



Jesus Calms the Storm

Compare: Matthew 13:34,35;
Matthew 8:23-27; Luke 8:22-25

Jesus' Power over Nature (a thought for June scriptures)

The "sea" being crossed by Jesus and his followers is the Sea of Galilee, so the area they are moving on to would be the present-day Jordan. This would take him into territory controlled by Gentiles, pointing to the eventual expansion of Jesus' message and community beyond Jews and to the Gentile world.

During the trip across the Sea of Galilee, a large storm comes up - so large that the boat threatens to sink after so much water has entered it. How Jesus manages to stay asleep though this is unknown, but traditional commentaries on the passage say that he slept deliberately in order to test the faith of the apostles. If that is the case, then they failed, because they were so scared that they woke Jesus up to find out whether he cared if they all drowned.

A more plausible explanation is that the author of Mark has Jesus sleeping out of literary necessity: Jesus' calming the storm is designed to evoke the story of Jonah. Here Jesus is sleeping because the story of Jonah has him sleeping down in the ship. Accepting such an explanation, though, requires accepting the idea that this

story is a literary creation by the author and not an accurate historical narrative.

Jesus proceeds to end the storm and restore the sea to calm - but why? Calming the storm doesn't appear to have been absolutely necessary because he rebukes the others for not having faith - presumably, they should have trusted that nothing would happen to them while he was around. So ostensibly, had he not stopped the storm they would have made it across just fine.

Was his purpose then simply to create a display of naked power in order to impress these apostles? If so, he succeeded because they appear to be just as afraid of him now as they were moments ago of the storm. It's strange, though, that they don't understand who he is. Why did they even wake him if they didn't think he might be able to do something?

Although it is still relatively early in his ministry, he has been explaining to them all of the secret meanings of his parables. Hadn't they discovered who he is and what he is doing? Or if they had, do they simply not believe him? Whatever the case, this appears to be another example of the apostles being portrayed as dolts.

Returning once again to tradi-

tional commentaries on this passage, many say this story is supposed to teach us not to be fearful of the chaos and violence around us in our lives. First, if we have faith, then no harm is to come to us. Second, if you act as Jesus and simply command the chaos to "be still," then you will at least achieve some inner sense of peace and thus be less troubled by what is occurring.

The calming of a raging storm fits with other stories where Jesus' power is manifested against awesome, even mythic forces: raging seas, hordes of demons, and death itself. Confining the sea itself is depicted in Genesis as an aspect of divine power and privilege. It is not coincidental that the following stories of Jesus involve further instances of combating forces more powerful than what has been seen thus far.

Inside this issue:

<i>Worship News</i>	2
<i>Celebrations & Sunday</i>	3
<i>Consistory News &</i>	4
<i>Christian Ed News & Music & Worship</i>	5
<i>Fellowship News</i>	6
<i>Monthly Calendar</i>	7

SCRIPTURES FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER

Sunday, June 2 – Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 18:20-39

Psalm 96

Galatians 1:1-12

Luke 7:1-10

Focus Scripture for Sermon

Sunday, June 9 – Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17:8-24

Psalm 146

Galatians 1:11-24

Luke 7:11-17

Focus Scripture for Sermon



Sunday, June 16 – Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 21:1-21a

Psalm 5:1-8

Galatians 2:15-21

Luke 7:36-8:3

Focus Scripture for Sermon

Sunday, June 23 – Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:1-15a

Psalm 42

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

(Guest Speaker)

Sunday, June 30 – Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

Focus Scripture for Sermon

Our worship experiences/opportunities for the month of June are as follows:

Sunday,	June 2	10:30 am	Sermon entitled “Are We Willing To Sing New Songs” with a focus scripture of Psalm 96 (Communion)
Wednesday,	June 5	noon to 1 pm	Bible Study in the Social Hall. Bring your own lunch.
Sunday,	June 9	9:30 am	Sermon entitled “We Don’t Talk About Death” with a focus scripture of Luke 7:11-17
Wednesday,	June 12	noon to 1 pm	Bible Study in the Social Hall. Bring your own lunch.
Sunday,	June 16	9:30 am	Sermon entitled “Are You Hungry?” with a focus scripture of Luke 7:36-8:3
Wednesday,	June 19		<u>NO BIBLE STUDY</u> .
Sunday,	June 23	9 :30 am	Laity Sunday—Message will be delivered by a member of St. John’s
Wednesday,	June 26	noon to 1 pm	Bible Study in the Social Hall. Bring your own lunch.
Sunday,	June 30	9:30 am	Sermon entitled “Following Where Jesus Leads” with a focus scripture of Luke 9:51-62

June Celebrations...

Happy Birthday to:

1 Holli Brown
 4 Greg Yingst
 5 Gail Grimes
 6 Jim Rudy
 8 Nick Benfer
 10 Taylor Gingrich
 10 Diane Mohn
 12 Michelle Walmer

12 Joe Miller
 14 Anne Hambrick-Stowe
 17 Jeff Walmer
 17 Grayclin Griffiths
 18 Karen Davis
 18 Bailey Lynam
 19 Clint Fegan
 20 Gina Lutz

22 Dave Marinkov
 23 Jean Ann Grimes
 23 Arlene Walmer
 26 Harry Swanger
 30 Haley Martin

Happy Anniversary to:

8 Loretta & Bobby Lutz
 11 Pete & Tracy Hevel
 11 Dave & Lori Marinkov

21 Julie & Joe Ditzler
 21 Karen & Richard Light
 22 Glenn & Margaret Rudy

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You

June Readers

June 2—Gail Grimes
 June 9— Charlene Ziegler
 June 16— Sharon Hibshman
 June 23— Tracy Hevel
 June 30— Terry Knapp

June Acolytes

June 2— Noah Gingrich
 June 9— Zach Seltzer
 June 16— Rachael Quairoli
 June 23— Nick Benfer
 June 30— Jason Eberhart

May Attendance

May 5— 59
 May 12— 80
 May 19— 45
 May 26— 61

June Bulletins

June 2— Neil & Jean Grimes
 June 9— Loretta Lutz
 June 16—Brad & Becky Griffiths
 June 23—Glenn Rudy
 June 30- Karen & Richard Light

June Flowers

June 2—Neil & Jean Grimes
 June 9—Loretta Lutz
 June 16- Brad & Becky Griffiths
 June 23- Glenn Rudy
 June 30- Karen & Richard Light

June Deacon Robin Gingrich

June Coffee Host

June 2 Brenda Good &
 Anna Marie Lauer
 June 9 Brenda Good &
 Anna Marie Lauer

Sponsors Needed:

We are in need of sponsors for...Flowers: July 28th: Coffee Host: for June 16th, 23rd & 30th and the months of July & August.

Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and visits sent my way during my recent surgery.

They meant so much to both of us!

Ken & Violet Leibensperger



The Consistory had its regular monthly meeting on April 29th. Items discussed were the on-going search for a new Pastor and the repairs to the church building.

Also Consistory is working to secure pastors for the 4th Sunday of the month.

June 23rd the church will celebrate Laity Sunday.



I want to thank you for selecting me to be the Honored Layperson representing St. John's UCC. The recognition was part of the Lebanon Association Spring Meeting held on May 19th. Thanks to Regina Engler, Gail Grimes and Rachael Miller who joined my husband and me at the banquet.

Robin Getz

New Summer Schedule

During the last consistory meeting and following much prayer and contemplation, it was decided to take a new approach over the summer months where Christian Connection and morning worship is concerned. Many of our committees have attempted to change up our former Sunday School time in hopes of encouraging better attendance and participation. Much work has been taken on by our teachers and Christian Education Chair to provide beneficial lessons for all age groups. They arrive with material in hand prepared to teach these young minds to find empty rooms. It was decided that, as we are already in a time of transition for this year, we would suspend our Christian Connection time from tentatively June 9th through August 25th, resuming our activities September 1st. Also tentatively, we will move our morning worship from 10:30AM to 9:30AM from July 7th through August 25th resuming our 10:30AM schedule the morning of September 1st. It is our hope that this time will allow all of us to rejuvenate, refocus our efforts and recommit to God's teachings.

