

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The VOICE

February-March, 2016

PASTOR TONY'S MESSAGE

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God whose love is ever constant and steadfast, even when we are not.

We believe in Jesus the Christ who walked among us, who was betrayed and forgave and who died that we might live.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, ever present with us to comfort as well as urge us forward in the name of Christ.

We believe in the church as the place where we are loved as we are and still gently encouraged to grow.

We believe that we are called to be the church; to love people more than they deserve, because so Christ loves us.

We believe in the miracle of life and in the life everlasting. Amen.

We will begin our Lenten Journey as we approach Ash Wednesday. Our journey will be through the lens by Adam Hamilton. The book title, "Final Words from the Cross." My prayer is that this Lenten journey will reignite in us that God promises are true.

Tree

My brother liked digging holes, and the summer before he died he dug one for an apple tree that I see every day through a window in my office. Thanks to the tree, it is the one hole he dug that has not been filled in and forgotten.

By the side of an old dirt road in the woods is a big maple tree that is so nearly hollow that three children can get into it together and still have wiggle room. Year after year it puts out a canopy of leaves even so, and a friend of mine once said, "If that tree can keep on doing that in the shape it's in, then there's hope for all of us." So we named it the Hope Tree.

Sycamore, willow, catalpa, ash—who knows what their true names are? We know only that they are most beautiful in the fall when they are dying. They are craziest when the wind is blowing. In the snow they are holiest.

Maybe what is most precious about them is their silence. Maybe what is most touching about them is the way they reach out to us as we pass.

~ originally published in Beyond Words

FEBRUARY WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, February 7, 2016

Last Sunday after
Epiphany/Transfiguration
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 0:28-36

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 14, 2016

First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, February 28, 2016

Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

I Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9



MARCH WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

John 12:1-8

Sunday, March 13, 2016

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 2:16

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Luke 19:28-40

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Luke 23:1-49

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

I Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17

Friday, March 25, 2016

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1-19:42

Sunday, March 27, 2016

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

John 20:1-18

FEBRUARY CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

1 Brianna Nace
1 Alison Long
4 John Kless
4 Richard H. Light
6 Shirley Fortna
7 Jordan Oskam
9 Lori Marinkov
11 Shirley Rudy
12 Jay Losiewicz

13 Linda Nace
15 Madelyn Fegan
15 Cindy Michael
16 Jim Davis Sr.
16 Donnette Quairol
17 Tiffany Nace
21 Charlene Ziegler
22 Becky Griffiths

23 Joe Ditzler
23 Andrew Eberhart
23 Roger Myers
24 Shane Boltz
24 Kim Kapp
25 Pamela Myers
27 Dawn Losiewicz

Happy Anniversary to:

6 Cathy & Chris Rentschler

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

If your information is incorrect or not included, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Feb. Readers

Feb. 7- Neal Grimes
Feb. 14- Pam Emery
Feb. 21- Keith Gingrich
Feb. 28- Charlene Ziegler

Feb. Flowers

Feb. 7- Brenda Good
Feb. 14- Terry & Ginny Knapp
Feb. 21- Pastor Herb & Sharon
Hibshman
Feb. 28- Dena Eberhart

January Attendance

January 3 - 63
January 10 - 50
January 17 - 65
January 24 - No Service
January 31 - 60

Feb. Bulletins

Feb. 7- Brenda Good
Feb. 14- Terry & Ginny Knapp
Feb. 21- Pastor Herb & Sharon
Hibshman
Feb. 28- Dena Eberhart

Feb Coffee Host

Feb. 7- Ginny Knapp
Feb. 14- Ginny Knapp
Feb. 21- Ginny Knapp
Feb. 28- Ginny Kanpp

February Deacon

Mark Tyrpin

SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flowers: March 6th, 13th
20th
April 10th
Bulletins: March 6th, 13th
20th
April 10th



MARCH CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

1 Anna Marie Lauer

5 Jim Davis Jr.

6 Missy Daub

6 Rev. Thomas Jackman

6 Glenn Rudy

6 Brenda Good

6 Tiara Rice

8 Randy Ziegler

16 Paul Smith

16 Marlene Zechman

20 Mildred Schriver

20 Beth Yingst

21 Kathy Fegan

21 Ginny Knapp

24 Steve Shaffer

26 Jeremy Stoltz

28 Gary Trautman

30 Melissa Seltzer

Happy Anniversary to:

2 Violet & Ken Leibensperger

11 Diane & Ken Mohn

12 Denise & Lee Flanick

15 Marc & Beth Ann Griffiths

27 Jeremy & Alyssa Stoltz

29 Barb & Thomas Trainor

If your information is incorrect or not included, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

Mar. Readers

Mar. 6- Regina Engler
 Mar. 13- Robin Getz
 Mar. 20- Sharon Hibshman
 Mar. 27- Julie Ditzler

Mar. Flowers

Mar. 6- Pastor Tony Fields
 Mar. 13- OPEN
 Mar. 20- OPEN
 Mar. 27- Gary Trautman

March Deacon

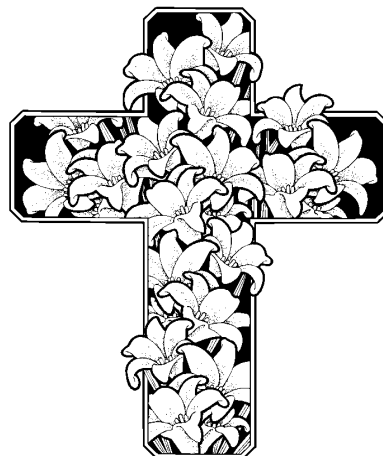
Bob Seltzer

Mar. Bulletins

Mar. 6- OPEN
 Mar. 13- OPEN
 Mar. 20- OPEN
 Mar. 27- Gary Trautman

Mar. Coffee Host

Mar. 6- Ken & Violet Leibensperger
 Mar. 13- Ken & Violet Leibensperger
 Mar. 20- Ken & Violet Leibensperger
 Mar. 27- Ken & Violet Leibensperger



From the Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

There are two important announcements concerning the Christian Connection schedule. The first is that as plans solidify for the Lenten Service which will now be held on Sundays, the Christian Connection classes will be on hiatus for the Lenten season. The last class will be on Sunday, February 7, and classes will resume on Sunday, April 3. As a committee we have also decided to take this year off from planning and hosting a special Easter program during the Christian Connection on Easter Sunday, March 27, and so there will be no classes on Easter. Again classes will resume on Sunday, April 3, and we hope to see you then!

St. John's Fellowship by Ginny Knapp

While we are still enjoying our vacation from meetings, we still have work to be doing. Plans for our Spring Flea Market and Bake Sale are underway. Please check your cupboards and closets for your unused articles. We need them!

An Avon project is scheduled for Mother's Day. Also, we will be selling Easter flowers to decorate the church sanctuary. Keep our projects in mind and remember we need YOUR help.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

NEW HORIZONS 2015

New Horizons is an opportunity for fellowship for single adults, sponsored by the Parish Life Committee of the Lebanon Association, Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ. For additional information for future programs, please call Betty Holdren (866-2013), Dolores Wolfe (867-1807), Eleanor Hollowell (865-8087), Etta Cuddleford (273-8140), Eleanor Baylor (865-4977), Ann Wagner (867-2675), or Patricia Rentschler (685-1492).

February 27—2:00 PM—Games— Bring your favorite game. Meet at Hoss's east of Annville on Route 422 for meeting and dinner.

April 2—2:00 PM—Meet at Salem Lutheran Church in Lebanon at 8th & Willow Sts. Dinner at Quentin Haus Restaurant.

May 28—2:00 PM—Miniature Golf—Games and dinner at Kauffman's Bar-B- Q in Bethel.

June 22 (Note the date) - A day at Knoebels Park We will arrange to carpool.

July 14—Thursday—Bus trip to "Ebrhardt's Dinner Theater—Escape on the Lake". A boat ride, dinner and show. Cost is \$65.00 per person. Leaving Fisher Bus Terminal at 7:00 AM.

August 20—(Note date and time) 1:00 PM—Picnic—"Pot Luck" at Jonestown Community Park. Games and Fellowship and bring a prize for bingo.

