

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The VOICE

January, 2016

PASTOR TONY'S MESSAGE

On this Sunday nearest the day our church celebrates Epiphany, help us to be as persistent in our dedication as the wise men of old who sought out the Christ child. As we bow in reverence before you, please receive our expressions of gratitude for Christ, for life, for family, for friends and for the privilege of worshiping you. Through Christ the Savior. Amen.

Each new year holds an exciting promise -- whether it's a blank canvas for a new beginning or an opportunity for improvement on what's already great. We have the potential to do whatever we set out to accomplish as long as we keep a positive perspective. God has already empowered St. John's with the resources we need to continue in the vitality of his church.

Vitality is no more than energy. In this year let's consider a different approach to who and what gift we have. We have gifts that are vital here. However, my concern is do we under-utilize our gift we already have?

Furthermore, I am asking consistory and church members to set promises. Not goals, but promises while keeping this thought in mind. Imagined you promised your children at the end of the year you would take them to Disney. Now November rolls around and it is thanksgiving and you have to cancel. What will be their response? Although we serve a forgiving God, however, just think about the promises we make to God, church, community, and family.

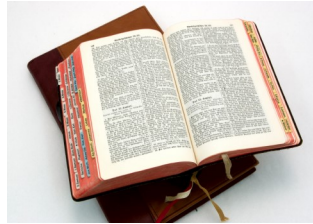
St. John's I am looking to the fulfillment of promises that God has set in motion. My prayers are that we move faithfully in the promises that God has set. "When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us." —Helen Keller

COLLECT

Most loving God, in Christ you speak a Word that can never become obsolete. Please renew the force of your living Word in our lives, that without evasion or qualification, we may accept this living truth and serve it with the joyful abandonment of those who have known that in losing life for his sake, we find it more abundantly. In the name of the Creator, Savior and Inspirer.

Amen

JANUARY WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, January 3, 2016
Second Sunday after Christmas
Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18

Sunday January 10, 2016
The Baptism of Christ
Isaiah 43: 1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8: 14-17
Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 17, 2016
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 62: 1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
I Corinthians 12: 1-11
John 2: 1-11

Sunday January 24, 2016
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a
Luke 4: 14-21

Sunday, January 31, 2016
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71: 1-6
I Corinthians 13: 1-13
Luke 4: 21-30

JANUARY CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

2 Arianne Reigle

3 Glenn Noll

5 Barb Trainor

6 Dianne Rhoads

8 Mary Jane Bender

10 Stephanie Shutter

11 Cynda Kless

15 Jason Eberhart

16 Arlene Henderson

18 Mike Rudy

24 Chase Mease

26 Regina Engler

26 Karen Light

27 Pastor Herbert

Hibshman, Jr.

28 Rosanne Bolles

28 Rodney Boltz

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!

Jan. Readers

Jan. 3- Jodie Fields
Jan. 10- Pastor Herb Hibshman
Jan. 17- Wendy Dorsey
Jan. 24- Paul Smith
Jan. 31- Youth Sunday

Jan. Flowers

Jan. 3- Pastor Tony Fields
Jan. 10- Dena Eberhart
Jan. 17- Barbara Trainor
Jan. 24- OPEN
Jan. 31- Walter Bolles

December Attendance

December 6- 64
December 13- 68
December 20- 60
December 24- 72- 7PM
December 24- 26- 11PM
December 27- 49

Jan. Bulletins

Jan. 3- Pastor Tony Fields
Jan. 10- Dena Eberhart
Jan. 17- Barbara Trainor
Jan. 24- OPEN
Jan. 31- Walter Bolles

Jan Coffee Host

Jan. 3- Jean Ann Grimes
Jan. 10- Jean Ann Grimes
Jan. 17- Jean Ann Grimes
Jan. 24- Jean Ann Grimes
Jan. 31- Jean Ann Grimes

January Deacon

Pat Ziegler

SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flowers: Jan 24th
February 7th,
March 13th & 20th
Bulletins: Jan. 24th
February 7th
March 6th, 13th & 20th
Coffee Hosts needed for
the month of March



Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer

Music and Worship Committee

The Music and Worship Committee has not met since October 19th, however, the committee members have continued to be active by planning and participating in the lighting of the Advent Candles. Also, the pastor proposed having an echo scripture reading for December 13th and Robin Getz and Sharon Hibshman readily volunteered.

