

St. John's United Church of Christ

The VOICE

May 2015

PASTOR'S MESSAGE by Pastor Tony SPRING CLEANING

The flowers are blooming, the birds are serenading, and our house still feels like it's stuck in the winter blues. Spring cleaning is a tradition that allows us to freshen up our homes and get a head start on the hectic seasons of spring and summer. We open our blinds and sit on our porches just to take in the fresh, new air. Especially after a long, harsh winter we realize the step in our stride is longer, and laughter is louder, and outlook on life is brighter when the weather starts to warm.

One of the biggest parts of spring cleaning is getting rid of clutter that you don't need. The next big plan is a garage sale. Now is the time to box up items you don't need or find out how to donate items that are taking up space. And now we take advantage of the natural urge that comes each spring to get rid of items that are weighing you down and begin fresh with a more streamlined lifestyle. While we may have a tendency to hoard and hold on to items in the winter, we generally are more ready to let go of clutter when spring arrives. Trust me. Cleaning will be a lot easier when the clutter is gone.

Although we find ourselves whistling while we work or even singing some familiar tunes that put us in the mood to conquer the world, the urge to surmount this feat of cleaning can be tiresome. Honestly, you may need a little help in your cleaning endeavors, therefore try to get your family involved. Even the most unwilling helper can make a big difference in the work load. I know what you are thinking. It might actually seem easier to just do everything by yourself rather than try to get your family to help. Don't worry; here is some advice to deal with even those most reluctant helpers. This is actually a great time of year to get the entire family to work together. Try throwing on some music or establishing a family reward for when the work is done. Or try setting up picnic breaks or even afternoon grilling may help coax the reluctant helper.

More importantly, don't forget to spring clean your own spiritual well-being. Amazingly we clean many things, but we forget to take care of our spiritual

needs. For some the winter months remind us of loved ones we hold so dear who went home to glory and received their reward. And sometimes we find ourselves in a spiritual slump. Just like our homes, cars, and lawns, our spiritual self needs cleaning, too. Ponder these words from the Apostle Paul's letter in Philippians 4:1-13:

"Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. ¹²I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Happy Spring Cleaning!

MAY WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, May 3, 2015
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
I John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 10, 2015
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
I John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 17, 2015\
Seventh Sunday of
Easter
Acts 1:15-17. 21-26
Psalm 1
I John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 24, 2015, 2015
Pentecost Sunday
Acts:2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34; 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 31, 2015
Trinity Sunday
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Consistory Report by Joe Ditzler, Consistory President

I'd like to thank the members of St John's who provided input and participated in the recent meeting and discussion regarding a marriage policy for our church. Consistory will be providing a proposed policy to the congregation for vote to approve. At this time the date of that congregational meeting is not determined, but it is expected that will be on a Sunday in May. Notices will be placed in the church bulletin announcing the date. Please plan on participating in this process.

MAY CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Priscilla Rentschler | 12 Curtis Herr | 25 Cory Daub |
| 2 Zachary Seltzer | 13 Austin Zechman | 26 Anthony Quairoli |
| 3 Scott Benfer | 17 Bob Losiewicz | 29 Rachel Baynard |
| 6 Paul Getz | 17 Lisa Jo Rudy | 30 Mike Nace |
| 7 Dylan Walmer | 23 Amber Daub | |
| 10 Nancy Frantz | 24 Robin Getz | |

Happy Anniversary to:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Ginny & Terry Knapp | 28 Barb & Joe Miller |
| 9 Shirley & Al Fortna | 30 Melissa & Bob Seltzer |
| 13 Michelle & Brad Walmer | 30 Chase & Kari Mease |
| 25 Robin & Paul Getz | 31 Pastor Tony & Jodie Fields |

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

May Readers

- May 3- Jodie Fields
- May 10- Julie Ditzler
- May 17- Robin Getz
- May 24- Regina Engler
- May 31- Linda Gonzalez

May Flowers

- May 3- Terry & Ginny Knapp
- May 10- Nancy Frantz
- May 17- Gerald Rudy
- May 24- Robin & Paul Getz
- May 31- Neal & Jean Ann Grimes

