

# ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## *The VOICE*

April-May, 2016

### PASTOR TONY'S MESSAGE

Holy God, we gather for worship, marveling at your splendor and majesty and grateful for your presence with us. We lift high your name as the name that is worthy above all other names to be honored, glorified and exalted. We tell again the stories of your mighty acts of creation and redemption, thereby reminding one another of whose world we really live in. We rehearse the songs your people sang so that we, too, can give voice to the joys and sorrows of life. Inhabit our praise and receive our worship, we pray, as the offering of our hearts given in gratitude for your love at work in our lives. Amen. □

Spring is upon us. Let us embrace the coming of Spring with this poem.

Craving For Spring - Poem by David Herbert Lawrence

I wish it were spring in the world.

Let it be spring!

Come, bubbling, surging tide of sap!

Come, rush of creation!

Come, life! surge through this mass of mortification!

Come, sweep away these exquisite, ghastly first-flowers,  
which are rather last-flowers!

Come, thaw down their cool portentousness, dissolve them:

snowdrops, straight, death-veined exhalations of white and purple crocuses,  
flowers of the penumbra, issue of corruption, nourished in mortification,  
jets of exquisite finality;

Come, spring, make havoc of them!

I trample on the snowdrops, it gives me pleasure to tread down the jonquils,  
to destroy the chill Lent lilies;

for I am sick of them, their faint-bloodedness,  
slow-blooded, icy-fleshed, portentous.

I want the fine, kindling wine-sap of spring,  
gold, and of inconceivably fine, quintessential brightness,  
rare almost as beams, yet overwhelmingly potent,  
strong like the greatest force of world-balancing.

This is the same that picks up the harvest of wheat  
and rocks it, tons of grain, on the ripening wind;  
the same that dangles the globe-shaped pleiads of fruit  
temptingly in mid-air, between a playful thumb and finger;  
oh, and suddenly, from out of nowhere, whirls the pear-bloom,  
upon us, and apple- and almond- and apricot- and quince-blossom,  
storms and cumulus clouds of all imaginable blossom  
about our bewildered faces, though we do not worship.

I wish it were spring cunningly blowing on the fallen sparks, odds and ends of the old, scattered fire,  
and kindling shapely little conflagrations curious long-legged foals, and wide-eared calves, and  
naked sparrow-bubs

to play with the globe of earth like a ball on a fountain:

## PASTOR TONY'S MESSAGE (Continued)

I wish that spring would start the thundering traffic of feet, new feet on the earth, beating with impatience.

I wish it were spring, thundering delicate, tender spring. I wish these brittle, frost-lovely flowers of passionate, mysterious corruption were not yet to come still more from the still-flickering discontent.

Oh, in the spring, the bluebell bows him down for very exuberance, exulting with secret warm excess, bowed down with his inner magnificence!

Oh, yes, the gush of spring is strong enough to toss the globe of earth like a ball on a water-jet dancing sport fully; as you see a tiny celluloid ball tossing on a squirt of water for men to shoot at, penny-a-time, in a booth at a fair.

The gush of spring is strong enough to play with the globe of earth like a ball on a fountain; At the same time it opens the tiny hands of the hazel with such infinite patience.

The power of the rising, golden, all-creative sap could take the earth and heave it off among the stars, into the invisible; the same sets the throstle at sunset on a bough singing against the blackbird; comes out in the hesitating tremor of the primrose, and betrays its candour in the round white strawberry flower, is dignified in the foxglove, like a Red-Indian brave.

Ah come, come quickly, spring! come and lift us toward our culmination, we myriads; we who have never flowered, like patient cactuses. Come and lift us to our end, to blossom, bring us to our summer we who are winter-weary in the winter of the of the world. Come making the chaffinch nests hollow and cozy, come and soften the willow buds till they are puffed and furred, then blow them over with gold. Come and cajole the gawky colt's-foot flowers.

