

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January –February , 2019

Pastor Tony's Message

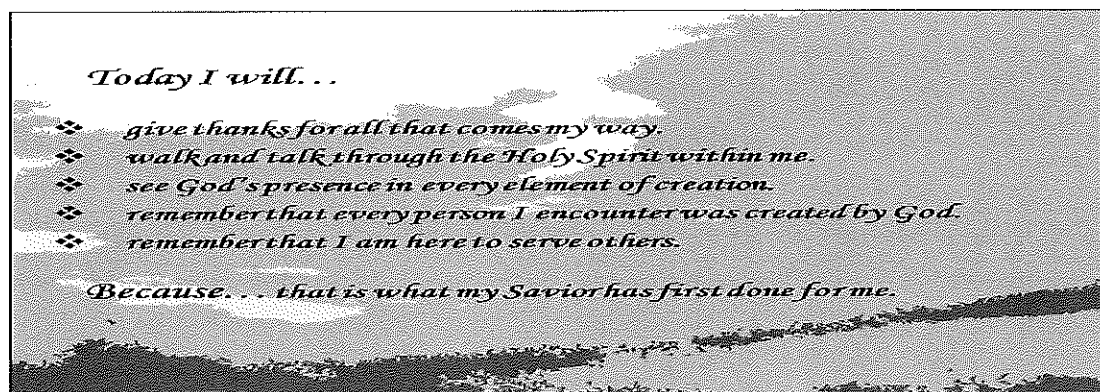
Do You Hear What I Hear, Do you see what I see, Do you know what I know, these questions are from the a familiar Christmas song sung by many. However as you approaches 2019 I ask this song resonate in your heart as we live prayerfully and victoriously throughout the year.

Each Sunday as we gather let us touch holiness while encouraging creativity in worship and experience worship not only with each other but also with the holy of Holy. When we gather let this be our prayer that we hear from you, you walk with us and transform us collectively as collaborators. Prayer is the heartbeat of the soul. It is through prayer that the pulsating and life-bringing energy of the Holy Spirit flows into every sinew and tissue of our lives, aligns our thought with God's thoughts, focuses our capacities on the grace and mercy of the risen Christ, and moves us in the direction that, hopefully, will make us more faithful to God's will for our lives. James G. Kirk

As we live in Epiphany and convert to Lent our Lenten bible study will be offered. Our study is "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by Amy – Jill Levine. During our lunch studies we have sandwich and soup.

Therefore do you hear, see, and know that Great is thy Faithfulness toward us. Let us not live as those who have no hope or disregard for the betterment of society but as collaborators with our renew trust in God. O God, there is a dark and lonesome gulf in worship, a cavern of the awesome into which we rarely go. We prefer catchy tunes, bright vestments, and holiday prayers. We would rather exchange fellowship than touch holiness. Enable us into this precious time to venture into the depths of worship which can never be found totally in individual spirituality but which open slowly before the shared pain, struggle, and love of the communion of the saints. Amen.

To God Be The Glory!!!



Biblical Resolves for Every Christian, Every Year

By Daryl Wingerd

If you're like most people, January 1 brings to your mind the thought of New Year resolutions—using the changing of the calendar as an opportunity to review, and hopefully improve your life in various ways. Perhaps you will decide this year to improve your diet, or lose weight, or exercise more, or give up some bad habit, or adopt a good habit. If you resolve to make such changes, I hope you succeed. But there's another way to think of reviewing and improving your life as a Christian. It doesn't involve starting or stopping optional (even if beneficial) activities. Instead I am thinking of reviewing and improving a few integral aspects of your life as a follower of Christ—things that apply to every believer, every year . . . every day. And don't worry; if you don't read this until April or May, or even until 2022, it's never too late to think and act on these biblical exhortations, straight from the mouth of Jesus and the pens of his New Testament writers. Consider these commands and exhortations carefully, and reset your walk with Christ accordingly.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:34-35).

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in

harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live at peace with all (Rom. 12:9-18).

Flee from sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18). Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). I, therefore, a prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:1-3).

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony (Col. 3:12-14).

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving (Col. 4:2).

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil (1 Thess. 5:16-22).

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let

the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you

have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Heb. 13:1-5).


Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness (James 1:2-3).

Know this my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God (James 1:19-20).

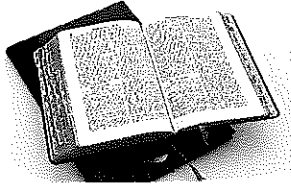
As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:14-16). Take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:17-18).

