

St. John's United Church of *The VOICE*

February 2015

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." - Matthew 22:37

Normally our Lenten journey is filled with sacrifice and denial from things. I want to stretch us a little for our mid-week services during this Lenten season, which begins Ash Wednesday, February 18th. Scripture often uses the metaphor of a journey or road as a way to help us understand the life of faith. One familiar journey I normally use is the journeys that Jesus and his disciples took to give us insight into our journey. Lent is a special time of year as I look inward to see the journey for our lives. Here are some different journeys/roads that are used during lent.

- * **The Road to Damascus**, where life is given new direction.
- * **The Road in the Wilderness**, on which the Holy Spirit leads us from baptism (Jesus' and our own) to confrontation with temptation.
- * **The Road Home**, helping us explore the story of the Prodigal Son and his journey.
- * **The Road to Jerusalem**, in which we journey with the disciple Peter and his role as stumbling block to Jesus.
- * **The Road to Jericho**, on which we meet the "Good Samaritan," who serves as an example for God's people.
- * **The Bethany Road**, which leads to the home of Mary and Martha and the funeral of their brother Lazarus.
- * **The Road to Gethsemane** helps us understand the difficult choices that Jesus made, and calls us to live beyond our fears.
- * **The Road to Calvary** leads to the confrontation of evil and our call as God's people to take up our cross as Jesus did.

As we prepare for our Lenten journey, let's focus more on what we are gaining rather than what we are giving up. Let the 40 days of Lent be a season of new life, inner peace, and renewal of spirit.

So, as we journey together we will consider where our own roads, our own journeys of faith, are leading us. All of this to better prepare us for Easter and the celebration anew of Jesus' resurrection - and our own to new life. Please join us in our Lenten Journey!

Pastor Tony Fields

FEBRUARY WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, February 1, 2015
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
I Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, February 8, 2015
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
I Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 15, 2015
Transfiguration
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm: 51:1-13
2 Corinthians: 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday February 22, 2015
First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
I Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

FEBRUARY Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

1 Brianna Nace

1 Alison Long

4 John Kless

4 Richard H. Light

5 Steve Kubik

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 Quairoli

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

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

February Readers

February 1- Crystal Stoltz

February 8- Neal Grimes

February 15 Pastor Herb Hibshman

February 22- Rachael Miller

February Flowers

February 1- Elizabeth Zimmerman

February 8- Pastor Herb &
Sharon Hibshman

February 15- M. Fegan Family

February 22- Dena Eberhart

January Attendance

January 4 - 74

January 11 - 77

January 18 - 68

January 25 - 58

February Bulletins

February 1- NONE

February 8- Pastor Herb &
Sharon Hibshman

February 15- M. Fegan Family

February 22- Priscilla Rentschler

February Coffee Host

February 1- Ginny Knapp

February 8- Ginny Knapp

February 15- Ginny Knapp

February 22- Ginny Knapp

February Deacon

Robert Seltzer

SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flower Sponsors:

March 1, 8 & 15

Bulletin Sponsors:

March 1, 8, 15 & 29

The signup sheets are in the Social Hall.



CALLING ALL YOUTH by Louise Walmer

Pastor Tony and the Music and Worship Committee have been discussing ways to involve the youth of the congregation in our worship services. We've decided that instead of having one Youth Sunday every year, we will have a Youth Sunday on the 5th Sunday of the month. In 2015, there are 4 months that have 5 Sundays. These months are March, May, August, and November.

Our 1st Youth Sunday of 2015 will be on March 29, which also happens to be Palm Sunday. We will ask the youth to participate by leading worship, reading scripture, presenting the palms, gathering the offering, serving as Greeters, etc.

For these Youth Sundays, we would like to organize a group of youth to sing contemporary anthems. Kadie Walmer has agreed to lead this singing group. Rehearsal time will be scheduled to coordinate with everyone's calendar.

Youth of St John's: If you are willing to help in any of these youth worship services and/or sing with Kadie, please talk to Pastor Tony, Kadie Walmer, or Louise Walmer before or after church. At other times, Pastor Tony can be reached at the church office 865-7222, Kadie by calling 821-1050 and Louise at 865-5103. Thank you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! by Scott Benfer

ATTENTION St John's youth, we have scheduled a new and cool event for Thursday, March 19, 2015. Sky Zone trampoline jumping. It is several large trampolines and a large foam ball pit. One trampoline is a dodge ball court that we can use to play dodgeball in. Bring your friends and let's have a great time! There is no fee for the youth, but the cost for adults is \$17 per adult. This is for an hour and a half of jumping. All are welcome to attend. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Let's get a group together for an awesome game of dodge ball. We will leave St John's at 5:00 PM and return at approximately 9:00 PM. If you have any questions, see Scott Benfer. Hope to see you there!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hello Brother's & Sister's In Christ

The VBS Ad hoc Community will be meeting on February 21 & 28 following morning service. Anyone who looks to participate, feel free to join us. I'm looking forward to what God has in store for us at St. John's UCC. Colossians 3:23

Be Blessed
Jodie Fields

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

The committee met on Tuesday, January 13th. Sharon Hibshman led our devotion time based on Hebrews 12:1-3 and the lesson that "it's okay to fail".