April Attendance

- April 5- 98 (Easter)
- April 12- 57
- April 19 - 54
- April 26

May Bulletins

- May 3- Terry & Ginny Knapp
- May 10- Nancy Frantz
- May 17- Gerald Rudy
- May 24- Robin & Paul Getz
- May 31- Neal & Jean Ann Grimes

May Coffee Host

- May 3- Earl & Pat Ziegler
- May 10- OPEN
- May 17- OPEN
- May 24- OPEN
- May 31- OPEN

May Deacon

Pam Emery

SPONSORS NEEDED:

- Flower Sponsors:
- June 14 & 28
 - July 12

- Bulletin Sponsors:
- June 14, & 28
 - July 12

- Coffee Hosts
- May 10, 17, 27 & 31



St. John's Fellowship by Ginny Knapp

Flea Market and Bake Sale were foremost at the meeting of St. John's Fellowship. The sale which was held Friday, April 17th and Saturday, April 18th added more than \$1300.00 to the treasury. A BIG thank you to all who helped and contributed to the event.

Priscilla Rentschler, President, conducted the business session. Opening devotions were led by Jerry Mohn. Discussion was held on the possibility of planning another Mother-Father's Day event. It was announced Louise Walmer and Robin Gingrich will take orders and money for geraniums to decorate the sanctuary for Pentecost. These flowers will then be planted around the church property.

Plans for an AVON project are underway. We are waiting for our saleslady and a good sales incentive program. Pat Ziegler brought the possibility of attending a performance at the Lancaster Sight and Sound Theater.

Plans ere made to purchase five more lighter tables to be used in the Social Hall. Refreshments were served by Betty Schriver. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00 PM. We still need more willing hands to keep the fellowship active. Can you help?

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 (867-8087), or Patricia Rentschler (865-1492).

May 23 – 2:00 PM- Miniature Golf and games. Meet at Kauffman's Bar-B-Que, Bethel.

June 27 – 2:00 PM – Quilt – trunk show by Pauline Charles. Meet at Quentin UCC Church. Eat at Quentin House Restaurant.

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.

Thank you!

A letter was received from the Jonestown Outreach Pantry thanking St. John's for their generous donation as well as the collection of food for the JOY Pantry.

In February the Monetary Donation was \$100.00 and 114 pounds of Food and in March the food donation was 82 pounds.

This past year the JOY Pantry provided food assistance to an average of 130 households each month. That number includes 90 children and 45 senior citizens. Your support means everything to those individuals served by your donations.

Thank You!
The Jonestown Outreach Pantry

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer**May Choir Anthems and Musical Offerings****May Choir Anthems**

- May 3** The Sr. Choir will sing, "My Savior Loves Me", written by Don Besig and Nancy Price
- May 10** St. John's Quartet will provide today's anthem.
- May 17** The Sr. Choir will sing, "Give Him Glory", written by Mary McDonald.
- May 24** The Hand Bells will provide today's anthem.
- May 31** Youth Sunday
- June 3** The Sr. Choir will sing, "Back to the Church in the Wildwood",

Sr. Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Choir members please note the changes to our May & June rehearsal schedule that are listed below:

- Wed., May 6 - Sr. Choir will rehearse at 7pm
- Wed. May 13 - Sr. Choir will rehearse at 7pm
- Wed. May 20 - There is NO Sr. Choir rehearsal.
- Wed., May 27 - There is NO Sr. Choir rehearsal.
- Wed., June 3 - Sr. Choir will rehearse at 7pm.

Our singing season for 2014- 15 will end on Sunday, June 6th. Thank you to all the members of our Sr. Choir for your faithful attendance at our rehearsals and the music leadership you provide at our worship services. We'll look forward to begin the 2015-16 Singing Season in September.

Music and Worship Committee

The Music and Worship Committee met on Wed., May 22. Gary Trautman led our devotions.

Plans for our second Youth Sunday were discussed. Youth Sundays are on the 5th Sunday of the month and May 31 is the next one for 2015. The Rev. Holli Miller-Shank will be our guest pastor that day. Robin Getz agreed to contact our youth for participation in the worship service on this day. Thanks, Robin, your efforts are greatly appreciated by this committee.

Louise announced that The Fellowship Group will be sponsoring carnations for all the ladies attending church on Mother's Day and for all the men in attendance on Father's Day. We extend our thanks to The Fellowship Group for continuing this tradition.

