

St. John's United Church of Christ



The VOICE

NOVEMBER 2013

Prepared & Shared by Robin L. Getz

As we continue to follow the United Church of Christ Lectionary , we know that November 10th focuses on stewardship. Stewardship is a fact of church life and one we will read about and listen to more than one time per year. It's hard to imagine a better text for the stewardship season than Psalm 145. This is one of the last psalms, that goes back to the very beginning of it all, to God as creator and source of abundant blessings. In this season of thanksgiving and generosity, especially, it would be good to read the entire psalm, not just the lectionary verses, to hear again and again of God's goodness and tender care for God's creation, including each one of us. The voice shifts back and forth, from talking to God, to talking about God. Of all the books in the Bible, the psalms are the only one addressed to God, but there are verses within them in which the psalmist seems to turn away from his prayers to address the audience, too, perhaps because he just gets carried away by how great God is, and has to tell everyone about it.

At the heart of our Jewish ancestors' faith, and at the heart of our faith, is the conviction that God has created us in love, that God remembers us, and that we need God and are expected to respond to God. There's a hint of the reverse of that, or the consequences of such a reversal, in verse 20: "God watches over all who love God, but will destroy all the wicked." As so often happens in the psalms, we're going along and everything is lovely, and suddenly the talk turns to God destroying people. Does it make sense to wax rhapsodic about God's love for all of God's people, all humankind, if God destroys some of those people? "The happiness or prosperity of the righteous is not so much a reward as it is their experience of being connected to the true source of life - God. Similarly, the destruction of the wicked is not so much a punishment as it is the result of their own choice to cut themselves off from the source of life. The compassionate God does not will to destroy the wicked, but their own autonomy gives God no choice."

There may be no better way to approach a stewardship, and no better text than a song that praises God for all of creation and for God's tender care. Stewardship is not about paying the bills or covering a budget (or making up a deficit): it's our participation in the beauty of the creative process that continues even today, God's creative hand at work in the world. It's our response to everything in this psalm: God's goodness and the vision of how things are supposed to be, how God intends them to be.

Does our giving have anything to do with who we think God is, and who we think we are in the light of God's love? Does what we do with our money have anything to do with the creative processes of God? Does our giving to the church express our commitment to share this elemental generosity? If abundance is God's big idea, why do we people of faith seem more ruled by a scarcity mentality? There's never enough, we think and hear, never enough to make sure everyone is fed and sheltered and clothed and given medical care and educated. There's never enough to do the ministry we might do, so we cut back and cut corners - it doesn't sound very much like abundance and it doesn't sound much like this psalm, does it? Again we enter portions of scripture we really do not want to address overall.

God is full of power and is in charge, but God's power is one rooted in goodness and generosity and love, not in the way we often feel power exercised, as brute force or cold self-interest that steps on others. In God, there will be more than enough for the church to do powerful, life-giving ministry in this world that God loves.

Each time we bring our gifts forward, each day that we offer our lives to God, we are thanking God, praising God, and expressing our longing for the dream of God, for what is yet to be. We can trust in all that, with an exuberant and heartfelt trust.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP NEWS

SCRIPTURES FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 3 – Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 119:137-144
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10
(All Saints Sunday)



Sunday, November 10 – Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Haggai 2:1-9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

Sunday, November 17 – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19
(Thank Offering Sunday)

Sunday, November 24 – Reign of Christ Sunday

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43
(Guest Speaker: Pastor David Martin)

Wednesday, November 27 – Thanksgiving Eve

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 100
Philippians 4:4-9
John 6:25-35
(Pastor Andrew Wilson)

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

On Wednesday evening, November 27, at 7 PM, we will gather in our sanctuary with St. Paul's UCC for a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. Pastor Andrew Wilson will provide the message. Let us join with St. Paul's UCC on that evening in thanking our God for all the wonderful gifts that God has shared with us throughout this past year.

Consistory News by Robin Getz

It is hard to believe that we are entering November... Where has this year gone? Consistory continues their efforts to have our church continue seamlessly. We have a number of members of consistory who are excellent at that. We are finalizing the basement renovations. This has been a very long process and we will all be very pleased when we can finally claim that it is in fact finished.

In a few short weeks you will see another project underway which will be the removal of the old water damaged tile in the social hall and the cleaning of the track and replacement of new tile. There will be more information coming for this work detail and we may be looking for a few good volunteers to help us in this area.

Another item is that we will be looking for some members to serve on consistory. Per our by-laws, there are term limits which necessitate us to look for people to serve who have a love for their church and a need to continue to do the good work of keeping it running seamlessly like the well-oiled machine it has been since its beginning.

Also we will consider running speakers so that both the nursery and social hall have the ability to listen to service when activities preclude them from sitting at their normal pew for their Sunday message. This too is something that has been discussed for some time. I think the need is now there and further consideration given to the difficulty and cost of this type of project.

