

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LIMERICK, PA

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HOMELESS SHELTER

Our time this month at the Homeless Shelter is April 9th. We will be serving breakfast for 25 guests who reside at Christ Episcopal Church. 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 .



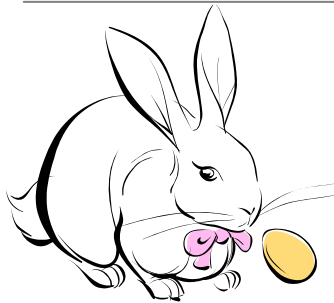
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

We would like to get a group together for a trip to see the Fight 'in Phils baseball team in Reading. We would like to go early before the vacation season.

If interested see Jim Valerio, Cora Smith, or Adrien Cibulsky. We think this would be a fun outing for our church and any guests who would like to attend.



EASTER HUNT



As in years past we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for all children up to 9th grade on Palm Sunday, April 13th after church.

Usually we get started about 10-15 minutes after the service ends – it's hard to get the kids to wait any longer! If you know of any children that will be visiting that week, please let Nancy Ewing or Adrien Cibulsky know, so we can plan accordingly. We will again be asking for donations by April 6th of candy that should be individually wrapped or Easter items that would fit into plastic eggs. There will be a box in the narthex to collect them.

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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Limerick, PA 19468
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www.stjames-ucc.org

Pastor: John Steitz
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Minister of Music:
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2014 CONSISTORY

Rich Fiedler, President
Rugene Caldwell, VP
Kristen Serina, Secretary
Tom Mogel, Financial Sec.
Ruth Borneman, Historian
Betty Lou Wilson, Sexton
Lenny Baranoski
Sandie Fetterman
Wendel Koenig
Joan Rosen
Bob Smith
Cindy Valerio
Bob Walters
Ellie Wellman

"Like" us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/stjamesucc

HELPFUL WEBSITES

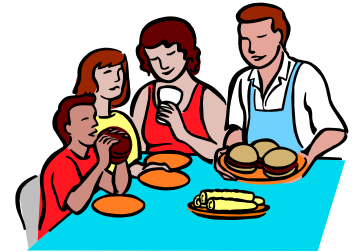
www.psec.org
www.ucc.org

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE - The committee met the end of February to review applications received so far this year. We approved requests from the Moringa Community, Orion Communities, and Ministries at Main Street for a total of \$2,250. The next scheduled meeting is on May 29th at 7pm.

According to the by-laws we can disburse the income from the fund each year to charities meeting the requirements under Christian Education, Community Service and Outreach, or the Wider Mission of St. James UCC. If you have any questions about the specifics, please pick up a funding request, which goes into more detail, off the bulletin board in the narthex. Any member of the church can submit a request for funds for a worthy charity.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE - The pastoral relations committee thought it would be nice to have a few small dinner gatherings at individual homes, for Pastor John to get to know members of our church.



We are looking for volunteers to host about 6 to 8 people for dinner. We would like to start this in April, if possible. If you are interest please contact Charlotte Fiedler at [610-495-2215](tel:610-495-2215) or email at charf1948@aol.com. We will work out a time that will fit your schedule and Pastor John's.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - 1. There will be a outside Church Spring cleanup Sat. April 5th at 8 AM, weather permitting. Its' been a tough winter and there is much to be done, to bring the property back to pristine condition. Trimming, sod replacement, brush and leaf pickup, and much more. Hopefully the grounds will be dry enough by then, if not we will have to cancel, probably till early May, the rest of April is going to be a very busy month. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex, hope to see then. 2. The property committee is receiving estimates for roof replacement, we currently have 2 bids and we are awaiting a 3rd. 3. The condition of the driveway and parking lot was an item of discussion, the winter has taken its toll, not only on our roads, but all "blacktop" surfaces. Patching is needed!!!

STEWARDSHIP - The Church is receiving a "Special Energy Offering". As for all of us this winter has been terribly harsh, the Church is no exception. We know your heating and plowing bills are very high, but if you could see any way to give a little extra to help the Church out, it would be greatly appreciated. There are blank envelopes in the pews and in the Narthex, be sure to put you envelope number on the blank to receive credit for your donations. Many thanks, The Stewardship Committee.