During Pastor Tony's vacation on Sunday, December 27th, the committee will lead worship and have a Hymn History for several Christmas carols as the message for that day.

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 18, 2016 at 7pm. Louise will lead our devotions. Our agenda for this first meeting of the new year will focus on preparing for Youth Participation Sunday, January 31st (the 5th Sunday of the month) and the Lent Season which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

Invitation to Sing

If you're interested in singing with the Sr. Choir, the beginning of the New Year is a great time to start. Our rehearsals are at 7pm on Wednesday evening and we usually are finished by 8pm ... unless we are rehearsing Christmas music!

Thank You's

Louise and I would like to express our sincere thanks to our family and friends of St. John's who prayed for my healing, sent cards, and visited us during my recuperation from the August motorcycle accident. It has been a difficult several months for us and we are grateful for all the support, thoughts and prayers sent our way. We feel very blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Larry Walmer

The family of Arlene Walmer would like to take this opportunity to thank our St. John's family for all the prayers, cards, flowers, visits and kindnesses shown to mother and to all of us throughout her illness and death. We know she loved this church and the friends and fellowship she shared with all of you.

The Walmer Family

Thank you to St. John's, for the cards and kindnesses shown to me and my brothers during the illness and passing of our sister, Arlene. We appreciate all of your thoughtfulness.

Betty Schriver and Brothers

I wish to express my appreciation for all of the Christmas cards and gifts I received during the holiday season.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone!

Donna Eberly-Lehman

St. John's Fellowship by Ginny Knapp

Members of St. John's Fellowship have been busy having parties!

On November 24th we went to Cedar Haven for our annual Holiday Party and what a grand time we had entertaining the residents. Howard Lee and the Gospel Singers provided the singing of hymns and Christmas carols which those in attendance sang along with them. They just love singing. We served them soft cookies, finger jello and punch. Each resident received a box of tissues. Everyone helping with this party always comes away feeling so good. It truly is a blessed event!

Christmas Party time was December 15th at Heisey's Restaurant in Lebanon. We had enough food to feed an army so the 28 persons there surely didn't go away hungry. Jean Ann Grimes, violet Leiben-sperger and Priscilla Rentschler planned the event and provided games for the entertainment.

Eight guessing bags were available and Jodie Fields came through with guessing the correct contents of most of the bags. She received the bags for her prize. Pastor Tony, not to be outdone by Jodie, guessed the amount of candy in not one but both jars. I'm sure they are in the pastor's study somewhere. Other Christmas related games were won by Louise Walmer, Ginny Knapp and Regina Engler.

No meetings are scheduled for the months of January and February. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 PM. We'll need to get back to business again so please consider joining us. We always have room for working hands.

Congregational Celebration:

Join us after worship Sunday, January 24, 2016, for a potluck luncheon.

We will also celebrate our ministry in 2015 and look to what God has in store for us in 2016! The annual reports will be distributed at this time! Look for the signup sheet on the bulletin board.

Deadline for all Annual Committee Reports is January 15, 2016

NOTICE

We are updating the Church Telephone Directory. Please check your label on your VOICE to make sure we have the correct mailing address for you. If you have changed your phone number during the year or would like to enter your cell phone number or email, please call the Church office with any changes by January 19th.

LITTLE HUMOR

Dear Pastor, I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. *Stephen. Age 8, Chicago*

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, *Arnold. Age 8, Nashville.*

Dear Pastor, My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. *Robert Anderson, age 11*

Dear Pastor, I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. *Loreen. Age 9. Tacoma*

Dear Pastor, Please pray for all the airline pilots. I am flying to California tomorrow. *Laurie. Age 10, New York City*

Dear Pastor, Please say a prayer for our Little League team. We need God's help or a new pitcher. Thank you.