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To
God
be the
GLORY

Great Things He Hath Done!

JANUARY WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, January 6, 2019

Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalms 72: 1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

Sunday, January 13, 2019

The Baptism of Christ

First Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8: 14-17

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 20, 2019

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalms 72: 1-7, 10-14

I Corinthians 12: 1-11

John 2: 1-11

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

I Corinthians 12: 12-31a

Luke 4: 14-21

FEBRUARY WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Psalms 71: 1-6

I Corinthians 13: 1-13

Luke 4: 21-30

Sunday, February 10, 2019

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6: 1-13

Psalms 138

I Corinthians 15: 1-11

Luke 5: 1-11

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Psalms 1

I Corinthians 15: 12-20

Luke 6: 17-26

Sunday, January 24, 2019

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

Psalms 37: 1-11, 39-40

I Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50

Luke 6: 27-38

JANUARY CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

5 Barb Trainor

11 Cynda Kless

15 Jason Eberhart

16 Arlene Henderson

24 Chase Mease

26 Regina Engler

28 Rosanne Bolles

Happy Anniversary to:

29 Dena and Phil Eberhart

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

January Readers

Jan. 6 Robin Getz
 Jan. 13 Keith Gingrich
 Jan. 20 Neal Grimes
 Jan. 27 Paul Smith

January Flowers

Jan. 6 Beth Barto
 Jan. 13 Elizabeth Overton
 Jan. 20 Betty Schriver
 Jan. 27 Walter Bolles

December Attendance

December 2	48
December 9	40
December 16	42
December 23	35
December 24	62
December 30	35

January Bulletins

Jan. 6 Beth Barto
 Jan. 13 Elizabeth Overton
 Jan. 20 Betty Schriver
 Jan. 27 Walter Bolles

January Coffee Host

Jan. 6 Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
 Jan. 13 Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
 Jan. 20 Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
 Jan. 27 Neal & Jean Ann Grimes

January Deacon
 Scott Benfer



FEBRUARY CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

1 Alison Long
4 John Kless
6 Shirley Fortna
11 Shirley Rudy
15 Madelyn Fegan
15 Cindy Michael
21 Charlene Ziegler

22 Becky Griffiths
23 Joe Ditzler
23 Andrew Eberhart
24 Kim Kapp
25 Pamela Myers

Happy Anniversary to:

6 Cathy & Chris Rentschler

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

February Readers

Feb. 3 Brenda Good
Feb. 10 Julie Ditzler
Feb. 17 Louise Walmer
Feb. 24 Charlene Ziegler

February Flowers

Feb. 3 OPEN
Feb. 10 OPEN
Feb. 17 OPEN
Feb. 24 Beth Barto

February Deacon

February Bulletins

Feb. 3 OPEN
Feb. 10 OPEN
Feb. 17 OPEN
Feb. 24 Beth Barto

February Coffee Host

Feb. 3 Earl & Pat Ziegler
Feb. 10 Earl & Pat Ziegler
Feb. 17 Earl & Pat Ziegler
Feb. 24 Earl & Pat Ziegler

SPONSORS NEEDED

Flowers Feb. 3, 10, & 17
Bulletins Feb. 3, 10, & 17
Sign up sheet is in the
Social Hall



Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee will meet for our first meeting of 2019 on Monday, Feb. 4 at 7pm at the church. Charlene Ziegler will lead our devotion time.

Things that will be discussed include: Lenten Study and Worship time, our 5th Sunday of the Month music Sundays, and explore if we want to sponsor a Women's Retreat.

Members of this committee are: Robin Getz, Donna Eberly-Lehman, Dena Eberhart, Charlene Ziegler, Kass Myers, Pastor Tony, and Louise Walmer.

We welcome suggestions and/or complaints concerning Music and Worship. If you have any please discuss it with the Pastor or a committee member. If you are interested in serving on this committee, you are welcome to come to our meeting on Feb. 4. Thank you.

Sr. Choir

The Sr. Choir took a little vacation from rehearsal over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Our first rehearsal for 2019 was on Wed., Jan., 9. We'll be practicing and singing some new anthems and recycling some oldies but goodies this year.

We welcomed Rita Geesaman. Rita will be serving as organist while Beth Ann takes an extended hiatus from the bench. We are blessed and we appreciate Rita's willingness to share her musical gifts at St. John's during Beth Ann's absence.