Note—Programs are subject to change. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee

members whose names and phone numbers are listed at the top.

LETTER RECEIVED FROM JONESTOWN OUTREACH PANTRY

Dear Congregation at St. John's UCC,

Thank you for supporting the JOY Pantry with your generous donations of: 189 pounds of food in October; 53 pounds of food in November and 32 pounds of food in December.

There is a definite need to help families in our community. We are grateful for your support. Your help allows JOY to continue its mission of feeding the less fortunate in northern part of Lebanon Co. This past year the JOY Pantry provided food to an average of 130 households. That number includes 90 children and 45 senior citizens.

Thank you
The Jonestown Outreach Pantry

Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer **St. John's Lenten Journey for 2016**

Our 2016 Lenten Journey begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, with a 7PM joint worship service with our sister congregations, Zoar Lutheran, Mt. Zion, and St. John's Lutheran, Fredericksburg. There will be the administration of ashes and altar communion by intinction at this service. Rev. Bennett Harris will give the sermon and our Sr. Choir will sing an anthem.

Then traditionally, our congregation had a mid-week Lenten gathering on a Wednesday or Thursday evening that began with a light supper that was followed by a worship and prayer service. In recent years, less and less of our members have been attending this mid-week gathering. The Pastor and the committee have decided the time has come to try something new.

Beginning on Sunday, February 14, and through the Lenten Season, there will be Lenten study and worship on Sundays following our regular morning worship service. At the end of morning worship, Pastor Tony will transition us to the Fellowship Hall where a light lunch will be served by members of the Music and Worship Committee. After eating, there will be Lenten Study and the conclusion of the worship service.

So that you can plan your Sunday, Pastor Tony has promised that these gatherings will not last longer than 12:30. It is our hope that most in attendance at worship will stay for this Lenten gathering.

On Maundy Thursday, March 24th, there will be an evening worship at St. John's. We are planning to have a form of the traditional Jewish celebration of a Seder Meal. Communion will be included at this service.

A Community Good Friday worship service will be planned by the Fredericksburg Ministerium. The time and place of this service has not been determined. The Ministerium meeting had to be rescheduled due to last week's snow storm.

Easter Sunday will be celebrated by St. John's on Sunday, March 27th, beginning at 6:45AM with a Sunrise Service at Cedar Hill Cemetery, and morning worship in the church at 10:30PM.

Our next meeting will be March 7th at 7:00 PM.

Financial Report by Robin Getz, Finance Chair

Total Revenue	(1/1/15 – 12/31/15)	\$ 108,579.92
Total Expenses	(1/1/15 – 12/31/15)	\$ 120,363.32

The Financial Committee is always diligent with monitoring expenses. I am thankful for the dedication of the members and their continued efforts. Note: we are always looking for members to serve and, if there is any interest, they can contact me.

LADIES

Check your closets and see if you are missing a long navy Swede coat with a belt. It has been on the coat rack for a number of weeks. If you have had family members or guests attend church with you please check if they might be missing a coat

NEW ADDRESS

Daniel Wenger
14 Kindred Place
Annville PA 17003
Phone # 717-867-8514

I would like to thank the congregation for the support and encouragement I received as consistory president the last two years. During that time we received Pastor Fields and his family, and again the response by the congregation was noticed and is appreciated. Brenda Good is our new president and she is relying on the continued support of the congregation as she begins this task. Despite this being her first time on consistory, Brenda responded to the need by filling this position and accepting its responsibilities. She deserves our appreciation and support for stepping forward. Please keep Brenda, members of consistory, and our pastor in your prayers, asking God's guidance and strength to continue his work through Saint John's.

2016 Consistory

Deacons

Scott Benfer
 Pam Emery – Vice President
 Brenda Good – President
 Bob Seltzer
 Mark Tyrpin
 Pat Ziegler

Elders

Joe Ditzler
 Robin Gingrich - Secretary
 Neal Grimes
 Rev Herb Hibshman
 Ken Leibensperger
 Louise Walmer

Walter Bolles will again serve as treasurer for the church. We thank him for his continued service.