Also, building and grounds will be adding additional electrical outlets to make it much easier on our decoration committee when beautifying our sanctuary during the Advent season.

We continue to work hard to keep our church as loved and necessary as it always has been. You are the people who make it what it is. You give it life and offer it breath to sustain our Christian lives. May we always continue to do this work together as one in the body of Christ.

ST. JOHN'S UCC ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will take place on November 17th or 24th. Please watch the church bulletin for the exact date. We will need to get all of the committee reports for this year submitted to the church office by November 11th in time for a booklet to be prepared for the Annual Meeting.

YOUTH LOCK-IN & BREAKFAST

The youth lock-in will be held November 27, 2013, here at St Johns and starting 8PM. St. John's will be hosting the Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast the next morning starting at 7:30 AM. Everyone is invited to attend. The cost is \$5 per person and the deadline to register is November 20th. Seating is limited, so sign-up early! There are games and activities planned for the event, so join us for a great time!!

Volunteers are needed to help setup on the 27th at 8PM and Thursday morning to help serve breakfast. Anyone wishing to make a food or monetary donation for the event please see Missy Daub. There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the near future for both donations and volunteers.

2014 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

As there have been many changes over time, we are again looking to update the Membership Directory. In order to have the information accurate, we would ask that you please provide us your family names, address, phone number and email. Optional information if you would like to provide us would be your cell number and your work number. Under the family names portion, if you would like to include the birth dates (the year is not necessary) of each family member as well, that will allow us to confirm the accuracy of that information on file as well. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Thank you.



NOVEMBER Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

1 MARGARET RUDY
2 MARY GERHART
3 JESSICA YINGST
4 PAT RENTSCHLER
6 BARRY FOX
9 JILLIAN DITZLER

9 DYLAN KAPP
10 DENA EBERHART
12 DELANAE SHAFFER
16 MICHIGAN DAUB
19 ELIZABETH OVERTON
22 EDITH TRAUTMAN

24 ASHLEY CARROLL
27 WALTER BOLLES
28 TERRY KNAPP
29 LARRY FOX
30 VIOLET LEIBENSPERGER

Happy Anniversary to:

8 DARLENE & STEVE STOLTZ
24 ROSANNE & WALTER BOLLES
29 KADIE & JEFF WALMER

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

November Readers

Nov. 3– Joe Ditzler
Nov. 10– Regina Engler
Nov. 17– Gail Grimes
Nov. 24– Robin Getz

November Flowers

Nov. 3– Vicki Gonzalez
Nov. 10– OPEN
Nov. 17– Ginny & Terry Knapp
Nov. 24– Barbara Trainer

October Attendance

Oct. 6– 67
Oct. 13– 66
Oct. 20– 61
Oct. 27

November Bulletins

Nov. 3– Vicki Gonzalez
Nov. 10– OPEN
Nov. 17– Ginny & Terry Knapp
Nov. 24– Barbara Trainer

November Coffee Hosts

Nov. 3 & 10— Ginny Knapp
Nov. 17& 24th— Violet & Ken Leibensperger

November Deacon
Missy Daub

Sponsors Needed:

We are in need of Sponsors for:

Flowers: Dec. 1, & 15,
Bulletins: Dec. 1, & 15
Sign Up sheets are in the Social Hall



Partners In Peace Experience

Submitted by Pastor Chris Rankin

This past June, the Penn Central Conference sponsored an educational opportunity for youth from around the world. There were 18 youth between the ages of 17-21 from Namibia, Germany, the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota, Penn Central Conference, and the Southern Conference of the UCC. Each group was accompanied by an adult. They gathered together at the Penn Central Conference meeting at Susquehanna University. Rev. Jacquie Church-Young and Rev. Brad Walmer worked with the group as they began their two weeks together. After the Conference meeting, they traveled to Hartman Center where they spent the week exploring what it means to live in peace. The Rev. Dr. Dave Bushnell was one of the facilitators of their time at Hartman Center. Following their week at camp, the participants traveled to Washington D. C. where they had the opportunity to meet with some of our U.C.C. peace and justice officers as well as political leaders. They also had some time to visit prominent places in our nation's capitol.

This experience has created new relationships as well as strengthened the Penn Central Conference's partnership with Namibia, German, and the Native Americans in South Dakota. Rev. Chris Rankin was part of the planning committee for this event and there is the hope that we will be able to do something like this in the

Letter Received from the United Church of Christ Homes Regarding Christmas Gifts for The Lebanon Valley Home

For many years the people of our sponsoring congregations have brightened the lives of residents by remembering them with gifts of love at Christmas time.

Churches wishing to give gifts to members who are residents are encouraged to do so. Please be sure to specify the name of the resident(s).

