

# ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## *The VOICE*

August—September 2016

### PASTOR TONY'S MESSAGE

#### **Is anything too hard for God?**

Listening to all the news around us, is anything too hard for God? The church must lead and make an impression like never before. This question is no longer rhetorical. We must answer for this faithfully. In the book of Romans 8:18 - 30, these scriptures remind us that the whole creation groans as well as humanity. However, we are not left to ourselves for we have an advocate, the Holy Spirit that intercedes.

We cannot lose hope and run in fear. We cannot be distracted in the mission we are given. Our job is not to build the church of the 1960's nor be preoccupied by the challenges of the world. We can't afford to be distracted by the lack of membership, budget, affording to pay the pastor. All of "these are important: however, is anything too hard for God? As we heard the last few weeks, we must welcome the strangers with an extravagant welcome, study, pray, sit at Jesus feet, and believe.

We must rethink how we do church. We cannot worship in fear nor expect God's blessings living in fear. Listen, God is not calling us to be Super Christians or Christians loaded with steroids. He wants us to be faithful and witnesses. He wants us to tell the story and live in the "Now" of his glory.

If you reflect over the last two years, ministry is shifting, people are coming, ministry is taking on new shape. If we refocus our lens, we can see God is Still speaking. We must hush the anxiety of our spirit and see what roles we can connect with our community.

Nothing is too hard for God.



#### **BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

We invite all members and friends of St. John's to join us every Wednesday at noon.

We invite you to bring a sandwich.

**We hope to see you some Wednesday!**

August—September , 2016

**ST. JOHNS FELLOWSHIP,** by Ginny Knapp

Priscilla Rentschler, President, called a special meeting following the Sunday service. Discussion was held on whether or not to have a Fall Flea Market and Bake Sale. The group voted to hold another event Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

We are planning this event and asking for your help. Please take time to check your closets and cupboards for gently used articles. Please NO COMPUTERS OR TV'S. To make this a success, we need everyone's help. Can we count on you?

Our next meeting is Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Will we see you there?

**It's Shoebox Time!** By Julie Ditzler

It's hard to imagine in this sweltering heat, but our annual holiday project is approaching! Yes, it's time to start looking for empty shoeboxes to bring to church, and to watch for sales on the things we pack in them. School supplies are out in a back to school sales effort by local stores; we can use packs of crayons, small tablets, children's scissors, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, rulers, calculators, and/or any other item you see that you think would be appropriate to add to our boxes. Just remember that anything you consider must fit into a shoebox to be included. Please feel free to bring anything you gather, whether shoeboxes or supplies to put in them, along with you to church, and place them under the wooden table in the social hall. A more organized effort will begin in early October, so that we are ready to finish them by mid-November, when we must get them to the local drop-off site. Let's get Operation Christmas Child off to a great start!

**Study of John**

Our Christian Connection group will begin a new year of growing together with a study of the gospel of John. We will use a DVD-based curriculum written by Adam Hamilton titled *John, the Gospel of Light and Life*. Come and learn with us as we study the writings of the apostle whose name our church bears. John himself said that he wrote the gospel not only so that all would believe in Christ, but that they may have life in His name. Come and find out what that means, and more importantly, what it means in your life. We will begin when Christian Connection starts up again, on the Sunday after the Hinkelfest,

**NEW ADDRESS:**

Jillian Ditzler  
1100 S Spruce St. Apt 1-C  
Philadelphia PA 19107

## CONSISTORY REPORT by Brenda Good, President

We have had a very busy two months, getting ready for many of our calendar events.

But first let me tell you about our many thank you's we received from God who is still speaking. A thank you for \$392.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing as your continued sharing and support of our church's Wider Mission. We also received another thank you from United Church of Christ Homes for our \$500.00 for residents of the Annville Home who cannot pay for the cost of their care, a big thank-you from Victoria Velez, Director of Public Relations and Fund Development. Also from JOY Pantry for our donation of 43 pounds of food in April and 20 pounds of food in May.

Consistory also discussed fundraising for our church.

In June many activities to get ready for – Bible School.

Joe Ditzler is working on getting new bathroom signs. Joe & Mark Tyrpin are working on the bathrooms downstairs to get them completed before Bible School.

