



# ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## LIMERICK, PA

### MARCH 2025 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.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.”

Luke 6: 22, 25

---

Dear St. James family,

In early March we are going to talk about Luke’s version of the Beatitudes. You know, “Blessed are the poor...” “Blessed are those who are hungry...”

Now when we think blessed, we think happy. Wait - the poor should be happy? The hungry should be happy?

I think what people often forget is to read the whole sentence. “Blessed are those who are poor, *for theirs is the kingdom of God.*” “Blessed are those who are hungry, *for they shall be filled.*”

And Luke, unlike Matthew, also adds some woes. “Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.” Back in Jesus’ time, and today, it was thought that if you were rich, it was because God favored you. And yet Jesus is saying in Luke, “Woe to the rich.” But notice that the woes are the reverse of the blessings, like the two verses above. “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.” “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.” When the rich become hungry, will they not be filled? When the rich weep, will they not laugh again? Will they not become the blessed? I see a cycle here.

Scholar Justo Gonzalez calls this a “‘hard-hitting gospel’ in that God’s good news to the poor is also tough news for those who are not poor.” Let us remember that the folks Jesus was talking to were probably all poor. The rich were few and far between, and probably felt very far away because they may not have had dealings with them, as many of us do not have dealings with the super rich. Also, maybe Jesus says “woe to the rich” for the chance of reaching them is slim, because they probably think they do not need God because they already have everything. Like some wealthy people now.

The good news is that blessings and woes come in cycles. We all experience them. We will not always be happy, but we won’t always be sad either. When we put God first and our wealth second, whatever that may mean to us, the kingdom of God will be closer than ever.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

We will be having an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 5 at 7 pm. This is a very meaningful service where we contemplate how to honor Lent this year. We will have a receiving of ashes, and a “letting go” ceremony. If you need a ride to this event, please see Pastor Beth.

---

### **After Worship Sermon Chat**

On March 9, Pastor Beth will host an after-worship sermon chat. Everyone will be given a pencil and paper and are encouraged to write down questions and comments that come to them during the sermon and stick around



### **Limerick Garden of Memories Presentation**

**Shawn Towell**, from Limerick Garden of Memories will be coming after worship on March 16 to talk about the importance of making arrangements for the end of our lives, whether our own or our family members. At one point, many years ago, a St. James member donated a number of plots. Although we gave back the unused plots a year or two ago, Shawn is still willing to honor this donation. None of us are too young to start thinking about it. Please plan to stay.

---

### **Midweek study will read *Waking Up White***

Pastor Beth will be facilitating a discussion for our Midweek Study on the book *Waking Up White - Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. This is an engaging true story of a wealthy white woman and how she learned about race and the experiences she went through to better educate herself as a white woman. Please buy your own copy of the book. We will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 via Zoom and in person at the church. Class will begin on Wednesday, March 19.

---

### **Line Dancing Party**

Our next line dancing party will be on a Friday in late March. Please see your bulletin for updated details.



Thank you to all those who contributed seed for the Moringa community project in Africa. Over 56 seed packets were collected as of February 18.



Thank you to all who contributed canned foods to our Souper Bowl drive. The cans were given to Project Outreach's Food Bank in Royersford.



Women's Fellowship wishes to thank all who gave women's toiletries to honor Women's Month, during February. They were given to Project Outreach in Royersford.



St. James UCC Limerick welcomes new member, Douglas Santeramo-Mead. Douglas recently moved to the area after traveling the US for the previous year. He works in marketing during the day. In his spare time he likes to cook, hike, play with his pets, and play music. He came to the Presbyterian church as a child after being introduced to it from the Boy Scouts. He's excited to be a new member of the church and to get to meet everyone!



## DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please note these changes to the church directory.

+J. Arbogast email is sky-

rocket41@icloud.com



### Traditional Irish blessings and sayings

submitted by Charlotte Fiedler

- \* “May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face.”
- \* “May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow., and may trouble avoid you wherever you go.”
- \* “May you always have walls for the wind, a roof for the rain, laughter to cheer you, and those you love near you.”
- \* “May love and laughter light your days and warm your heart and home.”
- \* “May the roof above us never fall in, and may we friends gathered below never fall out.”
- \* “For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way—good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day.”
- \* “A good friend is like a four-leaf clover: hard to find and lucky to have.”
- \* “May luck be your companion and troubles be few. May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light.”
- \* “May you have all the happiness and luck that life can hold—and at the end of your rainbows, may you find a pot of gold!”



