



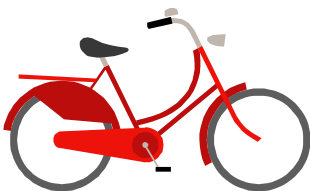
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FAMILY BIKE RIDE

As part of the United Church of Christ's "Mission 4/1 Earth", we are inviting everyone to "green up, power down, and shout out for the environment" by participating in a family bike ride along the beautiful Schuylkill River Trail in Pottstown.

We hope that everyone will come and enjoy all that nature has to offer! This ride is open to people of all skill levels and abilities.



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ENTRANCE GARDEN

Our Entrance Garden will soon be planted! We are planning for to plant the garden on April 21, weather depending. We are close to our goal of \$1500, thank you for your support!

The gardens will consist of two pie-shaped pieces on either side of the entry. The two trees have been given in memory of deceased members and Women's Fellowship has pledged an amount.

Our service for this day will have the sermon title of "...on earth as it is heaven..." and readings of Psalm 23 and John: 10:22-30.

There are still opportunities to donate to the Entrance Garden! Please join us as we plant and dedicate the garden. Stay tuned to the bulletin and weekly e-mail for more information!

CHRISTIAN ARTISTS SINGERS

St. James United Church of Christ in Limerick will host the Christian Artists Singers on Sunday afternoon April 28th, at 3:00 pm. The 20-member choral group will present a one-hour concert of sacred music. The concert is open to the public with no admission charge. A free-will offering will be taken.

The Christian Artists Singers have been proclaiming Christ in song for over twenty-five years, presenting concerts of sacred music for churches, nursing homes, retirement communities and community groups. Their concerts usually include a variety of sacred music including classical selections, anthems, spirituals, and hymn arrangements.

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CONTACT THE CHURCH

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

Pastor: Rachael Pryor
pastor@stjames-ucc.org
Pastor Rachael is on maternity leave until May 19.

Interim Pastor: Sara Jane Munshower
860-604-5098
revsaja@att.net

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

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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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www.facebook.com/stjamesucc

Worship

CHIMES 101

If you've never tried playing chimes, then you probably never realized just how easy it is to play them. A mere flick of the wrist is all it takes to produce a beautiful sound! Coming together with a group of people doing the same thing, you can make beautiful music.

Starting April 7th, Donna Pinto will be conducting a "Chimes 101" class, otherwise known as "Basic Chimes for Beginners". People of all ages are welcomed to learn the basic techniques to ring in rhythm. Ability to read music is not necessary (that's what colored highlighters are for).

Initially, classes will be held every other Sunday following the service. The plan is to be able to learn and play a simple tune before the summer kicks in. Contact Donna at (610) 792-1679 or email pintomd@msn.com if you are interested.

CHRISTIAN ARTISTS SINGERS CONCERT, CON'T

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Members of the group come from all over the greater Delaware Valley area where they pursue a variety of occupations in fields such as teaching, engineering, church music, pharmacy, human resources, missions, and more. Their church denominational affiliations are varied as well, but they come together because of their common faith in Christ and a desire to share their Christian faith through some of the finest sacred choral music.

David Nicol of Phoenixville, PA has directed the group since 1981. Imogene Stremme of Plymouth Meeting, PA is the accompanist. Serving as Assistant Directors are Marilyn Radley of Haddon Township, NJ and Jean McIntire of Havertown, PA. All four are graduates of Eastern University with degrees in Music Education.

For more information see www.ChristianArtistsSingers.org, or contact the coordinator at ChristianArtists@verizon.net.

QUIET DAYS

All are welcome Tuesday April 2, 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.

FAMILY BICYCLE RIDE, CON'T

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The details are as follows:

What: A Family Bike Ride to celebrate the UCC's "Mission 4/1 Earth"

When: Sunday April 21st, 3pm-5pm

Where: Meet at Pottstown Riverfront Trailhead (located at 140 College Drive in Pottstown)

Michele Barrett, from "Walk Bike Berks", will share some tips before we start our ride - bicycle ABC Quick Check, trail etiquette, etc. Come on out for some fresh air, exercise, and fun!

Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Linda Nuccitelli (nuccitel@verizon.net) or Michele Barrett (mbarrett@walkbikeberks.org) for information. We hope to see you on the trail!

Outreach

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

It's time for the annual Spring Rummage Sale, sponsored by Women's Fellowship! Beverages and snacks will also be available for purchase. Keep an eye out for further information regarding donation drop off! Or, please contact the Women's Fellowship committee to arrange a drop off date. Come on out and support our rummage sale, and tell all your friends! Proceeds will benefit local charities and the ministries of St. James UCC.

ONE GREAT HOUR

On March 10 during our worship service, St. James participated 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.

