

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LIMERICK, PA

DECEMBER 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.

The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 5b-7

Dear St. James family,

The scripture from Philippians above says to not be anxious about anything. How's that working for you? How do we seek the peace of Christ this Advent? Stay tuned. For some context, biblical scholar Carla Works gives some helpful background here. She notes that Paul is in prison when he writes this letter to the Philippians, who are worried about him and about one of their own, Epaphroditus, who came to visit Paul in prison and almost lost his life for it. As you can imagine, the Philippians are anxious. There is so much that is unknown. The unknown. Boy, that's enough to make us anxious right there, isn't it? When we or a loved one are in the hospital and we don't know what's happening or how or when things will get better. When we have a family member or friend suffering from substance abuse disorder. When we are out of a job and don't know how we're going to make ends meet. The unknown is scary. Paul and the Philippians were also in a state of the unknown. How was this going to go down? Was Paul going to die in prison? How would the Philippians carry on? What about Epaphroditus?

What happens to us when we get anxious? I don't know about you, but I have a bad tendency to ruminate. Sometimes when I'm anxious or worried, the worries go round and round in my head and I sometimes have trouble getting rid of them. How do we stop ruminating and find peace? Paul talks about certain things we can think about instead. Like what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent or worthy of praise. How does thinking about those things help us to gain peace? When we put all of these qualities together, what do we have? God. God has all of those qualities - true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent and worthy of praise.

So I'd say being able to talk to God is a good start. It's a good way to get our peace, and keep it. When we talk to God every day, listen for what God has to say, and act on what we hear, we will be on the way to having the peace of Christ that we all want and need this Advent. This is the good news.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth



December's Special Music

We're going to have lots of Special Music in December. Come and hear:

12/14 - 49ers Chorus *see page 4

12/21 - Joe Ciresi

12/24 - Pastor Beth and Mark Pinto duet

12/28 - Hymn Sing plus special piano solo by Donna



Thank you to all who participated in the blood drive last month!



Pastor Beth will be on vacation from **December 25th to January 4th**



The Wish List for the Bethany Children's Home Christmas is on the board in the narthex. This has always been a rewarding time of year for us to help with this mission. Contact Charlotte with questions.



Thanks to everyone who helped with stuffing the Christmas bags for the Salvation Army and donating the items. We made 25 bags for children and 25 bags for adults! The Salvation Army was extremely grateful.

Mark and Donna Pinto would like to invite you to attend The Wayne Oratorio Society presents Handel's *Messiah*, performing on **December 6th and 7th** at 7:30pm. This is a *free* concert, with a Free-Will Offering taken, at Wayne Presbyterian Church at 125 E. Lancaster Ave. Wayne, PA 19087.



On Sunday **December 7th**, Dr. Samantha J. Wesner, a doctorally prepared certified registered nurse practitioner will share with us her spiritual journey and the testimony of God's presence in shaping her career and life. Dr. Wesner has over 37 years experience in healthcare and her fascinating career has led her from nursing roles in community hospitals to teaching aspiring nurses to a senior vice president and chief health officer position at a local college. Please join us as we listen to her story and God's work in transforming her life and career.

Women's Fellowship will be having a Christmas Tea at the home of Bill and Donna Earnshaw 18 Phaeton Way Limerick PA 19468 610-764-4688. You are asked to bring a gift wrapped for the Christmas exchange, some Christmas cookies or bars, a side to share for lunch, Donna and Bill will provide the tea and the tea sandwiches, and bring a container to take home some cookies. **December 13th** at noon. Come celebrate the Christmas season with fellowship and fun.



Please return your vote for your top 3 favorite Christmas carol choices from our Worship & Rejoice book no later than Sunday, **December 14th** to Donna Pinto for the Hymn Sing on December 28. You can write them down, or email them to pintomd@msn.com. Donna will select the ones that get the most votes to sing that day.

