

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

January 2015

2015 is Here! **By Pastor Tony**

A time of new beginnings, resolutions, and many promises. During this season we are hopeful and excited for again we begin. The unaccomplished, heartache, and disappointments is no longer a factor because now the wrong can become right. And for those that walked in their blessings they are expecting even greater.

Remember today is a new day, month, and year and God is with us!

Do we share of deep mystery, great love, incredible joy, peace on earth, and good will to all men? The grace of God has appeared.... Born unto us a child was born. Glory to God in the highest. The response of God to humanity is not about human constancy but about the enduring reliability of God, the assurance and witness to humanity throughout the centuries.

Let this new year remind us that light overcomes darkness. We celebrate the coming of a new year because if there was no way to overcome life challenges this new start would be a tragedy. We put our hopes unto the CHILD that was given unto us because all is not lost and all is not hopeless. The birthing promise of Jesus reminds us that conflict and challenge do not rule the day.

This new year, fresh start is a reminder of God's love for us

Happy New Year... New Year 2015



JANUARY WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, January 4, 2015
 Second Sunday after Christmas
 Jeremiah 31: 7-14
 Psalm 147: 12-20
 Ephesians 1: 3-14
 I John (1-9); 10-18

Sunday, January 11, 2014
 First Sunday after Epiphany/
 Baptism of the Lord
 Genesis 1: 1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19:1-7
 Mark 1: 4-11

Sunday, January 18, 2014

Second Sunday after Epiphany
 I Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 I Corinthians 6:12-20
 John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 25, 2015
 Third Sunday after Epiphany
 Jonah 3: 1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:5-12
 I Corinthians 7:29-31
 Mark 1:14-20

Congregational Celebration:

Join us after worship Sunday, January 25, 2015, for a potluck luncheon. We will also celebrate our ministry in 2014 and look to what God has in store for us in 2015! The annual reports will be distributed at this time! Look for the signup sheet on the bulletin board.

Deadline for all Annual Reports is January 8, 2015.

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPE NOTICE

It has come to my attention that the addresses of the mail-in envelopes that are located behind your weekly offering envelopes only have a street address. The US Postal Service has returned at least one of these to the sender.

Please, to save yourself postage, add PO Box 87 behind the street address whenever you mail a weekly offering or correspondence to the church. My apologies for this mistake.

Walt Bolles, Treasurer

LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE JOY PANTRY

Dear St. John's UCC Congregation,

The JOY Pantry relies on donations to continue its Mission of feeding the less fortunate in the northern part of Lebanon County.

Your donation of 214 pounds of food will bless many families in this area.

While there is an urgency in our community to help people in need of food, we are grateful for your support.

Thank you,

The Jonestown Outreach Pantry

Thank You!

I want to thank you for the Christmas cards and gifts that I received. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*Happy New Year to all
Donna*

NEW ADDRESS:

**Arlene Walmer
42 Kindred Place
Annville PA 17003
Telephone: 717-867-8542**

NEW PHONE NUMBER:

**Gail Grimes
717-813-4081**

JANUARY Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

2 Arianne Reigle	11 Cynda Kless	24 Chase Mease
3 Glenn Noll	15 Jason Eberhart	26 Regina Engler
5 Barb Trainor	15 Loretta Lutz	26 Karen Light
6 Dianne Rhoads	16 Arlene Henderson	27 Pastor Herbert
8 Mary Jane Bender	18 Mike Rudy	Hibshman, Jr.
10 Stephanie Shutter	20 Connie Martin	28 Rosanne Bolles

Happy Anniversary to:

16 Karen & Jim Davis
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

January 4- Robin Getz
January 11- Paul Smith
January 18- Jodie Fields
January 25- Pam Emery

January Flowers

January 4- Morgan Hevel
January 11- Barbara Trainor
January 18- Dena Eberhart
January 25- Walter Bolles

December Attendance

December 7 74
December 14 70
December 21 128
December 24 135 7 PM
December 24 91 11 PM

January Bulletins

January 4- OPEN
January 11- Barbara Trainor
January 18- Dena Eberhart
January 25- Walter Bolles

January Coffee Hosts

January 4- Jean Ann Grimes
January 11- Jean Ann Grimes
January 18- Jean Ann Grimes
January 25- Jean Ann Grimes

January Deacon

Pat Ziegler

SPONSORS NEEDED:

Coffee Sponsors:

February 1, 8, 15 & 22
March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Flower Sponsors:

February 1, 8 & 15
March 1, 8 & 15

Bulletin Sponsors:

February 1, 8 & 15
March 1, 8, 15 & 29

The signup sheets are in the Social Hall.



