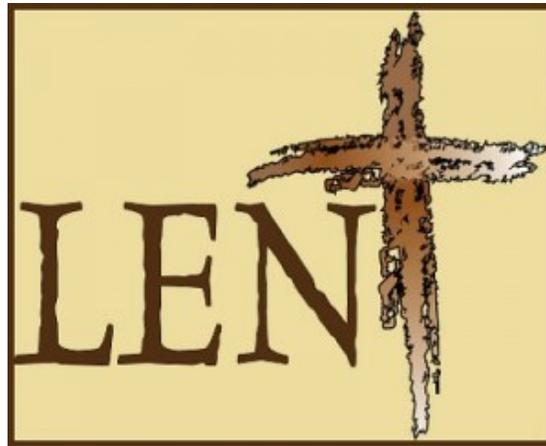




WHAT'S UP

- Cong'l Life.....3-4
- Birthdays.....3
- Prayer Concerns..5
- Household Prayers.....6
- Calendar.....7



The Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday. This first day of Lent reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. This is symbolized through the imposition of ashes created by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration . Ashes are placed upon Christians' foreheads in the form of a cross, recalling the words from Genesis 3:19 by saying: "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." This is to remind us of our sinfulness, mortality, and our need for repentance in light of the grace of God in Christ and in Christ's resurrection. Lent is a season of the church which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. As we listen for the Word of God and enter into the biblical stories, we follow Jesus into the wilderness as he resists temptation; we encounter Jesus among the outcasts, healing and preaching messages of hope, grace and radical love. We follow Jesus as we hear him speak truth to power and seek justice for the oppressed. We follow Jesus on the way to Jerusalem and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of metanoia ("turning around"), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.

CONTACT THE CHURCH

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2020 CONSISTORY

- Jay Smith, President
- Rich Fiedler,
 V. President
- Laura Walters,
 Secretary
- James Friemann
- Ken Raspen
- Bob Walters
- Donna Earnshaw
- Michael Turbush

Officers:
 Tom Mogel, Financial Sec.
 Margie Schweitzer,
 Historian
 Nancy Ewing, Treasurer

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www.facebook.com/stjamesucc

(continued on page 2)

This Lenten journey will take us into the “The Gift of the Dark Wood” in our worship and in the adult study. It is a focused time and opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal as we enter into the shadows of the season, where we just might find the light of Christ shining more brightly. In the end, if we gain nothing else but come away with an understanding and deep conviction of our utter need of Jesus, as friend, spiritual guide, a light to our path, our Savior, we will be ready to receive the blessings of Easter. Let us hold one another in prayer and gratitude as we journey through the season of Lent. May we enter the Lenten journey with the name “Beloved” echoing in our heart.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Anne

Beloved Is Where We Begin

If you would enter into the wilderness,
do not begin without a blessing.
Do not leave without hearing who you are:
Beloved, named by the One who has traveled this
path before you.

Do not go without letting it echo in your ears,
and if you find it is hard to let it into your heart, do
not despair. That is what this journey is for.

I cannot promise this blessing will free you
from danger, from fear, from hunger or thirst,
from the scorching of sun or the fall of the night.

But I can tell you that on this path there will be help.
I can tell you that on this way there will be rest.
I can tell you that you will know the strange graces
that come to our aid only on a road such as this,
that fly to meet us bearing comfort and strength,
that come alongside us for no other cause
than to lean themselves toward our ear
and with their curious insistence whisper our name:
Beloved. Beloved. Beloved.

—Jan Richardson. *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*; 2015.

Wanton Gospeller Press. Orlando, FL

Lectionary for March

First Sunday in Lent March 1, 2020	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Second Sunday in Lent March 8, 2020 Girl Scout Sunday Rev. David Akers	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17 or <i>Matthew 17:1-9</i>
Third Sunday in Lent March 15, 2020	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 22, 2020 One Great Hour of Sharing	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2020	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 or <i>Psalm 40:5-10</i>	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 29, 2020	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

CONSISTORY MEETING NOTES

The February 11th, 2020 Consistory meeting of St. James UCC opened with devotions
Financial Reports & Minutes: The January financial reports prepared by Jay Smith and Tom Mogel were reviewed and accepted along with the minutes of the January Consistory meeting.



