

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY & AUGUST 2026



Dear St. James family,

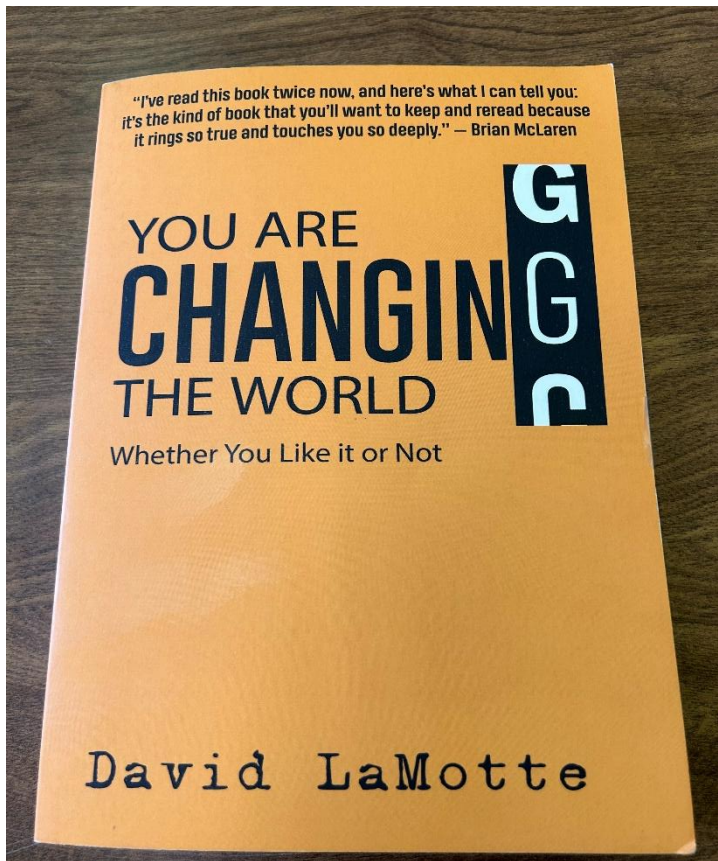
About a month ago, we had a sermon chat about the creation story in Genesis. Now when we have a sermon chat, I give the floor to you to discuss what stood out for you, what struck a nerve with you. That day, the thing that struck a nerve was Sabbath. God taking a day of rest. Some of those who were there really struggled with taking time away. They felt guilty for doing nothing. There is so much of God's work to do. Yet what we talked about that day in the sermon was balance and harmony. How the day balances the night and the light balances the darkness and the sea balances the land. Rest balances activity. We need that balance. God rested on the seventh day of creation, not so much because God needed to rest, but to model for us that rest is needed to create balance in our lives. I highly recommend the book *Sabbath* by Wayne Muller on this subject. The subtitle is Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in our Busy Lives. Muller says that "The God who made the Sabbath is not a cranky schoolmaster, always forbidding, coercing obedience and watching sniveling subjects slinking about in cowardly compliance. Sabbath commandment comes from a kind, wise teacher who does not like to see us suffer." Why do we refuse to rest? Is it just about doing God's work? Or, perhaps we keep busy to avoid suffering? We will talk about that at length in early July – about suffering, grief, and acts of love for ourselves. Let us remember that while there is a lot of work to do, it is not ALL ours to do. The good news is, we CAN take a break from the work and worries of this world. The good news is, God wants us to experience freedom and healing from our grief, suffering and pain. When we take a break from God's work, and when we work on our own stuff, we will commit an act of love for ourselves, we will experience more delight, and we will be able to come back to God's work with joy in our hearts. This is very good news indeed.