St. John's Fellowship by Ginny Knapp

Good food, good fun, good fellowship highlighted the Christmas Dinner held recently by St. John's Fellowship at Heisey's Restaurant in Lebanon. A ham and turkey dinner was served to the 27 members and their guests.

Door Prize winners were Jerry Mohn, Loretta Lutz, Pastor Tony and Terry Knapp. Winners of the games were Jodie Fields, Regina Engler and Ken Leibensperger. Gifts included supplies for the Joy Pantry.

A big thank you to Jean Ann Grimes and Aleta Babe, chairpersons of the event. It was noted we received \$116.25 from the sale of two Longaberger baskets. Winning bids were made by Charlene Ziegler and Priscilla Rentschler.

We are taking some time to recoup omitting meetings in January and February but we'll be back in full force in March to plan the Spring Flea Market. Keep an eye on your closets and cupboards for this event. We need your help! Can you come and help support our church activities? See you Tuesday, March 17th at 7:00 PM. Wear something green !

From UCC Mission Moments

Known and Loved

Youth ministry can be a powerful source of renewal in a congregation's life and in the world. Ten years ago, First Congregational Church in Montclair, NJ, was experiencing the downward spiral that many churches know too well. Then a surge in the congregation's youth group created an uptick in the vitality of the church.

Not ones to keep their light under a bushel, seven teenagers from First Congregational traveled to Belize last June on a mission trip made possible by a Neighbors in Need grant from the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. The trip to South America was an immersion experience, where the New Jersey teens lived shoulder to shoulder with Belize teens. The groups Skyped before the trip, getting to know each other a little and building a foundation for the relationships that the teens hope will last for a long time. But mostly, they laughed.

In a video made by the teenagers before their trip (you can see it on the church's Facebook page), the youth reveal that, for the most part, they are traveling to Belize because they want to forge relationships and learn about the culture of other teenagers. One of the travelers said, "As a teenager, it's really easy to think that your high school is, like, the world. But it's not, obviously. So it's really expanding to be able to go there and see that there's something bigger."

The mission group, including four chaperones, spent two weeks with the Q'Echi Mayan, an indigenous people who live in Jacintoville, Belize. Part of their contribution to the community was to help renovate the local church.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee will have their first meeting of the new year at **7PM on Tuesday, Jan. 13.** (Committee members please note the change from (Monday to Tuesday.) Sharon Hibshman will be responsible for our devotion time.

On behalf of this committee I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make our Advent and Christmas worship services a beautiful experience. Especially want to mention those who participated in lighting the Advent candles and the Christ candle; Walter Bolles for setting up (and taking down) our poinsettia tree; and Dena Eberhart and Robin Gingrich who always do a wonderful job decorating our church.

After many rehearsal hours the Christmas cantata, "The Winter Rose", was presented during the Dec. 22 morning worship service. It went surprisingly well and there were many positive comments received. The singers "peaked" at just the right time! Many thanks to the singers; the rose presenters; Robin Gingrich; our sound tech; Marc and Beth Ann who were in charge of the children and the roses; our Holy Family, the Josh Stoltz family; and Tiara Rice who assisted them with their costumes. All of you had an important part of the success of this presentation.

And I greatly appreciate your participation. Thank you!

January Musical Offerings

Jan. 4 Second Sunday after Christmas

The Sr. Choir will sing, "Look to the Rose", words and music by Joseph Martin

Jan. 11 First Sunday after Epiphany / The Baptism of the Lord

The Sr. Choir will sing, "Lullaby Prayer", word and music by Heather Sorenson

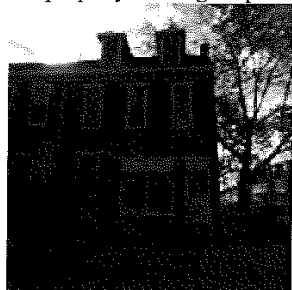
Jan. 18 Second Sunday after Epiphany

"Still Her Child" - Solo Denise Voshell

Jan. 25 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Habitat for Humanity of Lebanon County Accepts Two Additional Properties

Habitat for Humanity of Lebanon County is receiving some wonderful gifts as 2014 comes to an end. Two of these generously donated gifts are properties within Lebanon City. The **first** gift is a house that is located at 1042 Lehman St. that was damaged in a fire back in February. The amount of fire damage is limited to several rooms and the rear roof. The home is dated so it will need new wiring, plumbing, windows and much more. Habitat will need \$75,000 in order to renovate this property to bring it up to current building codes and Habitat standards. The



second gift is a property located at 1519 Elm St. and was bank owned and given to Habitat by Jonestown Bank and Trust Co. (JBT). The house has had a roof leak for some time, which has resulted in mold spreading throughout the house requiring immediate removal. Because of the roof damage and mold issues, Habitat will need an additional \$60,000 for the cost of repairs.



