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GOSPEL CHOIR

The Gospel Choir from the Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany is currently on tour. Hear them locally on Saturday, May 11 at Augustus Church at 7:00pm. Augustus Church is located at 717 West Main Street, Trappe, Pennsylvania 19426 .

This event is co-hosted and sponsored by Augustus Lutheran Church and Trinity Reformed Church, United Church of Christ.

Keep an eye out on the bulletin and weekly e-mail for more information!

RELAY FOR LIFE



Our Relay For Life team, Great Strides, will raise money for the fight against cancer by participating in the Pottstown Relay For Life event. Come out and join us! Feel free to walk a lap, or just visit. Last year we raised over \$7,000!

Date: Saturday, June 1, 2013
Location: Pottsgrove High School, 1301 Kauffman Road, Pottstown, PA 19464
Time: 10:00 AM (opening ceremony)

Also, please join us on May 26 for a blessing and commissioning during worship. Thank you for your support as we fight cancer!

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

Pentecost Sunday marks the birth of the church: the moment after Jesus Christ's resurrection and ascension when his promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled! A miraculous event happened that day for the first Christians, when the Spirit seemed to blow around them like wind, descend upon them like fire, and fill them with the ability to proclaim the good news of the Gospel for all peoples. Many churches celebrate confirmation each year on Pentecost, linking the blessing of our youth with the ancient arrival of the Holy Spirit. This day marks the entry of our confirmands into the full responsibility and authority of membership in our congregation as they affirm promises made on their behalf when they were baptized as infants or children.

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

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Communications and Events Manager:
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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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Worship

SUMMER MUSIC

As you know, the St. James choir takes a break during the summer months. However, that doesn't mean we are going to take a break from having special music during worship! We are looking for individuals or groups who can sing or play an instrument to share their talents for a liturgical moment. We'd like to fill all the Sundays with beautiful music, so don't be shy. Please e-mail Donna at music@stjames-ucc.org or call her at 610-792-1679.

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30 am to 1 pm. Quiet Day for May 7 will be held at New Goshenhoppen UCC, 1070 Church Rd., East Greenville, PA 18041. Quiet Days are designed to open new avenues to communing with God, and to provide an opportunity for sharing faith journeys and stories. 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.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION, CON'T

As a congregation, we gather to pray for them in the assurance that the Holy Spirit will once more descend upon us, blessing each of these young people with gifts for the ministries and missions of Christ's Church, and marking them as God's disciples in a new way.

We hope everyone will make a special commitment to attend our 10:15am Service of the Word and Sacrament on Sunday, May 19, to show your support and welcome for our confirmands, and to join in a celebration for them following worship! Until then, we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our Confirmation Class of 2013:

Jenna C.

Hello my name is Jenna and I am thirteen years old. I go to school at the Spring Ford 8th Grade Center and my favorite class is algebra. Outside of school, I enjoy playing soccer for Westmont. Both my parents attend this church. They are Pete and Adrien Cibulsky. My sister is Sarah Cibulsky. My grandparents also go here and they are Bob and Cora Smith. Besides people in my family, I also have a pet cat. His name is Jed and he is 16 years old. I felt that our time in confirmation class was fun and the trips we took were eye opening.

Kyleigh G.

I've done gymnastic since I was two and I recently quit in June. I play a lot of sports such as soccer, basketball, cross-country, and cheerleading. I am thirteen and I go to Coventry Christian Schools. I love drawing and painting. My favorite colors are red and black. My favorite food is ice cream. I am half South Korean and half American. My favorite subject is gym and art. My favorite movie is Nightmare Before Christmas. I have two guinea pigs and a dog name Stanleigh.

I have a big sister and a little brother. My grandmother is Lillian Weidner and my grandfather is Bob Weidner. I have three aunts, two uncles, and four cousins. Recently my cheer coach, Traci Hoffman, passed away in April. She was a big part of my life. I have been a Christian my whole life and gone to this church my whole life.

Jessica V.

Hi my name is Jessica and I am going through confirmation! My favorite color is purple and one of my favorite activities is archery. I am in 8th grade and my favorite class is social studies. I go to Boyertown Junior High East. My favorite animal is a lion and my favorite band is One Direction. I am thirteen years old. My favorite food is spaghetti. I have three brothers, a mom, a dad, and two dogs (a pug and a rat terrier mix). I am looking forward to completing confirmation and I am going to try to make this church a better place!

Outreach

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment committee gave \$2,000 to Orion Communities for their general operating fund in February. The next meeting is May 22nd. Forms to submit requests are on the bulletin board and can be left in Nancy Ewing's mailbox or given to any committee member - Charlie Hentz, Phil Levering, Lillian Weidner, & Margaret Schweitzer.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The first quarter of 2013 has been a challenging period for our finances. We have seen a decline in giving through weekly envelopes at \$33,981 compared to \$37,650 for last year. This represents a 14% short fall to the amount budgeted for the first quarter. While actual spending continues to be less than the amount in the budget, this difference has declined by nearly \$6,000.