Alexander. Age 10, Raleigh

Dear Pastor, My father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough rules already in my house. *Joshua. Age 10, South Pasadena*

Dear Pastor, Are there any devils on earth? I think there may be one in my class. *Carla. Age 10, Sali*

Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon on Sunday. Especially when it was finished. *Ralph, Age 11, Akron*

Dear Pastor, How does God know the good people from the bad people? Do you tell Him or does He read about it.

FINANCIAL REPORT

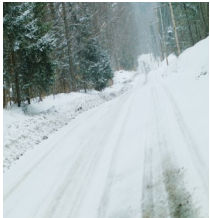
by Robin Getz

Total Revenue	(1/1/15 – 11/30/15)	\$ 96,597.58
Total Expenses	(1/1/15 – 11/30/15)	\$ 105,743.11

We need to collect \$1950.00 weekly to meet budget and currently we are averaging 1888.69 per week as of November 30th.

The Budget Committee will begin meeting shortly and meet regularly during the 2016 calendar year. I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the committee for their continued hard work and to the congregation for their appreciated efforts in meeting our weekly budget.

Snow Policy:



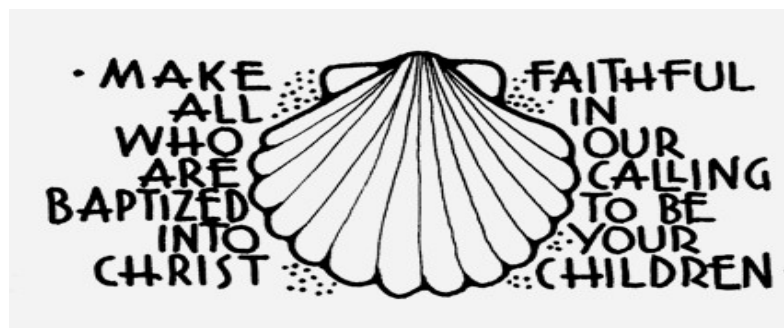
With winter upon us that means there is a chance for us to have inclement weather! We will once again try to have church as long as the Pastor can get to the church. If we must cancel Sunday School and/or worship, we share this information via WLBR (1270AM/FM), WHTM-TV (27), WGAL-TV (8) and CBS-TV (21). Robin Getz will also send out email message and a message on the St. John's UCC Face book page. Of course you can always call Pastor Tony 673-0972 or Louise Walmer 865-5103.

YOUTH EVENT

We will be starting the New Year off with a Hershey Bear game January 20 @ 7pm. Youth will be free & adults \$19.50. If you like to go, please sign-up in the social hall. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Jodie Fields (717)673-4287.

YEARLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

This year in order to save costs for the church we are changing how we handle contribution statements. If you want your yearly contribution for tax purposes, please call the office during the secretary's regular hours as listed in the bulletin and let her know that you would like a copy of your contributions. Any questions, contact Walter Bolles, Treasurer.



January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship (Communion)	4	5 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	6 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Noon—Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	7 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	8	9
10 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship JOY Pantry Christian Ed Meeting Following Worship	11	12 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	13 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Noon—Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	14 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	15	16
17 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship	18 7:00 PM Music/Worship Committee Meeting	19 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	20 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Noon—Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	21 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	22	23
24 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Dine & Donate Sunday Congregation Meeting & Pot Luck Lunch	25 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	26	27 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Noon—Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	28 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	29	30 Youth Event – 7PM Hershey Bears Hockey Game
31 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Deacon Fund Sunday						

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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
9:00 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

Joe Ditzler, President
Robert Seltzer, Vice President
Missy Daub, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Walter Bolles
Missy Daub
Joe Ditzler
Robin Gingrich
Neal Grimes
Terry Knapp

Deacons

Pam Emery
Bob Seltzer
Mark Tyrpin
Pat Ziegler