



WHAT'S UP

- Anniversaries6
- Birthdays6
- Blood Drive3
- Calendars.....6,7
- Communications info.....back cover
- Congreg'l Life6
- Evangelism3
- Missions3
- Pastor's Letter7
- Prayer Concerns...7
- Spiritual Life.....6
- Summer Music2
- Sunday School.....2
- Worship2

FOR CAMDEN, NJ: A PROMISE FULFILLED

A HUGE thank you to everyone who brought in donations for the 2012 summer camps of UrbanPromise! Rev. Dr. Bruce Main and his entire family joined us for worship on June 17 as he delivered an inspiring message about the mission of UrbanPromise and the way God is calling all of us to be a part of showing forth God's justice and love in the world. Because of the generosity of our members and friends in your faithful contributions to our weekly offering, our Stewardship and Missions Committees jointly made a recommendation to immediately distribute a small percentage of the donation we hope to send to UrbanPromise for 2012. We joyfully handed a check to Rev. Main for \$874.35!

(see UrbanPromise, page 3)

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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610-489-0990

Pastor: Rachael Pryor
pastor@stjames-ucc.org
(610) 705-2000

Availability by appointment. Fridays are observed as a day of rest.

Office Coordinator:
Betty Lou Wilson
Wed & Fri 12-3pm
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betty9234@verizon.net

Minister of Music:
Donna Pinto
music@stjames-ucc.org

Communications and Events Manager:
Jill Kauffman
news@stjames-ucc.org

WEEKEND OF HOPE

The St. James Great Strides team participated in the Pottstown Relay for Life on June 2-3 at Pottsgrove High School. It was an inspiring and beautiful weekend as the community gathered to celebrate our survivors, remember the loved ones we have lost, and support those who are fighting. More than 1,800 registered Relay-ers and 600 survivors participated in the event, along with many friends and community members.

(see RELAY, page 6)

2012 CHICKEN BBQ

It's time to start building up those corn-husking muscles! Our 22nd Annual Chicken Barbeque will take place on Saturday, August 18, from 4-6pm. Get your tickets now for the best chicken BBQ in the county! Tickets will be on sale soon at a price of \$10 each (includes one half-chicken, side dishes, beverage, and dessert).

As always, we'll be signing up volunteers for set-up, serving, cleaning; corn husking; chicken grilling; bake sale donations; and ticket sales. Each year, proceeds from our BBQ are donated to support 2-3 mission activities or groups who are connected with our church. This year, we are also in the process of conversations with one of our local mission partners to provide some activities, entertainment, and informational booths to add another fun element to our BBQ gathering. Our ASP team youth members will host some creative activities and games for kids. Get your tickets and bring your friends for a great afternoon of fun and fellowship!

2012 CONSISTORY

Rich Fiedler, President
Mary Lou Bryan, VP
Kristen Serina, Secretary

Nancy Ewing, Treasurer
Tom Mogel, Financial Sec.

Ruth Borneman, Historian

Visit our website for even more info:

www.stjames-ucc.org

"Like" us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/
stjamesucc

Worship

SUMMER MUSIC

As you know, the St. James choir takes a break during the summer months. However, that doesn't mean we are going to take a break from having special music during worship!

We are looking for individuals or groups who can sing or play an instrument to share their talents for a liturgical moment. We'd like to fill all the Sundays with beautiful music, so if you can, please give more than one date to choose from, so we can plan out the schedule.

Please e-mail Donna at music@stjames-ucc.org with the following information:

- Name
- Phone number
- E-mail address
- Music talent (vocal or what instrument you play)
- Proposed music selection, if you have one
- Available dates (give as many dates as you are free, but you will present only one Sunday)

If you don't have e-mail, you can call Donna at 610-792-1679.

SUMMER FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES

Summer might mean it's time for vacation from school, but that doesn't mean we stop learning about our faith!

During our weeks in the pavilion, look forward to some creative activities for children during worship as we follow along with King David's journey from shepherd boy to King of Israel. We'll put up a tent, build an ark, create musical instruments, and make a "prayer wall" as we read stories from the Bible. The children's activity will be introduced by Pastor Rachael each week, and children will have an activity corner set up in part of the pavilion so that they can continue with creative activities as the worship service goes on. We'll be asking one volunteer per week to sign up as a guide for the children's area.

Adult faith formation will continue each week, too. In place of our regular 9am Bible Study, we will meet *after* worship (at about 10:15am) with some iced tea and light refreshments to discuss the day's Scripture and sermon, as well as any books, articles or other materials that were mentioned in the sermon or used for part of the worship service. Please sign up on the bulletin board to bring tea or a snack to share; Otherwise, this is a drop-in study: come when you can to enrich our conversation and take the morning's Scripture study to the next level.