Hark, how the bells, sweet silver bells ... Join us in the sanctuary on Friday, **December 19th** at 7:30 as the Coventry Community Chorus fills our hearts with Christmas Spirit! Please invite family and friends to this delightful annual tradition!
Submitted by Diane Raspen



Come one, come all! Our Christmas pageant will be back this year for our **Christmas Eve** service at 4:00! If you haven't seen it before, we will be presenting an all ages, interactive pageant – complete with costumes for everyone who wants one and no rehearsals needed! We will have the reading of the Christmas story along with the singing of many of our favorite Christmas carols as we create a live nativity scene. There will be a sign up sheet if you would like to reserve your angel, shepherd or animal costume. Otherwise, be sure to come in early and pick the costume of your choice and get ready for a fun and meaningful time, complete with Silent Night and candlelight!

A Successful “Scouting for Food” Collection to Support Our Community

The Scouting for Food program is an annual event led by Scouting America (formerly known as Boy Scouts of America). Each year, on the first Saturday of November, the Scouts place flyers and bags on mail-boxes throughout their communities requesting food donations, and collect it a week later – just in time to fill cupboards for Thanksgiving!

Each year our sponsored Scout group - Troop 10 - embraces this challenge with passion. Our community stepped up with their donations as well. On November 15, in total, the Scouts collected 5,577 food items, weighing close to 5,200 lbs. This represents a 10% increase from last year! They also put in 240 hours of service for the event this year.

Thanks to St James UCC, as always, for providing an amazing location enabling the Scouts to meet, collect, sort and deliver critical food supplies to local pantries and help our neighbors in need.

Submitted by Lisa Kahudic



Biography of The Forty Niners Chorus

The 49ers Chorus was founded in 1952 and has been delighting audiences for close to 75 years throughout Chester County with repertoire of live music, including classic and contemporary works. It was originally created as a couples group but turned into something so much more.

The 49ers Chorus is a mid-sized ensemble, with approximately 15-20 singers. Our repertoire includes many styles of music, and we've performed with the Lukens Band of Coatesville PA, for many years. Our annual Christmas show is a Chester County tradition. In the spring, we go on the road to senior living communities in and around the Chester County area.

We are a multi-generational group, ranging in age from mid-20s to the 80s, and we enjoy each other's company both on and off the stage. We are known for our energy, versatility, and storytelling, the 49ers have a tradition of staging and performing our own shows every season.

Under the new direction of Lyndsey Holmes, the 49ers consistently strive to uphold their mission to foster excellent singing and impactful storytelling while engaging communities in the vibrancy of the choral arts through Harmony, Humor, and Heart.



Prayer Concerns

For our friends Rugene Caldwell, Ruth B, 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.*

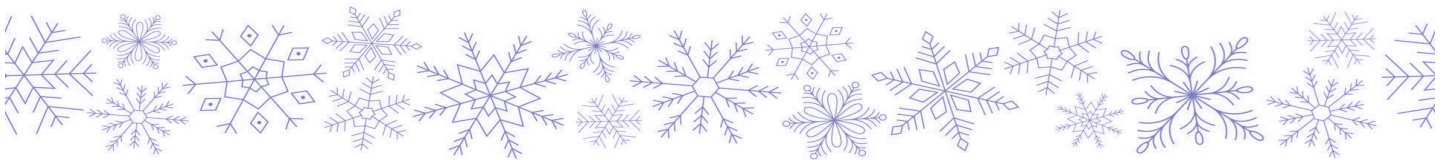
For our friends Steve, Kile, Millie A, Steve R, Kile S, John R, Rob W, Michael, Scott, Judy R, Bonnie, Ruth Ann W, Vickie K, Debarah B, Daran B, Barb G, Shirley, Van S, Ken M, Cheryl, Jim S, Alison L, Jackie, Dee L, Betsy R, Ginny T, JC, Paul M, Barb M, Christine J, Barb G, Jean S, Paul M, Bonnie, BJ, 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 Hannah I, Sherry, Jean A, Millie A, Baby Adelina, Charlotte F, Ron G, Robert B, Barbra B, Franklin R, Sherry K, Jenna H, D, Lorraine, 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 thank you for the healing you have given many, not only on our prayer list but beyond. We ask that you continue to heal those that are still struggling with health issues, concerns and fears. Continue to be with those that have lost loved ones, comfort them and give them peace. We ask healing for our country as well as those who are enduring wars. Lord, we give you thanksgiving for all your many blessings, many we take for granted. Continue to walk and guide us through our greatest needs. 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 Sandy Koenig or 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.

