

St. John's United Church of *The VOICE*

December 2014

Can you believe it is December?

We are approaching a season filled with emotions. Together we will journey through Advent season. The candles of Joy, Hope, Love, and Peace will be lit and then The Christ Candle.

However, let's not rush through this season. Let us allow the Spirit of the season speak to us. Let this not be a regular routine or an old ritual. Let us hear from the Still Speaking God in the hope for renewal and restoration.

For we know many will not celebrate the same as many because of the physical absences of love ones. Let us allow room for uncertainty, uncomfortableness, and silence speak to longing of the heart. For in Psalm 65 states, "God of Zion, to you even silence is praise." Even in the midst of silence God can renew and refresh us.

Therefore, allow this season to be what God intends for "WE" His people, Salvation, Redemption, and Deliverance. During this time, let us allow this time of hearing from God launch us into new purposes. Process is more important than outcome. Process allows growth, maturity, and development of quality. Because we are a people who live in deep darkness, we know how to long to see a great light. Advent is a season of anticipating the coming of Christ. It is a season that gives voice to our yearning. And because we yearn, we can live into the season.

Peace of Christ be With You!

Pastor Tony



DECEMBER WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, December 7, 2014
Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40: 1-11
Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
Mark 1: 1-8

Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9: 2-7
Psalm 96
Luke 2: 1-14

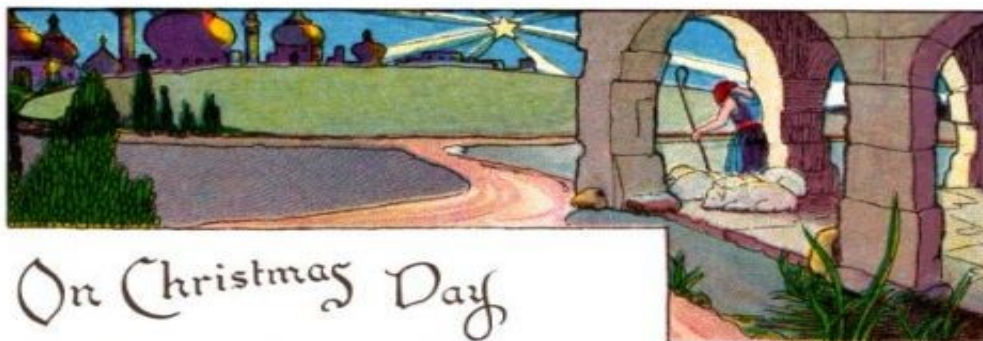
Sunday, December 14, 2014
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Thursday, December 25, 2014
Christmas Day
Isaiah 52: 7-10
Psalm 98
John 1: 1-14

Sunday, December 21, 2014
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26
Luke 1: 26-38

Sunday December 28, 2014
Isaiah 61: 10-62:3
Psalm 148
Luke 2: 22-40

Wednesday, December 24, 2014



On Christmas Day

May the Angels' Song,
"Goodwill to Men,"
echo in your heart today

Holiday Party by Julie Ditzler

The Christian Education Committee would like to invite everyone to a holiday luncheon following our worship service on December 28th. We will provide everything necessary to eat lunch together – if you want (and you still have some left!) – please bring some Christmas cookies to share. After lunch we will hit the road to go Christmas caroling and spread some holiday cheer. We are planning to visit each person on the pastor's list for home communions, plus any other friends who are recommended to us. If you know of someone whose day might be brightened by a caroling visit from us, please let Julie or the pastor know so that their homes may be added to our route. We are hoping for a good turnout of all ages for our caroling group, and we will carpool to make the traveling easier. Please put this event on your calendar, and plan to spend some holiday time with your church family. It will be a fun and meaningful way to share the joy of the season.

St John's Hands... by Denise Laura Voshell

Hands.... It's coming soon. You really don't want to miss out on this new event at St. John's UCC in Fredericksburg.... This is something never seen before, in the history of this church. On a Sunday in December, during church..... Surprise ! You don't know when it will happen.... So make sure you are here, each Sunday, so you don't miss out.... This is going to show us, that even if we are not an artist, a singer, a gifted wood worker, a computer guru, a scholar, a Pastor, a doctor, a factory worker, a fire fighter.... No matter what course your life has taken. We have a gift, your Hands..... Just a simple helping hand, can change this world we live in. People, helping people. In this land of Milk and Honey, poverty lives on in the lives of so many. You don't need to be skilled, or have a special talent to help others less fortunate.... For example.... The shoe boxes..... Julie does this every year for the children in need. With the help of all who buy the supplies, gather the shoe boxes, (which I have heard at least a few come from Jean Ann) and take the time to wrap, pack, and box each item. These are helping hands. Reeseey.... making hats for children, Sharon making prayer cloths, ladies making baked goods, folks ringing the bells, Louise directing the choir, Beth Ann playing her beautiful music. All helping, all using the gift of Hands.... If you can use them, use them for the good of others.... What started out as an idea, from our Pastor Tony. Is soon to become a reality. I wish to thank all that are helping out with this adventure, and for their patience in me, and this project. I know my ideas sometimes may not make sense. But after a while, it all is coming together. The ideas you have added are Priceless. So don't miss out on this event. And remember, only kindness matters. Hope to see you all there...

