

August—September, 2018

## Pastor Tony's Message

Today I write this newsletter on the cuff of another birthday. Birthday happens once a year, no surprise though. However often time this is almost like New Years. It's a time to reflect and make a resolution of things to improve or do better in my life. In listening and hearing the echoes of Jeremiah 29:11 -13, "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. As these words prepare my heart, mind, and spirit for the work which God empowers me in the community which I am assigned, my calling is reassured.

Consequently, we are moving into the season of finishing vacations, preparing for our children to return to school, community preparing for carnivals and fairs and a normal schedule. This is the time for the church to use its multi sensory worship skills. It is time for us to live beyond our four walls and engage with our community. We understand the sense of duty and obligation of the church shifted. The cultural support of the church is different than yesteryears. And because of the shift, our conversation must change. Perhaps it's time for the mainline church to realize as evangelical churches realized. People do not need more obligations but a sense of delight, desire, and anticipation as they serve their God. Maybe the conversation is not mainline churches versus evangelical churches. Maybe the conversation is how do we, God's people, collaborate the gifts God desire to give power to his church and his people.

Perhaps the conversation is not one or the other but both, sanctioned by the spirit of God. Maybe Sir Francis Drake 1540-1596 understood in his prayer, "Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes; and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love. Because we have dreamed too little, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim. Amen."

However I'm looking over my life and I hope to have at least 50 years of my life remaining. And what do I do next? What goals do I accomplish? What goals do I obtain? **More important we the collaborators** of St John's in our open and honest conversation we must identify our individual and community needs. In order for our community to become what God intends, our conversation with all those entrusted to us must help people flourish and be all that God intends for us as we remain the pillar of our community.

If faith is seeing the treasures that God already presented for his glory, then my desire is to continue to be a blessing to others. For these blessings are not for me to hoard but to share. However, how do I help others see the gifts God invested in them?

Therefore, the goal is the removal of false perceptions. The false perceptions of living in a box, the world is all bad, and that all hope is gone. Surely safety exists in a box; however, that is not fully living. I guess the bigger question is do you trust God or willing to obey your fear? Having the opportunity to see behavioral health, medical care, and spiritual therapy co-exist afforded a reshaping of my theology. Perhaps God is bigger than our perceptions. Imagine that!

As the summer months draw near and the preparation of family get ready for the normalcy of life as children enter school, may these next months bring you a sense of delight, desire, and anticipation. My prayer is that you realize God is with you!

The Spirit empowers us to pioneer a new way of being together in community, the actual promised land we can enter through God's new exodus liberation in Christ.... by Martin L. Smith

## **Consistory News** by Julie Ditzler, President

### **Late Summer Activities at St. John's**

It's hard to imagine that we are thinking about summer coming to a close. As we enjoy the last of our summertime activities together, we realize it's time to start planning for the fall!

As I write this article, we are preparing for being part of the National Night Out festivities at Bethel Township Lions' Park on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a great outreach event, and we are always in the thick of it, so please plan to be part of the St. John's team that evening.

Another of our yearly events follows the next Sunday as we gather for our outdoor worship service and covered dish lunch, again at Lions' Park, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Bring your lawn chairs and keep your fingers crossed for pleasant weather!

During the month of August, we will be collecting a special offering to help with the cost of providing Bibles for incoming third grade Released Time classes in Fredericksburg. If we are faithful in our efforts over a period of time, we will be helping to place a Bible in the hands of practically every student who passes through Fredericksburg Elementary School – a worthy goal indeed! Look for special envelopes for this purpose in the pews.

Speaking of helping kids, it's time to prepare for Operation Christmas Child as well. There are great sales in the stores right now for school supplies, so maybe you could include a few of those in your shopping over the next month or so. And don't forget those shoe boxes! We'll need a good supply of those as well!

### **Sr. Choir News** by Louise Walmer

The Choir has had no rehearsals throughout the summer months. It's soon September and time to begin rehearsing for Sunday anthems and the upcoming Autumn Songs and Spuds.

On July 1, the Choir had a picnic at the home of Jeff and Kadie Walmer. I think it was the hottest day of the year, so it turned out to be an indoor picnic. The hot dogs tasted just as good "fried" as they would have if roasted over the campfire. With the heat that day .... a campfire was the last thing we needed!!!

Choir members need to remember to turn in their anthem selections from the list that I distributed to them at the picnic. Please place your selections in the "Music" mailbox in the church office.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Choir Rehearsal of the 2018-19 Singing Season will be on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7pm.

