



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LIMERICK, PA

OCTOBER 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.

⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.”

Mark 10:47-49

Dear St. James family,

One of the things we will be talking about in October is how we can be angel friends. What is an angel friend? The idea came to me from the movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*. George Bailey has an “angel friend” named Clarence who helped him to see that life is truly worth living, even though George was in terrible trouble. Clarence, in essence, told George, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” George self-identified as a man who doesn't pray, but by the end of the movie, he tearfully prays, “Please God, let me live again.”

Our blind friend Bartimaeus had many angel friends helping him. It doesn't seem that way at first, as they shush him to be quiet. But when Jesus tells them to call him (notice he doesn't just go over to him himself) he is involving the others in the healing. They tell him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” They have the chance to watch a miracle unfold right in front of them.

How do we do that? How do we tell someone “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” How do we become an angel friend? When we follow in the Way, we will be living again, not just existing. When we pray and listen and act on what we hear, Jesus will lead the Way. When we invite someone to worship with us, we are telling them, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” When we pray with someone, we are telling them, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” When someone feels like they have nowhere to turn, like George Bailey, we can say, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” The good news is that Jesus, our best angel friend, is indeed calling us. When we take heart and get up and answer the call, we will throw our old life down as Bartimaeus threw down his cloak and pick up new life. What a relief it will be to take heart, get up and answer the call of Jesus, who loves us just as we are, AND who loves us too much to leave us that way. Jesus will give us mercy when we have a desperate desire to be free, which we can then share with others – we too can become angel friends. Come and see.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth

Our **Thursday, October 3**, Mobile Mammography Coach visit to our parking lot has been postponed. More information will follow in next month's newsletter.

On **Friday, October 4 at 7:00**, Please join us for a wonderful evening of jazz and standards by the fabulous pianist Nina Siniakova! We are in for a treat! Nina is a recipient of numerous national and international awards, including Grant of NY Consul on Arts, First Prize and People's Choice Award at Andrey Petrov Symphonic Music competition in St. Petersburg, Russia (for Concerto for Two Violins and Orchestra), stipend of DAAD (German Students' Exchange Service), stipend of Exploring the Metropolis program NYC and many others. She has collaborated with numerous esteemed collectives and artists, including Orchestra 2001, Network for New Music in Philadelphia, Bachhanalia Baroque Ensemble, Melodia Women's choir in New York City, Bolshoi Theater Woodwind Quintet, Philharmonic Symphony orchestra in Belarus, as well as internationally celebrated musicians, opera diva Oksana Volkova, Belgian flutist Berten D'Hollander, and many others.



On **Sunday, October 6**, we will receive the Neighbors in Need offering. This offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Love of Church Unit to fund a wide array of local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct services projects. Through the national Love of Church Unit, <https://tinyurl.com/2bfytatb>, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), the Love of Church Unit continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our Native American neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in ND and SD, WI, and northern NE. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, MN. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

On **Mondays, October 7, and 28 at 1:00**, Pastor Beth will continue to facilitate a discussion on the Gospel of Mark. Come and join us!

On **Saturday, October 12 at 5 pm**, PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX for our monthly fellowship dinner with guest, Rev. Bill Worley, PSEC minister. He will join us for food and fellowship followed by a meaningful discussion on diversity, inclusion and what it means to be Open and Affirming.

See **October 20th and 22nd events** under Women's Fellowship on page 3.

On **Wednesday, October 23 at 6:45**, please join us as we welcome Dr. Greg Carey from Lancaster Theological Seminary (Pastor Beth's alma mater.) Dr. Carey will be discussing **Christian Nationalism: What It Is, How It Works, and Why It's Bad for the Gospel**. From his description: "You've likely been hearing a lot about Christian Nationalism lately, but there's a great deal of confusion about the term, what it means for American democracy, and what it means for Christianity. This session will explain the movement, place it in a historical context, and walk through the values and beliefs that shape it. We will also discuss why Christian Nationalism is bad for Christianity itself and how concerned Christians can respond." Any questions, please see Pastor Beth.



Pastor Beth will be joining the town hall meeting on Zoom regarding the **Keystone Project**, in which questions will be taken about the possible merger of the four PA conferences. If you do not do Zoom and want to join, she will be happy to meet you at the church to do so. Pastor Beth will be attending the **October 24 at 6:30 pm** meetings. Let her know if you would like to watch with her.

Saturday, October 26 is the day of our Fall Rummage Sale in Fellowship Hall, 8 am to 1 pm. See page 4 for more information.