We are pleased to report that \$688 was collected! In 2012, over \$1 million was distributed worldwide. These funds offer help in response to disasters like drought and famine in East Africa and Ethiopia, and humanitarian and refugee aid in Syria.

BARK FOR LIFE

The St James Great Strides team will be participating in the Bark for Life on Saturday April 13, 2013. We will have our own table with food, gifts, raffles, and games, so please come and visit us! Bring your dog or just come out to watch and enjoy the fun!

Here are the details:

When: Saturday, April 13th , 8:30am till 1:00pm

Where: Memorial Park, Pottstown PA

If you are bringing your dog for the walk, registration begins at 8:30am. Opening Ceremonies will be at 10:00am, followed by a short walk. Plan to stay after the walk for lots of fun and activities- games and contests for dogs, games for children, music, food, vendors, caricatures, Reiki for dogs, rabies shots, micro-chipping, and so much more!

JULY 2013 MISSION TRIP TO LIMERICK, PA

Even as the days are just beginning to get noticeably longer, we are already starting to think about the summer! In 2013, we hope it will include a new initiative for St. James: a "mission trip" right here at home! Based on the recent successes of our neighbor, Trinity UCC in Pottstown (along with several partners), we would like to organize a series of work projects aimed at meeting the needs of local families. In collaboration with St. Luke's UCC in Trappe, participants will have an experience similar to Appalachia Service Project or other week-long mission trips, except we won't be traveling quite so far! We'll stay at the church together every night (bring an air mattress), eat meals together, participate in fun and educational activities together, and most importantly, work to repair the homes and properties of friends right here in our own backyard. As in the Pottstown program, we'll be exploring opportunities with our local YMCA to use the shower facilities. Groups may be hosted at St. James, St. Luke's, or both.

This year, we'll start out with just a long weekend, gathering Thursday evening and adjourning on Sunday. We hope this means many adults will be able to participate (not having to take a week off work to join in). Staying close to home helps us keep costs significantly lower; and it also means we can open the program to younger volunteers, beginning with those entering 8th Grade this September. We'll be looking for projects first among our community of members, friends, and neighbors, so please help us keep an eye out for places where we can lend a hand. Types of work we expect to do include extensive yard work for maintenance; light carpentry; painting; and possibly more complex repairs depending on how well we are able to match requests with expertise. As you can see, we're just in the beginning phases of working out the details. If you'd like to get involved, now's the time! Please contact our missions co-chairs, Phil Levering or Kristen Serina, if you can help with the planning. But most of all, SAVE THE DATE! July 18-21, 2013

Faith Formation

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 April, and to coincide with the United Church of Christ's "Mission 4/1 Earth" initiative, Children's Church will focus on kid friendly environmental education. We will participate in activities both inside and outside to celebrate and care for creation. In May, we'll return to our "Godly Play" parable lessons, as well as some special activities for Mother's Day and the Relay for Life. Here is our weekly schedule for teachers:

7 April	Amy	5 May	Diana
14 April	Cora	12 May	Cora
21 April	Sandy	19 May	Amy
28 April	Adrien	26 May	Linda



Polity & Property

Property Committee Updates

Join us on Saturday, April 13! We will be holding a Spring Clean-Up Day. Inside the church, we will clean the Sanctuary. We will also do outdoors work as well, such as cleaning up leaves and trimming branches.

Consistory notes: March 2013

At the March Consistory meeting, the purchase of a new couch for the parlor was authorized, provided there is something available in our price range at Lebow's. The deacons are working on a revision to the building use policy and more clearly defining the roles of the sexton and custodian. Additionally, there is a new photo board underway for the Consistory members. The next Consistory meeting is April 9 at 7:00pm.

April Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Prayer Shawls 7:00pm Stewardship 7:00pm	4 Choir 6:30pm	5	6
7 Second Sunday of Easter	8	9 Consistory 7:00pm	10	11 Choir 6:30pm	12	13 Bark for Life
14 Third Sunday of Easter	15 Great Strides 7:30pm	16 Spiritual Life 6:30pm	17 Fellowship Dinner 5:30pm	18 Choir 6:30pm	19	20 Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale
21 Fourth Sunday of Easter	22	23 Welcome Committee 1:00pm	24 Stewardship 7:00pm	25 Choir 6:30pm	26	27
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter Christian Artists Singers Concert 3:00pm	29	30				

Congregational Care

Pastor's Note

Pastor Rachael expects to begin her maternity leave on Mon. Mar. 18. As soon as we hear news about the baby, we will pass it along with an announcement in church, an email, and by calling the phone chain. Pastor Rachael assures us they will send pictures as soon as possible! Meanwhile, we welcome our interim supply pastor, the Rev. Sara Jane Munshower. Please see the March newsletter for more information, or call the office if you have any questions or if you need to contact the Interim Pastor. Pastor Rachael will not be checking phone or email messages while she's away, but she hopes to return for worship by May 19!