BIRTHDAYS**April**

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
 23....Joanne Myers
 24....Phillip Buck
 28....Ashley Kincaid
 29....Stacy Bosi
 30....Sarah Alexander

**ANNIVERSARIES****April**

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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE cont...**Singers needed for Easter**

We are preparing some special music for Easter, which can use more voices. If anyone likes to sing, but doesn't have time to commit to joining the choir year round, here's a great opportunity. We'd like to beef up our numbers with extra singers for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Contact Donna Pinto if you can participate.

Donna (610) 792-1679
music@stjames-ucc.org

**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 Matthew, John, Joe, Linda, Richard, Charlotte *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 Nancy, Bobbie, Dawn, Matthew *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 homebound and hospitalized members. Let us know if you would like to add or renew a request by office phone or email.

APRIL 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div>Great Strides HOAGIE SALE pick on April 1st @ 5:30</div>		1 Great Strides 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm	2 Lenten Series 1:00 pm Lenten Series 7:00 pm	3 Weight Loss 4:30pm Choir 7:00 pm	4	5
6 Fifth Sunday in Lent Svc of the Word & Sacrament Worship Team #7 Pastor's Bible Study 9:00 am Nursery - Amy Friemann	7	8 Consistory 7:00 pm	9 Lenten Series 1:00 pm Lenten Series 7:00 pm	10 Weight Loss 4:30pm Property 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	11	12 Rum- mage Sale 8:00 am
13 Sixth Sunday in Lent Svc of the Word PALM SUNDAY Worship Team #1 Pastor's Bible Study 9:00 am Nursery - Nancy Ewing	14	15 Welcome Committee 10:00 am	16 Lenten Series 1:00 pm Fellowship Dinner 5:30 pm Lenten Series 7:00 pm	17 MAUNDY THURS- DAY Weight Loss 4:30pm Choir TBD	18 GOOD FRIDAY	19
	CAPT'N CHUCKY'S FUNDRAISER April 14 - 19					
20 Easter Svc of the Word & Sacrament Worship Team #2 Pastor's Bible Study 9:00 am Nursery - Joanne Levering	21	22	23	24 Weight Loss 4:30pm Choir 7:00 pm	25	26
					SAVE THE DATE May 17th - Applebee's Flapjack 8:00 to 10:00 am Royersford May 31st - Relay For Life of Pottstown Relay 50/50 tickets are available Survivor & Luminaira Forms are available in The Narthex.	
27 Second Sunday of Easter Svc of the Word Worship Team #3 Pastor's Bible Study 9:00 am Nursery - Sandie Fetterman	28	29	30			
		Chick Fil A Spirit Night in Audubon April 30th				

“After all my bills are paid, I want 10 percent of my estate (a tithe) to go to St. James United Church of Christ, 321 South Limerick Road, Limerick Pa”

With these words in our Last Will and Testament we can have a powerful, lasting impact on the ability of St. James U.C.C. to engage in God's Mission in the world.

Churches in the 21st century are going to face many challenges with the ability to survive financially being one of the major ones. Although estate gifts by themselves will not make a congregation thrive, they can help ensure that a congregation is able to survive, which is of course the first requirement of thriving. In fact, over the next two decades a gap will emerge between those congregations with faithful estate giving and those without this support. Those where people faithfully include the congregation when planning their estates will be strong enough to focus on mission rather than always worrying about just surviving. Those without this base of support are likely to be barely hanging on or be forced to close their doors.

We know we cannot take our money or material possessions with us when the Lord calls us to our eternal home, but we are responsible for the stewardship of these resources. This is NOT a suggestion that people leave ALL they have to the church. It is a request that each of us give due consideration to offering TITHE - 10% of our estates to the ongoing work of the church.

Americans are a very generous people giving some \$300 billion dollars each year to charities with the single largest share-one third- going to churches. However, only 8% of estate gifts are given to churches, mainly because very few churches ever ask people to consider giving these gifts. People with deep commitments to their local church have even left large bequests to colleges they never had any personal connection to. Why? Because the college asked for the estate gift and the local church did not.

Since one of my core responsibilities as a covenant pastor is to strengthen the ability of St. James U.C.C. to faithfully minister into the future God is calling you to, I am convinced that neglecting to make this request would essentially undercut any other work I do here with you. Therefore, being faithful to my call as a pastor, I ask you to consider including St. James U.C.C. in your estate giving. Putting the simple language in bold above (or language like it) into your Will is all it takes.