Ken Leibensperger has contacted three different carpet installers and Consistory has approved the installation of new carpet at the front entrance to the church.

In July Jodi Fields, Angela Michael & Julie Ditzler have been working feverishly on Bible School. Making posters, asking people to help, for teaching, crafting, and kitchen help. Puppets came alive with voices that come from certain people in the church. The first night we had 19 children attend. At the end of Bible School we will have a Jim Rule Concert for young people. Adults will find the concert entertaining as well as the children.

July 26<sup>th</sup> we will have a carnival and pizza night. All are welcome.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the National Night Out will be held at the Bethel Township Lions Park from 6:00PM – 8:00PM. This is where we need your help from everyone. Bring bottled water, cans of soda and small individual bags of chips and pretzels. There will be games, a climbing wall and a concert by Denise Voshell.

Saturday afternoon, August 13<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00PM, there will be a Worship service provided by Teen Challenge and light supper for everyone following the service

Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, will be our Outdoor Worship service and picnic at Bethel Township Lions Park beginning at 11:00AM. Bring your potato salad, deviled eggs or whatever you enjoy making for a picnic and also bring your lawn chairs.

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at the church will be the kick off for our year of Christian Connection at 9:00AM. Games & Crafts will be held at 9:00AM with worship service at 10:30AM. At 5:00PM at Memorial Lake will be a potluck picnic and at 5:30 Vesper service.

Need I say more that our church has really been busy?

As always, Your Consistory is working hard for you and our church and mostly why we are here is to worship in prayer with Jesus Christ our Savior.

August—September, 2016

## AUGUST WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, August 7, 2016  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Isaiah 1: 1. 10-20  
Psalm 50: 1-8. 22-23  
Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16  
Luke 12: 32-40

Sunday, August 14, 2016  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Isaiah 5: 1-7  
Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19  
Hebrews 11: 29-12:2  
Luke 12: 49-56

Sunday, August 21, 2016

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71: 1-6  
Hebrews 12: 18-29  
Luke 13: 10-17

Sunday, August 28, 2016  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Jeremiah 2: 4-13  
Psalm 81: 1, 10-16  
Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16  
Luke 14: 1, 7-14

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday, September 4, 2016  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Jeremiah 18: 1-11  
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18  
Deuteronomy 30: 15-20  
Luke 14: 25-33

Sunday, September 11, 2016  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28  
Psalm 14  
I Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, September 18, 2016  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1  
Psalm 79: 1-9  
I Timothy 2: 1-7  
Luke 16: 1-13

Sunday, September 25, 2016  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15  
Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16  
I Timothy 6: 6-19  
Luke 16: 19-31



## AUGUST CELEBRATION

### Happy Birthday to:

1 Brayden Benito  
1 Ruth Lutz  
2 Ken Leibensperger  
3 Trevor Zohn  
4 Brad Walmer  
4 Peggy Wike  
6 Jeff Ditzler  
6 Morgan Hevel

7 Seth Shaffer  
8 Betty Schriver  
10 Al Schriver  
12 Brett Getz  
13 John Oskam  
15 Jerry Mohn  
15 Darlene Stoltz  
20 Louise Walmer

20 Chris Rankin  
24 Charles Wike  
26 Alex Flanick  
27 Dan Wenger  
29 Ira Rudy  
30 Denise Flanick

### 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

## Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

#### August Readers

Aug. 7-  
Aug. 14- Regina Engler  
Aug. 21— Julie Ditzler  
Aug. 28- Wendy Dorsey

#### August Flowers

Aug. 7- Nancy Frantz  
Aug. 14- Outside Service  
Aug. 21— Jerry Mohn  
Aug. 28- Pastor Tony

#### July Attendance

July 3— 53  
July 10— 45  
July 17- 65  
July 24 – 50

#### August Bulletins

Aug. 7- Nancy Frantz  
Aug. 14- Outside Service  
Aug. 21— Jerry Mohn  
Aug. 28- OPEN

#### August Coffee Host

Aug. 7- OPEN  
Aug. 14- OPEN  
Aug. 21— OPEN  
Aug. 28- OPEN

#### August Deacon

Mark Tyrpin

#### SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flowers: Oct. 2nd & 30th  
Nov. 6  
Bulletins: Oct. 2, 23rd &  
30th  
Nov. 6th  
Coffee Hosts: Months of  
Sept., Oct. & Dec.