Prayer Group

Our monthly meeting for prayer will continue starting 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.

When it rains, it pours!

We cannot say enough how thankful we were for the baby "shower" -- more like a downpour! -- hosted after worship on February 24. We are pretty sure this baby has even more new clothes, toys, and supplies waiting than Henry did! We are grateful for all the gifts, words of support, prayers, and also for so many of you who have given gifts to Henry as well. We know that with his extended St. James family, he won't feel too neglected even when he has to start sharing Mom and Dad's attention with a new brother or sister. We especially want to acknowledge Nancy Ewing and our dedicated hospitality team (Cora, Sandie, Betty Lou, Betty, Mary Ann); surely we are forgetting so many others as well who were part of organizing this wonderful surprise. Your gifts have been thoughtful, helpful, and of course, adorable; but the most meaningful gift of all was the time you took to celebrate with us, to encourage us, to care for Henry, and to make us feel like part of a family. As knitters (yes, even Adam technically knows how to knit!), we especially cherish the many handmade gifts you have given, and we know that the care and prayers that went into making them will guard our baby and nurture our family in the days to come. Thank you, and we look forward to returning soon with our newest member of St. James! - Pastor Rachael

BIRTHDAYS

1....Cody Clarke
2....Bob Walters
3....Pearl Reinhart
3....Jenna Smith
4....John Ryan
McMenamin
5....Russell Myers
8....Susan Larson
8....Kristen Serina
9....Mary Lightcap

9....Claire Phelen
9....Staci Williams
Fink
12....Diane Phelen
12....Craig Hillegass
14....Frances Major
14....Gail Moser
15....Kacie Myers
15....Amy Nuccitelli
16....Bradley Schubert
16....Chris Long
17....Melissa Moore

17....Ed Williams
18....James Friemann
20....Lisa Myers
20....Allen Smith
20....Bob Stauffer
22....Melanie Beatrice
23....Joanne Myers
24....Phillip Buck
28....Ashley Kincaid
29....Stacy Koenig
30....Sarah Alexander

ANNIVERSARIES

1....Robert & Lillian
Weidner
8....Brian & Heidi Casey
17....Russell &
Barbara Brightbill
18....Miles & Linda Klaus
21....Paul & Betty Meyers
28....Steve & Joy Rubeo

PRAYER CONCERNS

For our friends Grace A., Shirley M., Melissa M. *and others who are 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 Jeffry, Tony, Steve K., Diane P., Rene L., Barbara B., Donna S., Russell B., Ken, Lisa, Sue, Juana, Lisa, Larry and family, Heidi *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., Gene F., Dick, Stephanie, Karen, Graham *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.*

We pray for Pastor Rachael and Adam *as they prepare for the birth of their baby. Our prayers are for a safe delivery for both Mom and baby and that God's hand will be on everyone involved.*

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.

From the Pastor's Desk...

EASTER TIDINGS

Easter Tidings! We are in the season of resurrection and I am happy to be among you for this time of literal new growth for Pastor Rachael and for you. I hope that you will be comfortable calling me for your pastoral emergencies (860-604-5098). I am looking forward to ministry with your new Worship Teams!

For the next six weeks, I invite you into a time of pondering the Lord's Prayer. We say it so often, but do we really ever stop to think about it? What did these words mean in Jesus' time and place? What do they mean in our 21st century? What do we think or feel when we say them.....in church, at home or at work, in school or in the hospital, in a war zone or some other crisis? I hope that as we ponder some of the prayer together, each of us will come to a deeper appreciation of its power to transform as well as to comfort.

Each Sunday, my sermon will focus on a different phrase of the prayer of Jesus, in no particular order, and one of the lectionary readings, usually the psalm. I hope to share a few different translations and invite anyone, who speaks a different language, to read the prayer for us some Sunday. The two recent books that I will draw from are *Praying Like Jesus* by James Mulholland and *The Greatest Prayer* by John Dominic Crossan.

Given how well we know this prayer, or think we do, it sounds strange indeed to hear Crossan call this "the strangest prayer" in the prologue to his book. Come and hear why, come and pray anew, come and worship these days of Eastertide. Christ is risen..let us live with resurrected spirits!

With faith, hope, and love, Pastor Sara Jane

(Emails welcome at revsaja@att.net)

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

APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

Communications

Materials for the May newsletter are due April 21.

RUMMAGE SALE

Save the date! It's time for our annual Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale. Beverages and snacks will also be available for purchase. It will take place on Saturday, April 20.

Come on out and support our rummage sale, and tell all your friends! Proceeds will benefit local charities and the ministries of St. James UCC.



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.) This month's meeting will take place on April 18 at 7:00pm, with topic to be determined. All are welcome! Talks are held in a private room at ABC, just ask the hostess when you arrive.