Blessings, Pastor John

HOUSEHOLD PRAYERS (Praying at Home This Week)

Week 1 Questions for Reflection

Why did Jesus weep in John 11:35? Was it out of compassion for Mary and Martha? Out of love for his friend Lazarus? Out of frustration with the people's lack of understanding or faith? Think about someone in your life who is grieving. Find a way to extend to that person the grace and peace of Christ.

Household Prayer: Morning

O God, I know that you are the Lord, for you gave me my life, and caused me to rise this day. Put your Spirit within me, and let my words and actions help others to know that you are my Lord and my God. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

My soul waits for you, O Lord, more than those who watch for morning, more than those who watch for morning. Help me to sleep this night in peace, trusting that you will awaken me; through Jesus Christ my Savior. Amen.

Week 2 Questions for Reflection

As this week unfolds, spend some time each day pondering the mind of Christ. What is the shape of his compassion? Describe the image of such great love. Finally, what does it feel like, physically, to be so utterly cared for?

Household Prayer: Morning

I rise, O God, awakened by your Word, to live another day. Lead me in your path. Show me the steps to take toward greater faith. Hold me in your care as I move through this Holy Week where the shadows deepen even in the daylight. Hosanna! Save me now, dear God! Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I come to the darkness of night, O God, tired and ready for a sweet respite in your care. Keep me safe from all harm, and bring me to the morning light with renewed strength. In Jesus' holy name, I pray. Amen.

Holy Thursday Questions for Reflection

As this week unfolds, spend some time each day pondering the mind of Christ. What is the shape of his compassion? Describe the image of such great love. Finally, what does it feel like, physically, to be so utterly cared for?

Household Prayer: Morning

I rise, O God, awakened by your Word, to live another day. Lead me in your path. Show me the steps to take toward greater faith. Hold me in your care as I move through this Holy Week where the shadows deepen even in the daylight. Hosanna! Save me now, dear God! Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I come to the darkness of night, O God, tired and ready for a sweet respite in your care. Keep me safe from all harm, and bring me to the morning light with renewed strength. In Jesus' holy name, I pray. Amen.



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

Good Friday Questions for Reflection

The cross is the central symbol of our faith. Why do you think that is? Has its meaning changed for you over time? Jesus was willing to die for his cause, but not kill for it. How does that inform you on your Christian journey?

Household Prayer: Morning

God, on this most challenging day, be with me. Open my eyes to see moments of pain and suffering around me into which I may carry your loving presence. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy One, into your hands I commit this day that I have lived. Salvage what needs saving in me. Strengthen what is good in me. And in all things bind me closer to you through Jesus Christ. Amen.



Easter Questions for Reflection

When Mary Magdalene first saw the resurrected Jesus, she did not recognize him, even though she knew the tomb was empty. Have you ever experienced the presence of the risen Christ, even when you were not expecting him? Are there times you have been in the presence of the risen Christ but have not recognized him? How would you know?

Household Prayer: Morning

Jesus, victorious Lord, I exult in your resurrection. As I sing “alleluia” with my voice, let my life embody “alleluia” as a testimony to your love and a witness to your eternal life. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, the days of sadness are over, for you have risen from the dead. As you conquered the grave, free your servant from fear of harm or death, that I may rest in peace this night and in the morning rise to sing “alleluia.” Amen.

Week 3 Question for Reflection

According to the gospel, Christ’s wounds were not erased by the resurrection. In fact, he invites Thomas and the other disciples to touch his wounds to bring the disciples back to faith. How might we in the church use our wounds to help others come to faith?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy One, you have made known to me the ways of life and have promised to fill me with the gladness of your presence. Keep me mindful of your guidance and your promise as I travel through this day, that my heart may be glad. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for giving me your counsel today. Tonight, as I sleep, may the dreams of my heart also serve to instruct me in your ways. In you I have a good heritage, and my heart, my soul, and my body rest in you. Amen.

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

April 2014 NEWSLETTER

Notes & Reminders

Materials for the May Newsletter are due on April 20th, 2014.

NURSERY



April Schedule

April 6th, Amy Friemann
April 13th, Nancy Ewing
April 20th, Joanne Levering
April 27th, Sandie Fetterman

RUMMAGE SALE

The Women's Fellowship Rummage sale is Saturday April 12. 8am to 1pm. Donations can be brought to the church Friday night April 11th from 4 to 7pm. Donations can be left at the church anytime, just contact Cindy Valerio or the Pastor. Light refreshments will be served.