Pastor Anne presented the Pastor's Report covering Pastoral Care, Congregation Life, Worship and other activities during the month of January.

Old Business:

Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church has affirmed their decision. They plan to have their first worship at St. James UCC on April 1st, 2020.

Ken Raspen will access the parking situation and design a plan for reserved spaces.

Consistory agreed to accept with Showcase Services and the amended proposal to upgrade and expand the WIFI system.

The internal financial audit will be done on February 19th, 2020 by Pete Cibulsky and Kevin Brightbill.

Jay reported on the work of the Property Committee. In addition, the Property Committee will research options for projection screens or monitors in the sanctuary, once they get more direction from Consistory.

New Business:

The date for the Annual Chicken Barbeque is set for August 15th, 2020. James Friemann will consider serving again as Co-Chairperson.

The February Consistory Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

SCOUTS SUNDAY

Every other Sunday, Girl Scouts meets at our church. On March 8TH, scouts will participate in worship, meet the congregation, and share about their activities. Please be sure to welcome them as we celebrate our sponsorship



SPIRITUAL LIFE LIBRARY

We have many wonderful books in the Library, but they are of no value if no one reads them! Members of The Prayer Team will be reviewing books from the Library & will be recommending books that we feel would be especially meaningful and

enjoyable.

Recommended Books

February: It's Not About Me, by Max Lucado (found in Spiritual Life)

MARCH: WHAT GOOD IS GOD?

by Philip Yancy (found in Spiritual Life)

Philip Yancy has traveled the globe to find answers by meeting with leaders of the underground church in China, with Dalits (untouchables) in India, with prostitutes, alcoholics, and Bible collage students in the U.S. and with charismatic Christians in Johannesburg. Each stop provides a fascinating clue to answering life's most profound questions.

I personally, found this book an easy read, that gave me things to think about and seeing the world in a different way and that God need our help.

Rugene

March

Birthday

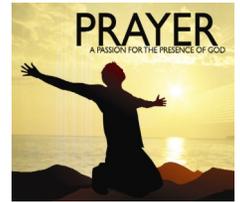
- 1....Melissa Gelwicks
- 3....Margaret Hillegass
- 4....Amy Sarfert
- 4....Anita Rogers
- 5....Cynthia Valerio
- 8....Diane Raspen
- 14....Sandie Fetterman
- 21....Evelyn Phelen
- 23....Bret Clarke
- 24....Richard Fiedler
- 26....Charlotte Fiedler
- 31....Patricia Dalina



Congratulations and best wishes from your church family!

PRAYER CONCERNS

For our friends Janice Moore, Betty Wines, Doris Frain, Pauline Ebersole, Heather Yates, Melissa Moore, Ellie Donofrio, Mary Banyai, Frank Miller *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 Mary Ann, Gail, Taylor, Eva, Irene, Jean W, Hoover N, Steven, Cora S, Beverly C, George D, Aaron L, Katie H, Sherri, Dan, Marg G, Sara, Matt Y, Nona *and others with ongoing health concerns and challenging life of God's presence through the support of our congregation.*

For our friends Tabby, Sue F, Katie, Peggy M, Jeff D, Katie, Jeanene, Ed, Angela, Jim S, Sue, Debbie H, Ryan, Monica, Carl, Pat, Joan D, Peter, Margaret, Dottie, Phil S, Joan S. Gina, Michelle, Barb G, Katie, Margaret, Dottie, Peter, Joan D, Carl H, Monica, Michelle, Ed, Gina *and all cancer survivors, we pray for treatment where it is possible and release from suffering where it is needed.*

Prayers for all veterans that are still suffering from PTSD and all other side effects from their service in the military.