DECEMBER Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

1 Janell Carroll	11 Jarrod Kapp	18 Darlene Boltz
2 Jodie Fields	11 Chris Rentschler	25 Shayne Tyrpin
6 Mabel Rudy	15 Jonathan Oskam	25 Larry Walmer
6 Amy Zechman	16 Brad Griffiths	27 Kadie Walmer

Happy Anniversary to:

7 Jean Ann & Neal Grimes

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

December Readers

December 7 Neal Grimes
December 14 Wendy Dorsey
December 21 Robin Getz
December 28 Sharon Hibshman

December Flowers

December 7-Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
December 14- Priscilla Rentschler
December 21-Loretta Lutz
December 28-Louise & Larry Walmer

November Attendance

November 2 87
November 9 89
November 16 69
November 23 66

December Bulletins

December 7-Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
December 14-Priscilla Rentschler
December 21-Loretta Lutz
December 28-Larry & Louise Walmer

December Coffee Hosts

December 7 OPEN
December 14 OPEN
December 21 OPEN
December 28 OPEN

December Deacon

Robin Gingrich

Coffee Sponsors

Needed:

Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
The sign up sheets are in
the Social Hall.



Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

December Youth Event

Calling all youth, families, and singers! We're going after Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 28, following the worship service. We'll visit our shut-ins and share some carols and treats with them. We'll have a light luncheon right after worship before we head out to carol. If you have any questions, please see Julie Ditzler.

St. John's Fellowship by Ginny Knapp

St. John's Fellowship held their annual Holiday Party for residents of Cedar Haven recently. Soft cookies and fruit punch was served to those who attended the program. Each resident received a box of tissues.

Howard Lee and the Gospel Singers entertained the group. Many of the residents sang along with the hymn sing. As always one came away from the affair in a "glad to have been there" frame of mind. They are always grateful for the event.

In other Fellowship news, Priscilla Rentschler, President, reported we made a profit of \$405.00 from our recent Avon project. A sincere thanks to all who bought and sold Avon products. Plants will be delivered to shut-ins by Aleta Babe, Jean Ann Grimes, Robin Gingrich and Priscilla. Kass Myers will get a box ready for the one serviceman now on active duty.

Our next event will be our Christmas Party at Heisey's Restaurant on Tuesday, December 9th at 6:00 PM. Please bring a grocery item to be given to JOY Pantry. A sign-up sheet is in the social hall. See you there!

Operation Christmas Child Wrap-Up by Julie Ditzler

We prepared a total of 80 boxes to be sent overseas as part of the Operation Christmas Child mission of Samaritan's Purse. We had a lively group to wrap, pack, inspect, and finish our boxes as they moved through our assembly line. Thanks to everyone for their efforts in making this a successful project once more. The boxes were blessed as part of our morning worship service on November 23, and delivered to the local gathering point at the Ono U.M. Church. Joe and I will be participating as volunteers at a regional distribution center in Baltimore in December, so we will report back on our experiences there. As we receive word of our boxes' final destinations, we will share that information as well. Again, thanks for all your help in providing these reminders of God's love for His children everywhere.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee met on Mon., Nov. 3. Robin Getz led our devotion time reading Philippians 4:12b-13.

Pastor Tony is the pastoral leader for the Fredericksburg Tree Lighting on Nov. 30 in the square. He asked that the Sr. Choir be available to lead the singing of Christmas Carols that evening.

Decisions were made for:

Lighting of the Advent Wreath beginning the 1st Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30, and continuing on the following 3 Sundays and Christmas Eve. Members of the congregation will be asked to participate in the lighting of the candles and the Sr. Choir will sing verses of "O Come, O Come Emanuel".

The singing of Denise's presentation of "Hands" to be on Dec. 14

The choir to do a Christmas cantata on Dec. 21

Pastor Tony suggested that when there are months with 5 Sundays, that 5th Sunday of the month be a service that has youth participation. We will begin to do this on the 5th Sunday of March.

