-friend in Orwigsburg. Occasionally I will stay with family or friends closer to Limerick. My cell phone will be on to take emergency calls. I hope to be keeping a few "office hours" on most, but not all, Thursdays. Please feel free to email me at revsaja@att.net to introduce yourselves, ask questions, and/or to share your thoughts and prayers. I pray we will be blessings to each other in our brief time together through Holy week and the Easter season!

What to Expect when the Pastor is Expecting: Comprehensive Edition

As the time for Pastor Rachael's maternity leave draws closer, we are putting the final details into place. Many members of our congregation are working together to ensure continued leadership for worship and pastoral care so that both the congregation and Pastor Rachael will have a healthy and reassuring experience of welcoming a new baby into our church family. We especially want to be sure that Pastor Rachael is able to remain focused on her family and her wellbeing during her leave so that she can return ready to resume service in our congregation's ministries.

Over the past few months, the Pastoral Relations Committee has been collaborating with our Consistory to recommend a plan for maternity leave based on Conference and denominational guidelines. At the February consistory meeting, a Supply Covenant was approved with the Rev. Sara Jane Munshower. Pastor Sara Jane is planning to be with us from March 17 to May 12. Please take a moment to read her letter of introduction on page 7.

Along with the excitement of welcoming a new baby, we know you may also have questions about the logistics of congregational life and worship for the coming weeks. We hope to answer many of them here, but please remember that you can always bring questions about our congregation to the attention of any consistory member.

Who will lead worship while Pastor Rachael is away?

Pastor Sara Jane will be our worship leader for eight weeks, from Sunday March 24 to Sunday May 12. She will collaborate with church members and our Minister of Music, Donna Pinto. We may also have a guest speaker as a regular part of our calendar.

What happens if there is a pastoral emergency (illness, crisis, hospitalization, or funeral)? Pastor Sara Jane will be available for pastoral support in the event of highly critical illnesses, spiritual crises, hospitalizations, or the need for a funeral or memorial service. She can also make referrals for counseling, and she is a trained Spiritual Director who is available to arrange for longer-term direction with anyone who is interested. The best way to contact Pastor Sara Jane during her supply ministry is through cell phone or e-mail, please contact the office for this information. You can also reach her by leaving a message at the church office or through our Office Assistant, Sandy Chang, at office@stjames-ucc.org.

Our prayer ministry team will continue to support our ministries of spiritual care by making home or hospital visits, bringing prayer shawls, and offering prayers, just as they do at all times. Please contact the office to let us know how we can offer you or your loved ones prayers and visits, and Sandy Chang will help you be in touch with our spiritual caregivers. As always, prayer requests can be directed to Charlotte Fiedler or Sandy Koenig. Please remember that due to HIPPA laws, we do not know you are in the hospital unless you or an immediate family member calls the church office or the pastor. Even if the hospital asks you for your church name and asks if you wish for them to call the church, they may not legally inform us of your hospitalization and they cannot legally tell us why you are in the hospital.

Who should I contact if I have a concern regarding our congregation?
If your concern is regarding a property-related matter, it is best to begin by contacting Charley
Hentz or Bob Smith. Any other matters can be directed to Rich Fiedler (Consistory President) or
Rugene Caldwell (Consistory Vice-President).

MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

Many of you have also begun to ask questions about how to support Pastor Rachael and welcome the new baby, so we hope to address those questions for everyone here. If you have further questions, the Pastoral Relations Committee is the best place to start (Ken Raspen is the chairperson).

How long will Pastor Rachael be away?

Maternity leave guidelines in the UCC typically range from 6-12 weeks. Because of the baby's due date during Holy Week, the Pastoral Relations Committee recommended a leave of eight weeks, to begin a week before the due date, so that we would not risk needing to call for emergency pastoral supply on Easter Sunday! Pastor Rachael will be away for at least eight weeks; she may also use some vacation weeks to return on a part-time basis at first, but everything will depend on the health of the mother and baby. Even as we pray for a healthy delivery and a return to ministry for Pastor Rachael, we also ask for support and flexibility through all the "unknowns" of early infancy.

What happens if the baby is born early?

Pastoral care coverage and worship leadership will be arranged with supply pastors through the Conference in the event that the baby is born before March 17. Pastor Sara Jane will be available as early as March 17 if necessary, and she is already planning to share leadership of our worship service with Pastor Rachael that Sunday.

When will we meet the baby? When is the best time to call or visit?

While she is on maternity leave, Pastor Rachael is asking that we refrain entirely from calling, texting, or emailing her. She has also asked that we wait until after May 12 to visit with her and the baby. In addition to common-sense caution regarding germs and new babies, it can be especially difficult to protect private time together for a pastor's family. Even the most well-intended visits can inadvertently turn into requests for prayer, pastoral care, or updates about church matters that will distract the pastor from tending to her health and her baby. Please understand that it will also be difficult for Pastor Rachael to be away from the life and leadership of our church! For this reason, Adam and Henry will also be away from church during Pastor Rachael's maternity leave, so that all may focus on this time together as a family. Additionally, they plan to spend a portion of the time with Rachael's family in Michigan where she will have the support and care of her parents and extended family. Your prayers for Pastor Rachael's health and rest, and for the baby's health (especially for enough sleep for everyone!), are deeply appreciated and mean a great deal to Pastor Rachael and her family.

Thank you for caring for Pastor Rachael and her family during this time! Thank you for all the helping hands that have committed to extra support and care. Thanks be to God for new life and a community able and willing to properly care for its staff and members.

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

MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

Communications

Materials for the April newsletter are due March 17.

EASTER BREAKFAST



This year's Easter Breakfast will take place on March 31 at 8:30am, between the 7:30am Sunrise Service and the usual 10:15am Service of the Word & Sacrament. Our hospitality committee always offers a wonderful breakfast meal and a warm time of fellowship for our church family!

Please help us to prepare enough

food and places for everyone by signing up in the narthex or by emailing or calling the office. Happy Easter!

REMEMBERING ROYERSFORD

Save the date! On Mon. March 11 at 7:00pm the St. James Women's Fellowship will meet at the Museum House of the Spring-Ford Area Historical Society (526 Main St. in Royersford). We will tour the museum, learn about our local history, and then hold a brief session of our monthly meeting. New friends are always welcome to join in our Women's Fellowship activities!