BEACH TRIP INFORMATION:

It's that time of year again....

Here is the information for anyone interested in the annual St. John's UCC Beach trip. Dates are June 13th thru the 16th, 2013..this is a Thursday thru Sunday.

We will be staying at the Pyramid Motel. located in Wildwood Crest, NJ as in previous years. Please visit their website at www.pyramidmotel.com or visit them on facebook.

Cost is \$299.00 for a standard room...plus 14% tax for the 3 nights. A deposit of \$150.00 is required to hold your room. Any questions or need a bigger room (efficiency room) please contact Donna Martin at the Pyramid Motel...at 609-522-9527. Deposits can be mailed to Donna at the motel at the following address: Pyramid Motel, 8105 Atlantic Avenue, Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260

FROM THE CHRISTIAN ED. CORNER by Angela Michael

As many of you have heard by now, Christian Connection and Circle Time! will be on hiatus from June 9 through August 25. This committee will continue its work through the summer months as we plan some exciting events for the summer.

There will be youth events for June, July and August. We are also planning Tuesday Evening Programs for July 16 (splash party!), July 23 (puppet show, craft and ice cream party) and July 30 (carnival and pizza party). The Congregational

Life Committee has graciously agreed to provide the refreshments for these events again. Coming up in June we are also planning a Christian Connection Picnic to kick off the summer schedule.

Further details on the picnic are pending and will be announced as soon as they are finalized. So while some things will be in hibernation for the summer, we still have quite a bit to look forward

Senior Choir by Louise Walmer

June 2 - Communion

The Sr. Choir will end their 2012-13 singing season with the anthem, "Great Is the Lord". The words and music for this rousing song were written by Michael W Smith and Deborah Smith.

Volunteers are needed to provide musical offerings at our morning worship services throughout the summer. Please contact Charlene Ziegler at 865-5965.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

This committee met on Monday, May 6. Charlene opened our meeting with devotions.

Robin Getz was chosen as our honored lay person for the May 19, Lebanon Association of the UCC dinner meeting. Congratulations, Robin! You will represent us well.

An organist is needed for July and August since the Consistory decision to change the time of our Sunday morning worship services to 9:30AM for those months. Louise made some contacts and has been able to secure, Chris Gettle from Myerstown for 6 of the Sundays. No organist is needed on Aug. 11 when we have our outdoor service at Lion's Park. Chris is unable to play on Aug. 25. Louise will contact Heath Lettich for that Sunday. Chris is a recent Penn State graduate who has been a substitute organist in the Methodist church in Myerstown and has previously played at the Sunday evening services at the Episcopal Church in State College. Robin Getz and Louise will be meeting with Chris at the church on Friday, May 24 to discuss the order of our worship service and our music needs for these months.

It was decided to eliminate the Children's Sermon from the worship service for July and August.

Recognition of our 2013 Graduates will take place during the service on June 9. And we will celebrate Laity Sunday on June 23. Committee members will be asking people to assist with the worship service on that day.

This committee will next meet on Monday, June 3 at 7pm. Robin Getz will lead our devotion time.