### **Funeral Questionnaire** by Louise Walmer

Several years ago, during Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin's tenure here at St. John's, some of our members completed a funeral questionnaire. The questionnaire provided direction for the pastor as to the Member's wishes and preferences about their funeral service. These questionnaires were stored in the Pastor's office.

These files are missing. Several people have looked everywhere, several times, unsuccessfully. Therefore, the Music and Worship Committee has decided that we need to start over. A new questionnaire will be made available to members who want to specify their desires for their funeral arrangements.

This time, upon completion, the information will be entered into a file on the office computer and saved there.

## AUGUST WORSHIP NEWS



**Sunday, August 19, 2018**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after**

**Sunday, August 5, 2018**  
**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**2 Samuel 11:26-13a**  
**Psalm 51:1-12**  
**Ephesians 4: 1-16**  
**John 6: 24-35**

**Sunday, August 12, 2018**  
**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33**  
**Psalm 130**  
**Ephesians 4: 25-5:2**  
**John 6:35, 41-51**

**Pentecost**  
**I Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14**  
**Psalm 111**  
**Ephesians 5: 15-20**  
**John 6:51-58**

**Sunday, August 26, 2018**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**I Kings 8:1,6,10-11,22-30,41-43**  
**Psalm 84**  
**Ephesians 6: 10-20**  
**John 6: 56-69**

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP NEWS

**Sunday, September 2 2018**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Song of Solomon 2:8-13**  
**Psalm 45: 1-2,6-9**  
**James 1:17-27**  
**Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

**Sunday, September 9, 2018**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9,22-23**  
**Psalm 125**  
**James 2: 1-17**  
**Mark 7: 24-37**

**Sunday, September 16, 2018**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Proverbs 1:20-33**  
**Psalm 19**  
**James 3: 1-12**  
**Mark 8: 27-38**

**Sunday September 23, 2018**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Proverbs 31:10-31**  
**Psalm 1**  
**James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**  
**Mark 9: 30-37**

**Sunday, September 30, 2018**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Esther 7:1-6, 9-10;9:20-22**  
**Psalm 124**  
**James 5:13-20**  
**Mark 9: 38-50**

## AUGUST CELEBRATION

### Happy Birthday to:

1 Brayden Benito	7 Seth Shaffer	20 Chris Rankin
1 Ruth Lutz	8 Betty Schriver	24 Charles Wike
2 Ken Leibensperger	10 Al Schriver	26 Alex Flanick
3 Trevor Zohn	12 Brett Getz	29 Ira Rudy
4 Brad Walmer	13 John Oskam	30 Denise Flanick
4 Peggy Wike	15 Jerry Mohn	
6 Jeff Ditzler	15 Darlene Stoltz	
6 Morgan Hevel	20 Louise Walmer	

### Happy Anniversary to:

18 Charlene & Randy Ziegler  
24 Denise & Rick Voshell  
27 Lisa & Rick Rudy

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

# Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

#### August Readers

August 5 Regina Engler  
August 12 Outdoor Service  
August 19 Charlene Ziegler  
August 26 Paul Smith

#### August Flowers

August 5 Nancy Frantz  
August 12 Outside Service  
August 19 Pastor Tony  
August 26 Pastor Tony

#### July Attendance

July 1	67
July 8	44
July 15	25
July 22	36
July 29	

#### August Bulletins

August 5 Nancy Frantz  
August 12 Outside Service  
August 19 Pastor Tony  
August 26 Pastor Tony

#### August Coffee Host

August 5 Neal & Jean Ann Grimes  
August 12 Outside service  
August 19 Neal & Jean Ann Grimes  
August 26 Neal & Jean Ann Grimes

August Deacon  
Scott Benfer



## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATION

### Happy Birthday to:

2 Courtney Marinkov  
3 Chester Michael  
4 Neal Grimes  
9 Robin Gingrich  
12 Al Fortna  
13 Ann Mulholland

14 Kaitlin Fegan  
14 Chelsea Michael  
16 Reagan Lynn Walmer  
17 Wyatt Hevel  
17 Megan Nace  
25 Noah Gingrich

25 Barry Fox Jr.  
27 Emily Rentschler  
28 Adam Martin  
30 Julie Ditzler

### Happy Anniversary to:

1 Cynda & John Kless  
4 Judy & Larry Fox  
6 Steve & Amy Zechman  
9 Darlene & Rodney Boltz  
13 Joan & Bob Losiewicz

20 Cindy & Chester Michael  
20 Elizabeth Overton &  
Philip Brewer  
27 Louise & Larry Walmer  
29 Mildred & Al Schriver

