



WHAT'S UP

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Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.' Luke 18: 15-17

I attended a rally for sensible gun laws in West Chester recently, and it was led by several young people from an organization called March for Our Lives. (marchfourlives.com) It was pointed out during the rally that this is not a political issue, but a moral one. I'm sure that many of us are angry, frustrated and frightened. We should not have to be afraid to go to work, to a grocery store, to school or to church. I myself am grateful that I do not have children in school anymore. But I know plenty of people who do. And I know many teachers. It's sad that our children and teachers have to live in such an environment. I will admit that I have often felt hopeless with this situation.

But being at the rally, and hearing that each of us together can do something to help move the mountain, made me think that I can't sit back and do nothing except complain. To that end, I have proposed to consistory that we host a postcard writing party. Postcards to our Senators and Representatives are surprisingly effective at reaching the people who need to see it. I plan to invite other pastors from our area to join us, along with members of their congregation, plus any friends or family members who would like to be a part of it. Details are still being worked out, but stay tuned.

Here is an article by Diana Butler Bass that is eye-opening and informative, with multiple other articles and resources at the end. Please read (you will have to copy and paste into your browser) and ask God what you can do to help. Be prepared to listen, and to act.

https://dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/gundamentalism-on-the-rise?r=edxv6&s=r&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email

Article title: Moving Mountains on Gun Violence

Like ending racism, this is a mountain that may not be completely moved in our lifetimes. But we must try and move it a little all the same, so that the next generation, our young people, will be able to move it a little more. When we do this, the kingdom of God is at hand. Don't be afraid, as the angels would say. Come and see.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Beth

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CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

I am praying everything settles down this summer with Covid and Women's Fellowship can begin meeting again in the fall. We are exploring the idea of making a Church cookbook from all the good cooks in our congregation. It would make a great Christmas gift! Think about your favorite recipes in your family and more to follow in September! I miss our time together. Cindy Valerio

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

This is a brief reminder St. James UCC is blessed to be the custodian of an Endowment Fund. The Fund was established to support efforts in the areas of Christian Education, Community Service and Outreach or Wider Mission of St. James UCC.

Requests may be made for funding from the endowment by completing a Funding Request form. Forms are available on the Narthex bulletin board and may be submitted to the church office. The Endowment Committee meets in February, May, August and November to review applications. Applications should be submitted prior to the meeting date.

We look forward to receiving requests to extend the ministry of St. James UCC through funding from this resource. Please contact Kevin Brightbill, Kristen Serina or Bob Walters with any questions.



FOURTH OF JULY: Remembering America as a Nation Under God

www.christiantoday.com/article/fourth.of.july...
 America became a free country on July 4, 1776, however, what many may not know - or forget - is that America is also a nation under God founded on Christian principles. 54 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Christians, 27 held theology degrees.

THE FOURTH OF JULY

The Christian Post Americans seem to fight more among themselves than together. My hope is that this Flag Day we will remember that no matter our political affiliation, religious beliefs, or social positions, we all fly under the same flag.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For our friends Betty Wines, Heather Yates, Melissa Moore, Ellie Donofrio, Frank Miller, Sang Hi Crater, Joan Rosen, Betty Himes *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 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, Joy W, Carol E, Karen, Carl H, Carol E *and all cancer survivors, we pray for treatment where it is possible and release from suffering where it is needed.*

For our friends Taylor, Richard H, Rita L, Fred R, Fred, Joan R, River, Ron G, Baby Everleigh, Baby Lilah, Jim M, Heather M *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

For the friends and family of Ed Brimmer *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 once again we come to you asking for healing of all those that are still struggling with illness and other health issues. We pray that you relieve their pain and any discomfort they may have. We thank you for the prayers you have answered and all the blessing you give each of us every day. We ask that you be with each of us in our greatest needs giving us direction. We pray for those that have lost loved ones through violence and natural causes giving them peace and comfort. We continue to pray for peace in counties that are suffering from wars. We pray for healing and wholeness 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 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.

