



# ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## LIMERICK, PA

### OCTOBER 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.

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Dear St. James family,

In October, we will be discussing grief, trust (or not being able to trust), persistent pursuit of justice and the use of the word “All” as in, “All \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_.” Use your imagination on that one.

I find all of these topics to be difficult to address in this newsletter. Grief, whether for a personal loss or a national one, is difficult. Wondering if people who need our help are acting in good faith is difficult. Pursuing justice like the Persistent Widow takes, well, persistence. And learning to stop putting whole groups of people in a box is also difficult.

Recently, I was going through something difficult and I found myself having a “Come to Jesus” moment with myself, remembering a number of situations that God got me through, not even by the skin of my teeth, but with flying colors. My ordination exam, my Comprehensive Vocational Review in seminary (the most stressful hour and a half of my life), the summer of 2019 and all of 2020. After the summer of 2019, I finally understood what people meant when they said, “My faith got me through.” Keeping in constant communication with God, listening and acting helped me to know I was not alone. God guided me to the people who could help me. It was very challenging and stressful, I cried a lot. So it wasn’t that I just sailed through without feeling through the feelings. God helped me feel them through. (So did my therapist.)

Where is the good news in all of this? The good news is that God is with us in our grief, God is with us when we deal with people who do not act in good faith, that God is with us and can give us courage to stand up for justice like the Persistent Widow, and that God’s love is for “ALL” people, regardless of what we have done, or said. When we talk to God and listen and act on what we hear, we will be able to deal with all of these difficulties and more. Jesus will show us the Way.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth

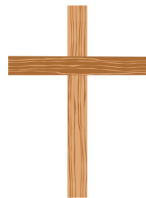


### POTLUCK DINNER

On October 11 we will resume our potluck dinners at 5:00. There will be a sign-up sheet on the board.

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Join us every Wednesday as we are reading and discussing *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg. We meet at 1:00PM in person in the Consistory Room, as well as on Zoom.



You can also join us on Thursdays where we are watching and discussing season three of *The Chosen*. We meet at 1:00PM in person in the Consistory Room, as well as on Zoom.

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This year, St. James will once again be participating in the Royersfor/Spring City CROP WALK on October 19th at 1PM. To join the St. James team, go to the 2025 CROP Hunger Walk website, click on "Join or Start a Team" and under "Find an Existing Team to Join" type "St. James UCC Limerick". To donate in support of a member of the St. James team, go to the 2025 CROP Hunger Walk website and click on "Make a Donation". Then you can type "Jay Smith" or another member who has registered under "Is this in support of a particular participant in the CROP Hunger Walk?". If you have any questions, please contact Jay Smith or Kristen Serina.



Our Fall RUMMAGE SALE will be on Saturday, October 18th from 8AM to 1PM. Donations can be dropped off at the church and placed in the Sunday School room (2nd door on the left going down the hall). Donations of hand held baked goods would be appreciated. Setup for the sale will be October 16th at 9:30AM. Help is always needed and appreciated. If we do not finish setting up on the 16th, we will finish on the 17th. If

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**October LINE DANCING:** Join us on Friday, October 3rd from 7-10 pm for a night of music, dancing, and fun!



### CHILDREN BOOKS

We are looking for children's books for the Little Library outside. They can be given to Charlotte Fiedler.

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After Worship Sermon Chat - On Sunday, October, 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.

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



Harvest Home will be celebrated on Sunday, October 19th. We will be collecting canned goods and imperishable items for Projects Outreach, which we will arrange in front of the altar, as we give thanks for God's bounty. Also, a signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex to volunteer to decorate a windowsill in the sanctuary for Harvest Home.



Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct services projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. We will be having this Missions Offering in conjunction with World Communion Sunday, on October 5th.

J Chatman??? October 12th

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From PSEC eNews 09/09/2025**From the Conference Minister:**

*“And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” Luke 15*

Pharisees and scribes grumble about Jesus’ reckless hospitality. Instead of getting defensive, he tells stories. A shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to go after one. A woman turns her whole house upside down to find a single lost coin. Both stories end the same way — with rejoicing.

