



## WHAT'S UP

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## HOMELESS SHELTER

Our time this month at the Homeless Shelter is Thursday, March 12,th. We will be serving breakfast for 25 guests who reside at St. Paul's UCC, Franklin Street, Pottstown. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Food will be due in the church kitchen Wednesday evening by 5 pm. Any questions, see Mae Mogel .



## MINISTRIES AT MAIN ST - WHO ARE THEY?

In the Holy Scripture, people of faith hold a personal responsibility to serve, and are expected to be those who help the poorest in our society. To be good followers of God means to be good servants to people -particularly those who are marginalized. Christ called them "the least of these."



The Church and those with means, have a responsibility to the economically disadvantaged; the mentally ill, the homeless; hurting people, and those finding themselves in short-term difficulties: the least.

The Ministries At Main St is a seasonal (November through April) Mobile Homeless Shelter provided by caring local Pottstown area churches through the winter months, in a cooperative effort of helping to shelter those finding themselves in need of safety from the elements. Shelter is provided nightly during harsh fall/winter weather, a month at a time at a different local affiliate church location, serving dinner nightly at 10:00 pm, offering a night's rest, and morning breakfast at 7:00 am, prior to returning the church building to the hosts, for normal church operations by 8:00 am.

We are not social workers, but work very closely with many local agencies to help folks back to a safe life. We find it privilege to serve.

## CONTACT THE CHURCH

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

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484-437-2648

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Donna Pinto  
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## 2014 CONSISTORY

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

"Like" us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/stjamesucc](http://www.facebook.com/stjamesucc)

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

[www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org)  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

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## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship has been the coordinator for Escript.com for years. And yet, many people don't know about it. We joined the program when Genuardi's was still in Royersford and we save register tapes. Genuardi's (or Escript) would refund 1% of total purchases to the submitting non-profit.

Then we hit the electronic age and Escript does all the calculations behind the scenes. All we need do is register. Our group name is under St James UCC Women's Fellowship (group#149505086). You can go on the website [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and register individually. You can also access the many merchants who participate in the program. When you make your purchases, it is automatically recorded and a check is sent monthly to our treasurer for 1% of the totals of our purchases. Any questions, please see Sandy Koenig or call [610.489.9652](tel:610.489.9652).

**Women's Fellowship trip to Limerick Historical Society** is on March 25th. We will need to car pool so meet at the church at 6:30 pm. All are invited.

Join Pastor John on March 12th, Wednesday night at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for pizza, conversation and fellowship. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



### ADDRESS CHANGE

Charles and Marion Hentz change of address:  
231 Wintergreen Way  
New Holland, PA 17557-9685

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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

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### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - March 30th 2014

"One Great Hour of Sharing" is the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ. It transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries.

In 2014, the One Great Hour of Sharing theme is "We Are One". The focus is on sharing with our brothers and sisters in need around the world because we are connected with them through Christ Jesus.



Your gift will make a difference in the lives of people around the world 365 days of the year.

**BIRTHDAYS****March**

1....Melissa Gelwicks  
 3....Kathy Long  
 4....Amy Sarfert  
 4....Anita Rogers  
 4....Steve Barnaik  
 5....Peggy Hillegass  
 5....Cynthia Valerio  
 8....Diane Raspen  
 9....Bill Ebersole

12....Sara N. Miley  
 13....Kate Watts  
 14....Doreen Livsey  
 14....Sandie Fetterman  
 15....Tonya Hillegass  
 16....Holly McMenamin  
 18....Michele Major  
 18....Earl Ziegler, Sr.  
 18....Chris Murphy  
 20....DeChantel Smith  
 21....Evelyn Phelen  
 23....Bret Clarke

23....Alexandria Mazza  
 24....Terry Moyer  
 24....Richard Fiedler  
 24....Janice Hill  
 24....Natalia Taylor  
 26....Charlotte Fiedler  
 31....Patricia Dalina

**ANNIVERSARIES****March**

4....Tim & Jodi Little  
 16....Brett & Kathleen Stengel  
 20....William & Pauline Ebersole

Congratulations and best wishes from your church family!

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

For our friends Shirley Major, Melissa Moore, Janice Moore *and others who are a long-term care residence, we pray for comfort and peace.*



For our friends Pat McFarland, Pauline and Bill Ebersole *and others who are not easily able to leave their residence, we pray for companionship, healing, and respite from pain.*

For our friends Elsie, Tony, Darlene Brunk, Ellis, Mike, Bea, Robin, Courtney and Ryan, Heather, Andrew, Ella, Matthew, John *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 Isabella, Barbara, Allen, Iris, Alfreda Leader *and all cancer survivors, we pray for treatment where it is possible and release from suffering where it is needed.*

*Lord we hold up to you those fighting illness, those mourning the loss of a loved one, those that are in the hospital or are home bound. We pray that they may feel your love surround them and we ask for wholeness of mind, body and spirit for all. Amen*

Please note that we will remove names on the prayer list after one month, except for home-bound and hospitalized members. Let us know if you would like to add or renew a request by office phone or email.