December 7—Kristen Serina & Michael Serina

December 14—Gail and Jay Smith & Clinton Starkey

December 21—Michele, Michael, Violet, and Rosemary Terbush & Cynthia and James Valerio

December 28—Laura and Robert Walters & Lillian Weidner

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

2025

	1 5:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Scouts	2 Missions Meeting	3	4	5	6 8:30 Men's Breakfast
7 10:15 Worship Service 11:30 Dr. Samantha Wesner Presents	8 7:00 Scouts	9 7:00 Consistory	10	11	12 Setup for Christmas Dinner	13 Christmas Dinner
14 10:15 Worship Service 1:00 Eagle Scouts	15 5:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Scouts	16 7:00 Scouts in FH	17 6:00 Coventry Community Chorus Rehearsal	18	19 5:00 Coventry Community Chorus Christmas Concert	20
21 10:15 Worship Service 1:00 Eagle Scouts	22 7:00 Scouts	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 Christmas Pageant 6:00 G&P in Sanctuary	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27
28 10:15 Hymn Sing Worship Service	29 7:00 Scouts	30	31 New Year's Eve			



December Birthdays

7 Emily Focht
9 Beth Eustis
10 Mae Mogel
11 Rosemary Terbush
21 Gregory Borneman
22 Ruth Borneman



December Anniversaries

None this month

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

CONTACT THE CHURCH

321 S. Limerick Rd. Limerick, PA 19468
www.stjames-ucc.org

Rev. Beth Eustis (610) 457-3603 or pastor@stjames-ucc.org

Pastor Beth would love to hear your questions and comments. Please email to make an appointment.

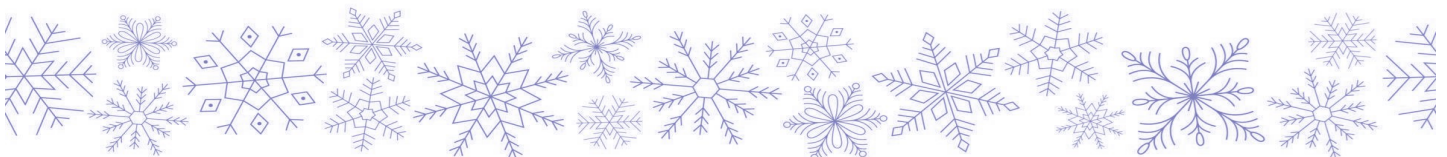
Sabbath will be observed on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Donna Pinto, Minister of Music (610) 792-1679 music@stjames-ucc.org

Hannah Iannozzi, Church Administrator, Communications, and Events
(610) 489-0990 office@stjames-ucc.org Office hours by appointment

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

****Materials for the January 2026 Newsletter are due to the office on December 20th, 2025.****



GIVING

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
- Winston Churchill

“You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

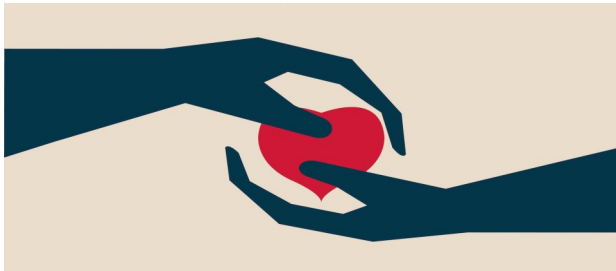
- Kahlil Gibran

“No one has ever become poor by giving.”

- Anne Frank

“The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

- Mahatma Gandhi



Submitted by Hannah Iannozzi

St. James United Church of Christ
321 South Limerick Road
Limerick, PA 19468