I thought of those stories when I read the latest research about Millennials and the church. For years, the narrative has been about their absence: that they are the "lost generation" to religion, how they are spiritual but not religious, how Sunday mornings belong to brunch and yoga. But something is shifting. A growing number of data points shows a resurgence in church attendance among young adults. After years of searching outside, many are slipping back inside — not always to the churches of their childhoods, but to communities where the gospel feels like good news.

It makes me wonder if the joy of the shepherd and the woman was not only about recovering what was lost, but also about seeing with fresh eyes what had been taken for granted. The ninety-nine were never less loved, the other nine coins never less valuable. Churches don’t last without the tried and true. But when the missing one(s) shows up, it reorients the whole household around joy. New church member classes can have that effect.

Maybe that is what we are being invited into now. To stop wringing our hands about church decline long enough to notice resurrection breaking in where we least expected it. To see in these Millennials not just the return of "the lost," but the reminder that God is still in the business of seeking and finding, of stirring hunger and calling people home. And for us to join God in that by making sure our worship services, bible studies, community outreach and all other forms of “church” are ready to receive the searching. My deep joy is that several of our UCC churches already are. My deep sadness is that too many are not.

When I listen closely I can almost hear the sounds Jesus describes — laughter echoing through heaven, neighbors called in from the street, angels breaking into song — because one sheep has been found, one coin recovered, one generation reminding us that God’s story is never finished. Neither, thankfully, is mine. And neither is yours. That is great news to share.

Thanks be to God,  
Pastor Bill

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 Franklin R, Sherry K, Jenna H, D, Lorraine, Jenna H, Sang Hi C, Diane, Barbara B, Ruth B, Laura M, Dianne S, Wendel K, Marion H, Mary Lou 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.

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### 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.

October 5	Paul & Betty Meyers and Beth Miller
October 12	Mae Mogel and Thomas Mogel
October 19	Melissa Moore and Melissa A. Moore
October 26	Gail Moser and Edward & Susan Myers

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2025

			1 Midweek study 1 pm	2 The Chosen Study, 1 pm	3	4 Men's breakfast 8:30 am
5 Worship service with Pastor Beth, Communion, 10:15 am	6 Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7pm	7	8 Midweek study 1 pm	9 The Chosen Study, 1 pm	10	11  Fellowship Dinner 5 pm
12 Worship service with Pastor Beth, 10:15 am, followed by presentation by Johnathan Chatman	13 Boy Scouts 7 pm	14 Consistory Meeting 7 pm  Boy Scout lead- ers meeting 7pm	15 Midweek study 1 pm	16 The Chosen Study, 1 pm	17	18
19 Worship service with Pastor Beth 10:15 am, Harvest Home Sunday 1 pm CROP walk at First UCC, Spring City	20 Girls Scouts 5:3- Boy Scouts 7 pm	21	22 Midweek study 1 pm	23 The Chosen study, 1 pm	24	25
26 Worship service with Pastor Beth 10:15 am	27 Boy Scouts 7 pm	28	29 Midweek study 1 pm	30 The Chosen Study, 1 pm	31	





## **OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

3 Richard & Amy Sarfert  
25 James & Cynthia Valerio  
26 Mark & Donna Pinto  
31 Bob & Laura Walters

## **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

4 Betty Meyers  
11 Kiera Serina  
12 Rugene Caldwell  
21 Sang Hi Crater  
23 Hannah Serina  
27 Paul Meyers  
27 Dianne Savitsky  
28 Linda Bevan  
30 Kevin Brightbill



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### **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

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**\*Materials for the November 2025  
Newsletter are due to the office on  
October 20th, 2025.**

### **CONTACT THE CHURCH**

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*Music Director/Organist:*  
*Donna Pinto, mu-*  
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[office@stjames-ucc.org](mailto:office@stjames-ucc.org)

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## 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

St. James United Church of Christ  
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