WORSHIP IN THE PAVILION: GREAT HYMNS, NEW SONGS

As we worship outside from June 24-Sept. 2, we'll continue our tradition of using *Great Hymns of the Faith* throughout the summer (a hymnal from the evangelical publisher Zondervan, with roots in the Dutch Reformed Church). A hymn survey will be undertaken June 24-July 1 so that everyone will have a chance to request favorite hymns for the summer, especially since many hymns from this book are not in our regular hymnals. On July 29, we'll celebrate "Christmas in July" with all our favorite Christmas hymns and readings, to help us remember that the message of Christmas has meaning through the whole year, and not just for one day. (Christmas hymns will be a separate part of the hymn survey.)

To connect with our mission focus (see p. 3), we'll also add two or three short and simple melodies from African Christian traditions. These easy-to-learn pieces are especially helpful for fully including children in worship even before they can read; and they connect us across the globe to our brothers and sister in Christ who worship the same God in other languages and cultures.

Summer worship leaders are needed to read Scripture; please sign up or let Pastor Rachael know if you are interested or have any questions!

Evangelism

BLOOD DRIVE

A blood drive is scheduled with Miller Keystone for Sunday, July 15th from 8:00 to 12:00. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for appointments.

Miller Keystone Blood Center is a nonprofit organization founded in 1971 and is a member of America's Blood Centers (ABC), a national network of non-profit community blood centers that provide approximately 60% of the blood products transfused in the United States.

Miller Keystone Blood Center is the only blood provider to many local hospitals. Please consider donating your blood to help others in need!

Carol Graves, our drive coordinator, will be coming on July 8th to speak during worship about the need to give. We look forward to hosting her!

For more information about Miller Keystone Blood Center, please visit www.giveapint.org.

RIFT VALLEY ACADEMY: A SUMMER FOR KENYA

Throughout the summer, our mission focus will be on Ryan and Heather Murphy, missionaries in Kenya through Africa Inland Mission. Ryan and Heather are teachers at the Rift Valley Academy, a school for children of missionaries working throughout the African continent. RVA makes it possible for Christian missions to reach difficult or dangerous areas of Africa by providing a safe home for children while their parents work in such places. But in addition to supporting other missions, RVA has a wide variety of ministries in its own community, such as a weekly devotional study for 30 local Kikuyu women, a traveling Christian music ministry, and work projects like trash clean-up and home rebuilding for local widows.

Ryan has now written two books *All That You Can't Leave Behind: A Rookie Missionary's Life in Africa*, and more recently, *Winter Spring Summer Fall: Living and Lasting in Missions*. You can order the books through Ryan and Heather's website (strangersinkenya.blogspot.com) or let Pastor Rachael know if you'd like to get a copy. The Murphys will be home for a brief visit later this summer and fall, and we're hoping they might even be able to join us for worship one week as they visit their cousins, Chris and Kim Murphy (members of St. James).

Our goal for 2012 is to support Ryan and Heather's ministry with a donation of more than \$4,700. We often fall behind on our planned offerings throughout the summer as vacations and special events interrupt our regular church attendance. This summer, let's continue the responsible and generous stewardship we've practiced this year so that we will be able to support all the ministries of our congregation as fully as possible!

URBANPROMISE

(continued from cover) This amount represents the total needed to provide a year's worth of books for the 10th grade class at UrbanPromise Academy (15 copies each of the same edition of 5 classic works such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*). We also collected a variety of sports equipment and art supplies.

In July, Pastor Rachael will deliver these donations and spend a day visiting some of the UrbanPromise summer camps. Anyone is welcome to come along and witness this miracle of God's action in Camden! Watch the weekly announcements for more information or call Pastor Rachael if you'd like to ride along. We are also organizing a day for volunteers to do some repair and maintenance work at one of the camp sites. We will be sending out more information soon about how to get involved.

Special thanks to Pam Marino, our congregation's Missions liaison with UrbanPromise, for helping us learn more about this amazing organization and for coordinating Rev. Main's visit to our church.