Come quickly, and vindicate us. against too much death. Come quickly, and stir the rotten globe of the world from within, burst it with germination, with world anew. Come now, to us, your adherents, who cannot flower from the ice. All the world gleams with the lilies of death the unconquerable, but come, give us our turn. Enough of the virgins and lilies, of passionate, suffocating perfume of corruption, no more narcissus perfume, lily harlots, the blades of sensation piercing the flesh to blossom of death. Have done, have done with this shuddering, delicious business of thrilling ruin in the flesh, of pungent passion, of rare, death-edged ecstasy. Give us our turn, give us a chance, let our hour strike, O soon, soon! Let the darkness turn violet with rich dawn. Let the darkness be warmed, warmed through to a ruddy violet, incipient purpling towards summer in the world of the heart of man.

Are the violets already here! Show me! I tremble so much to hear it, that even now on the threshold of spring, I fear I shall die. Show me the violets that are out.

Oh, if it be true, and the living darkness of the blood of man is purpling with violets, if the violets are coming out from under the rack of men, winter-rotten and fallen, we shall have spring. Pray not to die on this Pisgah blossoming with violets. Pray to live through. If you catch a whiff of violets from the darkness of the shadow of man it will be spring in the world, it will be spring in the world of the living; wonderment organising itself, heralding itself with the violets, stirring of new seasons.

Ah, do not let me die on the brink of such anticipation!  
Worse, let me not deceive myself.

## CONSISTORY PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Hello St. John's!

We have had a very difficult last six months in 2015. Let's move ahead and try to have a better year in 2016.

You say you come to Church, because it is a way to relax and enjoy God's word, "One day a week.". Did you ever think you are the church? You can be in prayer whether at home, hospital or just anywhere. Let's pray for each other and help us grow in Gods spirits. Remember, for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Let's think about having a little more social time. You know we come to church, and afterwards go out the door and back to our normal lifestyle.

Let's get together and go on a Mystery Trip or maybe you have always wanted to go to Sight & Sound. Well, "Samson" is playing right now or how about going on "the road to nowhere" and end up at a beautiful place for dinner or a Glorified Picnic.

These are some of my suggestions. Please let me know if you would be interested in them or give me some of your suggestions.

I would be more than willing to arrange one of the ideas into a bus trip.

Remember, if you have any questions or concerns regarding St. John's contact any member on the Consistory.

Remember God is so amazing.

Brenda Good

Consistory President

## Lebanon Association Choirfest 2016 by Louise Walmer

Attention Choir members and anyone from the congregation who likes to sing with a large choir: It is time to make plans for another Lebanon Association Choir Festival. Notice has been received that the Association Life Committee will be sponsoring this event in the fall.

If you are interested in participating in this event, tell Louise. Your time commitment will be: 2 or 3 rehearsals on a Saturday and the event on a Sunday afternoon or early evening.

## Pastor Tony's Hours

Pastor Tony will be in the church office Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. If you need to reach Pastor Tony at other times, call his Cell phone, 717-673-0972 or his Home phone, 717-820-4956.

Starting April 1<sup>st</sup> Pastor Tony's email will be [fieldstr@icloud.com](mailto:fieldstr@icloud.com). Please make a note of the change

## APRIL WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, April 3, 2016  
Second Sunday of Easter  
Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 10, 2016  
Third Sunday of Easter  
Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-9

Sunday, April 17, 2016  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 9:36-43  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30

Sunday, April 24, 2016  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

## MAY WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday, May 1, 2016  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 16:9-15  
Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5  
John 14:23-29

Sunday, May 8, 2016  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Acts 16:16-34  
Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21  
John 17:20-26

Sunday, May 15, 2016  
Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:14-17  
John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Sunday, May 22, 2016

Trinity Sunday  
Proverbs 8-14, 22-31  
Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15

Sunday, May 29, 2016  
Second Sunday after Pentecost  
I Kings 18:20-21, (22-29) 30-39  
Psalm 96  
Galatians 1:1-12



## APRIL CELEBRATION

### Happy Birthday to:

6 Rev. Drew Morris  
6 Jordan Seltzer  
6 Aidan Zechman  
7 Sheila Fox  
7 Pat Ziegler  
8 Cathy Rentschler  
9 Keith Gingrich

