



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LIMERICK, PA

May 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.

¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep" ... ¹⁹...And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

John 21:17,19

Dear St. James family,

The scripture above is my very favorite of all time. I love the intimacy of the scene when Jesus and Peter have a very important conversation.

Peter has always been my favorite disciple. He is very, very human. He makes mistakes constantly. He messes up badly. And yet, he would be the one in Acts to lead the movement after Jesus is gone – the rock. I loved this passage even more as I learned that Jesus's three questions to Peter – Do you love me? – are Jesus' way of erasing the three times that Peter denied Jesus. This was Jesus' way of forgiving Peter. And calling him to tend his sheep, even after all he has done.

But this isn't just about Jesus forgiving Peter. Jesus is asking Peter, "Do you love me enough to sacrifice your life for me?" After all, Jesus said that the highest form of love is to lay your life down for your friends.

Biblical scholar Frank L. Crouch notes that "This kind of love...involves an inherent expectation of 'doing.' Love is as love does. This is love as courage, love as risk, love as not wavering, regardless of what we are called to do. Christ calls Peter and us, as individuals and as communities of faith, to follow him even where we would not otherwise go, even where we might not want to go. The times in which we live are no time for 'we have never done it that way before,' no time for returning to what we are used to. These times, more than ever, are times that call for the best love of God, friends, neighbors, and enemies that we can muster. Or, better yet, these times cry out for the love to which God calls us and that God will bring to life within us for the sake of others."

The good news is that when we talk to and listen for God and act on what we hear, we will be filled with that kind of love, the kind of love that lays down our life for our friends – the deepest love of all.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth

A time of *meditation and prayer* will be held on **Friday, May 2** at 1 pm, in person and on Zoom. This will include a devotional, spoken and silent prayer and music. If you are looking for some peace in the midst of the crazy, please come and invite your friends.



We are bringing back
game night!

Please join us on **Saturday, May 3 at 6:30!** We will provide games and snacks, but please feel free to bring your favorite game and/or a snack to share as well.



On **Sunday, May 4** after worship, we will be welcoming Caleb Gaither as he makes a presentation.

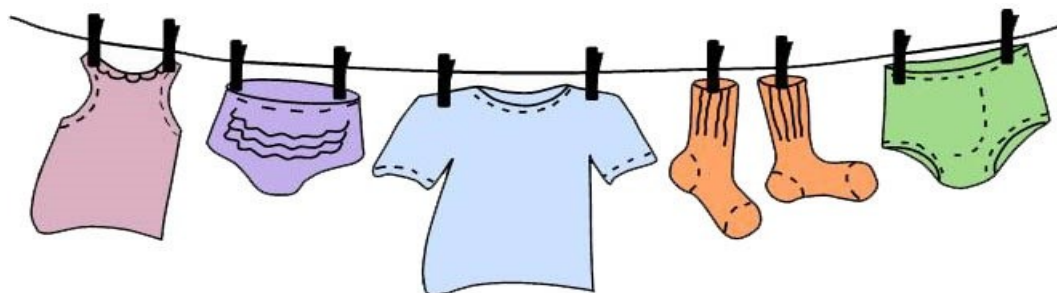


Line Dancing Party - get your boots ready!

Our next line dancing party will be on **Friday, May 9** at 7 pm.

Undie Sunday

On Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 11th**, we'll be collecting new underwear for local woman, men, and children in need. This year donations will be going to the Salvation Army Shelter in Pottstown. Donations can be placed in the clothes basket, located in the Narthex.



Women's Fellowship of St. James will be hosting a **plant exchange** on Saturday, **May 17** at 10 am at the church.



After Worship Sermon Chat

On **May 18**, 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.

Pastor Beth will be facilitating a ***grief support group*** once per month beginning Monday, **May 19** at **1:00**. This will be for folks suffering from a loss due to death, divorce, loss of a job, etc. This meeting will be separate from the meetings of support for what is going on in our country.

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 through **May 21**. 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.

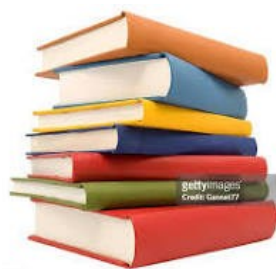
Midweek study on the book *Waking Up White*

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.

St. John's Lutheran Church, 355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville, PA invites you to attend the annual "St. John's Choir & Friends" concert on **Sunday, May 4**, at 7:00 P.M. This year's program features the music of John Rutter, highlighted by his Requiem accompanied by The Providence Chamber Orchestra and harp. The concert concludes with Rutter's sublime "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" joined by the strings of the orchestra. Several St. James singers will be participating, including Donna Pinto, Mark Pinto, Diane Raspen, James Johnson, and Rebecca Roberts.



St. James is again happy to be hosting the Coventry Community Chorus, as they perform their spring concert on **Friday evening, May 30**, at 7:30 pm. All are invited to attend.



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 Michael, 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 Barbara B, Jill, Dora, Ruth B, Patrice, Jaclyn, Laura M, Donna E, Dianne S, 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.

May 4— Bob & Laura Walters and Lillian Weidner

May 18— Millie Alderfer and Jean Arbogast

May 25— Linda Bevan and Gregory Borneman

CALENDAR

May

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<div>1</div> <div>The Chosen season two study, 1 pm</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Meditation/Prayer 1 pm</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Men’s breakfast 8:30 am Game Night, 6:30 pm</div>
<div>4</div> <div>Worship service 10:15 am, communion Caleb Gaither presentation</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>1 pm midweek study</div>	<div>8</div> <div>The Chosen season two study, 1 pm</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Worship service 10:15 am with Rev. Cynthia Strosahl</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Boy Scouts 7pm</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Consistory meeting, 7 pm</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Midweek study, 1 pm</div>	<div>15</div> <div>The Chosen season two study, 1 pm</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Line Dancing 7-10 pm</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Women’s Fellowship plant exchange 10 am</div>
<div>18</div> <div>Worship service10:15 am. Sermon chat</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Grief Support group 2:30 Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm</div>	<div>20</div> <div>VOTING</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Midweek study, 1 pm</div>	<div>22</div> <div>The Chosen season two study, 1 pm</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div> <div>Worship service 10:15 am</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Boy Scouts 7 pm</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Coventry chorus rehearsal, 7 pm</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Last Chosen study, 1 pm</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Coventry Chorus Concert 7:30</div>	<div>31</div>

MAY BIRTHDAYS

10 Thomas Mogel
12 Michele Turbush
13 Linda Kramer
15 Donna Pinto
23 Michael Serina
25 Clinton Starkey
26 Hannah Iannozzi
29 Susan Myers



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

11 Carl & Mae Mogel
21 Richard & Charlotte Fiedler
25 Jan & Patricia Dalina



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 June 2025 Newsletter are due to the office on May 19th, 2025.

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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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

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