Praise Jesus.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Beth

ST. JAMES HAPPENINGS



MIDWEEK STUDY THIS FALL

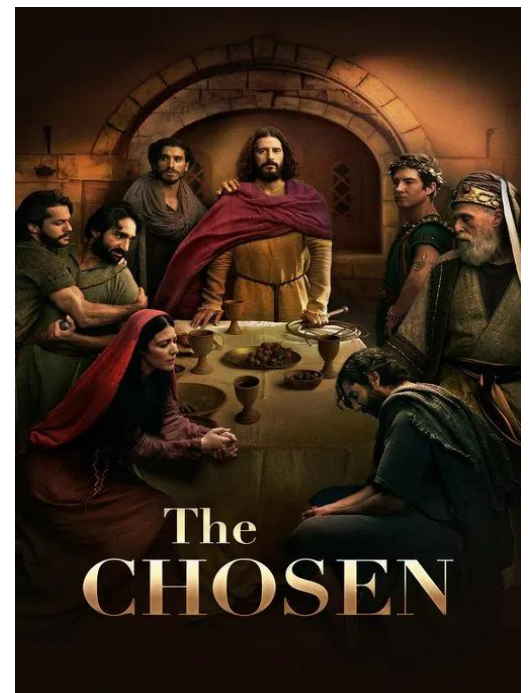
Our midweek study will resume on Wednesday, September 14 at 1 o'clock in person and on Zoom! We will be reading *You Are Changing the World* by David LaMotte. For those of us who believe it is impossible to have a positive impact in today's world, LaMotte will show us that this is a myth. This class will run for seven weeks until November 4 except for October 7 due to Pastor Beth's vacation.

David LaMotte is an author, speaker and musician from Black Mountain, North Carolina. He is also a cofounder of Senderos,

a nonprofit supporting arts, education and mentoring for children in Guatemala. Pastor Beth had the pleasure of meeting David a few years ago. He is a lovely and talented man. We will also hear some of his music and watch a Ted talk that he delivered. Any questions see Pastor Beth.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 5 THIS FALL

Our Thursday study of the TV series, *The Chosen* will begin on Thursday, September 17 at 1 o'clock in person and on Zoom! We will watch season five of this innovative series about Jesus and his disciples. Pastor Beth will send a link to the show and questions on Sunday or Monday the week of. This class will run eight weeks until November 12 except for October 8 when Pastor Beth will be on vacation. Any questions see Pastor Beth.



MISSIONS & ENDOWMENT

"Endowment Gift Brings Hope"

This is a report of the Endowment Fund's Gift to the cause of Carlos della Valle, a resident of Downingtown for the past 30 years....but not afforded the ability to obtain citizenship. Carlos was detained by ICE last August 2025 and was transferred 16 times, separating him from his family of U.S. citizens as well as the life they had built together. His wife, Angela, was able with the support of the community to follow him in his detainments while fighting for his release through the many obstacles placed in their way to keep the situation static while trying to deport him. Churches in Downingtown provided much of the needed support emotionally as well as financially. The della Valles have a son who is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh, Allesandro. Carlos worked at the same company for almost 30 years and was a plant manager when detained. Angela teaches ESL in the Upper Merion School District.

The Endowment Committee graciously granted the request for \$1000. This, along with a match of \$1000, helped Angela in her fight to free Carlos.

Below is the note of thanks she wrote for the gift.....

Pastor Joshua forwarded to us your incredible gift in a donation....that we'll be able to use directly in a Habeas Corpus since our petitions for release to ICE were denied ~ not answered. We are so grateful to you for your generosity and solidarity and do not feel alone. Much love, Angela, Carlos and Alessandro

She sent a little plastic boot as a thank you. One of Carlos' companions in the Winn Prison in LA makes the shoes out of plastic Ramen noodle containers. Ramen noodles are used as buying power for other items of food. Angela's remark about the boot....Even in the face of deep darkness, shines the hope of community.

Thank you....St James for the opportunity to be of help to this family.

Missions Offering: Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within our conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries.

Consistory Meeting Update – June 16, 2026

Greetings to St. James UCC – Limerick!

This update is shared to help keep members informed about the ongoing work, conversations, and decisions of the Consistory.

Routine Business

The financial reports from May were reviewed. The secretary's monthly minutes were approved and accepted with minor corrections, and committee reports from both the Endowment Committee and the Missions Committee were shared with Consistory members.

Following devotions, Pastor Beth shared a brief report on visits, engagements, and activities she participated in since the Consistory's May meeting.

Old Business

Marilyn and Bob completed their research into the possibility of installing a digital sign for St. James. The Consistory received two estimates from local companies and expects one additional estimate next week. After discussion, the Consistory determined that the current cost is prohibitive and agreed to keep the information on file for future consideration if the option becomes more affordable.

Office Administrator

St. James welcomes our new Office Administrator, Erin Galamba! Erin brings prior church office experience and began transitioning into the office administrator role in June. Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex for her bio! Erin's office hours will be Mondays & Thursdays from 1-3pm, and members are encouraged to stop by, introduce themselves, and help welcome her to St. James.