Calendar

JULY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<p>1 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>2 Sam 1:1, 17-27 Ps 130 Mark 5:21-43</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p>Missions 7:00pm</p>	4	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>Congregational Retreat 8am-4pm</p>	
<p>8 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10 Ps 48 Mark 6:1-13</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>Consistory 7:00pm</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>Property 7:00pm</p>	13	14	
<p>15 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Communion/intinction Miller Keystone Blood Drive</p> <p>2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19 Ps 24 Mark 6:14-29</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>Spiritual Life 6:30pm</p>	18	19	20	21	
		<p>→ <i>Pastor Rachael on vacation</i> →</p>					
<p>22 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Ps 89:20-37 Eph 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56</p> <p><i>Pastor Rachael on vacation</i> →</p>	23	24	25	26	27	28	
<p>29 "Christmas in July"</p> <p>Service of Lessons & Carols</p> <p><i>Pastor Rachael on vacation</i> →</p>	30	31	<p>Spiritual Support during Pastor Rachael's Vacation</p> <p>From July 17-Aug. 2, Pastor Rachael and her family will be on vacation to recharge for the great activities we have planned for August and September! Pastor Rachael cannot be reached by cell phone at that time. However, Charlotte Fiedler, an Elder of our congregation, will offer spiritual support throughout Pastor Rachael's absence. Charlotte will have contact information for a local on-call pastor and will also coordinate the resources of the Spiritual Life ministry in the event of spiritual crises or concerns. She can be reached by cell phone at (484) 919-4464. Non-urgent messages can be left at the office and will be checked daily. <i>As a reminder, our Consistory President can also be reached at any time with questions/concerns related to congregational matters.</i></p>				

Calendar

AUGUST 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			1	2	3	4	
		<i>(Pastor Rachael returns August 3)</i> ←					
5 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ps 51:1-12 Eph 4:1-16 John 6:24-35	6	7 Worship Committee 7:00pm	8 Stewardship 7:00pm	9	10	11	
12 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Eph 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51	13	14 Missions 7:00pm	15	16	17	18 Chicken BBQ 4-6pm	
19 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 Ps 111 John 6:51-58	20	21 Spiritual Life 6:30pm Endowment 7:00pm	22 Spiritual Council 7:00pm	23	Back to School Campout		
26 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kings 8:1,6, 10-11, 22-30,41-43 Ps 84 John 6:56-69	27	28 Pastoral Relations 7:00pm	29 Christian Education 7:00pm	30	31		

Congregational Life

Relay for Life, continued...

More than 5,000 beautiful luminaria lit up the stadium throughout the night. The Great Strides team would like to offer special thanks to the St. James congregation for supporting our fundraisers throughout the year. With your help, our team has raised over \$7,000 (and still counting!) for the American Cancer Society. We also extend our special thanks to Randy Doaty, from Glass Tears, for his awesome tear glass blowing demonstrations on Relay Day (It was the main attraction at the Great Strides Tent site!) and for donating a generous portion of his proceeds to Relay for Life. Thanks also to our other generous sponsors: Boenning & Scattergood, Applebee's, Elaine's Dinner Theater and Bike Sport. Together we support the American Cancer Society's goal of a future without cancer.

A Note of Thanks

To my church family,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the many cards, visits, phone calls, and beautiful flowers that I received after my operation. I'm well on my way to recovery and my goal is to be able to husk corn for the chicken barbeque without my cane.

In Christian Love,
Millie (Alderfer)

BIRTHDAYS

July

1	Brian Blackner	8	Michelle Mazza
	Steve Boyer	12	Joanne Levering
	Shirley Major	15	Lillian Weidner
	Chad Taylor		Diana Monteith
	Gavin Stengel	18	Ceara Coseo
2	Heather Boyer	22	Barry Ewing
	Joyce Swinehart	23	Richard Miller
3	Nancy Ewing	24	Russell Brightbill
	Bridgette Lightcap		Jack Morris
6	Maddie Murphy	25	Ramona Voorhees
7	Patrick Miller	28	Charles Grisdale
	Trudy Mitchell	29	Margaret Schweitzer

August

1	Laura Myers	15	Gary Frymoyer
	Lauren Williams		Kyle Hillegass
2	Evan Buck	16	David Bryan
	Gwen Pacan	18	Jordan Markoski
3	Laura Walters	19	Ryan Schubert
	Jessica Voorhees	20	Justin Monteith
6	Lisa Bowers	25	Charry Schubert
11	Linda Nuccitelli	26	Richard Sarfert
	Elaine Burnett		Madeline Postell

ANNIVERSARIES

July

5	Mike & Christin Myers
	Allen & Melissa Smith
6	Brian & Jennifer Blackner
	Chris & Kim Murphy
7	Michael & Carol Duffy
16	Nick & Elizabeth Albanese
22	Joel & Perry (Frymoyer) Frain
26	Michael & Donna Serina
31	Kenneth & Diane Raspen

