



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LIMERICK, PA

JULY/AUGUST 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.

Dear St. James family,

As many of you know, I spent the first week of June in Ocean Grove, NJ for a silent retreat. For some of you, that may sound heavenly and for others, it may sound like, well, hell. For me, it was absolutely heavenly. This is my third retreat, and for the first time, I looked forward to the silence.

So what do you do on a silent retreat? First, let me tell you what you don't do. You don't talk, and you don't use devices. I can hear a collective gasp – no talking and no phones?? So, yes, my beloved phone was turned off and put in a drawer for the whole week. Can't imagine your life with no devices? I advise you to try it – it's surprisingly liberating.

Now on to what I did do. I went to the beach every day for a few hours to watch the ocean and do some people watching. I walked on the boardwalk every evening, I read two full books and did a lot of writing. All while not talking – not even to myself. The exception to this is that I got to speak with my amazing spiritual director, Leigh, every day for an hour. In all of this silence, in all of this not talking, in all of this not using my phone, I had the opportunity to let God talk to me. And talk to me, God did! You will hear all about what God said in five reflections starting July 6 and going through August 10.

And what did I learn while I was there? I learned to rely on God more and less on myself. I learned that God's plans for my day are much better than mine. I learned that I need to escape from the world more often. And I learned that I needed to put down my phone more often, which I am doing. I also learned the difference between "Doing" and allowing myself to "Just Be." You will hear more about all of this in worship in the coming weeks.

In doing these retreats, I have learned that I need to have a yearly "spiritual tune-up." We talk about this during Advent and Lent, but being able to really get away by myself is the most effective way for me to do this. While it isn't always practical to go on a week-long retreat, I recommend trying it for a weekend. The benefits of the silence are well worth it.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth

Summer Camps at St. James

We are so pleased to welcome Limerick Township Parks and Recreation to St. James as they will be holding summer camps the week July 7 and for two weeks in August. Also, our sister church, Grace and Peace, will be holding Vacation Bible School the week of July 21. It's so great to see our wonderful property being used by our community!



Pastor Beth will be going to General Synod from July 11-15.

Cynthia Strosahl will be preaching on July 13.

Pastor Beth will be on vacation from August 25 - September 7.

Rev. Dennis Keen will be preaching on August 31 and Coleen Painter will be preaching on September 7.



Thursday, July 17 is St. James' week to assist with the Project Outreach Food Pantry in Royersford. Volunteers who are able to lift things are welcome, as well as those who can't, but all are needed to offer a cheery smile and welcome. To help, please be at 410 Washington Street at 9:30 am. Call Project Outreach at 610-948-5111 and speak to Michelle for more details.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Please note this address and telephone number change in your church directory:
Ruth Borneman, 610-405-7197, 3015 Congo Road, East Greenville, PA 18041

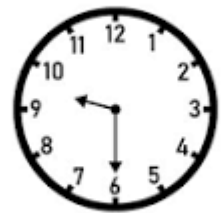


After Worship Sermon Chat - On Sunday, July 20, Pastor Beth will hold an after-worship sermon chat. Everyone will be given a pencil and paper and are encouraged to write down questions and comments that come to them during the sermon and stick around after worship for group discussion.

When our summer outdoor service weeks are scheduled, we will need volunteers to help set up folding chairs in the pavilion for these services. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your help in this way.



Through July and August, worship will begin at **9:30 am.** This will continue until September 14, Celebration Sunday, when we will return to 10:15 am worship start time.



July **line dancing party**: possibly Friday, July 25, 7-10 pm.

Stay tuned for confirmation of the date.

August **line dancing party**: some Friday in August 7-10 pm. TBA

If Christ is risen, then we are called to rise, too...

If Easter arrived when the world was ready, it would never have come at all. The first Easter morning broke into a world of occupation and unrest, grief and fear. It did not wait for things to settle down. It did not wait for peace. The stone rolled away in the midst of it all.

