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2013 CHICKEN BBQ

Our 23rd Annual Chicken Barbeque will take place on Saturday August 17 from 4-6pm. Get your tickets now for the best chicken BBQ in the county! Tickets will be on sale soon at a price of \$10 each from Margie Schweitzer (includes one half-chicken, side dishes, beverage, and dessert).

We can always use more help! Please see Bob Smith if you're willing to come out and pitch in for a tiring but great time. We always need ticket sellers! Bring out your friends and neighbors for a fantastic meal & great fellowship.

A LITURGY OF FAREWELL

On Sunday, July 7, we will celebrate a final service of worship together with Pastor Rachael, including some words of farewell led by a representative of the Ursinus Association. Rachael, Adam, Henry, and Greta will depart for a long journey to Kansas later that week! Pastor Rachael asks that you would please keep her and her family in your prayers through this challenging time, even as they continue to pray for our congregation and our future ministries.

As part of our June 30 Congregational Picnic, we will also have some time to visit and say goodbye. The Hospitality Committee will provide a special cake to mark the occasion, along with the main dish for the meal; everyone is asked to bring a side dish to share. Please be sure to sign up for the picnic so that we can prepare enough food for everyone. We'll also have some games and activities for children, so dress for outdoor fun!

COVENANT MINISTER CALL PROCESS

On June 11, the Consistory of St. James voted unanimously to begin the process of calling a "Covenant Minister" for the next phase of our congregation's life. 10 members were present to vote, while 2 others who couldn't attend had already expressed their support for this decision.

At the time of a pastor's resignation, it is more common to call an Interim Minister; the interim would then immediately begin guiding the congregation through a search for a settled pastor. An Interim Minister typically serves for 12-18 months (in healthy congregations with full-time ministry openings); and Interim Ministers expressly agree that they will not consider a settled call to the church they are serving. (*Article continues on p. 6...*)

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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

Pastor: Rachael Pryor
pastor@stjames-ucc.org
Availability by appointment, Sat. thru Thurs.
Fridays are observed as a Sabbath day.

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

Office Assistant:
Sandy Chang
Mon. & Thurs. 10am-2pm
office@stjames-ucc.org
for Newsletters:
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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General Synod at
www.ucc.org/synod

Worship & Faith Formation

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 call Donna at 610-792-1679 or send her an e-mail at music@stjames-ucc.org.

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30 am to 1 pm. Quiet Day for June will be June 4., July 1 and Aug. 6, 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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: MOSES & THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

For the ten weeks of our summer worship schedule (June 30 - Sept. 1), we will continue to offer nursery care and children's church for any children in elementary school or younger. Our nursery coordinator, Michele Barrett, will be leading a lesson and activity each week about the story of Moses and the 10 commandments. The children will learn about each of the commandments in an age-appropriate way, with stories and art activities. On Sundays with a larger number of children, Michele will be looking for volunteer help, so please let her know if you would be willing to be an "on call" assistant during the summer weeks.

This offering will take the place of our usual children's message during worship throughout the summer. Children are welcome to gather with Michele at 9:15am when church begins. They may be outside or in the nursery, depending on the weather; and subject to the ages and number of children present (so at times, the children may be inside even when church is held outside). *All children are also welcome, at any time, to remain with the congregation for the entire service.*

NEW GOSHENHOPPEN UCC DAY CAMP

New Goshenhoppen UCC will be holding a Day Camp program this summer! The Day Camp Day Camp will be held at the Church Park in East Greenville, offering children a variety of activities focused around the teachings of Jesus and appreciation for the outdoors. The day camp program is for children ages 6-12. Camp will run weekly starting on the 8th of July and ending on August 2nd. There cost \$125 per week per child. Scholarships are available, please contact the camp director the camp director at camp@newgoshucc.org with any questions.

An overnight camp for teens at Pocono environmental Education Center is being offered to youths ages 13 through 17, the week of August 4 to August 10. The cost is \$425 and includes all lodging, activities and transportation, and meals.

The camp will be fun, educational, and a great experience! Visit newgoshucc.org and click on the "Camping" link for more information.

VENTURES AT MARIAWALD RENEWAL CENTER

Register online now for the next *Ventures* retreat, Sept. 24-26, 2013. Ventures is offered by our UCC Conference, for adults who want to explore meaningful ideas and issues in a retreat setting, along with fun, fellowship, and personal reflection. The retreat is held at the beautiful and peaceful grounds of the Mariawald Center in Reading, PA. For more information and to register, go to www.psec.org/psec-events.

Outreach

BLOOD DRIVE

A blood drive is scheduled with Miller Keystone for Sunday, July 21st from 8am-12pm. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for appointments.

Miller Keystone Blood Center is a nonprofit organization founded in 1971 and is a member of America's Blood Centers (ABC), a national network of non-profit community blood centers that provide approximately 60% of the blood products transfused in the United States.