# 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 Croutharmel  
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

12 Pam & Roger Myers  
13 Joan & Bob Losiewicz  
20 Cindy & Chester Michael

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

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

# Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

### September Readers

Sept. 4- Brenda Good  
Sept. 11- Keith Gingrich  
Sept. 18-  
Sept. 25- Pam Emery

### September Flowers

Sept. 4- OPEN  
Sept. 11- Pastor Tony  
Sept. 18- Hinkelfest  
Sept. 25 Millie Schriver

### September Deacon

Robert Seltzer

### September Bulletins

Sept. 4- OPEN  
Sept. 11- Pastor Tony  
Sept. 18- Hinkelfest  
Sept. 25- Millie Schriver

### September Coffee Host

Sept. 4- OPEN  
Sept. 11- Open  
Sept. 18- Open  
Sept. 25 Open



## From the Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

### Important Dates from the Christian Education Corner

Sunday, September 11, 9 a.m.: Tailgate Sunday Activities outdoors in the morning, including crafts, games, and fowling.

Sunday, September 18, Hinkelfest--No Sunday School

Sunday, September 25, 9 a.m.: Sunday School classes resume

Please note that there is a slight change to this year's Tailgate Sunday activities. The tailgate potluck picnic will be in the evening at Memorial Lake right before the vesper service. See you there!

The Christian Education Committee will be running the Fall flower bulbs fundraiser again this fall. We will be selling Fall flower bulbs from the Dutch Mill Bulb company (they are out of Hershey, PA!). The sale dates have not been set yet but more information will be in the bulletins & on the website.

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with VBS. None of this would have been possible without you. We had a total of 25 kids that we fed dinner to every night. I'm so thankful for a wonderful Church family God has blessed me with. Looking forward to next year stay tuned.....

VBS Director  
Jodie Fields

### TEEN CHALLENGE CHOIR TO SING

The Teen Challenge Choir will present a program of gospel music and testimony at St. John's UCC on August 13th at 4:00 PM. There will be a light supper following the service.

The choir is composed of young men from all over the United States. They are truly unique because every member comes from a background of drugs, alcohol, and/or crime. Each member with his own story from murder to heroin addiction testifies to the miracle working power of God's love.

The choir represents over 200 students residing at the Teen Challenge Training Center in Rehrersburg, PA. Teen Challenge is the largest non-profit rehabilitation program in the world with over 100 Induction Centers in the US and has a documented 86% cure rate.

The choir has shared their music and ministry in churches, on street corners, prisons, high schools, military bases, coffee houses, on radio and TV. Lives of both young and old have been challenged and influenced by the work of God in these men. They have appeared in Washington DC on the steps of the Capitol and at the Washington Monument. They have shared their freedom in Christ in Philadelphia at the Liberty Bell and Independence Square. They have also appeared on coast to coast TV on the 700 Club.

Be sure to attend this exciting presentation along with a friend and see why this is indeed a "Unique" ministry team. You are sure to be touched as they sing and testify of God's transforming power which has delivered them from the perils of drug and alcohol abuse.



## Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer

Several Sr. Choir members once again attended the Sacred Choral Reading Session, sponsored by Loser's Music. This is an annual event held at the Lititz Church of the Brethren. We sing from sacred choral anthems from 9am to 3pm, only stopping for short breaks in the morning and in the afternoon and for lunchtime. And once again we'll have multiple anthems that we all like and will incorporate into our music library for singing throughout this next choir season. It is a great day that we all look forward to each year.

The Committee has not met since our last newsletter, however, we do have a meeting scheduled for Monday, August 8th at 7pm. Sharon Hibshman will be responsible for our opening devotion time.

Our annual outdoor worship service and covered dish lunch is scheduled for Sunday, August 11th, at the Bethel Township Lion's Park. Worship begins at 11am. Bring a lawn chair.

At our meeting we will be discussing plans for our Picnic and Vesper worship at the Memorial Lake Pavilion on Sunday, September 11. The picnic will begin at 5 PM and the vesper service will start at 6:30PM. This event is co-sponsored by the Music and Worship Committee and the Christian Ed Committee. Paper goods, utensils, beverages, hot dogs and rolls will be provided. Please bring a lawn chair and a snack, casserole, or dessert to share.