Next meeting of this committee will be on Mon., Jan. 12, 2015. Sharon Hibshman will lead our devotion time.

December Musical Offerings

Dec. 7 Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

The Sr. Choir will sing, "Lord, I Know I Been Changed", arranged by Larry Shakley

Dec. 14 Third Sunday of Advent - Love

A presentation of the song, "Hands", by Sr. Choir and members of the congregation, directed by Denise Voshell

Dec. 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent – Joy

Christmas Cantata: "The Winter Rose"

Music by Joseph Martin and narration by Pamela Martin

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

7 pm - Sr. Choir will sing, "Come, See", words and music by Ruth Elaine Schram

11 pm – Sr. Choir will sing, "Mary Did You Know", choral setting by Jack Schrader

Dec. 28 1st Sunday After Christmas

The Hand Bells will play

Sr. Choir Rehearsal Schedule for November

by Louise Walmer

Attention Sr. Choir Members and Cantata Singers: Please note the following rehearsal schedule for the month of December:

Wed., Dec. 3	Sr. Choir at 7pm
Sun., Dec. 7	Cantata Rehearsal after church
Wed., Dec. 10	Sr. Choir at 7pm
Sun., Dec. 14	Cantata Rehearsal after church
Wed., Dec. 17	Cantata Rehearsal 7pm

There will be **NO** Sr. Choir Rehearsal on Wed., Dec. 24, and Wed. Dec. 31.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship by Louise Walmer

On Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 26, we worshiped at Hamlin in the brick church with our brothers and sisters of St. Paul's congregation. We had a joint choir, directed by Louise Walmer, sang the anthem, "We Bring Thanksgiving" by Pepper Choplin.

Rev. Andy Wilson was the worship leader. Pastor Tony preached the sermon, and Louise served as the pianist for this service.

PRAYER FOR JOY written by Robert Louis Stevenson

Grant to us, O Lord, the royalty of inward happiness and the serenity which comes from living close to Thee.

Daily renew in us the sense of joy, and let the eternal spirit of the Father dwell in our souls and bodies, filling every corner of our hearts with light and grace; so that, bearing about with us the infection of good courage, we may meet all ills and cross accidents with gallant and high-hearted happiness, giving thee thanks always for all things.



BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP By Neal Grimes

OCTOBER	INCOME	Y.T.D.
WEEKLY OFFERINGS (4WEEKS)	\$ 7,470.63	\$ 80,035.63
DEFRAY COST OF ENVELOPES	0	283.00
BULLETINS	30.00	300.00
JOINT MEN'S & WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	0	2,600.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	0	275.00
FUNDRAISING	598.97	2,062.14
SPECIAL SERVICES	411.50	179.00
SOCIAL HALL RENTALS/MISC	15.00	361.00
INTEREST	2.40	24.89
TOTAL INCOME FOR OCTOBER	\$ 8,528.50	\$ 86,532.16
EXPENSES	12,929.71	\$ 89,759.02
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$(4,401.21)	\$ 3,226.86)

Our budget for weekly offerings is \$2,300. For October we averaged \$1,867.66.

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, That he said "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35 NKJV



December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	3 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study-12:00 PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	4 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	5 Little Learners 9:00 AM—12:00 PM	6
7 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund	8	9 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Christmas Party Heisey's Restaurant	10 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study-12:00 PM 6:15 PM Bell Practice 7:00PM Choir Practice	11 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	12 Little Learners 9:00 AM—12:00 PM	13
14 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship JOY Pantry	15 VOICE DEADLINE	16 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	17 Bible Study-12:00 PM 6:15 PM Bell Practice 7:00PM Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Christmas Cantata	22	23 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	24 Christmas Eve Services 7:00 PM & 11:00 PM	25 	26	27
28 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Dine & Donate Sunday Deacon's Fund Sunday Following Worship will be a Holiday Lunch followed by Christmas Caroling.	29 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	30	31			

St. John's United Church of Christ

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

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Fredericksburg, PA 17026

Church Phone # 717-865-7222
E-mail stjohnsucc@comcast.net
Website: www.stjohnsuccfburg.org

Every Sunday
9:00am 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
Mrs. Donna Eberly-Lehman Church Secretary

Consistory

Joe Ditzler, President
Angela Michael, Vice President
Missy Daub, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Walter Bolles
Missy Daub
Joe Ditzler
Wendy Dorsey
Robin Getz
Terry Knapp

Deacons

Robin Gingrich
Connie Martin
Angela Michael
Bob Seltzer
Mark Tyrpin
Pat Ziegler