On **SUNDAY, October 27 at 7:00pm**, we will have our next line dancing party! Join us for fun with special guest DJ Dan from DJ Dan Line Dancing, who will teach beginner dances throughout the evening along with favorite dances for the more seasoned. Cover \$10/\$5 for church members/friends. Stay tuned for future line dancing dates!

Women's Fellowship events

Harvest Home: October 20th As in the past, we will celebrate this event and God's bounty by decorating the sanctuary windows. Please sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board to decorate a window and beautify our sanctuary for autumn. Please decorate your windows after the October 13th service, but prior to the October 20th service. Please remove your decorations no later than after the November 17th service.

Join us in participation of **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends** event. Sell a ticket giving the recipient 10% to 25% off purchases at Boscov's on **October 22, 2024**. Tickets for the event can be obtained with a \$5 donation. Tickets are available prior to October 22 and at the store on October 22. We are looking for your help by selling tickets prior to the event or to volunteer to man the table in the store on October 22. Your participation will help make this a profitable fundraiser for St. James! See Donna Serina to obtain tickets.

Fall Rummage Sale: October 26th 8 - 1PM All donations can be dropped off at the church and put in the 2nd Sunday School Room on the left going down the hall towards the Fellowship Hall. Anyone needing items picked up please call CINDY VALERIO AT 484 374-5962. see page 4...

Women's Fellowship Events continued

Rummage Sale information continued:

NO tv's, computers, or mattresses, please. Donations of hand held desserts like **cookies, brownies or cupcakes** would be greatly appreciated to sell with our food items. These donations may be delivered during the set up time on Friday or when the event begins at 8 am on Saturday.

Fill Stockings for Salvation Army, November 23, 10 am more information to follow.

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 in church sometime soon. **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.

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- * Volunteers are needed to read Scripture during the service, see Charlotte Fiedler
 - * The church is in need of used highchairs or booster seats, see Charlotte Fiedler
 - * The worship committee is seeking new members, see Charlotte Fiedler
 - * You can provide or sponsor altar flowers to honor someone or an event, see Laura Walters, altar guild volunteer for October.

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 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 Bettie, JT, Millie A, Pete M, Sherry K, John B, Michale S, Judy, Franklin R, Lorraine R, Shaun, 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 come to you with praise and thanksgiving. We thank you for the healing of many and pray for all who are still struggling with medical issues. We pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones and friends. Fill them with your comfort and peace. We pray for all who are being affected with wars that peace may be found. We pray that you continue to guide and walk with us through our greatest needs. Help us to spread our love to all we meet. 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.

October 6 — Sang Hi Crater and Patti Dalina

October 13 — Nancy Dunning and Donna Earnshaw

October 27 — Beth Eustis and Charlotte & Richard Fiedler

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 Men's breakfast 8:30 am Spiritual Training class 9-11 am
6 Worship service 10:15 am with Communion	7 Gospel of Mark Bible study 1pm Boy Scouts 7pm	8 Consistory meeting 7 pm	9	10	11	12 Fellowship Dinner 5 pm
13 Worship service 10:15 am	14 Pastor Beth on vacation through 10/21 Boy Scouts 7pm	15	16	17	18	19 Spiritual Training class, 9-11am
20 Worship service 10:15 am with Dennis Keen Harvest Home Sunday CropWalk 1 pm in Spring City	21 Boy Scouts 7pm	22 Women's Fellowship Bosco's fundraiser day	23 rummage sale set up Christian Nationalism with Greg Carey, 6:45pm	24 rummage sale set up	25 rummage sale set up	26 Fall Rummage Sale 8 am -1 pm
27 Worship service 10:15 am, budget hearing Line Dancing 7-10pm	28 Bible study 1pm Boy Scouts 7pm	29 AA 7 pm	30	31		

THE DISCIPLINE OF MEDITATION

From Richard Foster's book "Celebration of Discipline"

If we hope to move beyond the superficialities of our culture, including our religious culture, we must be willing to go down into the recreating silences, into the inner world of contemplation.

Christian meditation, very simply, is the ability to hear God's voice and obey his word. In meditation we are growing into a familiar friendship with Jesus. Meditation opens the door at specific times, the aim is to bring this living reality into all of life. It is a portable sanctuary that is brought into all we are and do.

Submitted by Charlotte Feidler

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Betty Meyers	23 Hannah Serina
9 Keith Schell	27 Paul Meyers
11 Kiera Serina	27 Dianne Savitsky
12 Rugene Caldwell	28 Linda Bevan
21 Sang Hi Crater	30 Kevin Brightbill
21 Beth Miller	

ANNIVERSARIES

3 Richard & Amy Sarfert
25 James & Cynthia Valerio
26 Mark & Donna Pinto
31 Bob & Laura Walters

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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 October 22nd, 2024.

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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