



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LIMERICK, PA

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

St. James United Church of Christ in Limerick, PA is called to be disciples of Christ providing a caring, supportive, welcoming and inclusive community. We seek to faithfully spread the good news of Jesus Christ through generous mission, loving fellowship and curiosity about the Bible and our faith, with the help of God.

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³² And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher.

Mark 12:28-32

Dear St. James family,

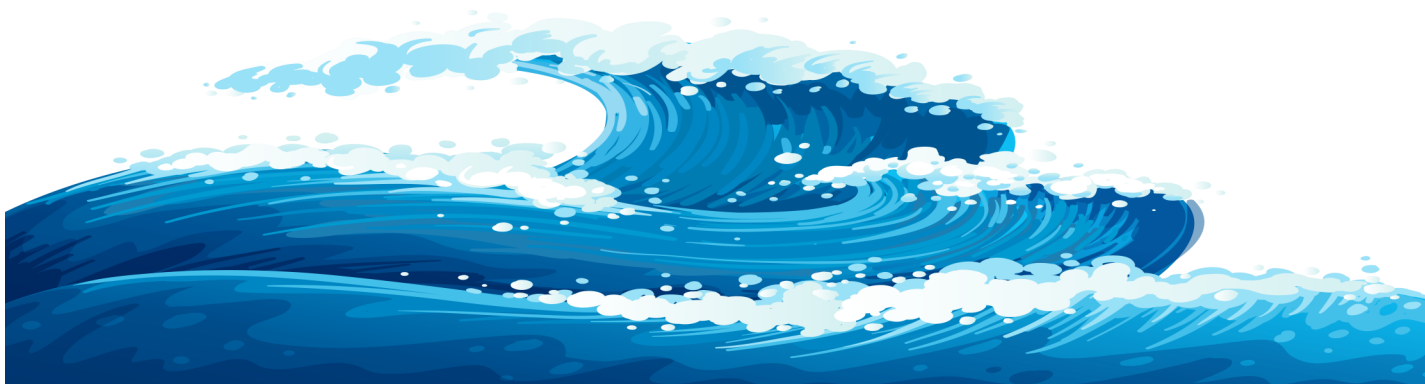
Just in time for the election, our lectionary gospel passage comes up with scripture that is very useful and challenging. One of the scribes overhears a conversation between Jesus and some of the other religious leaders, and actually believed he answered well, and said so. The scribes have a history of believing that Jesus is blasphemous, questioned who he ate with and even believed he had a demon. So this Sadducee deserves some props for having the grace to openly compliment Jesus on what he said.

How often can we do that with folks with whom we fundamentally disagree? How often can we say, "You are right" even to someone we love, let alone someone we don't, with whom we have previously found fault? It takes a lot of grace to be able to treat people with love, when we know they have views that we find abhorrent.

How do we love our neighbors with that kind of grace? How do we love them when we can't respect them? How do we love them when we feel like we can't even be around them because they make us so angry? And how do we go about admitting that they are right when they actually are? Imagine what can happen when we do. Maybe that's where we find some common ground. Maybe that's where we build respect for one another. Maybe that's where we build love for one another. We don't have to like everyone (even Dr. King said that), but we do have to love them. Not in a "feeling" way, not a warm fuzzy way like we love our mom, or a city, or ice cream, but in an "action" way. We need to treat people with love – meaning, first of all, to not retaliate against them in any way, but to be kind and respectful and open hearted to them. To do all of that is difficult – it takes vulnerability. But when we do, maybe the feelings of love will come. And then, we could be like the Sadducee, to whom Jesus says, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." Oooooohhhhhh. Drop the mic. That is good news, indeed.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth



The Wayne Oratorio Society will present their concert entitled: “A Sea Symphony”, by Ralph Vaughan Williams, on Saturday, November 2 and Sunday, November 3, both nights at 7:30 PM. This is a free concert, and a free-will offering will be taken. It will be held at the Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Lancaster Ave, Wayne, PA. For more details you may visit waynepres.org.

All Saints Sunday Offering

As we celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 3rd, the PSEC is receiving a special All Saints offering to help provide Health and Dental Benefits specifically for retired pastors (and their spouses) of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC. Some of these pastors who retire years ago are now in need of special assistance, because their retirement income is so low.

Your generosity will bring peace of mind and improved health to those who have served the church so faithfully in the past. Be a saint to those who have been saints, and support this vital ministry.

Pastor Beth will offer a discussion of feelings regarding the outcome of the election on Thursday, November 7 at 1:00pm. No judgment, just listening. Contact Pastor Beth with questions.

A ST. JAMES CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held after the Sunday morning service on November 17.

On November 19, there is a blood drive at the church. To make an appointment to donate blood, go to <https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/centers> or call 1-800-B-A-DONOR (223-6667).

Also on November 19 in the church parking lot, there will be a mobile mammogram unit. To make an appointment for this service, go to <https://towerhealth.org/services/breast-health/breast-imaging/mobile-mammography-coach> or call 1-833-34 TOWER.

On Friday night, November 22, St. James will once again host a Line Dancing Party at 7pm. Come on out and enjoy this event whether you are a beginning dancer or a seasoned participant.



The Women's Fellowship will once again be filling Christmas stockings for the local Salvation Army outreach.

They will meet on Saturday, November 23 at St. James at 10 am for this festive event.



