



WHAT'S UP

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FROM OUR PASTOR

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32, English Standard Version)

By the time you read this, I will have begun God’s work as your new settled pastor. My priorities for the beginning of my ministry are to develop as many worship services as I can before my first Sunday, which is May 8; meet with staff; and meet with Rich to go over the directory. I would like to reach out to the folks who had been active before COVID but haven’t been back yet – just to check in and see how they’re doing. No pressure about coming back to worship or anything like that. I’m hoping to develop some relationships and see how things go. So I hope no one dreads a phone call from me in the near future. ;)

Speaking of phone calls, another thing I would like to let you know is that I am looking forward to walking with you on your spiritual journeys, both as individuals and as a congregation. The journey can be challenging and confusing at times. It’s easy to think that God doesn’t hear us when we pray and to just give up. This is when making a phone call could help. Please feel free to call the office or to send an email to me to make an appointment to talk about whatever is on your mind – spiritual practices, faith, the Bible, prayer, personal issues, etc. – and know that I will listen, keep strict confidence, and walk with you, and offer my perspective if needed. Now some may be thinking, “Oh, I can’t bother Pastor Beth with that. She’s so busy. It isn’t important enough to bother her with.” To which I say, “*It’s my job to be there for you. Please call me or shoot me an email. Let’s make an appointment. I will always have time for you.*”

When we discuss what is on your mind, when you speak your truth, the healing process begins, and the truth really can set you free. As the angels say, “Don’t be afraid.” Come and see.

Blessings for new beginnings,

Pastor Beth

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2021 CONSISTORY

- Richard Fielder, President
- Bob Walters, V. President
- Kristen Serina, Secretary
- James Friemann
- Ken Raspen
- Laura Walters
- Susan Myers
- Charlotte Fiedler

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

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CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

SAVE THE DATES!!

Put **Sundays May 15 and 22** on your calendar as Pastor Beth will be having **"house meetings" at 11:30**, right after worship! This will give everyone a chance to take a quick break and then come into the sanctuary. The purpose of house meetings is for the new pastor to get a chance to get to know each of the members of her congregation in an informal way.

Normally a new pastor would arrange to have a gathering in someone's home, but the pandemic being what it is, we will just meet in the sanctuary and on Zoom. Folks are welcome to come to both meetings but one is fine. Come and see!

UNDIE SUNDAY



On Mother's Day, May 8th, we'll be collecting new underwear for local women, men, and children in need. This year donations will be going to both the Salvation Army Shelter in Pottstown and Bethany Children's Home. Donations are to be placed in the clothes basket, located in the Narthex.

Overall, needs are fairly balanced between adult and children's sizes, male and female. For the men, the preference seems to be toward boxers or boxer briefs.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY OUTSIDE

I am looking for any adult books and children and preteen books you would like to donate for me to put outside for our library.

You can put them in the library beside the counting room on the table. I will be working on refilling the outside library in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you, Charlotte Fiedler

NEWSLETTER— CONSISTORY MINUTES

Missions

- Ukraine Relief Fund-The relief fund monies will go to the World Central Kitchen, CWS, and the Hungarian Reformed Church.
- Earth Day Project-Property Committee met and agreed to reach out to Ed Myers and Mike Terbush to see what the best options and locations were. Ken and Bob will do a walk about to see where the best locations are. There was money donated (\$250) to plant trees on the property. We will put a plan together for what the costs would be and start a collection to meet the goal. Date will be set based on Mike's availability soon, and target plant date would be in May.

New Business

Worship-This week will continue to have Zoom, but after that we will discontinue Zoom. Services will still be available online later in the day. Consistory will return to in person worship in May.

Spring Cleaning- The cleanup day will be May 14 to mulch, weed, etc.

Coventry Community Chorus Concert – Use of the facility was requested for the Coventry Community Chorus Concert on May 20. There are no conflicts that we are aware of.

Workshop for the Conference-The facility will be used on May 11 for an addiction workshop sponsored by the Conference. They are requesting additional time on May 10 for an event for new pastors.

Spring PSEC Meeting-The meeting will be held at West Chester June 3-4. Laura will attend but ideally 2 members and the Pastor would attend.

Recognition for Pastor Chuck-Cake and festivities will occur after church on May 1.

A PATTERN FOR PRAYER
From the book “Too Busy Not to Pray”
By Bill Hybels



Suppose one day you decide you need to up the ante on your physical fitness. You get off the couch, hop in your car and head to a nearby health club to check things out. When you walk in the door, you are greeted by a staff member who agrees to walk you from station to station, showing you each piece of state-of-the-art equipment. At the end of the orientation, he asks if you’re ready to set up a fitness plan—a thought that makes you a little queasy.