Habitat is grateful for these donations. **Now begins the challenge** of raising the necessary \$145,000 in addition to our normal operating costs that are needed to complete the current project at 50 Lehman St. and to fully fund the renovations of these two new projects. Presently **drywall is being hung at 50 Lehman St.** with the plan to complete that work so that the already-selected homeowner and family will be able to move into their house by the **end of April 2015.**

The **third** gift Habitat has received is confirmation that Habitat will be **awarded a grant of \$30,000** to partially fund one of these new projects. This is exciting news, but Habitat will need supplemental funds from other donations and grants, large and small, to complete the financial goal. Habitat is planning fundraising initiatives with local banks, investment organizations and local businesses next year. **Ask your bank and local businesses if they will consider becoming a part of the next Habitat Lebanon project.** Habitat will also need your individual donations.

By accepting these two properties, it **means two more families will have a simple, decent, safe and affordable home in which to live:** a place for which they will work and pay a no-interest mortgage. In addition, they will have a place to call their own, not as a hand-out but as a hand-up. The work blue-print on one of these **new projects will be launched the beginning of March 2015.**

The **fourth** gift Habitat has received is the support, financial and in-kind, which donors and volunteers have given throughout the year. **THANK YOU for your past, current and future support!** The impact that Habitat is making can be found not only here in Lebanon County but throughout Pennsylvania, the United States and the world. A Habitat house is life changing to the families that Habitat serves. Take a moment to imagine what it would be like if:

- Your door didn't close properly and you were constantly scared that someone was going to barge into your home.
- The plastic you had temporarily put up to keep out the cold wasn't enough to keep out the frigid winter winds.
- Your whole family was crowded into a one bedroom apartment.
- You know that each monthly rental payment you make is going to something other than to a home you could own dream of something better.

If you haven't already done so, or if you would be willing to make an additional monetary contribution, please **make your year-end tax-deductible donation to support the work of Habitat here in Lebanon County** at www.habitatlebanon.org or mail your donation to: Habitat for Humanity of Lebanon County, 1455 E. Main St., Annville, Pa 17003

Thank you,

Eric Weaver

P.S. We are starting to schedule volunteer teams for 2015 – Please contact the office for available dates – 717-867-1044



Handwritten signature

BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP By Neal Grimes

NOVEMBER	INCOME	Y.T.D.
WEEKLY OFFERINGS (4WEEKS)	\$ 8,308.00	\$ 88,242.63
DEFRAY COST OF ENVELOPES	0	283.00
BULLETINS	40.00	340.00
JOINT MEN'S & WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	0	2,600.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	275.00	550.00
FUNDRAISING	1,830.43	3,892.57
SPECIAL SERVICES	-0-	590.50
SOCIAL HALL RENTALS/MISC	15.00	376.00
INTEREST	2.07	26.96
TOTAL INCOME FOR OCTOBER	\$ 10,470.50	\$ 97,002.66
EXPENSES	\$ 7,919.87	\$ 97,678.89
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ 2,550.63	\$ (676.23)

Our budget for weekly offerings is \$2,300. For November we averaged \$1,661.60.

Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase, so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with the new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10 NKJV

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund	5	6 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	7 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study-12:00 PM 6:00 PM Missions Committee Meeting 7:00PM Choir Practice	8 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Deadline for Annual Reports	9	10
11 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship JOY Pantry	12	13 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM 7:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting	14 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study-12:00 PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	15 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	16	17
18 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Christian Education Meeting Following Worship	19	20 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	21 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study-12:00 PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	22 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	23	24 7:00 PM Hershey Bears Game Youth Event
25 Connection 10:30am Worship Dine & Donate Sunday Deacon's Fund Sunday Annual Congregational Following Worship Service	26 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	27	28 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study-12:00 PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	29 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	30	31

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

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