29 John & Yvette Oskam

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

## Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

#### September Readers

Sept. 2 Louise Walmer  
Sept. 9 Pam Emery  
Sept. 16 Hinkelfest  
Sept. 23 Julie Ditzler  
Sept. 30 Hunter Zohn

#### September Flowers

Sept. 2 OPEN  
Sept. 9 Elizabeth Overton  
Sept. 16 Hinkelfest  
Sept. 23 Millie Schriver  
Sept. 30 Joe Ditzler

#### September Deacon

Brenda Good

#### September Bulletins

Sept. 2 OPEN  
Sept. 9 Elizabeth Overton  
Sept. 16 Hinkelfest  
Sept. 23 Millie Schriver  
Sept. 30 Joe Ditzler

#### September Coffee Host

Sept. 2 OPEN  
Sept. 9 OPEN  
Sept. 16 Hinkelfest  
Sept. 23 OPEN  
Sept. 30 OPEN

#### SPONSORS NEEDED

Flowers: September 2nd  
October 14th  
December 30th  
Bulletins: September 2nd  
October 14th  
December 30th  
Coffee Hosts: Months  
September & December



## Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer

### Music and Worship

Members of our committee attended the 2018 Choral Reading program sponsored by Loser's Music Store on Sat., July 28th at the Lititz Church of the Brethren.

July 29th will be our 1<sup>st</sup> Hymn Sing Sunday. The Music and Worship Committee decided to do Hymn Sing Sundays on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month. Several weeks ago the congregation was asked to provide us with their favorite hymns. The 1<sup>st</sup> and last stanza of 15 hymns were sung during worship on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The next hymn sing Sunday will be Sept. 30th. Dec. 30th is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday and we'll sing favorite Christmas Carols that day.

We decided not to have a Women's Retreat in 2018 but we'd like to plan an event for our church women and their friends and family in 2019. If you have any suggestions for a "women's day event / program", please talk to a member of the Music and Worship Committee.

In lieu of a picnic and vesper worship at Memorial Lake, this year our committee will organize a tailgate picnic after morning worship on Sept. 9th. See the separate "Tailgate Picnic" article for more information.

The Sr Choir will sponsor a Baked Potato Bar in conjunction with a Choir Concert on Sat. Oct. 20th, beginning at 4pm. We decided to call the event "Autumn Songs and Spuds". There is more information regarding this event in the Autumn Song and Spuds article.

Our next meeting will be on Sept. 17 at 7pm. Charlene will lead our devotions.

### 'Autumn Songs and Spuds' by Louise Walmer

Mark your calendar! On Sat., Oct. 20th at 4pm, the Sr. Choir will present a concert of their favorite anthems. We're calling the concert part of the afternoon, Autumn Songs. Following the concert will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Baked Potato Bar. This is the Spuds part.

There will be no charge for the concert or for the potato bar and all the fixins'. But we will have a basket available for donations. All monies donated will go toward our music ministry at St. John's. This year I am requesting that there be no monies in the 2019 Budget to purchase music. We will rely on the generosity of the attendees on this event.

We thank you in advance.

### Tailgate Picnic by Louise Walmer

Instead of a picnic and vesper worship at Memorial Lake, this year the Music and Worship Committee decided to sponsor a Tailgate Picnic after morning worship on Sun., Sept. 9.

Over the last few years less and less people attended the Memorial Lake outing so the committee thought we'd go back to the Tailgate Picnic we use to have.

Please bring a picnic lunch for yourself and your family along to church. After worship we'll gather on the lawn (if the weather permits) and enjoy our lunches together. The Music and Worship will provide paper goods and beverages.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

#### FUND RAISING EVENTS

October 5—Soup & Bake Sale

October 20—Autumn Songs and Spuds—4:00 PM

Choir Concert followed by Baked Potato Bar

October 27—Chicken Barbeque

## **From the Christian Education Corner** by Angie Michael

Thank you to everyone who came out to help make VBS possible this year, especially our teachers, helpers, station leaders, and other volunteers. We had 24 rafters this year; 15 of whom were VBS students returning from previous years. We received a lot of positive feedback from parents, rafters, and some church members. As a committee we have committed to planning and organizing VBS in 2019, which will be our fifth year, when we will go To Mars and Beyond! Stay tuned for further details about how you can become involved in next year's VBS session at St. John's.