# Calendar

**MARCH 2014**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Last Sunday after Epiphany Svc of the Word & Sacrament Worship Team # 2  Pastor's Bible Study 9:00 am  Nursery - Sandie Fetterman	3	4 Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm	5	6 Weight Loss Sup- port Group 4:00 pm  Choir 7pm	7	8
9 First Sunday in Lent Svc of the Word Worship Team # 3  Pastor's Bible Study 9:00 am  Nursery - Amy Nuccitelli	10	11  Consistory 7:00 pm	12  Pastor's Piz- za Night 5:30 pm	13 Weight Loss 4 pm  Property 7 pm  Choir 7:00 pm	14	15
16 Second Sunday in Lent Svc of the Word Worship Team # 4  Pastor's Bible Study 9:00 am  Nursery - Nancy Ewing	17  Great Strides 7:30 pm	18  Welcome Committee 10:00 am	19  Fellowship dinner 5:30 pm	20 Weight Loss 4:00 pm  Choir 7:00 pm	21	22
23 Third Sunday in Lent Svc of the Word Worship Team # 5  Pastor's Bible Study 9:00 am  Nursery - Joanne Levering	24	25  Women's Fellowship 7:00 pm	26  Choir 7:00 pm	27 Weight Loss 4:00 pm  Steward- ship 7:00 pm	28	29
30 Fourth Sunday in Lent Svc of the Word Worship Team # 6  Pastor's Bible Study 9:00 am  Nursery - Sandie Fetterman	31					

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## LEARNING FORGIVENESS:

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### A Lenten Study

Session One: Reflecting on forgives in relation to human community. Looking at the challenges faced by the need to forgive-and to be forgiven.

Session Two: Awareness, acknowledgement, and confession as the foundation for seeking and receiving forgiveness. Self-examination allows us to look more objectively at our urge to judge others.

Session Three: Learn to identify some of our external and internal enemies and begin to move toward loving them. When we begin to see ourselves standing with those who have fallen into the seduction of sin, it costs a whole new light on what it means to pray for our enemies.

Session Four: Identify at least one thing for which we need forgiveness and that of any person(s) affected by our offense. We'll consider how to reconcile divine judgment with divine love as we explore the deeper spirit of repentance, one of the key practices of Lent.

Session Five: The sense inmost New Testament teachings is that forgiving others is imperative-not optional. What if we can't forgive? Or we are simply not ready to forgive? We will look these challenging themes through stories.

Session Six: Many people believe that forgiveness is not possible without repentance, and that to offer forgiveness before repentance is a travesty of just, accountable, relationships. But what of Jesus' willingness to forgive on the cross? Can we reverse the relationship between repentance and forgiveness?



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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS cont...

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### *Breathing Forgiveness*

#### *God's Power for Life and Ministry*

When: Thursday March 27th from 9 to 4 pm  
Where: St. Andrew's United Church of Christ  
615 E. Walnut Street  
Perkasie, PA 18944



Leaders: Scott Hutchinson and Yago Abeledo

Cost \$20 (lunch included)

To register: E-mail at [peacepoet@msn.com](mailto:peacepoet@msn.com)

Call 215 257-2880

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## HOUSEHOLD PRAYERS (Praying at Home This Week)

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### *Week 1 Question for Reflection*

Why does Jesus instruct the disciples to keep quiet about what they had seen “until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead”

#### *Household Prayer: Morning*

God, as this new day dawns, may your Spirit guide my feet and reveal you to me in new ways as I walk through your world today. Amen.

#### *Household Prayer: Evening*

Holy One, thank you for the gift of this day. Whatever has happened, whatever I’ve done and left undone, help me hear the voice of Jesus tonight, telling me to go to sleep as I am and not be afraid. Amen.

### *Ash Wednesday Question for Reflection*

In some traditions, Christians are urged to “give up something for Lent.” Others decide to “take on” something for Lent—a new spiritual practice, a special form of service to others, or a goal of reading Scripture daily. The readings from Isaiah and Matthew particularly invite us to “take on” something—justice, service to others, prayer, fasting, etc. What might you take on for Lent as a way of deepening your faithfulness before God?

#### *Household Prayer: Morning*

Loving God, I awaken this morning and raise up my mortal body from sleep. I know that one day you will raise me to everlasting life. Thank you for such an inexpressible gift! Thank you, too, for the gift of this day, of this life among family and friends, my home and the beautiful earth. Show me how I can serve you today by serving someone else. Help me to see evidence of your grace all around. Remove any obstacle that causes me to stumble in faithfulness or prevents me from receiving the joy and gladness you offer.

In Christ’s name, I pray. Amen.