11 Ken Mohn  
11 Steve Zechman  
12 Andrew Fegan  
13 Erika Flanick  
13 Josh Stoltz  
15 Christine Lutz  
18 Wade Tyrpin

18 Zachary Baynard  
20 Becky Martin  
20 Leah Stoltz  
20 Sharon Hibshman  
20 Kayla Benfer  
26 Rick Rudy

### Happy Anniversary to:

9 Peggy & Charles Wike  
14 Linda & Mark Tyrpin  
18 Betty & Vernon Schriver  
21 Kim & Jarrod Kapp  
27 Linda & Mike Nace

## Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

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

#### April Readers

April 3- Pam Emery  
April 10- Jodie Fields  
April 17- Charlene Ziegler  
April 24- Pam Emery

#### April Flowers

April 3- Melissa Seltzer  
April 10- OPEN  
April 17- Millie Schriver  
April 24- Ginny & Terry Knapp

#### March Attendance

March 6 - 67  
March 13- 43

April Deacon  
Scott Benfer

#### April Bulletins

April 3- Melissa Seltzer  
April 10- OPEN  
April 17- Millie Schriver  
April 24- Terry & Ginny Knapp

#### April Coffee Host

April 3- Pat & Earl Ziegler  
April 10- Pat & Earl Ziegler  
April 17- Pat & Earl Ziegler  
April 24- Pat & Earl Ziegler

#### SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flowers: April 10th  
Bulletins: April 10th  
Flowers: May 15th  
Bulletins: May 1st,



## MAY CELEBRATION

### Happy Birthday to:

2 Priscilla Rentschler  
2 Zachary Seltzer  
3 Scott Benfer  
6 Paul Getz  
7 Dylan Walmer  
10 Nancy Frantz

12 Curtis Herr  
13 Austin Zechman  
17 Bob Losiewicz  
17 Lisa Jo Rudy  
23 Amber Daub

24 Robin Getz  
25 Cory Daub  
25 Pam Emery  
26 Anthony Quairolì  
29 Rachel Baynard  
30 Mike Nace

### Happy Anniversary to:

2 Ginny & Terry Knapp  
9 Shirley & Al Fortna  
13 Michelle & Brad Walmer

25 Robin & Paul Getz  
30 Missy & Bob Seltzer  
30 Chase & Kari Mease

31 Pastor Tony & Jodie  
Fields

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

## Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

#### May Readers

May 1- Brenda Good  
May 8- Sharon Hibshman  
May 15- Regina Engler  
May 22- Paul Smth  
May 29-

#### May Flowers

May 1- Priscilla Rentschler  
May 8- Nancy Frantz  
May 15- OPEN  
May 22- Pam & Gary Emery  
May 29- Barbara Trainor

May Deacon  
Pam Emery

#### May Bulletins

May 1- OPEN  
May 8 - Nancy Frantz  
May 15- OPEN  
May 22- OPEN  
May 26- Barbara Trainor

#### May Coffee Host

May 1- Priscilla Rentschler  
May 8-- Priscilla Rentschler  
May 15- Priscilla Rentschler  
May 22- Priscilla Rentschler  
May 29- Priscilla Rentschler



## **From the Christian Education Corner** by Angie Michael **Calling all bakers!**

The Christian Education Committee is holding a bake sale following worship Sunday, April 10, in the social hall. Drop off your baked goods in the church kitchen before the worship service! Baked goods will be for sale by donation following worship. Proceeds benefit the Christian Education Committee and will specifically support our youth ministry and mission work, such as Vacation Bible School and our Compassion International sponsor child! If you have any questions, please see Angela Michael.

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

Plans are underway for the Spring Flea Market and Bake Sale. The event will be held Friday, April 22nd, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday, April 23rd from 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Sorting and pricing will take place Thursday, April 21st.

This is our biggest project and we need everyone's help to make it a success. Check your cupboards and closets for gently used articles. It might be just what someone else needs. Baked goods are needed as that is a very good money maker for the event.

