

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 2026

Acts 2: 17, 42-44

17““And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

Dear St. James family,

September is going to be a big month here! We will be back to class (see page 3) and Sunday, September 13 marks our first annual Celebration Sunday Festival (for an update on planning, see page 2.)

Now how did all this come about? When I came here, we developed Celebration Sunday in place of what the UCC would normally call Rally Day, a day to celebrate our Christian education program, and the first day of Sunday School. But as we don't have a Christian education program for children here at this time, we decided instead to celebrate St James, what we've done in the past year and what our dreams are for the coming year.

So two years ago now, the Swing Kings performed in our pavilion for the first time. Last year we had a catered lunch and the Swing Kings performed at 1:00 so that we could extend our Celebration Sunday into the afternoon with some wonderful food, fellowship and music. The concert was open to the public.

This year we are pushing the envelope even more and inviting our community in not just for the concert, but for the food, for free haircuts from the Buzz Boxx USA Mobile Van, for our community resources - the Scouts, the Coventry soccer club, Project Outreach. POWER Interfaith plus St. James and our sponsors - will all have tables. The kids can play on the playground and still hear the music, and their parents can learn more about who St. James is as we discover more about who God wants us to be.

And who does God want us to be? People who prophesy, have visions, and dream big dreams for ourselves and our community. People who listen for the Spirit, trust it to move in and through us collectively and individually, and to act on what we hear. When God speaks and we listen and act, as long as what we are doing is life-giving, we can't really go wrong. God may have something in mind that we don't expect. We may think we know what's happening when we act on what we hear, only to discover that God had something else in mind altogether. It takes some effort on our part to trust in the mystery of God. Come and see!

With love in Christ,
Pastor Beth

ST. JAMES HAPPENINGS

CELEBRATION SUNDAY FESTIVAL UPDATE

From Pastor Beth- The Celebration Sunday Festival is coming on September 13 from noon to 3:00! I wanted to give you an update on how the planning is going and where I will need your help.

As you've heard by now, we will be having the Swings Kings back to play in the pavilion, the Buzz Boxx mobile van giving free haircuts, we will have pasta, pizza, salad by Dimitri's Pizzeria in Royersford, ice cream from Handel's and community services tables from our partners the Boy and Girl Scouts, Phoenixville Library, Project Outreach, Coventry Soccer Club, POWER Interfaith, plus St. James and our sponsors.

As far as sponsorships go, the Festival is completely paid for! Thank you to our sponsors Rep. Joe Ciresi, Endeavor Business Brokers, Rock Services, Inc., Dimitri's Pizzeria, DelVal Senior Advisors and Fox Roach for their cash sponsorships, plus Omnipress, Inc. and Fast Signs for the donation of signs, and Handel's for the donation of ice cream. One of my goals for this event is that St. James would not have to spend one dime. We have made that goal!

Another goal I had was that St. James wouldn't have to lift a finger. That goal was unrealistic on my part. I will need your help in a number of key areas:

****Spread the Word** – Please take some flyers and give them to family, neighbors and friends. This is a FREE family friendly event.

****Set up** – On Saturday, September 12 at 4:00 pm, we will begin setting up tables and chairs for meals, and also for our community services. In addition to the six picnic tables, I would like to set up four tables and chairs (from the pavilion) for meals and six card tables for the community services. They have all been asked to bring their own chairs and canopies. We will also need to set up chairs in the pavilion for the band.

****Parking** – On that Sunday, I will need all St. James folks who are able to walk from the gravel driveway to park on the grass on either side of the driveway. *If you cannot do that, that is okay.* The reason we need to park there is because Grace and Peace takes up a number of spots and they have been invited to join us on Celebration Sunday. We will need extra spots for the community that day. The band will park in the gravel driveway closer to the pavilion.

I would also like two volunteers to help with parking throughout the event.

ST. JAMES HAPPENINGS

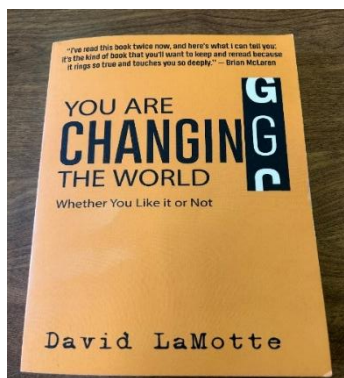
****Food** – I would like one or two volunteers to keep an eye on the food and on the line. The food will be set up in the narthex at about 11:30-11:45 in a way so that people can get their food on either side of the table, just as we do for our potlucks. There will also be water and lemonade (which will need to be made).

****Clean-up** – I will need folks to help put away tables and chairs, plus the trash cans, etc. at the end of the event.

****Keep an eye out** – In general, I will need everyone to keep their eyes open and if you see something that needs to be done, please do it. For instance, if you see the trash piling up, please take it to the dumpster. If the food line is getting unwieldy, please direct folks to make two lines, etc. I will be checking on things continually throughout the day but I cannot do this by myself.

***If it rains** – If the forecast calls for rain, the band will play in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 (12:30 in the pavilion). The food will be located in the Consistory room, and seating will be in the narthex. The community services tables will move to the back of Fellowship Hall and the mobile haircut van will park in front of the portico.