For the friends and family of the Mogel family *and for all who grieve at the deaths of those they deeply love and dearly miss, we ask that they might know the comfort God offers through the community of faith as we surround them with our prayers.*

Lord we thank you for your many blessing you give each of us each day. We thank you for prayers you have answered and the guidance you have given many. We continue to lift up to you for healing all those that are still struggling with sickness, those that are recovering from surgeries. We ask that you guide the hands of doctors and nurses as they care for those in their care. Be with each of us where ever our greatness needs are and we pray for healing and holiness upon all your children. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We ask that any prayer requests be put on a prayer request card and given to Pastor Anne before the service. If you do not wish the cards to be read during the service, please place them in the offering plate.

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 office phone or email.

PRAYING FOR ST. JAMES MEMBERS

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.

March

- 2 Diane Phelen
Evelyn Phelen
- 9 Donna Pinto
Ken & Diane Raspen
- 16 Anita Rogers
Joan (Ide) Rosen
- 23 Joy Rubeo
Richard & Amy Sarfert

DAILY PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH

MORNING PRAYER

Loving God, you have given me the gift of this new day, and you send me out to live it fully and well. Help me to be attentive to your direction and leading. If you should call me to go in some direction, give me courage to try this new thing with a sense of wonder and faith. Whatever this day may hold, I trust that you will keep me in all my comings and goings. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

Gracious God, as the evening comes and the light fades, I look for you even in the shadows. Your love and protection stay with me through the night hours, and I rest in your promises. For the day as it has been, for your great love for me and the world, and for the offer of salvation, I give you thanks. For the gift of rest, I offer a hymn of praise. (sing to the Lord). After a night of rest, Holy One, bring me into the light of a new day with gratitude in my heart, and praise on my tongue. Amen.

PRAYER TEAM

EASTER

Early Christians celebrated Easter on the same date as the Jewish Passover, but Christians, wanting to distance themselves from Jewish practices, changed the time of observance at the council of Nicaea in A.D. 325. Like legislators everywhere, the Council was prone to pass some pretty complicated laws: Easter was henceforth to be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox (April 12).

Long before the resurrection was celebrated, virtually every Western society celebrated the rebirth of nature in the spring. Ironically, one of the holiest Christian holidays is named after a pagan goddess. The name "Easter" derives from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre, who governed the vernal equinox.

THE LEGEND OF THE DAFFODIL

The daffodil is known as the "Lenten Lily." With its brilliant yellow flowers that bloom throughout Lent, its trumpet-shaped center and its leaves upraised in praise to the Creator, it joyfully heralds the coming of Easter. A popular legend describes the origins of the daffodil's distinctive star shape: Each time a Guardian Angel notices a good deed during Lent - a prayer, kindness or sacrifice - she plucks a gold star from the heavens and sends it to earth, where it blooms as a golden daffodil.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 First Sunday in Lent Bible Study 9 am Worship Service 10:15 am Girl Scouts 2:00pm	2 Boy Scouts 7pm	3	4 Missions Committee 7pm Prayer Shawl 6:30pm	5 Property Committee 7pm	6	7 Men's Breakfast 8:30am
8 Second Sunday in Lent Bible Study 9 am Worship Service 10:15 am Girl Scout Sunday	9 Boy Scouts 7pm	10 Mom's of Trappe 8:30am COP 12pm Consistory 7pm	11	12	13	14 AA Workshop 8 am
15 Third Sunday in Lent Bible Study 9 am Worship Service 10:15 am	16 Boy Scouts 7pm	17	18 Fellowship Dinner 5:30pm	19 Healing Prayer Study 10am	20	21 PSEC Consistory 8:30am
22 Fourth Sunday in Lent Bible Study 9 am Worship Service 10:15 am	23 Boy Scouts 7pm	24 District AA 7pm	25	26	27	28 Women's Breakfast 8:30am
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Girl Scouts 2:00 pm						
29 Fifth Sunday in Lent Bible Study 9 am Worship Service 10:15 am	30 Boy Scouts 7pm	31				

CALENDAR **March 2020**

Worship Team
 March 1 Worship Team 4
 March 8 Worship Team 5
 March 15 Worship Team 6
 March 22 Worship Team 1
 March 29 Worship Team 2

CONFERENCE & LOCAL NEWS

SPRING YOUTH EVENT 2020 - TRUST YOUR PATH

The PSEC 2020 Spring Youth Event will be held from April 24th to 26th at South Mountain YMCA Camp, 201 Cushion Peak Road in Wernersville, PA 19565 for youth in grades 7 thru 12.

