

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LIMERICK, PA

APRIL 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.

“³Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

John 12:3

Dear St. James family,

In early April, we’re going to talk about how Mary of Bethany loves Jesus with extravagance. She did not concern herself with what other people thought, or about the cost. What about us? Do we love Jesus with extravagance? Extravagance can look crazy or wasteful. Do we do that? Or do we think to ourselves, “Well, I’ll go this far with Jesus, but that’s it.” Are we up for loving Jesus without worrying about the cost (financial, timewise, emotional or otherwise)? Are we up for making changes? Jesus loves extravagantly. Can you imagine if Jesus said to God, “Well, I’ll do miracles but I’m not dying on a cross.” Or “I’ll heal the blind guy but not the leper?” When we love Jesus with extravagance, we show that love every day, through our prayers, spiritual practices, the way we treat each other, the way we treat the marginalized, and the way we treat Jesus himself. We don’t have to have a lot of money to love extravagantly – we just have to have a lot of love. When we pray, listen and act on what we hear, we learn to love others, and ourselves, with an extravagant love that we would never have thought possible. The kind that Jesus loves us with. Extravagant love that is unconditional. Unconditional love. Unconditional forgiveness. Unconditionally reckless and crazy. And it’s for everyone. Everyone.

The good news is that Mary of Bethany loves Jesus extravagantly and he accepts her and loves her in return, even a woman who would have the nerve to anoint a man yet to die, to pour a ton of expensive perfume on his feet and wipe it up with her hair that she wasn’t supposed to show as an act of thanksgiving for raising her brother from the dead, and as an act of extravagant love for him. Clearly, Mary of Bethany didn’t care about cost or tradition when it came to Jesus. She cared about love. And she showed him her love in an unforgettable way. And she did it before he actually died. May we show our loved ones how we love them with such extravagance, whatever that may mean to us, and do it before it’s too late. And may we love Jesus extravagantly, with our commitment, time, talents, money and everything we have.

Mary of Bethany shows us the Way.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth

Please note that Pastor Beth will be on vacation from April 21 through April 28. Kathy Jachowski will preach on Sunday, April 27.

Integrate for Good

On Sunday, April 6 after worship, we will be welcoming Erin Black and others from the non-profit Integrate for Good (Integrateforgood.org) According to their website, Integrate for Good is a nonprofit organization that empowers students and adults of all abilities to share their talent through inclusive volunteerism, community leadership, and stable employment. Please plan on staying and meeting new friends and discovering a possible new volunteering opportunity.

Watch *The Chosen* with us!

Our study on Season One of *The Chosen* has wrapped up, but the class liked it so much that we have decided to move on to Season Two. This class will meet on **Thursdays at 1:00** via Zoom and in person here at the church starting **April 3 until May 29**. Everyone is welcome—don't worry if you haven't seen Season One. And please tell your friends—all our classes are open to the community. If you would like to join us for season two, please let Pastor Beth know and she will send you the link and the questions we will be talking about in class.

Holy Week Services

Please join us for Holy Week as we remember the last week of Jesus' life, his crucifixion and resurrection! Palm Sunday is on April 13 at 10:15, the Maundy Thursday service is on April 17 at 7:00 pm, and Easter Sunday on April 20 at 10:15. For our Maundy Thursday service, we will meet in the narthex and sit at a cross-shaped table to share communion, readings, and music during a service that gets progressively darker, until we leave in the dark and silence. If you've never experienced it, please come and share with us in one of the most moving and beautiful services of the year.



After Worship Sermon Chat

On April 13, 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 after worship for group discussion.

Readers are needed for the April 17th Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex if anyone can help out with this.

Rummage Sale

We will need people to help set up tables and start to put out items on Thursday and Friday, April 24 and 25. We will start at 10 in the morning. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Fiedler.



The Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, April 26, from 8 am to 1 pm. Please continue to bring in your donations of sale items and put them in the second classroom. Individual baked goods and jewelry are needed.

March Sermon Chat

Our first Sermon Chat was a packed room discussing a difficult topic these days—Politics and the Pulpit. We had a respectful discussion which yielded some wonderful ideas, including time and space for prayer and meditation outside of worship, to offer more opportunities to share our feelings, and to create times where we just have fun together. Because in spite of what is happening in the world around us that feels overwhelming, there is still beauty and joy, and ways to get closer to God and to feel more at peace.

To that end, please save the following dates:

***Friday, May 2 at 1:00—prayer and meditation time facilitated by Pastor Beth—stay tuned for more details

***Monday, May 19 at 1P00—a grief support group facilitated by Pastor Beth. This group will be for those who have suffered loss— of a loved one, a job, a marriage. This will be separate from the support group we are planning on to talk about what is going on in our country and the world. Please stayed tuned for details on that.

***Also coming up—**board game night**—date TBA

Please let Pastor Beth know if you have other ideas for bringing more peace, joy and beauty in the world.

Midweek study on the book *Waking Up White*

Pastor Beth is currently facilitating a discussion for our Midweek Study on the book *Waking Up White - Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. We meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 via Zoom and in person at the church.