We need your help. This is a very time-consuming project and the more people we have to work, the easier it will be for all. All monies raised by this group go back into the church one way or another.

An Avon project is also ongoing. Order and monies must be in by April 4th. This is a good opportunity to get your Mother's Day gifts.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 PM. Can we count on you to help?

### **LETTER RECEIVED FROM JONESTOWN OUTREACH PANTRY**

Dear Congregation at St. John's UCC,

Thank you for supporting the JOY Pantry with your generous donations of: 26 pounds of food in January—120 pounds of food in February plus \$144.00.

Our goal is to treat our clients with dignity and respect by allowing them to choose a variety of healthy food and personal care items. Your donation allows this selection.

This past year JOY Pantry served 3620 individuals, including 1116 children. We also helped 87 new families in the Northern Lebanon School District. We've been averaging 125 households each month.

The JOY Pantry could not continue this outreach without your help. Our support truly makes a difference in the lives of the children and adults we serve.

Sincerely,  
The Jonestown Outreach Pantry

## **Save Your Palms**

Please save the palms you received on Palm Sunday. Next year, on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, Pastor Tony will have a ceremony to burn the palms. The ashes from the palms will be used for our annual Ash Wednesday worship service.



## **Music and Worship Committee** by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee met on Monday, March 7th, at the home of Gary Trautman. Robin Getz led our devotion time focusing on Psalm 96:1-15.

Discussion centered on feedback concerning our Lenten Journey for 2016. Attendance at the light lunch and Lenten study after Sunday morning worship is being well attended and the attendees all seem to be enjoying the experience.

Details for the Maundy Thursday Seder Meal need to be worked out. Pastor Tony will provide copies of information for this ceremony and its preparation to committee members. Louise will co-ordinate the efforts required for set up and to carry out the Seder.

Community Good Friday worship will be March 25th at 7pm at St. Paul's UCC, Hamlin.

Our Easter worship will include an Easter Sunrise Service at Cedar Hill Cemetery beginning at 6:45am. There will be a continental breakfast served at the church after this service. Easter Communion will be celebrated at the 10:30am morning worship.

It was decided to not have a Youth Sunday on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of May, May 29th.

Beth Ann has requested off for all Sundays in the month of May. Additional, she will be unable to attend choir rehearsals during the rest of March, all of April and May. There are 5 Sundays in May, and Louise has been able to secure an organist for all 5 of these Sundays. JB Yorty will play May 1st and 8th and Ruth Geesaman is able to play May 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

Pastor Tony requested vacation time June 5th-11th and Aug 23rd-29th. The committee will be looking for worship leaders and speakers for Sunday, June 12th and Sunday, August 28th.

Pastor Tony announced that PCC Annual Meeting is June 10th-11th, 2016. Kass Myers will be ordering palms for Palm Sunday. Pastor Tony will ask that we save our palms this year and in early 2017 he will initiate a palm burning ceremony to provide the ashes for Ash Wednesday 2017.

Committee members are looking forward to attending the Choral Reading Program sponsored by Loser's Music in July.

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

Members of the Sr. Choir have been rehearsing anthems on Wednesday night. Some of our anthems are new and some are "old, familiar" ones that we love to sing and share with the congregation.

The anthems are chosen to coincide with the lectionary scriptures of the day. It is our hope that our singing, as well as what we sing, enhances the spiritual experience of the worship service.

Anthems for the month of April are:

April 3 -	"Jesus, Take All of Me"
April 17 - Shepherd Sunday	"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Anthems for the month of May are:

May 1 - Communion	"Celtic Communion"
May 15 - Pentecost Sunday	"How Great Is the Father's Love"
May 29 - Memorial Day Weekend	"A Prayer for Heroes"

The choir will take its annual break after singing on Sunday, June 5.

The Music and Worship Committee will be looking for members and friends of the congregation to provide Special Music in place of the anthem throughout our summer break.



## Wanted: Leaders who want to explore the Word of God with children!

At Surf Shack VBS, we will help our children catch the waves of God's amazing love through missions, dramas, crafts, games, science activities, music, and lots of fun!