August

7	Dan & Lisa Bowers
9	Gary & Laura Frymoyer
10	Chris & Kathy Long
13	Jack & Pattie Morris
17	Charles & Marion Hentz
28	Barry & Nancy Ewing
30	Philip & Joanne Levering
	William & Gloria Styers
	Tony & Peggy Hillegass

PRAYER CONCERNS

For our friends Grace A., Shirley M., Melissa M., *and others who are in the hospital or a long-term care residence, we pray for comfort and peace.*

For our friends Dick & Janice M., Steve & Mary B., Earl Z., Pat M., Betty W., Doris F., Pearl R., *and others who are not easily able to leave their residence, we pray for companionship, healing, and respite from pain.*

For our friends Charlotte F., Bob K., Bridgette L., Carol, Lisa, David S., Christian, *and others with ongoing health concerns and surgical procedures, we pray for skilled and caring hands and hearts, answers for those who await test results, and hope to live each new day.*

For our friends Kelly L., Florence W., Richard M., *and all others who are cancer survivors, we give thanks for each day and we pray for treatment where it is possible and release from suffering where it is needed.*

For our friends Darlene, Millie A., Pete M., Anthony, Mike, *and all who experience God's healing presence through the care of family and friends, through medication and through the skilled hands of medical practitioners, we give thanks for bodies and spirits restored, and prayers answered.*

For Ryan & Heather Murphy and their family; and for their ministry of teaching at the Rift Valley Academy in Kenya, Africa, *we pray for strength and wisdom; for discernment of God's guidance in sharing the love and peace of the Gospel through education; and for partnerships to build up the communities of Kenya with love and with God's justice and abundance.*

For our Pastor and her family, *we pray for a safe and restful vacation, that she may return to our congregation renewed and refreshed for the joys & challenges of service with God's people. Amen.*

From the Pastor's Desk...

Sacred Rest

Through the "Ordinary Time" of our summer calendar, we'll read from the Gospel of Mark for several weeks. We'll get a picture not only of Jesus' own ministry, but of the way he calls his disciples and sends them out to spread his message of love, welcome, and healing to reach even more people. In July, we read chapter 6, and the disciples gather once more after having been sent out with nothing but the shirts on their backs to share Jesus' teachings and anoint the sick (6:14-29). When the disciples return, energized by their ministry and mission, they tell Jesus about all the wonderful things they have done and taught (6:30), and the people who received them with hospitality! In response, Jesus says to them (in verse 31), "*Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.*"

Our heritage in American Protestantism, from the German and Pilgrim ancestors of the UCC, is to work hard and long to get the job done. It was not only a way of life, but the *only* way to live! Survival depended on back-breaking work to keep starvation, cold, and other dangers at bay. Sunday worship was a precious Sabbath, indeed: a brief respite from the toil demanded from childhood through old age. In chapter 2 of Mark's Gospel, Jesus proclaims: "The Sabbath was created for humans; humans weren't created for the Sabbath." His intention isn't to do away with Sabbath, but to put it in perspective. Sabbath structures themselves (such as a specific day, time & place of worship) are *not* sacred; though for most people of faith, some structure is a necessary and helpful way to regularly make time to rest gratefully in God's presence, giving thanks for all we have and preparing for the ministry we are called to do. Different people will find different types of Sabbath, but we must all make the time we need for prayerful rest, so that we can be effective disciples and not exhausted or resentful people of faith. In July, I will be "resting for a while in a secluded place" so that I can return with fresh energy, ideas, and a renewed sense of vocation. While I'm away, I will pray for our congregation and for myself, that we might all find the Sabbath we need to be filled with spiritual strength for the joyful ministries to which God is calling us!

-Pastor Rachael

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

SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER

Communications

Materials for the September Newsletter are due August 19.

NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Now that our online calendar is fully functional, the easiest way to update both the online & desk calendars is to email Jill Kauffman, our Communications and Events Manager, at news@stjames-ucc.org.

If you prefer not to use email, you can still add or change dates in the office by following the instructions on the cover of the paper calendar, which can be found in the top right drawer of the office desk; or you can call the office and leave a message.

It may take up to a week for the changes to appear on the desk and online calendars. Updates to be placed in the weekly bulletin or announcements for Sunday are due by the preceding Wednesday. Updates to be included in the weekly email are due by Sunday evenings at 5:00pm. **Thank you for helping us include everyone in the life of our congregation with good communication practices!**

SAVE THE DATE!

Our church parking lot is a great place to see the Waltz Golf Farm fireworks in celebration of Independence Day! The ASP team will sell drinks, snacks, & glow sticks to continue fundraising for our 2012 mission trip. Bring your picnic blanket! The show begins on July 4 at 9:30pm. Parking opens at 8pm. Come on out and tell your friends!