I am really excited about this event and am looking forward to celebrating St. James with our community! This is a wonderful opportunity to be in ministry in the community. But it isn't my event – it is ours. Let's make it a wonderful day! Thank you all for your help!

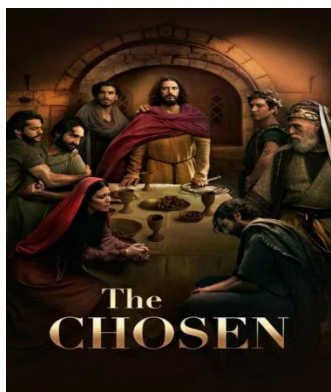


MIDWEEK STUDY THIS FALL

Our midweek study will resume on Wednesday, September 16 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 and October 21 (Pastor Beth clergy event).

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.

ST. JAMES HAPPENINGS



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.

Project Outreach: Back to School Success!

It's Back-to-School season! Do you remember the smell of freshly sharpened pencils, the feel of a crisp new notebook, and the feeling of anticipation of meeting new friends and teachers?



Through our participation in Project Outreach's Back-to-School drive, we helped to outfit 111 children in our community with the supplies they needed to meet the new school year equipped for success! Thanks for all of your contributions!

CONSISTORY MEETING UPDATE – JULY 14, 2026

Greetings to St. James UCC friends and family!

This brief overview shares the work of Consistory and keeps you informed about current and upcoming happenings at St. James UCC.

During the summer months, Consistory does not meet in August, so this update covers our regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2026.

As we do at each meeting, we began with prayer, scripture, a short devotional, and time for reflection. This opening routine helps us center ourselves, remain open to where God leads us, and focus on the matters of St. James UCC.

Following devotional time, Pastor Beth provided us with a summary of her work and pastoral care since our previous meeting.

Before moving on to the business of the day, the financial reports were shared, and the meeting minutes from the previous month were reviewed and accepted.

Sue Myers shared that she and Cindy Valerio have scheduled Friday, July 31, to complete the Financial Audit for 2025. This is done once a year by a Consistory member and a member of the congregation.

Grace and Peace will be working on renovations in Fellowship Hall on July 16 and 17 and during the following two weeks.

Our summer worship schedule will continue at 9:30 a.m., with the following Sundays scheduled for outdoor worship, weather permitting.

July 26 - 9:30 a.m.

August 9 - 9:30 a.m.

August 23 - 9:30 a.m.

August 30 - 9:30 a.m. - alternative

September 6 - 9:30 a.m.

September 13 - 10:15 a.m. - Celebration Sunday in Sanctuary

12:00-3:00 p.m. - Celebrating the Community Event

Pastor Beth shared an update for Celebration Sunday on September 13. As of now, the Swing Kings of West Chester and Buzz Box are confirmed participants. The original plan also included a bounce house, but it would need power from the pavilion and would create a continuous humming sound that would interfere with the two hours of music by the Swing Kings, so it will not be included in the community festival. Pastor Beth has made all the arrangements for food, which will be catered again by Dimitri's in Royersford. There will be enough for approximately 60 people. Pastor Beth has secured sponsors and set up methods to collect money from those who committed to being sponsors. All costs for Celebration Sunday will be covered by sponsor donations. We will need help the day before to set up tables and chairs for the event, and again on Sunday to take them down and clean up. Hopefully, people will sign up to help.

Just as the meeting opened in prayer, Consistory closed the meeting by praying the Lord's Prayer together.

If you have questions or suggestions about the work of Consistory, we would be happy to hear from you.

As we continue through the summer months, we are grateful for the many ways our church family supports the life and ministry of St. James UCC. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and willingness to serve. May we continue to move forward together with faith, gratitude, and open hearts.

Blessings and 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

September Birthdays

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

Happy Anniversary!

September 19
Peter and Hannah Iannozzi

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

Aisha Schaeffer – Office Admin – 610.489.0990 or office@stjames-ucc.org
office hours are Monday & Thursdays 2pm-5pm

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

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12

Worship with
Kathy
Jachowski
9:30 am

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

Worship with
Rev. Beth
Eustis
10:15 am

Midweek Study Chosen 1 pm
1 pm

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Worship with
Rev. Beth
Eustis
10:15 am

Midweek Study Chosen 1 pm
1 pm

27

28

29

30

Worship with
Rev. Beth
Eustis
10:15 am

Midweek Study
1 pm

Prayer Concerns

For our friends Eugene 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 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.

Welcoming our new Administrator Aisha Schaeffer!



St James is happy to announce that Aisha has joined our church on August 31st. She has an extensive background in office, property and building management. She is eager to share her church administration experience as she also serves for the United Church of Christ at Valley Forge. Her education includes a bachelor's from Temple University, a certificate within the specialization of writing, a certificate in Church Administration from Smart Church Management and is currently pursuing a church certificate from Villanova University. Aisha is excited to apply her church experience towards St. James' mission!



September

by Hilaire Belloc

Lo! a ripe sheaf of many golden days
Gleaned by the year in autumn's harvest ways,
With here and there, blood-tinted as an ember,
Some crimson poppy of a late delight
Atoning in its splendor for the flight
Of summer blooms and joys-
This is September.



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