St. John's Fellowship News, By Regina Engler

With Vice President Priscilla Rentschler leading the meeting and Neal Grimes providing devotions, St. John's Fellowship met on May 21 to discuss this past month's events and plan for the future. Appreciation was expressed to our Consistory for the planning and effort of the wonderful breakfast served on Mothers' Day which was enjoyed by a number of families of our congregation. The Fellowship has scheduled a breakfast for 2014 when the Festival of the Christian Home appears on our church calendars. This will be to honor all mothers and fathers so mark your appointment book NOW so that you will be there to join in the festivities. With a deadline of June 9, Peggy Mohn is once more seeking folks to support the Auxiliary's work at the Annville Home. A year's membership donation is \$4 and, for \$35, one may acquire a life membership. Peggy will be glad to tell you of the blessings provided by this annual effort. You may give your donation to her or Priscilla Rentschler. Volunteers within the Fellowship group have accepted responsibility to have the windows cleaned and the free-standing signs repaired so church activities can be properly displayed. Members present at this latest meeting also approved a \$2,500 check to the church treasury. A like amount will be given before the end of the year as well. Although no meetings of this group are scheduled for June and July, there will be a picnic meeting on Tuesday, August 20, as we prepare for the future. Look for further details in the church bulletins later on. And remember: we consider every man and woman of St. John's as a member of the Fel-

THANK YOU!

By Peggy Mohn

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone that helped with the Avon Sale by buying and selling. The highest seller was Pat Rentschler and second place seller was Pat Ziegler. Thank you to Connie Martin, Angie & Cindy Michael, Louise Walmer, Charlene Ziegler, Peggy Mohn and Regina Engler for selling. . We had a profit of \$360.00. Great Job!

The Auxiliary of United Church of Christ Homes Is conducting their 51st Annual Membership Drive.

The scope and magnitude of the work done by the Auxiliary is beyond individual capabilities alone so we ask that you encourage interest in the work of the Auxiliary. We are seeking energetic and fun-loving folks to participate in a variety of different programs. Membership is \$4.00 and a Sustaining Membership is \$35.00 per individual. Giving a sustaining Membership each year is a special way to help support our communities with the unbudgeted items for their residents to use and share.

Any questions, contact Peggy Mohn and the deadline for membership is June 9th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Come to Vacation Bible School at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church at Rt. 343 & Shirksville Road, Fredericksburg. This year's Bible School is titled "SONWEST Roundup" and will be held Monday June 24-Friday, June 28th 6:30-8:30 PM. A Family Night will be held Saturday night, June 29th at 6:30 PM at the church. Bible school is open to children ages 3 years old – 6th grade completed. Registration forms are available in the Social Hall.

**ST JOHN'S UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
CALENDAR
June 2013**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2:30am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Dedication of Pulpit Search Committee Helen Walmer Memorial Change	3 7:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting	4	5 Bible Study—Noon	6	7	8
9 Summer Schedule 10:30 AM Worship Graduation Recognition Sunday Christian Connection Picnic following Worship	10	11	12 Bible Study—Noon	13	14	15
16 Summer Schedule No Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Christian Ed Meeting following wor-	17	18	19 Bible Study—Noon	20	21	22 2:00 New Horizons
23 Summer Schedule No Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Deacon's Fund Sunday Dine & Donate	24 7:00 PM Consistory 6:30—8:30 PM Bible School at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church	25 6:30—8:30 PM Bible School at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church	26 NO Bible Study—Noon 6:30—8:30 PM Bible School at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church	27 6:30—8:30 PM Bible School at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church	28 6:30—8:30 PM Bible School at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church	29 6:30 PM Family Night at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church
30 Summer Schedule No Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship						

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
Pastor's Numbers 717-866-5390
E-mail stjohnsucc@comcast.net
Website: www.stjohnsuccfburg.org

Every Sunday
8:30am Circle Time(June 2 & 9th)
9:00am Christian connection (June 2 & 9th)
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

Pastor Herb Hibshman, Jr. Interim Pastor
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director
Mrs. Donna Eberly-Lehman Church Secretary

Consistory

Robin Getz, President
Wendy Dorsey, Vice President
Melissa Seltzer, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Joe Ditzler
Wendy Dorsey
Robin Getz
Jean Ann Grimes
Jerry Mohn
Melissa Seltzer

Deacons

Walter Bolles
Missy Daub
Robin Gingrich
Terry Knapp
Angela Michael
Mark Tyrpin