Miller Keystone Blood Center is the only blood provider to many local hospitals. Please consider donating your blood to help others in need!

Carol Graves, our drive coordinator, will be coming on July 14th to speak during worship about the need to give. We look forward to hosting her!

For more information about Miller Keystone Blood Center, please visit the website: www.giveapint.org.

ENDOWMENT UPDATE

This May, the Endowment Committee awarded \$1000 to the Oklahoma Disaster Relief through Church World Service. New applications for grants are encouraged and should be submitted prior to the next meeting on Wed. August 28th. Application forms can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex or by contacting Nancy Ewing (chairperson).

The St. James UCC Endowment Fund was set up in 1998 with funds received from the estate of Matilda Kutra. The money is invested in various Vanguard accounts to preserve and grow the investment and to produce income to distribute to designated charities. The original investment was \$174,000 and the total had grown to \$240,500 at the end of 2011. Growth comes from reinvesting capital gains and from additional contributions.

The bylaws state that we are allowed to use only the income each year. Typically, we are able to disperse at least \$5000 per year (often much more, depending on the investment returns). Recipients must make applications to the committee and are approved as falling under one of the categories set up for the fund. The categories are: Christian Education, Community Service & Outreach, and the Wider Mission of St. James UCC. Please note that the money is not permitted to be used for the regular expenses of the church.

The endowment fund gives us the opportunity to participate in the community, expand our concept of stewardship, and help deserving groups with funds for their projects. Contributions to the Endowment fund are always welcome. You can be sure that money given to this fund will continue to bring dividends to charities now and in the future.

CONFERENCE STAFF RELOCATES

On Sunday, May 19, a Service of Word & Sacrament was held to mark the closing of the Church House of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. This facility has hosted our PSEC staff and ministries (including our Christian Education Resource Center) for more than twenty-five years.

The decision to close represents an awareness of the changing use of resources in the Christian church today. The income from the properties will allow us to do more ministry in local churches and to launch some new initiatives. The Conference Ministry Team expects to be "on the road" more, visiting with churches and groups in their local settings. We also hope to direct more financial resources to church leadership training and support.

Our conference staff is still easy to reach in their new administrative center at 1441 Laura Ln., Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464. The phone number is now (484) 949-8774 (email addresses and extensions have not changed).

Calendar

JULY 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Svc/Word & Sacrament Liturgy of Farewell with Pastor Rachael	8	9	10	11 Property 7:00pm	12	13
	New Goshenhoppen Day Camp July 8 -12					
7 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Service of the Word Mission Moment: Carol Graves	15	16	17	18	19	20
	New Goshenhoppen Day Camp July 15 -19				Youth Mission Weekend July 18 -21	
7 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Service of the Word Miller Keystone Blood Drive 8-12pm	22	23	24	25	26	27
	New Goshenhoppen Day Camp July 22 -26					
7 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Service of the Word Mission Moment: Urban Promise	29	30	31			
	New Goshenhoppen Day Camp July 29 - Aug. 2					

Calendar

AUGUST 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
	New Goshenhoppen Day Camp July 29 - Aug. 2					
4 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Service of the Word	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pocono Environmental Education Center Overnight Camp for Teens Aug. 4 - Aug. 10						
4 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Service of the Word	12	13	14	15	16	17 Chicken BBQ 4:00-6:00pm
4 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Service of the Word	19	20	21	22	23	24
4 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Service of the Word	26	27	28 Endowment 7:00pm	29	30	31

Congregational Life

COVENANT MINISTER CALL PROCESS (Continued from front cover)

However, the consistory has decided that a slightly different option, a Covenant Minister, is in the better interest of the congregation. In this scenario, consistory will create a Covenant with a pastor, calling him or her to a longer term of service (about three years). This pastor will initially focus on completing the Revitalization program in which we are currently active (and just beginning to enter the phase of congregational participation). In 2014, as the Revitalization activities transition into a regular ministry of growth in our church, the Covenant Minister will then begin directing us through a pastoral search. One significant difference: unlike an Interim, a Covenant Minister is permitted to be considered as a candidate for a settled pastorate.

The next step is for Consistory to begin interviewing available candidates for this position, with the intention of selecting someone as soon as possible, but while also taking time to find someone who will fit our congregation well. If there is a gap between Pastor Rachael's final Sunday and the selection of a Covenant Minister, supply pastors can fill in (just like when a pastor is on vacation). The selection of the Covenant Minister, and the creation of the covenant, is up to the Consistory; but whenever a settled pastor is called, that decision will once again be by a vote of the congregation.

Our consistory members are prayerfully preparing to lead our congregation through this process with wisdom and care. Please keep them, and our congregation's future, in your prayers as well!