July

3 Edward and Susan Myers

Laura Myers

10 Lisa Myers

Tony, Linda, Lisa and Amy

Nuccitelli

17 Diane and Evelyn Phelen

Donna Pinto

24 Ken and Diane Raspen

Anita Rogers

31 Joan (Ide) Rosen

Joy Rubeo

August

7 Richard, Amy, Liesel and Zachery

Sarfert

Dianne Savitsky

14 Keith Schell

Margaret Schweitzer

21 Donna Serina

Kristen Serina

28 Michael, Keira and Hannah Serina

Aaron Smith

CALENDAR

July 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Worship service 9:30	4 Boy Scout 7pm	5	6	7	8	9 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
10 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Worship service 9:30	11 Boy Scout 7pm	12	13	14	15	16
17 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Worship service 9:30	18 Boy Scout 7pm	19	20	21	22	23
24 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship service 9:30	25 Boy Scout 7pm	26 AA District Meeting 7pm	27	28	29	30
31 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship service 9:30						

CALENDAR

August 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
7 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Worship service 9:30	8 Boy Scout 7pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship service 9:30	15 Boy Scout 7pm	16	17	18	19	20
21 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship service 9:30	22 Boy Scout 7pm	23	24	25 Endowment 7pm	26	27
28 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Worship service 9:30	29 Boy Scout 7pm	30	31			

CONFERENCE & LOCAL NEWS

JOHN & LAURIE DAY
The Next Steppe

*“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”*
Psalm 42:11 (NIV)



What are YOU telling yourself?

(This devotion from Paul Tripp’s “New Morning Mercies” is so true, especially for me. John and I felt it is a good, thought-provoking message to share with all our friends.)

Every day you preach to yourself some kind of gospel—a false “I can’t do this” gospel or the true “I have all I need in Christ” gospel.

I find myself saying it over and over again. When I do, people often laugh, but I’m really quite serious. No one is more influential in your life than you are because no one talks to you more than you do. It’s a fact that you and I are in an endless conversation with ourselves. Most of us have learned that it’s best not to move our lips because people will think we’re crazy, but we never stop talking to ourselves. In this inner discussion, we’re always talking about God, life, others, and ourselves, and the things we say to ourselves are very

important because they are formative of the things we desire, choose, say, and do. What have you been saying to you? What have you been saying to you about yourself? What have you been saying to you about God? What have you been saying to you about life, meaning and purpose, right and wrong, true and false, and good and bad?

In Psalm 42, we are invited to eavesdrop on a man's private preaching. Yes, you read it right; like us, the psalmist was always preaching some kind of gospel to himself. We either preach to ourselves a gospel of aloneness, poverty, and inability or the true gospel of God's presence, power, and constant provision. You are preaching to yourself a gospel that produces fear and timidity or one that propels you with courage and hope. You are preaching to yourself of a God who is distant, passive, and uncaring or of a God who is near, caring, and active. You are always preaching to yourself a gospel that causes you to rest in his wisdom or a gospel that produces a bit of panic because it seems as if there are no answers to be found.

Today, when it feels as if no one understands, what gospel will you preach to you? As you face physical sickness, the loss of a job, or the disloyalty of a friend, what message will you bring to you? When you are tempted to give way to despondency or fear, what will you say to you? When life seems hard and unfair, what gospel will you preach to you? When parenting or your marriage seems difficult and overwhelming, what will you share with you? When your dreams elude your grasp, what will you say to you? When you face a disease that you thought you'd never face, what gospel will you preach to you?

It really is true—no one talks to you more than you do. So, God in his grace has given you his Word so that you may preach to yourself what is true in those moments when the only one talking to you is you.

Praises:

- For borders opened to have short-term veterinarians come work with V.E.T. Net – first time since we were here visiting in Jan.2020!
- For Annabelle getting a teaching job at what looks to be an awesome school for next fall.

Prayers:

- For the start of the 2022 Vet Intern training: may we all teach well, and may the young vets be positively impacted by all the believers surrounding them in the coming months.

Blessings,

Laurie (and John)

St. James United Church of Christ
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July/August 2022 NEWSLETTER

Notes & Reminders

Materials for the September Newsletter are due on August 18th, 2022.

July

Birthday

3....Nancy Ewing
7....Patrick Miller
12...Joanne Levering
16...Ted Alderfer
21...Kristen Focht
24...Russell Brightbill
24...Jay Smith
28...Charles Grisdale
29...Margaret Schweitzer

Anniversary

31....Kenneth & Diane Raspen

August

Birthday

1....Laura Myers
3....Laura Walters
11....Linda Nuccitelli
14....Anastasia Schell
26....Richard Sarfert
29....Audrey Grace Smith

Anniversary

17....Charles & Marion Hentz
30....Philip & Joanne
Levering

Congratulations and best wishes
from your church family!