And so it is today. We wake up to news of war, of division, of a world groaning under the weight of sorrow. We bring our spices to the tomb, expecting to tend to the dead. But Easter does not allow us to stay there. It insists that life is still breaking through, that the worst thing is never the last thing.

Resurrection is not an escape from reality but a deeper plunge into it. If Christ is risen, then we are called to rise, too—not just in spirit, but in action. To be people who mend, who heal, who insist on hope even when it seems absurd.

So look around. Somewhere a stone is being rolled away. Somewhere, life is stirring beneath the rubble. Easter is not just a promise—it is a summons. Christ is risen. Now, what will we do about it?

Written by Rev. William (Bill) Worley, PSE Conference Minister

submitted by Pastor Beth

Trust in the Slow Work of God

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—and that it may take a very long time. And so I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

Written by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. (1881-1955)

submitted by Pastor Beth

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, Scott, Judy R, Bonnie, Ruth Ann W, Vickie K, Debarah B, Daran B, Barb G, Shirley, Van S, Ken M, Cheryl, Jim S, Alison L, Jackie, Dee L, Betsy R, Ginny T, JC, Paul M, Barb M, Christine J, Barb G, Jean S, Michelle, Paul M, Bonnie, BJ, Linda S, John K, 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 Patrice C, Sang Hi C, Rugene C, Kile S, Carolyn, Diane, Mae, Barbara B, Ruth B, Laura M, Dianne S, Baby John, 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.

July 6— Patricia Dalina & Nancy Dunning

July 20— Donna Earnshaw & Bill Rippert

June 27— Heena Esmail and Beth Eustis

August 3— Richard & Charlotte Fiedler & Kristen Focht

August 10— Charles Grisdale and Donald Grisdale

August 17— Charles & Marion Hentz and Colin & Jenna Homa

August 24— Hannah & Peter Iannozzi and James Johnson & Rebecca Roberts

CALENDAR

JULY/AUGUST

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 Men's breakfast 8:30 am
6 Worship service and communion with Rev. Beth, 9:30 am	7 Lim twp summer camp all week Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm	8	9	10	11 Pastor Beth away 7/11-15 general synod	12
13 Worship service with Cynthia Strosahl, 9:30 am	14 Boy Scouts 7pm	15 Boy scout leaders meeting, 7 pm	16	17	18	19
20 Worship service with Rev. Beth, 9:30 am, Sermon Chat	21 G/P VBS 9 to noon all week Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship service with Rev. Beth, 9:30 am	28 Boy Scouts 7 pm	29 Consistory Meeting 7 pm	30	31	August 1	2 Men's breakfast 8:30 am
3 Woship service and communion with Rev. Beth, 9:30 am	4 Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7 pm	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship service with Rev. Beth, 9:30 am	11 Lim. Twp. Summer camp all week Boy Scouts 7 pm	12 Boy Scout leaders meeting, 7 pm	13	14	15	16
17 Worship service with Rev. Beth, 9:30 am	18 Lim. Twp summer camp all week Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7 pm	19	20	21 Endowment committee meeting	22	23
24 Worship service with Rev. Beth, 9:30 am	25 Rev. Beth vacation through 9/7 Boy Scouts 7 pm	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship service With Rev. Dennis Keen, 9:30 am						

JULY BIRTHDAYS

3 Nancy Ewing
7 Patrick Miller
12 Joanne Levering
15 Lillian Weidner
21 Kristen Focht
24 Russell Brightbill, Jay Smith
28 Charles Grisdale
29 Margaret Schweitzer

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 Laura Walters
26 Richard Sarfert
29 Audrey Grace Smith
29 Marilyn Jorgensen



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

31 Kenneth & Diane Raspen

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

17 Charles & Marion Hentz
30 Philip & Joanne Levering



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 September 2025 Newsletter are due to the office on August 26th, 2025.

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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

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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Limerick, PA 19468