On Wednesday night we welcomed Lena Gonzalez as our newest choir member. Look for Lena in the soprano section soon. If you have ever considered becoming a choir member the beginning of the new year is a great time to start. There are no try outs and you do not have to read music. Our motto is: "strength in numbers"! Come to a 7pm Wednesday night rehearsal.

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you interested in volunteering? We could use a few more people to assist with counting the Offering after worship each week. Currently we have "3 teams of 3", and each team is assigned 4 months of the year to count the money and prepare the bank deposit.

If we had 3 more people volunteer, we'd be able to add another team to the mix and the teams would only have 3 months per year. The months assigned are not consecutive months

The 2019 schedule is:

Team 1 – January / April / July / October

Team 2 – February / May / August / November

Team 3 – March / June / September / December

If this appeals to you, or you'd like more information on the task, speak to Louise Walmer, Treasurer, or Robin Getz, Finance Committee Chairperson. Thank you.

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the members of St. John's for all of your Christmas cards and gifts. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Looking forward to working with all of you in 2019.

Thanks Again.

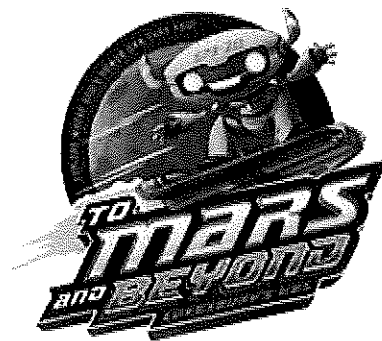
Donna

From the Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

New Year! New VBS adventure! The VBS curriculum has arrived, which means it's time to begin planning and organizing VBS 2019 at St. John's. This year we're going To Mars and Beyond, and we're looking for volunteers to help us get there!

We'll need station leaders, teachers, helpers, and crafty people to help us make decorations. If you're interested in volunteering during VBS week or helping us make decorations, please talk to either Angie or Julie. Those volunteering to work with the kids during VBS week will need to obtain PA State Police Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse History Clearance as required by state law, and we can help you get them.

At our January meeting we discussed setting the dates for VBS and began the process of planning and organizing our adventure To Mars and Beyond. We will continue planning at our February meeting, and anyone who is interested in helping with VBS is invited to attend our meetings!



Financial Report by Robin Getz, Finance Chair

Total Revenue	(1/1/18– 12/31/18)	\$ 92,851.55
Total Expenses	(1/1/18– 12/31/18)	\$ 111,962.96

Looking ahead to 2019 we will need to collect \$1557.69 weekly to meet budget. As explained at the last Congregation Meeting we will truly need to consider ways to raise revenue through different Fundraisers to assist with balancing the budget. We will have to have fundraising Projects to help bring in extra funds.

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.

ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP by Ginny Knapp

It was a night of good food, good fun and good fellowship as we gathered for the annual church Christmas party. A covered dish menu provided a terrific array of food for all.

Thanks to the committee of Louise Walmer, Pat Ziegler and Jean Ann Grimes, we enjoyed a rousing game of "Now You Have It, Now You Don't".

Gary Emery played segments of twenty Christmas songs and we had to guess the titles.

Door prize winners were Priscilla Rentschler, Jose Gonzales, Pastor Tony, Paul Smith, Neal Grimes, Jean Ann Grimes, Jodie Fields, Pat Ziegler, Betty Schriver and Scott Benfer.

Citing Old Man Winter as the reason, the Fellowship will not meet until Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00PM.

We'll be well-rested and eager to begin a new year of activities to further the mission of St. John's. Will you join us?

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	3 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM NO Choir Practice	4	5
6 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	7	8 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	9 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	10 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	11	12
13 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Christian Education Meeting following Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	14	15 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	16 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	17 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	18	19
20 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Installation of Officers Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Lunch following Worship	21	22 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	23 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	24 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	25	26
27 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	28 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Consistory Meeting	29	30 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	31 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice		

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	4 7:00PM Music & Worship Meeting.	5 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	6 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	7 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	8	9
10 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	11	12 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	13 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	14 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	15	16
17 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Christian Ed Meeting following Worship.	18 Audit Church Books	19 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	20 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	21 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	22	23
24 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sun-	25 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	26	27 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	28 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM		

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

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**9:00AM Christian
Connection**
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
Ms. Donna Eberly-Lehman Church Secretary

Consistory

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

Elders

Julie Ditzler
Keith Gingrich
Brenda Good
Louise Walmer
Charlene Ziegler

Deacons

Scott Benfer
Jerry Mohn
Angela Michael
Elizabeth Overton
Mark Tyrpin