Beth Biehl from Aging Resources, Inc. will be coming on November 24 and December 1 after worship to talk about what our options are as we age and find ourselves in need of change. Please bring a lunch or grab something from the coffee and conversation table and stay for this informative discussion. Any questions, ask Pastor Beth.

THANKSGIVING TUESDAY SERVICE will be held this year on November 26 at 7 pm. St. James has invited the congregations of both the Linfield and Royersford UCC churches to come and give thanks along with us for God's bounteous blessings. Rev. Caroline Bayshore will join Rev. Beth Eustis in conducting the service.



Women's Fellowship Events Next Month

Christmas Tea: Saturday, December 7 at 12 noon

This event will be held at the home of Donna Earnshaw, 18 Phaeton Way, Limerick, PA Please bring an exchange gift of \$15. A sign-up sheet will appear soon. PLEASE BRING A FEW DOZEN COOKIES TO SHARE.



Spiritual Library -The Little Free Library—Have you visited the Spiritual Library lately? We have added additional books and there is now a binder with categories and books listed under each one. Also visit the Little Library outside for casual reading.

You can provide or sponsor altar flowers to honor someone or an event, see Donna Serina or Beth Miller, altar guild volunteers for November.

Please **save the tabs** from your soda cans for Keira Serina. The tabs will be collected to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Philadelphia. A **jar** for this is on the table in the narthex.



The **Missions Committee** is seeking your help in determining the focus of our Mission Partners for the coming year (2025). Please be in touch with any of the committee (Jay Smith, Kristen Serina, Linda Kramer or Sandy Koenig) to let them know of your interest!

For our friends Heather Yates, Melissa Moore, Sang Hi Crater and others who are in long term care or unable to leave their homes. We pray for comfort, peace, healing, and companionship for each of them.

For our friends Vickie K, Debarah B, Dan S, Priscilla M, Daran B, Barb G, Shirley, Van S, Ken M, Brian S, Cheryl, Jim S, Alison L, Jackie, Dee L, Betsy R, Ginny T, JC, Paul M, Amy D, Barb M, Christine J, Barb G, Jean S, Michelle, Paul M, Bonnie, BJ, Ric F, Linda S, John K, Tabby, Karen, Phil, Dodie S, Carol T, Kork M, Don G, and all cancer survivors, we pray for treatment where it is possible and release from suffering where it is needed.

For our friends Kris B, Ruth B, Bettie, JT, Pete M, Wendel K, Elaine N, Michael S, Franklin R, Lorraine R, Marion H, Brian, Kenny B, Mary Lou B, Sonny B, Cathy M, and others with ongoing health concerns and challenging life circumstances. May they be reassured of God's presence through the support of our congregation.

Prayers for all veterans that are still suffering from PTSD and all other side effects from their service in the military.

Lord, we thank you for the healing you have given many of your children, but there are still so many dealing with health issues that need your healing. We know you hear our prayers and sometimes we get impatient when we don't get an answer right away. Help us to be more patient knowing things don't always go as quickly as we like, but still knowing all things happen in your time. We pray for all the people that have been affected with the storms and ask that you give them comfort and hope in the recovery of their lives. We pray for the Spirit's guidance each day and we pray for wholeness and healing of mind, body and spirit upon us all. We pray this in Jesus' name, 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 contacting Charlotte Fiedler by phone or email.

PRAYING FOR OUR FELLOW MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES

Initiated by St. James Prayer Team, each Sunday two church families are being included in the Sunday worship prayer time. You are invited to include these members and their families in your prayers throughout that week.

November 3— Kristen Focht and James & Amy Friemann

November 17— Charles Gridale and Donald Gridale

November 24— Charles & Marion Hentz and Colin & Jenna Homa

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|---|-----|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 Men's breakfast 8:30 am |
| 3 Worship service 10:15 am with Communion All Saints Sunday | 4 Gospel of Mark Bible study 1pm Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm | 5 Voting | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Worship service 10:15 am with Threefold Bless- ing | 11 Gospel of Mark Bible study 1 pm Boy Scouts 7pm | 12 Consistory meeting 7 pm | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Boy scouts sort postal food bank donations in nar- thex 9 am—2 pm Fellowship Din- ner 5 pm |
| 17 Worship service 10:15 am Congregational Meeting | 18 Gospel of Mark Bible Study 1 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Women's Fel- lowship fill stocking 10 am |
| 24 Worship service 10:15 am, fol- lowed by aging presentation by Beth Biehl | 25 Gospel of Mark Bible study 1pm Boy Scouts 7pm | 26 Thanksgiving service 7 pm AA 7 pm | 27 | 28 Thanksgiving | 29 Line Danc- ing 7 pm | 30 Advent decorat- ing |

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Colin Homa 24 Lisa Nuccitelli
8 Donna Earnshaw 26 Wendel Koenig
8 Celeste Friemann 27 Charlie Hentz
20 Mazie Myers
24 Eric Kramer
24 James Valerio



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2024 CONSISTORY

Richard Fiedler, President
Bob Walters, V. President
Kristen Serina, Secretary
Cindy Valerio
Ken Raspen
Jay Smith
Susan Myers
Laura Walters

Officers:

Tom Mogel, Financial Sec.
Margie Schweitzer, Historian
Jay Smith, Treasurer

Materials for the November Newsletter are due to the office on November 20th, 2024.

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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