**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.

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.



---

*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 Zev K, Ruth Ann W, 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 Baby John, Judy, Tom M, Ivan S, Laura W, Pete M, Wendel K, Elaine W, Marion H, Mary Lou B, Sonny B, 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 before you with praises and thanksgiving. We thank you for the healing you have given many of your children and ask that you continue to heal those that need your healing. We pray for those that have lost loved ones and friends, that you give them peace and comfort. Help us to take time to be still and listen to you. We pray for your Spirit's guidance each day in all we say and do. We pray for wholeness and healing of mind, body and spirit upon us all. In Jesus' name we pray. 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.

March 2— Diane Phelen and Evelyn Phelen

March 9— Donna & Mark Pinto and Ken & Diane Raspem

March 16—Joy Rubeo and Douglas Santeramo-Mead

March 23—Richard & Amy Sarfert and Dianne Savitsky

March 30 - Margaret Schweitzer and Donna Serina

CALENDAR

MARCH

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b> Men’s breakfast 8:30 am
<b>2</b> Worship service 10:15 am , communion	<b>3</b>  Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 1 pm midweek study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Fellowship dinner 5 pm
<b>9</b>  Worship service 10:15 am, Girl Scout Sunday, sermon chat	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 1 pm mid week study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Consistory Re-treat 9-12
<b>16</b> Worship service 10:15 am with special music by John & Kass Boles Shawn Towell presentation	<b>17</b>  St. Patrick’s Day  Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>18</b>  BS leaders monthly mtg 7 pm FH	<b>19</b> 1 pm midweek study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Women’s fellowship 10 am
<b>23</b> Worship service 10:15 am	<b>24</b>  Boy Scouts 7 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 1 pm misweek study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Worship 10:15						



## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

4 Amy Sarfert  
6 Jenna Homa  
21 Evelyn Phalen  
24 Richard Fiedler  
31 Patti Dalina

5 Cindy Valerio  
8 Diane Raspen  
23 Violet Terbush  
26 Charlotte Fiedler



---

### **2025 CONSISTORY**

Richard Fiedler, President  
Cindy Valerio, Vice. President  
Kristen Serina, Secretary  
Jay Smith,  
Marilyn Jorgensen  
Bob Walters  
Susan Myers  
Paul Meyers

#### **Officers:**

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

---

**Materials for the April 2025 Newsletter are due to the office on March 23rd, 2025.**

---

### **CONTACT THE CHURCH**

321 South Limerick Rd.  
Limerick, PA 19468  
610-489-0990

[www.stjames-ucc.org](http://www.stjames-ucc.org)

*Rev. Beth Eustis*

[pastor@stjames-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@stjames-ucc.org)

*Music Director/Organist: Donna Pinto,*  
[music@stjames-ucc.org](mailto:music@stjames-ucc.org)

*Church office hours*

Tues. & Thurs. 1pm—4pm

[office@stjames-ucc.org](mailto:office@stjames-ucc.org)

**“Like” us on Facebook!**

[www.facebook.com/stjamesucc](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesucc)

Love Is...

a poem by Rosalee Sinn

Love is the softness of snow  
And the warmth that we feel after being cold  
Love is a lifetime of caring and tenderness that comes at unexpected moments  
Love is holding the hand of the one you love  
It is holding each other close in the middle of the night.  
Love is forgiveness and struggle  
Love is touching and feeling and being  
And the laughter of children and the smile of a friend  
Love is family  
the tears that we cry—the joys that we share  
Love is remembering how the ocean sounds  
And how it feels to sit on a quiet beach in the sun  
Love is a summer breeze  
And awe as the moon rises over the horizon  
Love is Life  
We flourish in its presence and grow in its sadness and beauty.

submitted by S. Koenig, who writes, “Rosalee visited our congregation probably 15 years ago when she was with Heifer International and working in Germantown. She was known as ‘The Goat Lady’ in her work at Heifer where she worked over 40 years. Her husband, Paul, was a UCC Conference Minister in Rhode Island.”

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