#### *Household Prayer: Evening*

Long after Wednesday’s ashes are wiped away, my perishable body is still perishable, O God of my salvation. I can feel it in these evening hours: the tiredness in my limbs, my eyes, my mind. Thank you for the activities that engaged me today, and for the rest that comes as the sun leaves my horizon for another shore. As I prepare to sleep, quiet my thoughts and all my strivings. Let me ponder the treasures of my heart, lifting up each one as a prayer for your safe keeping. When I awake, now and in the life to come, I am still with you. In Christ, Amen.

### *Week 2 Question for Reflection*

How might you grow in faith and draw near to Jesus through the forty days of Lent? Let Jesus’ three responses to the devil be your guide: (1) study Scripture (live by the Word of God; Matt. 4:4); (2) seek reconciliation with God and others (do not put God to the test; Matt. 4:7); and (3) be active and intentional about participating in the worship of your congregation (worship the Lord your God; Matt. 4:10).

#### *Household Prayer: Morning*

Holy God, as this day surrounds me like a garden with a thousand trees, give me enough knowledge to obey your commandments, and to choose the fruit that gives life: the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### *Household Prayer: Evening*

Where can I hide from you, O God? You have found me here, stained with the fruit of desire, shivering in the evening breeze. This is all I ask: wrap me in your mercy, and let me rest in your presence; for the sake of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

### *Week 3 Questions for Reflection*

Consider a time when you felt uncertain. Can you see how God was at work in your life at that time? What from Abraham and Sarai’s story, or from Nicodemus’s story, is a help to you as you look for evidence of God’s presence in your own life?

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## HOUSEHOLD PRAYERS (Praying at Home This Week) cont...

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### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

Loving God, you have given me the gift of this new day, and you send me out to live it fully and well. Help me to be attentive to your direction and leading. If you should call me to go in some direction, give me courage to try this new thing. If you present me with a mysterious truth or grace, help me to understand, or to seek understanding, with a sense of wonder and faith. Whatever this day may hold, I trust that you will keep me in all my comings and goings. In your Son's name, I pray. Amen.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

Gracious God, as the evening comes and the light fades, I look for you even in the shadows. Your love and protection stay with me through the night hours, and I rest in your promises. For the day as it has been, I give you thanks. For the gift of rest, I offer a hymn of praise. You love me and the whole world so greatly that you offer us salvation. After a night of rest, bring me into the light of a new day. In gratitude, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

### ***Week 4 Questions for Reflection***

As you read John 4:5–42, think about the meaning of water—its symbolic qualities, its presence in nature, and its use in human life. How is Jesus like water? What are the things that are most necessary in your life? Where do you get them? Contribute to or participate in a service project that provides clean water (or some other necessity of life) to people in need. As you do so, make a commitment to pray for all the providers and recipients of this service.

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

God, my maker, hold me this day, with the same hand that shapes the mountains, with the same hand that cradles the deep. Keep my heart soft and supple, make my faith strong and firm. Renew me, re-form me, re-create me into the image of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

We come to you now, O Lord, weary from the day's journey, thirsty for rest, hungry for peace. Renew us in your love and restore us by your grace, until we find our rest at last by the river of the water of life. Amen.

### ***Week 5 Questions for Reflection***

Samuel is told that God does not look upon outward appearances, but looks upon the heart. Then God chooses David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be Israel's next king. We know that as he grew and as life became very challenging, King David's heart was not pure. He was a mixture of great courage and faithfulness—and great sin and failure. What do you suppose God saw and loved in David's heart? What do you think God loves when God looks upon your own heart?

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

Good morning, Lord. The day has dawned with the gift of sunlight, and I awaken from sleep into the light and grace of Christ. Thank you for this new day. Stay with me, I pray, shepherding me through all that the day will hold. Lead me into pleasant places, and give me the provisions I will need if I find myself in difficulty or danger. Whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. In praise and anticipation I begin this day; in Jesus' name. Amen.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

With the night, Good Lord, comes rest, and a chance for my soul to be restored. You are with me in this and every darkness, so I will not be afraid. For all I have seen with my own eyes today, for all others have helped me to see, I give you thanks. For those things that I did not notice: signs of beauty and kindness, evidences of your grace, I pray that you will improve the eyes of my faith so that I can see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly tomorrow, and all my tomorrows. In the name of your Son, my Savior, I pray. Amen.



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

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March 2014 NEWSLETTER

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## Notes & Reminders

Materials for the April Newsletter are due on March 23rd, 2014.

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### NURSERY

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#### March Schedule

March 2nd Sandie Fetterman  
March 9th Amy Nuccitelli  
March 16th Nancy Ewing  
March 23rd Joanne Levering  
March 30th Sandie Fetterman

### PASTOR JOHN GETTING TO KNOW EVERYONE

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Starting in April, we would like volunteers to host a lunch or a dinner, in order for Pastor John to get to know everyone a little better.

This would be a grouping of 6 to 8 people at a time that would be convenient to you and Pastor John.

If you are interested, please contact me at 610 495-2215 or at [charf1948@aol.com](mailto:charf1948@aol.com)