July 4 Fireworks Outreach

For many years, the St. James parking lot has been a favorite gathering place for community members to enjoy the fireworks display sponsored by Waltz's. This year, a team of St. James volunteers will be present on July 4th to welcome our neighbors. Volunteers are still needed for this outreach. Pastor Beth purchased bracelets, candy bracelets, American flags, and stickers to include in outreach bags, along with pamphlets about St. James. Jay, Bob, and Laura will help welcome visitors on July 4, while Kristen and Donna will help assemble the bags in advance.

congregational Meeting

Members attended the congregational meeting on June 21st. A vote was held on the proposal from Grace & Peace regarding the renovations to Fellowship Hall.

Update: The congregation voted unanimously to approve the changes to Fellowship Hall.

Summer Worship

Marilyn raised the topic of summer and outdoor worship and suggested that the congregation be given an opportunity to share their thoughts and preferences regarding the earlier worship time of 9:30 a.m. instead of 10:15 a.m. On June 28th, each person attending worship will receive a simple ballot to indicate their preferred worship time and provide feedback about worshipping outdoors in the Pavilion. This feedback opportunity will not be part of the Congregational Meeting; it will take place after the planned outdoor worship service. Consistory will review the responses and share the results at the close of the meeting.

As the meeting opened with prayer, it also closed with the Consistory praying the Lord's Prayer together.

If you have questions or suggestions about the work of the Consistory, please let us know.

Peace to all!

Laura Walters – Consistory President

2026 Consistory

Laura Walters – President, Sue Myers – Vice President, Kristen Serina – Secretary

Jay Smith, Marilyn Jorgensen, Bob Walters, Paul Meyers, Donna Serina.

Officers: Lisa Kahudic – Financial Secretary, Jay Smith – Treasurer

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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,
MARILYN JORGENSEN

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

JULY 31 – KENNETH & DIANE RASPEN

AUGUST 17 – CHARLES & MARION HENTZ

AUGUST 30 – PHILIP & JOANNE LEVERING

JULY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
			Cooking Camp	Cooking Camp	Cooking Camp	Independence Day
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship with Rev. Beth Eustis 9:30 am	Limerick Parks & Rec Flag Football	Limerick Parks & Rec Flag Football	Limerick Parks & Rec Flag Football	Limerick Parks & Rec Flag Football	Limerick Parks & Rec Flag Football	
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship with Rev. Coleen Painter 9:30 am						
	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship with Rev. Beth Eustis 9:30 am				Grace & Peace VBS	Grace & Peace VBS	Grace & Peace VBS
	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship with Rev. Beth Eustis 9:30 am						1

Contact the Church

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 & Saturdays.

Donna Pinto – Minister of Music – 610.792.1679 or music@stjames-ucc.org

Erin Galamba – Office Admin – 610.489.0990 or office@stjames-ucc.org
office hours are Mondays & Thursdays 1-3pm

AUGUST 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Worship with
Rev. Beth
Eustis

Limerick Parks
& Rec Flag
Football

Limerick Parks
& Rec Flag
Football

Limerick Parks
& Rec Flag
Football

Limerick Parks
& Rec Flag
Football

Limerick Parks
& Rec Flag
Football

9:30 am

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Worship with
Rev. Beth
Eustis

9:30 am

16

17

18

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Worship with
Rev. Beth
Eustis

9:30 am

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25

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28

29

Worship with
Rev. Beth
Eustis

9:30 am

30

31

Worship with
Rev. Beth
Eustis

9:30 am

Prayer Concerns

For our friends Rugene Caldwell, 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 Larry F, Steve, Kile, Millie A, 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 Mae, Mathew, Louise, Gus G, Franklin R, Sherry K, Laura M, Dianne S, Wendel K, Marion H, Mary Lou B, Jean A., Chikk M., Charlotte F. 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 all your many blessings you give us each day. There are still so many people that are struggling with health issues physical, mental, and emotional We ask you for your healing upon them. We thank you for all the healing that you have given many on our prayer list and beyond. We pray for the families that have lost loved ones that you give them comfort and peace. Continue to walk and guide us through our greatest needs, since there are many at this time. 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.

SPECIAL FRIEND By Amanda Pierce

Today, I wish you all of the happiness that you are so deserving of. I wish that all of your dreams will be fulfilled and that sunshine and laughter will follow you wherever you go.

I wish you all smiles, new adventures, new friends, and success in everything you do.

I wish you the best of everything to match the best in you.

And one more wish I have, more for me than for you I wish I could be there with you, special friend, to see all of these wishes come true.

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.

St. James United Church of Christ

321 S. Limerick Road

Limerick, PA 19468