At our last meeting, the idea of having a suggestion box placed in the church was discussed. It was decided not to do that. Instead consistory wants to remind the congregation that you have twelve individuals on consistory who are always ready to hear and consider any suggestions you have for the church. Consistory members were encouraged to ask for input as well. Please remember that these lines of communication exist and feel free to use them.

Consistory meets the last Monday of each month. All are welcome to attend.

Committees meetings also occur on a regular basis. They are a great way to get involved with the life and mission of our church. You're sure to find one that is of interest and that would appreciate your involvement. Why not help out? You will gain as much as you give.

May God's Blessings to St John's Continue.

Joe Ditzler

Order Your Easter Flowers

Our Fellowship Committee once more is providing the opportunity for you to order Easter Flowers to beautify our sanctuary in celebration of Easter.

Please indicate how many plants you want to provide and give this order sheet and the money to Robin Gingrich or Priscilla Rentschler no later than Sunday, **March 13th**. You may also mail in your order form no later than **March 11th**.

The cost is \$8.00 per plant. You can order Hyacinths & Tulips (each plant has 3-4 blooms) or Lilies. The color choices are as follows:

	<u>How Many?</u>
Hyacinths:	
<u>Pink</u>	_____
<u>Blue</u>	_____
Tulips:	
<u>Pink</u>	_____
<u>Red</u>	_____
<u>Yellow</u>	_____
Lilies:	_____ -
<u>Total Plants</u>	_____
<u>Total Cost</u>	\$ _____

NAME: _____

In Memory/Honor of _____
 Order forms and checks payable to: St. John's United Church of Christ Fellowship, PO Box 87,
 Fredericksburg, PA 17026.

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	3 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM NO BIBLE STUDY Choir Practice 7:00PM	4 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	5	6
7 Souper Bowl Sunday 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	8	9 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	10 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM NO BIBLE STUDY Choir Practice 7:00PM	11 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	12 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	13
14 10:30AM Worship Lunch & Lenten Journey following Worship Joy Pantry Sunday	15	16 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	17 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM NO BIBLE STUDY Mission Committee Meeting—6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM	18 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	19	20
21 10:30AM Worship Lunch & Lenten Journey following Worship	22	23 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	24 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM NO BIBLE STUDY Choir Practice 7:00PM	25 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	26	27
28 10:30AM Worship Lunch & Lenten Journey following Worship Dine & Donate Sunday Deacon Fund	29 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Consistory 7:00 PM					

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM NO BIBLE STUDY Choir Practice 7:00PM	3 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	4	5
6 10:30 AM Worship (Communion) Lunch & Lenten Journey following Worship Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	7 Music & Worship Meeting 7:00 PM	8 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	9 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM NO BIBLE STUDY Choir Practice 7:00PM	10 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	11	12
13 10:30AM Worship Lunch & Lenten Journey following Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	14	15 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Fellowship Meeting 7:00 PM	16 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM NO BIBLE STUDY Choir Practice 7:00PM	17 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	18	19
20  10:30 AM Worship	21	22 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	23 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM NO BIBLE STUDY Choir Practice 7:00PM	24Maundy Thursday Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service—7:00 PM At St. John's UCC	25Good Friday Good Friday Community Service	26
27  Sunrise Service At Cedar Hill Cemetery 6:45 AM 10:30AM Worship (Communion) Dine & Donate Sunday Deacon Fund Sunday	28 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Consistory 7:00 PM	29	30 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM NO BIBLE STUDY Choir Practice 7:00PM	31 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	 <p>Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!</p> <p>Happy EASTER</p>	

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

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Fredericksburg, PA 17026

Every Sunday
9:00 am Christian Connection
10:30am Morning Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ is: A church of faith, heeding to God's call, through worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. We are building on our church's history, while looking to our future. Our church is filled with messengers, who share the gift of God's love, with the community and beyond. We strive to be a church that reaches out to all with compassion, a vision of God's everlasting peace, and a witness of spiritual hope to our present and future generations. For all this and so much more, we pray in God's name.

Church Staff

Rev. Tony Fields, Sr. Pastor
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director

Consistory

Brenda Good, President
Pam Emery, Vice President
Robin Gingrich, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Joe Ditzler
Robin Gingrich
Neal Grimes
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