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

Your summer hiatus will soon be over. Our weekly choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 14th at 7pm.

This is a great time for new members to come sing with us. We plan to sing our 1<sup>st</sup> anthem of the 2016-17 "Singing Season" on World Wide Communion Sunday, October 2nd.





**NEW HORIZONS 2016**

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).

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.

September 26-29—Shore

October 22—2:00PM—Meet at UCC Church in Annville and dinner location to be announced. Program by Wayne Anspach, "The Blue Eyed Six", and music.

November 26- (9:00 AM Breakfast at "Country Fare Restaurant", Myerstown. Reservations due by November 19th.

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

Total Revenue	(1/1/16– 6/30/16)	\$ 30,222.86
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Total Expenses	(1/1/16– 6/30/16)	\$ 37,431.38
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We need to collect \$1923.07 weekly to meet Morning Worship budget and currently we are averaging \$1705.06 per week. As you can see, we are running behind projections by \$218.01 plus dollars on a weekly average basis. We must also consider the lost giving of members who are no longer attending for one reason or another 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 have budgeted \$8000.00 in fund raising and to date we only have \$60.00 which is mainly our Dine & Donate income. 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!! Recently consistory along with members of the budget and fundraising committee were given a presentation of ways we can earn additional revenue. There will be careful consideration to implement what needs to be done to assist our church's financial needs where fundraising efforts are concerned.

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.

**EVANGELSIM** by Neal Grimes

We continue to prepare for National Night Out which will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at Bethel Township/Lions Park.

We have added a bounce game, climbing wall, and a punching machine. We have eliminated the dunking booth due to health and injury concerns.

Booths staffed by local businesses and organizations will be joined by two area fire companies and the Pennsylvania State Police.


The committee consists of Scott Benfer, Pastor Tony Fields, Jodie Fields, Pastor John Burr, Mary Donmoyer (representing St. Paul's Hamlin UCC), Terry Knapp, Pastor Glenn Compton, Walter Bolles, Brenda Good, Regina Engler and Neal Grimes.

Denise Voshell will provide the entertainment and Bob Seltzer will again be grilling those delicious hot dogs. Great prizes will be raffled off that were donated by local businesses and organizations.

# August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  National Night Out at Lions Park 6:00 PM—8:00 PM	3 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	4 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	5	6
7  NO Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	8  7:00 PM Music/Worship Committee	9 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	10 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	11 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	12	13  4:00 PM Teen Challenge Worship Service
14 11:00 AM Outdoor Worship Service @ Lions Park With Pot Luck lunch to follow. Bring your Lawn Chairs JOY Pantry Sunday	15	16 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  7:00 PM Fellowship Group Meeting	17 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	18 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	19	20
21 NO Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship	22  Pastor Tony Vacation	23 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	24 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	25 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	26  Pastor Tony Vacation	27  Pastor Tony Vacation
28 NO Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday Pastor Tony Vacation	29 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	30	31 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM			

# September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	2	3
4 NO Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund	5  Labor Day	6 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	7 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Noon Bible Study  7:00 PM Choir Prac- tice	8 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	9	10
11 9:00 AM Outdoors kick off of Christian Connection Classes 10:30 AM Worship 5:00PM Pot Luck Picnic 6:30PM Vesper Service At Memorial Lake	12	13 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	14 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Noon Bible Study  7:00 PM Choir Prac- tice	15 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	16	17
18 11:00 AM Hinkelfest Morning Worship @ Fireman's Park	19	20 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  6:30 PM Fellowship Meeting	21 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Noon Bible Study  7:00 PM Choir Prac- tice	22 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  8AM- 6PM Flea Market Sorting	23 8AM—5PM Flea Market & Bake Sale	24 8AM—11AM Flea Market & Bake Sale
25 9:00 AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	26 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	27	28 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  Noon Bible Study  7:00 PM Choir Practice	29 Office Hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	30	

# 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

**Every Sunday**  
**9:00 AM Christian Connection**  
**Resumes on September 25th**  
**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

### *Consistory*

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

### *Elders*

Joe Ditzler  
Robin Gingrich  
Neal Grimes  
Ken Leibensperger  
Louise Walmer

### *Deacons*

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