Line Dancing Party

Our next line dancing party is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 18 at 7 pm. Check your bulletin announcements for updates.



Jesus Came

Jesus came so that we could receive the ultimate gift of grace. He took the jeering, crowds, the beatings, the nails, and our death sentence, so that we could live.

It's beautifully said in 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV), "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

In the midst of everything we are going through as a country and a global community, Jesus is King. It looks dark. The sun seems to be setting with no end in sight. But my friends—Sunday is still coming.

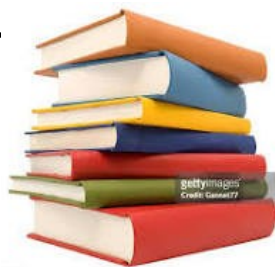
It looked dark to Jesus' followers that day. It looked like the Messiah, the Promised One, was dead. Hope seemed lost. They didn't understand. His followers couldn't see that with every stripe, Jesus was working. They couldn't see that with every bruise, He was working.

Sunday is *still* coming.

The stone placed in front of the tomb. What they could see seemed hopeless. But behind the scenes, God was moving. The keys to death were taken, the veil was torn, and Jesus was working.

Courtney Weaver, The Ministry Spark Team

Submitted by Charlotte Fiedler



Spiritual 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 don't forget about our Little Free Library outside by the pavilion.

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 Carolyn, Scott, Judy R, Bonnie, Zev K, Ruth Ann W, Vickie K, Debarah B, Dan S, Priscilla M, Daran B, Barb G, Shirley, Van S, Ken M, 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 Laura M, Donna E, Dianne S, Russel B, Baby John, Judy, 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 give you praises and thanksgiving for all your many blessings. We thank you for the healing that you have given and are still giving to many of your children. There are so many that are still suffering in many ways, and we ask that you be with them. Sometimes we put our busy lives first instead of us putting you first and taking time to just be still and listen to you. Help us to take time. We pray for your Spirit's guidance 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.

April 6— Kristen Serina and Michael Serina

April 13— Jay & Gail Smith and Clinton Starkey

April 20— Michael & Michelle Terbush and James & Cynthia Valerio

CALENDAR

APRIL

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 The Chosen season two study, 1 pm	4	5 Men's breakfast 8:30 am
6 Worship service 10:15 am Integrate for Good presentation	7 Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm	8 Consistory meeting 7 pm	9 1 pm midweek study	10 The Chosen season two study, 1 pm	11	12 Fellowship dinner 5 pm
13 Palm Sunday Worship service 10:15 am Sermon chat	14 Boy Scouts 7pm	15	16 1 pm mid week study	17 The Chosen season two study, 1 pm Maundy Thursday service w/ communion 7 pm	18	19
20 Easter Worship service10:15 am. communion	21 St. Patrick's Day Pastor Beth vacation through April 28 Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm	22 BS leaders monthly mtg 7 pm FH	23 no midweek study Rummage sale setup begins	24 No Thursday study Rummage Sale set up 10 am	25 Rummage Sale set up 10 am	26 Women's fellowship rummage sale 8 am—1 pm
27 Worship service 10:15 am with Kathy Jachowski	28 Boy Scouts 7 pm	29	30 1 pm midweek study			

MARCH BIRTHDAY

31 Melissa A. Moore

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 Bob Walters
12 Diane Phelen
17 Melissa Moore

8 Kristen Serina
12 Michael Terbush
18 James Friemann



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

17 Russell & Barbara Brightbill
21 Paul & Betty Meyers
24 Jay & Gail Smith

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.
Jay Smith, Treasurer

Materials for the May 2025 Newsletter are due to the office on April 21st, 2025.

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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www.stjames-ucc.org

Rev. Beth Eustis

pastor@stjames-ucc.org

Music Director/Organist: Donna Pinto,
music@stjames-ucc.org

Church office hours

Tues. & Thurs. 1pm—4pm

office@stjames-ucc.org

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www.facebook.com/stjamesucc

MUSIC NOTES

The Wayne Oratorio Society
invites you to an extraordinary season finale
on April 26 & 27, 2025 (7:30PM),
featuring “Mass in D” by John Knowles Paine (1839-1906).
Mark & Donna Pinto will again be participating.

Wayne Presbyterian Church. 125 E. Lancaster Ave. Wayne, PA 19087

As a founding figure of American classical music and the first U.S.-born composer to gain international recognition for large-scale orchestral works, Paine was a member of the influential “Boston Six,” a group of composers who significantly shaped American concert music. Paine’s Mass in D is a groundbreaking piece bridging 18th/19th century European musical traditions and America’s emerging musical identity. Composed between 1859-1866, in his twenties and heralded in Europe as a triumph, this work firmly laid the foundation for future generations of American composers. Although widely popular during his lifetime, Paine’s works dwindled into obscurity as twentieth-century modernism took hold. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to experience the live rediscovery of America’s first classical choral masterwork!

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