A Suggestion list for Men and Women - Please remember that gifts are to be new and unwrapped. Postage stamps, Circle the Word books, Candy (Hershey Miniatures, Hershey Kisses, Diabetic Candy), Pretty or festive pins, Various sized puzzles, Pierced/clip earrings, Necklaces, Pretty silky scarf's, Calendars – Large (animals, nature, inspirational), Large print books (romance/mystery), Tissues (long or square boxes and small individual packs), Small cans of peanuts, Lipstick/chapstick, Slipper socks, Nail polish and DVD's/CD's

Monetary donations are also appreciated and will be used to purchase additional items to make each individual resident's holiday special.

Items can be dropped off at St. John's Church with a deadline of December 8th.

If you have any questions on gift items, please call Danielle Reed, Executive Director at The Lebanon Valley Home.

To All Ladies of St John's UCC, Fredericksburg:

The Penn Central Conference Women's Retreat is scheduled for November 22-24, 2013. This year's theme is "Chocolate Boutique" - a whole weekend of Chocolate bliss!! It will be a place where women taste and see God's goodness and grace, while relaxing, laughing, and reflecting - and growing in friendship with God and other women of the Conference. Cost for the weekend is \$100, which includes 2 nights lodging in Michaux Lodge (at Hartman Center), 5 meals, and chocolate galore! Space is limited, so sign up today. DEADLINE is November 12th.

See or call (717-866-5390) Sharon Hibshman for a registration form or more information.



MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

Musical Offerings – November 2013

<u>Nov. 3</u>	- All Saints Sunday “Dwell in the Light Forevermore”	Senior Choir
<u>Nov. 10</u>	“ I Am Resolved”	Women’s Chorus
<u>Nov. 17</u>	- Thank Offering Sunday “Soon and Very Soon”	Senior Choir
<u>Nov. 24</u>	- Hand Bells	
<u>Nov. 27</u>	- Thanksgiving Eve worship at St. John’s with our sister church St. Paul’s, Hamlin. Joint Senior Choirs will sing, “Lord of the Harvest	

Music & Worship by Louise Walmer

Our committee met on Mon., Oct. 7. Gary Trautman led our devotions using the scripture, Jeremiah 6:16-20

We decided to again provide hot chocolate and treats on the church parking lot from 6-8pm on Trick or Treat night, Thurs., Oct. 31. This is the 3rd year that our committee has supported this project. Our committee will provide the hot chocolate and request candy and / or snack bag donations from the congregation.

Dena Eberhart and Robin Gingrich provided fall decoration in our sanctuary for our Harvest Home celebration. The decorations will remain throughout the season.

Pastor Herb has contacted Rev. Wilson concerning our joint worship service on Thanksgiving Eve. Worship that evening will be here at St. John’s and begin at 7pm. St. Paul’s Sr. Choir will be invited to sing the anthem with our choir.

It was announced that Amber Daub and Scott Benfer will be in charge of the Thanksgiving Eve Lock-in and that the annual Lebanon Association Thanksgiving Eve Breakfast will be held at our church. Amber is working on this project and we will support her in any way we are able.

Advent begins on Sun. Dec. 1. Louise will contact Walter Bolles to be sure the Advent wreath is set up. The Christmas Cantata will be presented during morning worship on Sun. Dec. 22. Louise will ask St. John’s Fellowship to provide refreshments after this worship service. As in the past, we will have 2 Christmas Eve worship services, one at 7pm and then a completely different service at 11pm. The Sr. Choir will sing at both these worship services.

The next meeting of the Music and Worship Committee has been scheduled for Mon., Dec. 2 at 7pm. Louise will lead devotions. Our meeting was closed by joining hands and praying The Lord’s Prayer.

REMINDER Christmas Cantata – “Bethlehem’s Child” by Louise Walmer

The special rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata will begin at 6:45pm on Wed., Nov. 6. We will rehearse only the Cantata for 45 minutes. Regular Senior Choir rehearsals will begin from 7:30.

St. John's Fellowship News, By Ginny Knapp

Party plans are underway for the annual Cedar Haven Holiday Party to be held Tuesday, November 12th at 6:30 PM. A gift of tissues will be given to each resident. Soft cookies, finger jello and punch will be served to those attending the program. We are in need of cookies for this evening.

The Christmas Party will be held Tuesday, December 17th at 6:00 PM at the Farmer's Wife Restaurant. The price of the dinner is \$17.50 per person. Please plan to attend. Games and prizes will be on the agenda.

Once again, we will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Watch for details in the church bulletin. An Avon sale is progressing with orders and monies to be collected by October 27th.

Priscilla Rentschler will be the new president for the coming year. She was elected at the meeting. Barb Miller will serve as vice-president. Members were asked to provide cookies for the punch and coffee hour after the Christmas cantata, Sunday, December 22nd.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 18th. We will have the Cedar Haven party and the Christmas dinner as meetings for November and December. No meetings are planned for January and February.