Registration fee of \$90 per person includes meals, lodging, events, and activities.

The event will begin at 5:00 pm on Friday and conclude around noon on Sunday.

Registration deadline is April 15th.

Focus Scripture: Proverbs 4:26

"Give careful thought to the paths of your feet and be steadfast in all your ways"

Curry Moyer and His Brass Ensemble Concert in Souderton

FREE CONCERT: Join us for a relaxing afternoon with Curry Moyer and His Brass Ensemble. The concert is being held on Sunday, March 1 at 4 pm at Zwingli UCC, 350 Wile Avenue, Souderton. A free will offering will be taken. Reception to follow the concert. This event is supported by the Mildred Mitchell Music fund. Questions can be sent to office@zwingli.org or call 215-723-1186.

Annual Pot Pie Supper in Norristown

Please join us Saturday, March 7 at our Annual Chicken Pot Pie Supper to support ministries at Ascension UCC, 1700 West Main Street, Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Adults \$10 / Children (over 3 years) \$4.50 / Kids 1-3 Free

Meal includes HOMEMADE PA Dutch Chicken Pot Pie, Apple Sauce, Pickled Beets, Rolls and Dessert. Take outs available during the dinner and from 10 am – 2 pm at the Thrift Shop.

Call the office for advance tickets at 610-539-1693 or come on by!

2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mid-Atlantic Association of United Church Educators (MA-AUCE) 2020 Annual Conference Holistic Faith Formation: Engaging Our Whole Selves Monday, April 27 – Wednesday, April 29, 2020 *A full-day Tuesday-only option is also available Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center 3300 River Road Mt. Bethel, PA Join Faith Formation colleagues for three days of learning, networking, and renewal. Workshop topics include Our Whole Lives (OWL); engaging older adults throughout your ministry; becoming a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) congregation for mental health; and using art for reflection. We will have times of worship and spiritual practices to both renew ourselves and share with our congregations, and as well as time for fellowship to build and renew connections. Whether you work full or part time, are clergy or lay, are paid or volunteer... This conference is for you!

Program Details:

Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, and the program begins at 3:00 p.m. On Wednesday, we end with closing worship at 12:00 p.m. and lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Accommodations:

Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center provides comfortable, hotel-style accommodations along the Delaware River. For more information about the Center, visit their website: www.tuscarora.org

Conference Fees (includes accommodations, meals, and snacks)

Through 1/20/20: \$285.00 After 1/20/20: \$340.00
 Tuesday only (includes lunch & dinner): \$75.00
 Single Room Supplement: \$75.00
 AUCE/APCE Member Discount: - \$30.00 (full conference); -\$5.00 (Tuesday only) (For more information about AUCE or to become a member and receive the discount, visit auce-ucc.org).

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

March 2020 NEWSLETTER

Notes & Reminders

Materials for the March Newsletter are due on March 15th, 2019.

NURSERY

March Schedule

March 1 - *Nancy Ewing*
March 8 - *Mary Ann Lopardo*
March 15 - *Sandie Fetterman*
March 22 - *Amy Friemann*
March 29 - *Laura Walters*



If you would like to volunteer to help with the nursery, please contact Nancy Ewing at nanewing@verizon.net

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

All are welcome to the **Fellowship Dinner** Wednesday March 18th at 5:30pm. Come join us if you have never attended before. It's a good way to get to know other church members, we have a good fellowship time together, and it's a night you don't have to do the cooking. If you plan on attending, the sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board.