The new budget policy that was adopted in November 2011 created a single unified budget for apportioning giving received from the plate and envelopes. We are obligated to meet the operational needs of the church first before any funds are given to our undesignated benevolent missions. The reduced level of giving may impact the amount available to support these chosen missions.

The life and spirit of the church is ongoing every day. Our support should come from a feeling of gratitude for all that the church provides to us. Our generosity should reflect the never ending love and care that is provided to us by God.

MORINGA COMMUNITY DAFFODIL SUNDAY

St. James is proud to continually support the Moringa Community! Moringa Community aims to help the citizens of Ghana create a self sustaining community through teaching food preservation, nutrition, and crafts that can then be sold.

The latest funding effort focused on construction of a dormitory, which will provide much needed housing for students of the school. For more updates, and pictures, visit Moringa Community's website at www.moringacommunity.org

Daffodil Sunday and Palm Sunday were celebrated on March 24, 2013, at St. James UCC. This year, the American Cancer Society (ACS) received \$959.00 in daffodil sales from the sale of nine bears and a bunch, 25 bunches, 35 pots, one vase and a bunch, and \$49 in Project Care and general donations.

Because 2013 is the last year for the Daffodil Days program of the ACS, we celebrated in a special way at St. James by planting 19 donated potted daffodils in our Prayer Garden, where they will continue to bloom for many years to come in tribute to those we have lost to cancer, and in honor of the cancer survivors in our congregation and community.

Susan Shafer, Income Development Representative for the American Cancer Society, was our guest speaker. Susan offered reflections on Daffodil Days during the time that the American Cancer Society supported this worthwhile program.

The Lighting of the Memorial Candle, Blessing of the Flowers, a picturesque slide show of Daffodil Sundays at St. James through the years, and a time for sharing our fondest Daffodil Days Memories were also highlighted.

As in prior years, the re-dedication of 34 St. James cancer survivors was observed. THANK YOU to everyone who have supported Daffodil Days through the years. St. James has raised approximately \$16,635.00 over the past 19 years for the ACS' Daffodil Days. It is a legacy that St. James should be very proud of.

Faith Formation

Children's Church Schedule

Our program for children in grades K-5 that runs concurrently with 10:15am Sunday worship will continue this May. In May, we will be finishing our "Godly Play" parable lessons, as well as sharing in some special activities for Mother's Day, Confirmation Sunday, and Relay for Life. In June, we will be working on an end of the year skit to perform at the annual congregational picnic. Here is our weekly schedule for teachers:

5 May	Diana
12 May	Cora
19 May	Amy
26 May	Linda
2 June	Adrien
9 June	Diana
16 June	Sandy
23 June	Linda

Nursery Update

Dear St. James Community,

Thank you for welcoming my family and me so warmly. We have found a church home that we are happy to join. We have enjoyed sharing the Christmas pageant, Easter program and egg hunt, and morning services with all of you. Thank you to the confirmation class for doing such a nice job helping us organize the Stations of the Cross. You all did a wonderful job. Grace, Nicholas and I are grateful for the time we were able to share with the 20 church members who rode bicycles with us on the Schuylkill River Trail for Earth Day. The children in the nursery have been blessed with your generosity in donations of toys, snacks, and volunteer time. Thank you for all that you give of yourselves and your resources to make St. James such a nice place to visit every Sunday.

- Michele Barrett

Wish List for the Nursery:

Little People play sets -- especially those with shepherds, sheep, angels, animals, and faith-related characters for hands-on Bible lessons

Small all-fruit juice boxes or tiny water bottles for snack time.

Wooden Train Tracks Compatible with all major brands including Thomas Wooden Railway System.

Polity & Property

Property Committee Updates

Thank you to all who came out and assisted with the clean-up that took place on April 13! We were able to get all of our spring cleaning done, both inside the church and outside. The next Property Committee meeting is May 9 at 7:00pm.

Consistory notes: March 2013

In March, Consistory focused on the Stewardship Update (see page 3 for more information). Next month's meeting is May 14 at 7:00pm.

May Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Prayer Shawls 7:00pm	2	3 May Friendship Day	4
5 Sixth Sunday of Easter	6	7 Worship 7:00pm	8	9 Ascension Day Property 7:00pm	10	11
12 Seventh Sunday of Easter	13	14 Consistory 7:00pm	15 Fellowship Dinner 5:30pm	16	17	18 Unbinding the Gospel conference 9am-3pm
19 Pentecost Sunday	20 Great Strides 7:30pm	21 Election Day	22 Endowment Committee 7:00pm	23	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday (First Sunday after Pentecost)	27	28 Welcome 1:00pm Women's Fellowship 7:00pm	29 Christian Education 7:00pm	30 Pantry 9:00am	31	

Congregational Care

Mother's Day Bulletin Board

May 12 is Mother's Day and we would like to celebrate with a display in our Narthex showcase! We are requesting pictures of mothers (or women who have been like mothers!) to post in the showcase. Please include your name and the mother's name. They can be dropped off at church, in an envelope with Ellie Wellman's name. She has a mailbox in the office. All photos will be returned! Thank you for your help as we celebrate the mothers in our congregation.