BIRTHDAYS

July

1...Brian Blackner	12...Joanne Levering
1...Shirley Major	15...Lillian Weidner
1...Chad Taylor	18...Ceara Coseo
1....Gavin Stengel	22....Barry Ewing
2...Joyce Swinehart	23...Richard Miller
3....Nancy Ewing	24...Russell Brightbill
3....Bridgette Lightcap	24...Jack Morris
6...Maddie Murphy	28...Charles Grisdale
7...Trudy Mitchell	28....Marie Wilson
8....Michelle Mazza	29...Margie Schweitzer

August

1....Laura Myers	15....Gary Frymoyer
2....Evan Buck	15....Kyle Hillegass
2....Gwen Pacan	18....Jordan Markoski
3....Laura Walters	19....Ryan Schubert
3....Jessica Voorhees	24....Trudi Neumann
6....Lisa Bowers	25....Charry Schubert
11....Linda Nuccitelli	26....Richard Sarfert
11....Elaine Burnett	26....Madeline Postell
13....Patricia McFarland	
14....Anastasia Schell	

ANNIVERSARIES

July

5	Mike Myers & Christin Smith
6	Brian & Jennifer Blackner
	Chris & Kim Murphy
7	Michael & Carol Duffy
16	Nick & Elizabeth Albanese
22	Joel & Perry (Frymoyer) Frain
26	Michael & Donna Serina
31	Kenneth & Diane Raspen

August

7	Dan & Lisa Bowers
9	Gary & Laura Frymoyer
10	Chris & Kathy Long
13	Jack & Pattie Morris
17	Charles & Marion Hentz
28	Barry & Nancy Ewing
30	Philip & Joanne Levering
	William & Gloria Styers
	Tony & Peggy Hillegass

PRAYER CONCERNS

A note of gratitude: "Thank you for the prayers, calls, visits, and words of support as I have come through surgery and radiation for cancer. Knowing my church family is there praying helps me get through the difficult times."
-From Cora Smith

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., *and others who are not easily able to leave their residence, we pray for companionship, healing, and respite from pain.*

For our friends Paul, Shannon, Tony H., Earl, Russell, Melissa, *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 Raymond, Cora, Kathryn, Richard, Dee, Carl, Karen, *and all cancer survivors, we pray for treatment where it is possible and release from suffering where it is needed.*

For the friends and family of Bob M., Susan, Gene, *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.*

Hear our prayers, and guide us in our healing and in our Christian discipleship. 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...

HARVEST TIME

On Sunday, July 7, we will celebrate our last worship service as pastor and congregation. The appointed reading in the lectionary cycle for that Sunday comes from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 10. It is a fitting message for this moment. Jesus commissions seventy-two disciples and sends them out to share the Gospel in new places. He warns them that it will be challenging, and he also reassures them: "the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers." After their journeys, the seventy-two return joyously, filled with hope at their success in sharing the Good News.

Entering into a time without a leader can be daunting, whether it is because the leader leaves (as in the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 1) or because the people are sent. I am certainly not claiming to be Jesus as I leave you! But it is helpful to remember that, as long as we remain dependent on any particular leader or teacher, we too easily become comfortable in our supporting roles. Times of transition shake us up, and challenge us to reconsider the ministry to which every one of us is called through our baptisms into discipleship. Jesus promised a harvest beyond our wildest dreams. Do we still have faith in that promise? We can see churches across the country declining and even closing, as if the harvest were dried up. But I believe the key is in the second part of what Jesus said: there are few workers. We've settled into expectations that the pastor and a small number of leaders will do the harvesting, while everyone else reaps the benefits. But this isn't what Jesus imagined. If we want to see our churches full of life again, it doesn't all depend on a pastor. Hear this time of transition as a call to you: the harvest is plentiful! Now is the time for the workers to answer the call.

May the Peace of Christ be with you always,

Pastor Rachael

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

SUMMER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Notes & Reminders

Materials for the September newsletter are due August 25.

EARLY OUTDOOR SERVICES BEGIN JULY 7!

June 30 marks our return to the pavilion for our summer worship services! We'll continue to meet at 10:15am on June 30, then move to **9:15am beginning July 7** through September 1. Sign-up sheets are posted in the narthex for **set-up help** throughout our summer weeks. Please arrive at 8:30am to set up!

Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather so that you are comfortable during worship. Temperatures at 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; humidity at 90% or higher; or heavy rain will send us back inside for worship. Otherwise (even if it's sprinkling!) we'll stay in the pavilion. It can get surprisingly cool and breezy, so bring a jacket or sweater just in case!

OFFICE STAFF TRANSITION

In an effort to increase efficiency and ease of communication, Pastor Rachael and the Consistory's executive committee recently decided to combine our Communications Manager and Office Assistant positions. This will also support a smoother transition to our next pastor. Sandy Chang will continue with the responsibilities of both roles, extending her hours (Mon. & Thurs. 10am-2pm, & more as needed). We have expressed to Jill Kauffman our deep thanks for all she accomplished in bringing our communications up-to-date, and we wish her the very best for her future!