THANK YOU!

The Fellowship Group would like to thank everyone that participated in the purchasing of Boscov's Passes. We received \$100.00 which was forwarded to the Annville UCC Auxiliary.

Thank Offering Sunday

Bring your Thank Offering boxes to church on Sunday, Nov. 17.

St. John's Fellowship will be collecting the boxes during the morning worship service. They have decided all funds from the Thank Offering will be given to the JOY Food Pantry for their rent and utility expenses.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

2013 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY we will celebrate on November 3rd. During the morning worship we will memorialize the church members, church family members, and friends by lighting a candle and the tolling of a bell.

Below is the list of those we memorialized:

Carl Bohr	Ruth Imschweiler	Lester Spangler
Charles Gibson	Peggy Mohn	Marlin Spangler
Lois Hibshman	Oscar Moll	Vivian Walmer
Paul Hibshman, Sr.	Jackie Meisky	Jane Wetzel
Sally Hogan-Maxel	Eugene Nichols	Arthur Yohn, Jr.
Charles Horn	Dorothy Smith	
Keith Imler	Robert Smith	

FROM THE CHRISTIAN ED. CORNER

by Angela Michael

There are some exciting things coming up here at St. John's as we enter the holiday season. Starting with Thanksgiving, in case you haven't already heard, we will be hosting the annual Thanksgiving Youth Breakfast right here in our social hall for the UCC youth of the Lebanon Association. Amber Daub, Melissa Daub, Kayla Benfer and Scott Benfer have taken the reins of this project and have done a stellar job planning what we hope will be a fun and meaningful event. There will be a sign up sheet posted and more details will appear soon in a bulletin where we will be asking for donations and volunteers to help with the breakfast. There will also be the annual youth lock in for St. John's youths the night before the breakfast here at the church. Scott has also agreed to chaperone this event as well.

Looking ahead to December, I will be organizing an intergenerational workshop planned for the second Sunday of Advent. At this workshop we will be making Christmas ornaments to give to the JOY Pantry to hand out to the families they serve to bring them some holiday cheer. We will need lots of helpers to decorate these ornaments, and I hope you will all come out for this workshop.

We have discontinued Circle Time on Sunday mornings; however, we do still have a short time of devotions prior to our Christian Connection classes for which I'm looking for volunteers. If you are interested in leading these devotions at any time, please speak to me.

BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP

By Neal Grimes

The Budget Committee met on September 28th to complete a preliminary budget that will be presented to the consistory on Monday, October 28th. If approved it will then be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting which will be held sometime in November.

This report shows the September and year-to-date totals.

September	Income	Y.T.D
WEEKLY OFFERINGS (5 WEEKS)	\$12,577.29	\$83,053.53
DEFRAY COST OF ENVELOPES	-0-	197.00
BULLETINS	50.00	280.00
JOINT MENS & WOMENS FELLOWSHIP	-0-	2,500.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	-0-	388.60
FUNDRAISING		1,499.54
SPECIAL SERVICES	-0-	315.00
SOCIAL HALL RENTALS/MISC	30.00	257.65
INTEREST	1.68	12.97
TOTAL INCOME FOR SEPTEMBER	\$12,643.97	\$88,504.29
EXPENSES	\$ 7,003.77	\$58,465.26
NET INCOME	\$ 5,640.20	\$17,395.06

OUR BUDGET FOR WEEKLY OFFERINGS \$2,300. TO-DATE WE ARE AVERAGING \$2,129.57.

Give, and it will be given to you: Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

Luke 6:38 NKIV

November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 NLPRC Little Learners 9:00 AM– 11:00 Am	2
3 All Saints Sunday Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Memorial Fund	4	5 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	6 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Noon Bible Study 6:45 PM Cantata Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	7 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	8 NLPRC Little Learners 9:00 AM– 11:00 Am	9
10 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	11	12 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM 6:30 Fellowship to Cedar Haven (Holiday Party)	13 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Noon Bible Study 6:45 PM Cantata Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	14 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	15 NLPRC Little Learners 9:00 AM– 11:00 Am Deadline for Voice Material	16
17 Thank Offering Sunday Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Christian Ed. Meeting following Worship	18	19 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	20 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM NO Bible Study 6:45 PM Cantata Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	21 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	22 NLPRC Little Learners 9:00 AM– 11:00 Am	23
24 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	25 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM 7 PM Consistory	26 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	27 Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Youth Fellowship Lock In Noon Bible Study 7PM Thanksgiving Eve Service No Choir Practice	28 Youth Fellowship Breakfast 	29	30

St. John's United Church of Christ

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

**Every Sunday
Devotions at 9:00am Followed by
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

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