Sign up for Vacation Bible School leadership role and join us in the excitement at Surf Shack : Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love!

Vacation Bible School July 18-22 5:30-8:00pm

Dinner will be served nightly

For information or registration please call

Jodie Fields (717) 673-4287.

### 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 (867-2675), or Patricia Rentschler (685-1492).

April 2—2:00 PM—Meet at Salem Lutheran Church in Lebanon at 8th & Willow Sts. Dinner at Quentin Haus Restaurant.

May 28—2:00 PM—Miniature Golf—Games and dinner at Kauffman's Bar-B- Q in Bethel.

August 20—(Note date and time) 1:00 PM—Picnic—"Pot Luck" at Jonestown Community Park. Games and Fellowship and bring a prize for bingo.

### Financial Report by Robin Getz, Finance Chair

Total Revenue	(1/1/16– 2/29/16)	\$ 15,220.68
Total Expenses	(1/1/16– 2/29/16)	\$ 17,792.43

We need to collect \$1923.07 weekly to meet budget and currently we are averaging \$1652.80 per week. As you can see we are running behind projections by \$270 plus dollars on a weekly average basis. We must also consider the lost giving of all of our precious members who have passed away over this last year. That fact has also added to our shortfall. There is serious concern with our ability at meeting budget over the 2016 year which will result in utilizing more of our cash reserves than anticipated, shortening the life bread of our church. When the budget was presented at the congregational meeting held in November 2015 we were very clear that the continual shortfall would continue to be detrimental to the church's financial health. We truly need to consider ways to either raise revenue through solid fundraising (and not just the committee of 5) OR look at ways to cut expenses which will mean some truly tough choices as there really is not "fluff" in the approved budget. We truly believe the time for doing multiple dinners or breakfasts is long overdue. We must look to outside sources to close the budget gap. We must look at our inside sources if we are to pull this off. 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. 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.

# April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 National Night Out Committee Meeting— 1:00pm
3 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Helen Walmer Fund Sunday Christian Ed Meeting follow- ing Worship	4 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	5	6 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Bible Study – 12:00PM  Choir Practice 7:00 PM	7 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	8	9
10 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship JOY Pantry	11	12 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	13 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Bible Study – 12:00PM  Choir Practice 7:00 PM	14 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	15	16
17 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship	18	19 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Fellowship Group 7:00 PM	20 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Bible Study – 12:00PM  Choir Practice 7:00 PM	21 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  FLEA MARKET SORTING 8am-6pm	22 FLEA MARKET 8:00 am—5:00pm	23 FLEA MARKET 8:00– 11am
24 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Deacon's Fund Sunday Dine & Donate	25 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Consistory Meeting—7:00 PM	26	27 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Bible Study – 12:00PM  Choir Practice 7:00 PM	28 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	29	30

# May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Communion) (Helen Walmer Fund Sunday)	2	3 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	4 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Bible Study – 12:00PM  Choir Practice 7:00 PM	5 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	6	7
8 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship JOY Pantry	9  Music/ Worship 7:00 PM	10 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	11 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Bible Study – 12:00PM  Choir Practice 7:00 PM	12 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	13	14
15 Pentecost Sunday  9AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship	16	17 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	18 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Bible Study – 12:00PM  Choir Practice 7:00 PM	19 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	20	21
9AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Dine & Donate Sunday	23	24 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	25 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Bible Study – 12:00PM  Choir Practice 7:00 PM	26 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	27	28
29 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Deacon's Fund Sunday	30 	31 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Consistory Meeting 7:00PM				

# ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

**Every Sunday**  
**9:00 am 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*

Brenda Good, President  
Pam Emery, Vice President  
Robin Gingrich, Secretary  
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

### *Elders*

Joe Ditzler  
Robin Gingrich  
Neal Grimes  
Pastor Herb  
Hibshman  
Ken Leibensperger  
Louise Walmer

### *Deacons*

Scott Benfer  
Pam Emery  
Brenda Good  
Bob Seltzer  
Mark Tyrpin  
Pat Ziegler