



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LIMERICK, PA

SEPTEMBER 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,

On Sunday, September 14, we will be having Celebration Sunday! (More information on page 2.) We will be celebrating the treasures of St. James, from the congregation's perspective. Now some of us may find it hard to celebrate. There's a lot going on out in the world, and there are some challenges here at St. James. We're getting older and while we have welcomed some new members, we have lost many more since 2019, for a number of reasons. It's getting harder to find the people to do the things we need to do. And some of us are becoming ill and are not able to come to worship and other events anymore. Some of us are tired. So what is there to celebrate?

God. God is always something to celebrate.

When we are happy, God is there. When we are sad, God is there. When the world is a mess, God is there. When we welcome a new baby, or a new job or a new home, God is there. When we are tired, God is there. When we are ill, God is there. God helps us to carry on when we are overwhelmed. God is with us when we rest. God is with us in the hospital, God is with us at home, God is with us at work, God is with us when we are in ministry – helping those who are hungry and thirsty, standing up for those who need justice, praying and listening for our own transformations – individually and collectively. That is something to celebrate!

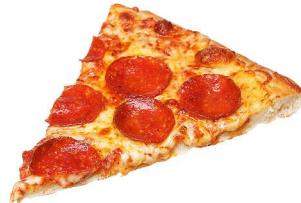
I mentioned in a reflection over the summer that I felt I had everything, but if I lost everything, I would still have God. That never changes. God doesn't leave us when circumstances change. God doesn't leave when things get bad, or when things get good. God celebrates with us in the good times and cries with us in the bad times. We can celebrate our ever-present companion who, thank God, never leaves us alone. Even if we ordered God to leave us alone, God wouldn't. God won't go. God is closer than our next breath. God is in the air, so, God can't leave. That will never change. That is something to celebrate.

We should always celebrate, every day, that God is with us. Even when nothing is going right, God is with us. Knowing that God is with us and can help us create wine out of water, create a way out of no way, create light where we can't see, point us in the right direction when we don't know which way to go, will be a comfort in this topsy turvy world. That is something to celebrate.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth

Sunday, **September 14** is Celebration Sunday, when we will celebrate the treasures of St. James! We will celebrate with worship at our regular 10:15 time with communion, followed by a catered lunch of pizza, baked ziti, and salad from Dimitri's in Royersford, followed by an amazing concert at 1:00 by the West Chester Swing Kings! This will be a joyous day and a great time to invite friends, family and neighbors to St. James! Come and see!!



Mike Teti Presentation

We are delighted to welcome Mike Teti to St. James after worship on **September 21!** Mike serves as a volunteer tour guide for the Independence Historical Trust at the Independence National Historical Park and also as a docent at Carpenters' Hall in Old City. Mike will be telling us about the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Navy and Marines scheduled for this fall in Philadelphia, the city of their origin! HomeComing250.com has coordinated the festivities, and Mike will outline the plans, and discuss the historical context of their establishment in Old City Philadelphia. Please see the link below for schedule of events:

<https://www.homecoming250.org/schedule-of-events/>

Sara Melton Presentation

Please stay after worship on **September 28** when Sara Melton, the Managing Director of Organizing, will be joining us to introduce herself and POWER Interfaith to the congregation. She will share about POWER Interfaith, their work, values, and why faith-based community organizing is vitally important to creating a community and state where all people can thrive. She will invite us to think about our own values and experiences living in Pennsylvania and to imagine a state where all people can prosper.

Midweek Study – The Heart of Christianity

Our Midweek Study is back on Wednesday, **September 17** at 1:00 in person and via Zoom! We will begin a study on Marcus Borg's book, *The Heart of Christianity*. This book discusses what Borg calls the "earlier paradigm" and the "emerging paradigm" of Christianity. It is an easy and engaging read – please bring your own copy. Any questions, contact Pastor Beth.

Season Three of The Chosen

We will be back to watching and discussing season three of The Chosen! Pastor Beth will send a link to each episode on Sundays (or you can just find it on your own!) to be watched ahead of time along with questions we will discuss on Thursdays. The next session will begin on Thursday, **September 18** at 1:00 in person and via Zoom. Please let Pastor Beth know if you have questions.

Women's Fellowship will be participating in the "Friends Helping Friends" fundraiser sponsored by Boscov's. For a \$5 donation, you get a ticket to receive discounts at Boscov's on the day of the event, **October 22, 2025**. Tickets are available now for purchase. The day of the event we are stationed at Boscov's at a table to sell tickets there. A sign-up sheet for 2 hour sessions to cover the whole day will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets or participating in the event, please contact Donna Serina, 610-948-8340.



On **September 14**, Celebration Sunday, we will return to **10:15 am** worship start time.



September's **line dancing party** will be on a Friday near the end of September from 7-10 pm. Look for more information in the bulletin.

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1 Peter 4:10)

Dear PSEC Friends,

With the help of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call who drafted much of the information that follows, I have VERY important and history-making news to share.

This past Friday something momentous occurred: the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Keystone Conference of the UCC. This all-day meeting took place at St. Thomas Church in Linglestown and accomplished a wide variety of mission-critical tasks.

The 16-member Board spent time in fellowship and prayer, shared stories, and got to know one another. Following lunch the official board meeting began. The new Board worked well together immediately. First on the agenda, the election officers. The positions of Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary were filled by a member of each current Conference. They are Dave DeRemer (Chair, PNEC); DiAnn Baxley (Vice-chair, PCC); Deborah Long (Treasurer, PW), and Bob Ames (Secretary, PSEC).