Lent begins with an Ash Wednesday evening worship on Wednesday, February 18th. The worship service will be at St. John's Lutheran church and Pastor Tony will be preaching the sermon.

We will have Wednesday evening vesper worship on Wednesdays in Lent, beginning at 6pm with a light supper in the fellowship hall followed by worship in the sanctuary. There will be a sign up sheet for volunteers to provide a light supper on these evenings. Sr. Choir rehearsals will follow the vesper service.

More planning will be needed to decide on a theme for these Wednesday evening vespers, Maundy Thursday worship, Good Friday, and the Easter sunrise service. Maundy Thursday is April 2nd. Good Friday is April 3rd and Easter is April 5th.

Our discussion focused on the 5th Sunday of the month Youth Sundays for 2015. Our 1st Youth Sunday will be on March 29th, which also happens to be Palm Sunday. We will ask the youth to participate in the worship service. Louise volunteered to make a contact list of all our youth and their parents. We will make more specific plans for this worship service at our February meeting.

A Lay Leader / Committee Chairperson Meeting has been scheduled for January 31st. Charlene will represent the Music and Worship Committee at this meeting. The meeting questionnaire was completed as a group. Louise made a copy of the completed questionnaire for Charlene and gave the original to Joe Ditzler.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17th, beginning at 6pm. Gary Trautman will lead our devotions.

February Musical Offerings

Feb 1 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The Sr. Choir will sing, "Teach Me, Lord to Wait", arranged by Mary McDonald

Feb 8 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

The Sr. Choir will sing, "There Is a Balm in Gilead", arranged by R. Kevin Boesinger and Mary McDonald

Feb 15 Transfiguration Sunday

The Sr. Choir will sing, "Victory in Jesus", arranged by Joseph Martin

Feb 22 First Sunday in Lent

Hand Bell Choir will play

BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP By Neal Grimes

DECEMBER	INCOME	Y.T.D.
WEEKLY OFFERINGS (4WEEKS)	\$ 10,129.00	\$ 98,472.63
DEFRAY COST OF ENVELOPES	45.00	328.00
BULLETINS	20.00	360.00
JOINT MEN'S & WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	0	2,600.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	0	550.00
FUNDRAISING	(266.42)	3,626.15
SPECIAL SERVICES	1,329.00	1,919.50
SOCIAL HALL RENTALS/MISC	170.00	546.00
INTEREST	2.54	29.50
TOTAL INCOME FOR OCTOBER	\$ 11,429.12	\$ 108,431.78
EXPENSES	\$ 12,534.00	\$ 110,349.22
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ (1,104.88)	\$ (1,917.44)

Our budget for weekly offerings is \$2,300. For December we averaged 2,532.25.
For the entire year our weekly offerings average \$1,893.70.

THANK YOU!

Dear Members of St. John's UCC

Thank you for supporting the JOY Pantry with your generous donation of 54 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 the northern part of Lebanon County.

This past year the JOY Pantry provided food to an average of 130 households. That number includes 90 children and 45 senior citizen's

The Jonestown Outreach Pantry.

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	2	3 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	4 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study 12:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	5 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	6	7
8 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship JOY Pantry Pizza Lunch & Bowling at 1:00 PM	9	10 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	11 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study 12:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	12 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	13	14
15 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship	16	17 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	18 Ash Wednesday Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Ash Wednesday service at St. John's Lutheran—7:00 PM No Bible Study or Choir Practice	19 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	20	21 Birthday Social—6:00 PM
22 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Christian Education Meeting Following Worship Deacon's Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	23 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	24	25 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study -noon 6:00 PM Light Supper followed by Vesper Service Choir Practice following services	26 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	27	28

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

Church Phone # 717-865-7222
E-mail stjohnsucc@comcast.net
Website: www.stjohnsuccfburg.org

Every Sunday
9:00am 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
Mrs. Donna Eberly-Lehman Church Secretary

Consistory

Joe Ditzler, President
Robert Seltzer, Vice President
Missy Daub, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Walter Bolles
Missy Daub
Joe Ditzler
Robin Gingrich
Neil Grimes
Terry Knapp

Deacons

Pam Emery
Connie Martin
Morgan Hevel
Bob Seltzer
Mark Tyrpin
Pat Ziegler