



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LIMERICK, PA

JUNE 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.

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

John 14:8-9

Dear St. James family,

On June 1, we will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday – a week early. As I will be away on June 8, I figured this would be a good idea.

So on Pentecost Sunday, we will be talking about John 14, where Philip asks Jesus to produce the Father and the disciples will believe. Today, Jesus would be doing a big face palm here. How could the disciples still not get it?

It made me wonder why they would still be looking for proof of God. Are they not praying and listening? Don't they have their own experiences of God? After one or three years with Jesus (depending on which gospel you're reading), you would think so. And yet...

Which made me wonder...did the disciples pray and listen for God? The answer – I don't know. The scriptures don't talk about that. We know that Jesus prays and listens because he often goes off by himself to pray, and he says he does nothing on his own but only through the Father who works through him. And when we follow Jesus, we, too, can pray and listen and act on what we hear.

When we listen for God, and we listen and act on what we hear often enough, we will be able to trust God more and more. When people want to know, how do we know God exists, this is how we know. Our experience. We don't need to see physical proof of God, we need to experience God. Now we can experience God in tangible ways, in ways we can see, hear and touch. When we read something profound in a book, or listen to a particular song, or talk to a good friend in an authentic and meaningful way, we can experience God.

So why wouldn't the disciples be engaging in this practice? Were they just waiting for Jesus to step in all the time? Maybe. Part of the reason Jesus had to leave is so the disciples can be alone with God, to develop their own relationship and their own ministries, with the Holy Spirit, Jesus in spirit form, coming to help and guide them through. The good news is, the Holy Spirit can also help us to develop our own relationships with God and our own ministries. Jesus never left the disciples alone, and doesn't leave us alone either. Thanks be to God!

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth

On **Sunday, June 1** there will be a congregational meeting following the service.

Sock-It-To-Me Sunday will be held on Father's Day, **June 15**. On that day we will be collecting new socks for men, women, and children in need. Donations can be placed in the clothing basket in the narthex.



Our annual **church picnic** will take place on Sunday, June 15 after worship, in the pavilion, weather permitting. Otherwise, it will be held in the narthex. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex for what you would like to bring and how many people from your family will be attending.



June marks ONE YEAR since we started having **line dancing parties**! So grateful for everyone who's been coming out and having fun learning this great activity! Our June date is not scheduled yet – please keep your eyes peeled on your bulletins for more information. It will be later in the month. Stay tuned! TBA

Starting on **Sunday, June 22**, worship will begin at **9:30 am**. This will continue until September 14, Celebration Sunday, when we will return to 10:15 worship. We will also be having a **baptism** on June 22 of one of the Raspen grandchildren – please plan to attend!



The **Women's Fellowship Potluck Dinner** will be held on **Monday, June 23** at 5 pm at the church.



JUNE events

Sunday, June 1—Celebration of Pentecost Sunday, communion, congregational meeting

Monday, June 2 through Monday, June 9, Pastor Beth off on continuing education time

Tuesday, June 3—7 pm Missions committee meeting

Saturday, June 7—Men's breakfast

Sunday, June 8 - guest minister, Rev. Dennis Keen

Tuesday, June 10—7 pm Consistory meeting

Sunday, June 15—Father's Day, Sock-It-To-Me Sunday, church picnic

Sunday, June 22—**worship service time moves to 9:30 am**, baptism of Evelyn Raspen

Monday, June 23—5 pm Women's Fellowship Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, June 24—1 to 6 pm Blood Drive

Saturday, June 28—Grace & Peace ice cream social in the pavilion, see below

Sunday, June 29—9:30 am worship service with Pastor Beth

On **Saturday, June 28** at 7 pm in the pavilion, Grace & Peace church will host a presentation by their former pastor Bill, who will tell about his recent missions trip to Malawi, Africa. Ice cream will be served, and the congregation of St. James has been invited to join them.



After Worship Sermon Chat - On **July 20**, Pastor Beth will hold 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.

A new heaven and a new earth

from The Upper Room “Disciplines”

In Revelation John had a vision. His vision is an attempt to point out what is so very wrong with the world around us and to call us to change.

Doing new things has a lasting impact on our brains. We know a lot more about the brain than we did even twenty years ago, and one major recent finding is that we can impact the way our brain functions and rewire the brain through activities like meditation or simply thinking about things in a new way.

Through repetition and focused attention, we can change the patterns in our brain and the way we automatically think about things. Many of our problems exist or are made worse by rigid thinking patterns and inflexibility. When we do new things or think about things differently, we open ourselves to the potential power in Christ to change the world around us.

Making changes can be difficult, however. Our brain likes to take shortcuts and default to its usual ways. By maintaining a focus on God’s vision of a new creation, however, we can be encouraged to make small adjustments in our thoughts and behavior that bring us closer to God’s vision. With practice, these small changes grow and grow, allowing God to work through us to bring about this new creation here on earth.

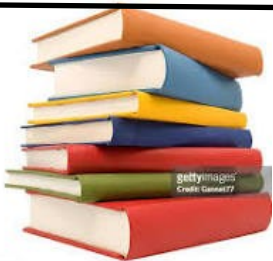
It may take some intentionality and repetition to make changes.

Sometimes we stick with what feels comfortable because it feels safer or easier. Being willing to do something new or say something different is only the first step. God is moving and active in our lives, and we can safely move into new places too.

God, you are making all things new. Nudge us toward change that helps us participate in your work to bring change to our hurting world. Amen

Submitted by Charlotte Fiedler

A note from Charlotte for the **hospitality committee**: we will not be having a potluck dinner in June, but will be having our church picnic on June 15 after church. The signup sheet in the narthex will help to determine how many hot dogs and rolls to purchase. Two highchairs are available if needed. Please see Charlotte with any questions, looking forward to seeing everyone.



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, Ruth Ann W, Vickie K, Debarah B, Dan S, 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 Carolyn, Diane, Mae, Jim C, Gloria P, Barbara B, Ruth B, Laura M, 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.

June 1— Ruth Borneman and Janet Brandell

June 15— Kevin Brightbill and Russell & Barbara Brightbill

June 22— Melissa Broughton and Rugene Caldwell

June 29— Ted Conner and Sang Hi Crater

CALENDAR

JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div>1</div> <div>Worship service 10:15 am, communion, followed by congregational meeting.</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Girl Scouts 5:30</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Missions meeting</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Men’s breakfast 8:30 am</div>
<div>8</div> <div>Worship service with Rev. Dennis Keen, 10:15 am,</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Consistory meeting, 7 pm</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div>
<div>15</div> <div>Worship service 10:15 am , Sock It To Me Sunday Church Picnic Father’s Day</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Boy Scouts 7pm</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Boy scout leaders meeting, 7 pm</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>
<div>22</div> <div>Worship service 9:30 am. Evelyn Raspen baptism</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Women’s Fellowship potluck supper 5 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Blood drive 1—6 pm</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <div>Worship service 9:30 am</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Boy Scouts 7 pm</div>					

DIRECTORY UPDATE—please add: Lisa Kahudic, lisakahudic@gmail.com
610-209-4842

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 Jack Focht
6 Sherry Kulp
6 Zachary Sarfert
26 Peter Iannozzi
29 Evelyn Iannozzi



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

3 Michael & Michele Terbush
15 Edward & Susan Myers



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 July/August 2025 Newsletter are
due to the office on June 24th, 2025.**

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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www.stjames-ucc.org

Rev. Beth Eustis

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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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