Entrance Garden Update

Our Entrance Garden project is ongoing, as it is so contingent upon the weather! The beds should be outlined by the beginning of May. The landscapers will spray the grass to kill it, which will take a little while to happen. Then they will haul in the soil needed to enhance the project. All the plants are at the landscapers' just waiting to be planted! If anyone would be interested in helping Ed Myers with the planting, it would be most appreciated and he'll keep in touch with you concerning the planting. The planting will most likely occur on a Saturday, depending on availabilities. If interested, contact Ed Myers at 610-754-6200.

Family Bike Ride Thank You

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Family Bike Ride/Walk! We had over 20 participants. We had beautiful weather. It was a wonderful way to enjoy fellowship time as we "greened up and powered down" for Mission 4/1 Earth. Visit our website (stjames-ucc.org) or Facebook (facebook.com/stjamesucc) page to see pictures from the day!

Prayer Group

The morning and evening prayer groups will not be meeting starting in May. We will be taking the summer off and will be reorganizing during that time. Keep an eye out on the bulletin and weekly e-mail for more updates!

BIRTHDAYS

1....Scott Swinehart	14....Caitlyn Bowers	23....Mary Shuler
3....Tori Pacan	14....Nathaniel Bowers	24....Pauline Ebersole
4....Karen Mogel	15....Kelly Lownes	25....Clinton Starkey
5....William Styers III	15....Nya May Myers	26....Daniel Blackner
5....Carter Pacan	15....Donna Pinto	27....Lois Alexander
8....Rhonda Rusinski	16....Christabel Brunner	27....Jack Hill
10....Thomas Mogel	16....Elizabeth Capetola	28....Charleen Watts
12....Jack Murphy	17....Ana Baranoski	29....Susan Myers
12....Alex Murphy	22....Nicole Morris	30....Brentley Allen Smith
13....Linda Kramer	23....Michael Serina	
13....Sarah Cibulsky		

ANNIVERSARIES

6....Peter & Adrien Cibulsky
11....Carl & Mae Mogel
12....Thomas & Mary Shuler
15....Russell & Joanne Myers
18....Rob & Michelle Mazza
21....Richard & Charlotte Fiedler
22....Rob & Gwen Pacan
23....Arthur & Melissa Gelwicks
25....Jan & Patricia Dalina
25....Kyle & Carrie Heath

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., Earl Z., Betty W., Doris F., Pat M., Bob M., Jessie *and others who are not easily able to leave their residence, we pray for companionship, healing, and respite from pain.*

For our friends Tony, Steve K., Rene L., Lisa, Mary, Kelly, Susan *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 Bridgette L., Karen, Graham, Bob, Cora S. *and all others we pray for treatment where it is possible and release from suffering where it is needed.*

For our Friends Asia, Joy R. and Michelle's, family and friends, family and friends of Robert *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.*

Lord we thank you for all your many blessings you give us each day. We thank you for the healing that some have experienced and we pray for healing for those that are still sick and recovering from surgeries. Give us peaceful hearts and minds in our quiet moments with you. 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...

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SARA JANE

Dear Good People of St. James,

Holy Week and Easter Sunday are behind us, Pastor Rachael has a beautiful baby girl, and Confirmation will be here on May 19th! By the time you read this there will be only two more Sundays in Eastertide. On May 5th the sermon will be "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...." and on Mother's Day, May 12th, we will ponder the opening line of the "Abba prayer"....."Our Father, who art in heaven....."

These two months have flown by and I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all. It was a blessing to be part of your community of faith and to be "back home" for this brief time of sup-
ply. May God continue to bless your individual lives and your life together as a church.

With faith, hope, and love, "Pastor" Sara Jane

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

MAY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Communications

Materials for the June newsletter are due May

CHURCH HOUSE CLOSING WORSHIP

On May 19, a service of closure and a time of fellowship at the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Church House, 505 South 2nd Avenue in Collegeville.

The worship service will begin at 3:30 pm, followed by an afternoon of fellowship and refreshments including wine, cheese, and finger foods.

This will be an opportunity for members of the PSEC to come together to celebrate the varieties of ministry that have taken place in this building over the years. Please, come and be a part of this time of remembering as together we celebrate what was and look forward to what will be. Register online at PSEC.org.

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 May 16 at 7:00pm Dr. Amy Persichitti of Cabrini College will lead a discussion titled, "With A Little Help From My Friends: Identifying and addressing abuse in intimate relationships."

All are welcome! Talks are held in a private room at ABC, just ask the hostess when you arrive.