Pentecost is May 24th. Red altar cloths and red geraniums will decorate the sanctuary. The congregation will be encouraged to wear red that Sunday.

Louise will co-ordinate the singing of a patriotic anthem by "the St. John's Singers" (Sr. Choir + congregation volunteers on Sun., July 5. There will be 1 rehearsal for this song on Wed., July 1 at 7pm.

The committee discussed our Wednesday evening Lenten worship. While the community Good Friday worship was well attended, our weekly suppers and vesper services were poorly attended. We need to prayerfully and consider alternatives for next year.

Committee members are planning to travel Lititz on Sat., July 25 to attend the Choral Reading Music Program sponsored by Loser's Music Store. Other future events will be: the outdoor worship and picnic at Lions' Park on Aug. 9; and a picnic and vesper service at Memorial Lake on Aug. 30.

Our next meeting will be on Mon., July 20 at 7pm. Sharon Hibshman will lead our devotion time.

Youth Group by Morgan Hevel

Crazy Cool Kidz

We are the youth group of St. John's UCC! We will start meeting every first Thursday of the month at the Church starting at 7pm and going to 8:30pm! Enjoy fun activities, food, talks about fundraisers (like lock-ins, famine, car washes, and more!) ALSO talk about our Project Mission! We will also discuss super fun trips like going to beaches, HersheyPark, SkyZone, and other outrageous events! So come on out! First meeting will be Thursday June 4th 7-8:30pm! Talk to Morgan Hevel or Kayla Benfer for any questions!

from the Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

As the weather finally warms up around here, we're looking forward to some exciting new things at St. John's. The new youth group, led by Morgan Hevel and Kayla Benfer, had its inaugural meeting in April at which there were about six youth in attendance. And progress has been made in the planning of St. John's first ever Vacation Bible School thanks to its director, Jodie Fields and the volunteers that she has been recruiting. More details about both of these exciting endeavors to follow, and if you are interested in helping out with either of these two projects, have any questions about them or would like more information, please see their respect leaders.

At our most recent meeting, this committee also discussed our summer programs schedule: the July Tuesday Evening Programs are returning in a slightly modified form, and we look forward to a splash party during VBS. Please stay tuned for more information on these events as they develop, and we hope you will come out for a fun time with us over the summer!

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to the nurses of St. John's. You don't know how much you were appreciated when Earl passed out in church.

Also thank you for the prayers, cards and flowers.

Earl & Pat Ziegler

Possible Sight and Sound Trip

Congregation Life is thinking of sponsoring a trip to the Lancaster Sight and Sound Theatre. "Joseph" is now playing. We are looking for anyone interested in going to contact Jean Ann Grimes, Aleta Babe or Pat Ziegler to see if we have enough interest to continue in the planning of a trip. No date or price has been set until we see if there is enough interest in going.

Summer Music Schedule by Louise Walmer

It's that time of year to begin planning our summer music schedule. The Hand Bells and Sr. Choir will begin their summer hiatus in early June. We're looking for volunteers to enhance our summer worship services with musical offerings. Charlene Ziegler has once again agreed to co-ordinate this schedule. Please contact Charlene before or after worship or call her at 865-5965 for the available dates. Thank you, Charlene. And thank you in advance to our musical volunteers.

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9 AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Altar Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	4	5 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	6 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM 12:00 Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	7 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	8	9
10  9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship JOY Pantry	11	12 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	13 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM 12:00 Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	14 Ascension Day Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM 6:00 PM Budget/ Finance Meeting	15	16
17 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Christian Ed meeting following worship	18	19 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM 7:00 PM Fellowship Meeting	20 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM 12 :00 Bible Study No Choir Practice	21 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	22	23
24 Pentecost Sunday 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Strengthen The Church Sunday Dine & Donate	25 Pastor Tony Vacation  <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 Pastor Tony Vacation Office Hours 9:00 AM-12:00 PM	27 Pastor Tony Vacation Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	28 Pastor Tony Vacation Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	29 Pastor Tony Vacation	30 Pastor Tony Vacation
31 Pastor Tony Vacation 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Strengthen The Church Sunday Deacon's Fund Sunday						

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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

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