Some events you can look forward to in the Fall and Winter: Christian Connection classes resuming in September; Rally Day festivities on the church lawn; and our annual Operation Christmas Child drive.

## **Financial Report** by Robin Getz, Finance Chair

Total Revenue	(1/1/18– 6/30/18)	\$ 43,938.45
Total Expenses	(1/1/18– 6/30/18)	\$ 59,802.13

We need to collect \$1788.46 weekly to meet budget and currently we are averaging \$1661.16 per week through June 30th. We truly need to consider ways to raise revenue through different fundraisers to assist with balancing the budget. The Consistory has taken over the fundraising projects and has a number of fundraisers schedule throughout the year. The first one was held on February 23rd which was the Soup & Bake Sale and it netted over \$1300. On April 14th, an All You Can Eat Breakfast was held and we netted \$203.17. There is a Chicken Barbeque scheduled for October 20th and a Soup & Bake Sale on October 5th.

We must look to outside sources to close the budget gap. We ask our members to pray very hard on this matter and to speak with members of the budget and finance committee or members of Consistory if you have any ideas you would like to share or any suggestions. We need your prayers and assistance more than ever!!

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.

## **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT REPORT** by Neal Grimes & Scott Benfer

The National Night Out Committee met on Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. After reviewing the Minutes from the previous meeting a discussion was held concerning the games and entertainment. There will be three groups of entertainment this year which include the Northern Lebanon Alumni Band, Lighthouse Revival, and the Petersheim Family Group from the Harvest Family Mennonite Church. The Harvest Family Mennonite Church has joined our group this year and already are making a positive impact by supplying both financial and manpower help. They are also having a barrel train for the young people that will travel around the park throughout the evening.

We are in need of donations of food, drinks and theme baskets for the event. Also volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen and in the park. Person's to help with the children's games and the Bounce House along with the popular watermelon heating contest are also needed to make the evening a success.

The committee is busy soliciting businesses throughout our community and beyond to contribute prizes for our free raffle that will be held near the conclusion of the event. We are planning to move the tables, chairs, grill and kitchen items to the park on Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup> around 1:00PM. Any available help would be most appreciated to accomplish this task. Our committee currently consists of Scott Benfer, Mary Donmoyer, Ken Shirk, Pastor Glen Compton, Pastor Chris Potter, Pastor Daryl Petersheim, Robert Sauder, Jason Reed, Brenda Good and Neal Grimes. Anyone interested in joining this great group is welcome.

Our next meeting will be held at Bethel Twp./Lions Park on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30PM.

## **St. John's Fellowship** by Ginny Knapp

St. John's Fellowship will resume regular meetings Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00PM.

We've budgeted \$3000.00 for the church treasury. In August we will be having the windows washed and the social hall and kitchen floors cleaned. We have costly projects and we need your help to meet these costs. Will you lend your time and hands to our fellowship to see these projects completed?

# August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	2 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	3	4
5 NO Christian Connection 10:30 Worship (Communion)  Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	6	7 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM  5:30PM– 8:00PM National Night Out at Bethel Twp./Lions Park	8 Office Hours 9:00 AM—12:00PM	9 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	10	11
12 NO Christian Connection 11:00 Outside Wor- ship @ Park Cover Dish to follow worship JOY Pantry Sunday	13	14 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	15 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	16 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	17	18
19 NO Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Christian Ed Meeting following Worship	20	21 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM  7:00PM Fellowship Group Meeting	22 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	23 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	24	25
26 NO Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	27 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM  7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	28	29 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	30 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	31	



# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 NO Christian Connection 10:30 Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	3 	4 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	5 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	6 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	7	8
9 9:00 Tail Gate Sunday 10:30 Worship Tail Gate Picnic to Follow Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	10	11 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	12 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	13 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	14	15
16 Hinkelfest 10:30 Community Service at Fireman's Park.	17 7:00PM Music & Worship Committee	18 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	19 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	20 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	21	22
23 9:00 Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Dine & Donate Sunday	24 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Consistory Meeting	25	26 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	27 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	28	29
30 9:00 Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Deacon Fund Sunday						

# ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**9:00AM Christian Connection  
Beginning 9/23/18  
10:30 AM 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

Julie Ditzler, President  
Scott Benfer, Vice President  
Charlene Ziegler, Secretary  
Louise Walmer, Treasurer

### Elders

Keith Gingrich  
Julie Ditzler  
Neal Grimes  
Louise Walmer  
Charlene Ziegler

### Deacons

Scott Benfer  
Jerry Mohn  
Brenda Good  
Angela Michael  
Elizabeth Overton