Seeing your hesitation, the staff member tries to explain his rationale further: “You need a routine in order to work every muscle group properly and consistently as well as to keep track of how many repetitions you complete at which weight and chart your progress over time. Basically, it’s the only way to avoid becoming unbalanced.”

Playing around is one thing; following an established regimen is quite another. It’s true with exercise equipment and it is true with prayer.

Developing prayer fitness is similar to developing physical fitness: we must follow a pattern in order to stay balanced. Without a routine, we inevitably fall into the “Please God” trap: “Please God, give me. Please God, help me. Please God, cover me. Please God, take care of me.”

Oh, occasionally we’ll toss a few thanks heavenward when we notice that God has allowed some good thing to come our way. Every once in a while, if we get caught with our hand in the cookie jar, we’ll confess a momentary lapse of sound judgment. And now and then, if we’re feeling really spiritual, we might even throw a little genuine worship into our prayers-but only in those rare “holy” moments.

All you have to remember is the word ACTS, an acrostic whose four letters stand for *adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication*.

Charlotte Fiedler – Prayer Team

May



Birthday

1.....Scott Swinehart
 10....Thomas Mogel
 13....Sarah Cibulsky
 13....Emily Hendricks
 13....Linda Kramer
 15....Nya May Myers
 15....Donna Pinto
 22....Robert Caldwell
 23....Michael Serina
 25....Clinton Starkey
 29....Susan Myers

Anniversary

6....Peter & Adrien Cibulsky
 11....Carl & Mae Mogel
 21....Richard & Charlotte Fiedler
 23....Arthur & Melissa Gelwicks
 25....Jan & Patricia Dalina

Congratulations and best wishes
 from your church family!

PRAYER CONCERNS

For our friends Betty Wines, Heather Yates, Melissa Moore, Ellie Donofrio, Frank Miller, Sang Hi Crater, Joan Rosen, Mary Barnaik *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 Peggy M, Jean S, Van S, Michelle, Ken, Betsy R, Barry G, Sue J, Charlotte F, Bobbie T, Paul M, Chet M, Dottie, Bonnie, BJ, Diane, Ric F, Sharon R, Linda S, John K, Jessica, Jay P, Tabby, Karen, George N, Marianne K *and all cancer survivors, we pray for treatment where it is possible and release from suffering where it is needed.*

For our friends Taylor, Jim, Richard H, Rita L, Terry P, Fred R, Karen, Christine M, Dee, Margret S, Baby Penelope, Alexandra, Diane, Joy W *and others with ongoing health concerns and challenging life 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 come to you with praise and thanksgiving. We thank you for the prayers that you have answered and all the blessings you give us each day. We continue to pray for healing for those that are still suffering with illness and other health issues. We understand that this may not happen in the time we would like, but in your time. We pray for peace in countries that are suffering at the hands of others who want to do harm. We pray that you be with each of us according to our greatest needs and pray for wholeness of mind, body and spirit upon us all. With pray this in Jesus' name. 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 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.

May

- 1 Craig Hillegass
Betty Himes
- 8 Charles and Sandra Koenig
Linda and Eric Kramer
- 15 Sharon (Sherry) Kulp
Phil and Joanne Levering
- 22 Stephen, Bridgette and Stephen
Lightcap
Mary Ann Lopardo
- 29 Pamela Marino
Betty McCormick

CALENDAR

May 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Third Sunday of Easter Worship Service 10:15am	2 Boy Scouts 7pm	3	4 Zoom Bible Study 1pm	5	6	7 Men's Break-fast 8:30am
8 Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship Service 10:15am	9 Boy Scouts 7pm	10 Consistory 7pm	11 Zoom Bible Study 1pm	12	13 Grace & Peace Men's Bible Study 9am	14
	Mother's Day!					
Undie Sunday						
15 Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship Service 10:15am	16 Boy Scouts 7pm	17	18 Zoom Bible Study 1pm Rehearsal Coventry Community Chorus	19	20 Coventry Community Chorus	21
22 Sixth Sunday of Easter Worship Service 10:15am	23 Boy Scouts 7pm	24 AA District 7pm	25 Zoom Bible Study 1pm	26 Endowment 7pm	27 Grace & Peace Men's Bible Study 9am	28
29 Seventh Sunday of Easter Worship Service 10:15am	30 Boy Scouts 7pm	31				

St. James United Church of Christ
321 South Limerick Road
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May 2022 NEWSLETTER

Notes & Reminders

Materials for the June Newsletter are due on May 19th, 2022.

THE COVENTRY COMMUNITY CHORUS



The Coventry Community Chorus, directed by George D. Myers will again be holding their annual Spring concert here at St. James on May 20th at 7:30 pm.