The Board approved staff job descriptions and named most of our Conferences' current administrative staff to their positions: Sue Creswell (Executive Admin), Brea Rarick (Admin Region 1 Assistant & data-keeper), Paul Keller (Admin Region 2 Assistant & Social Media Coordinator), Andrea Kopak (Part-Time Administrator for Region 3). The Board also elected Rev. Dr. Carrie Call to serve as the Transitional Executive Conference Minister (TECM) alongside Rev. Kevin McLemore (Region 1), Rev. Dr. Nora Foust (Region 2), and Rev. David Ackerman (Region 3) as Transitional Regional Conference Ministers (RCMs). The remaining 2 part-time leadership positions and the Bookkeeper will be named by September.

The Board voted on the location of the Keystone office (Harrisburg), discussed lingering Constitution and Bylaws questions, chose a temporary Nominating Committee to create a slate for the 11/22 state-wide business meeting, adopted an investment policy, reviewed and accepted the Budget for 2026 (to be voted on by all Conference members via Zoom on 11/22), chose the new Keystone Logo (from 4 finalists submitted by members across the Conferences – to be revealed soon), and chose dates for upcoming monthly Board meetings. They also began planning a Board weekend retreat for January. Finally, they reviewed a list of remaining financial, governance, and mission tasks that must be completed before January 1. The next Board meeting is September 8.

This work has been years in the making. The generally smooth yet sometimes lurching process demanded much of the Keystone Working Group and the four Conference Ministers. It also demanded tenacious faith in the reality of God's activity in our lives and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our work. Thank you, good people of Pennsylvania Southeast, for walking this journey. Thank you for showing up at Town Hall meetings, asking questions, sending emails, reading updates, praying, challenging assumptions, and ultimately, for voting to make this real.

Mark your calendars for the first Keystone Conference meeting **June 5-7, 2026** at Millersville University and for our PSEC Farewell Celebration Service on **Saturday, November 8** (at St. Paul's, Douglassville) for a time of remembrance, celebration, and thanksgiving for the 60+ years of amazingly faithful Conference ministry.

With the Peace of Christ,

Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister

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 John R, Rob W, 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, 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 D, Diane R, Erick, Diane, D, Lorraine, Ron, Maryland, Jenna H, Sang Hi C, Diane, Mae, Barbara B, Ruth B, Laura M, Dianne S, Pete M, Wendel K, 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.

Condolences to the family and friends of Pete Mogel.

Lord, we come before you with praises and thanksgiving for all your many blessings. We come to you as we lift up all that are still struggling with health issues many at home and in the hospital and ask your healing upon them. I pray that you be with their families, it is very difficult to see a loved one suffer. We give thanks for all that have been healed and made well. We ask healing for our country and all the people suffering. 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 home-bound and hospitalized members. Let us know if you would like to add or renew a request by contacting Charlotte Fiedler by phone or email.

“...and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” I Thessalonians 5:16-18

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.

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| September 14 | Lisa Kahudic and Wendel & Sandy Koenig |
| September 21 | Eric Kramer and Linda Kramer |
| September 28 | Sherry Kulp and Phil & Joanne Levering |

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

2025

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| | <div>1</div> <div>Pastor Beth away until 9/8</div> <div>Girl Scouts 5:30</div> <div>Boy Scouts 7pm</div> | <div>2</div> <div>Missions Committee Meeting</div> | <div>3</div> | <div>4</div> | <div>5</div> | <div>6</div> <div>Men's breakfast 8:30 am</div> |
| <div>7</div> <div>Worship service with Rev. Coleen Painter, 9:30 am</div> | <div>8</div> <div>Boy Scouts 7pm</div> | <div>9</div> <div>Consistory Meeting 7 pm</div> | <div>10</div> | <div>11</div> | <div>12</div> | <div>13</div> |
| <div>14</div> <div>NEW START TIME BEGINS Celebration Sunday Worship service and communion with Pastor Beth, 10:15 am Luncheon Swing Kings 1 pm</div> | <div>15</div> <div>Girl Scouts 5:30</div> <div>Boy Scouts 7 pm</div> | <div>16</div> <div>Boy Scout leaders meeting 7pm</div> | <div>17</div> <div>Midweek study begins, 1 pm</div> | <div>18</div> <div>The Chosen Study, 1 pm</div> | <div>19</div> | <div>20</div> |
| <div>21</div> <div>Worship service with Pastor Beth 10:15 am Presentation by Mike Teti</div> | <div>22</div> <div>Boy Scouts 7 pm</div> | <div>23</div> | <div>24</div> <div>Midweek study 1 pm</div> | <div>25</div> <div>The Chosen study, 1 pm</div> | <div>26</div> | <div>27</div> |
| <div>28</div> <div>Worship service with Pastor Beth 10:15 am Presentation by Sara Melton</div> | <div>29</div> <div>Girl Scouts 5:30</div> <div>Boy Scouts 7 pm</div> | <div>30</div> | | | | |

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Ken Raspen, Sr.
10 Millie Alderfer
17 Marceline Homa
20 Tony Nuccitelli
26 Donna Serina



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

19 Peter & Hannah Iannozzi



2025 CONSISTORY

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

Officers:

Tom Mogel, Financial Sec.
Jay Smith, Treasurer

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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“Like” us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/stjamesucc

Materials for the October 2025 Newsletter are
due to the office on September 22nd, 2025.

FEASTING ON SILENCE

Here are two quotes from the book “Even God Rested” by Kim Thomas

“True silence is the rest of the mind; it is to the spirit what sleep is to the body: nourishment and refreshment.” William Penn

“Not merely an absence of noise, Real Silence begins when a reasonable being withdraws from the noise in order to find peace and order in his inner sanctuary.” Peter Mindard

Submitted by Charlotte Fiedler

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