

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May—June, 2017

Pastor Tony's Message

Thank you for supporting our community.

We are the people of our community and our community is made up of our families and friends who decided *to live and raise* their families here. And in our midst we have an opportunity to see God in the midst of an evolving community. Whenever a community evolves, challenges exist; however, more so God reveals to us that he is doing something new and different. If only we can see a half full glass instead of a half empty glass.

Honestly, that is quite a bargain. A bargain in that God is saying that he is still with us. Although technology, medicine, culture, family, friends and social networking changes, God still remains with us. Let us live out the resurrection promises that not only is Jesus risen but also that we are a resurrected people. Martin Luther, *stated*, "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

Furthermore, when we think and practice "community", we live out God's promises. God is still preparing to lead our congregation in worship each Sunday. And yes, in the midst of uncertainties of our nation, God is Still speaking. As we set aside our Sundays, praying and trying to find ways to move forward in ministry, God has chosen us to find new hope in each new venture. These ventures exist from legacies and spiritual renewal and our communities need us and have gifts and talents to offer. These gifts are given by God to ensure that our church and community will be enriched.

Therefore, as you enjoy these next few months of changes; foliage reintroducing herself in the splendor of bright colors, as graduates prepares for their next adventures, and the warmth of the sun restores us with "sunlight vitamin", remember that God calls our church and community to be his light. As we live in our evolving community, may we be a light to all who dwell within our community.

Lately I am thinking the question is not how do we connect and minister to others? Rather how do we set up space or go and meet others while worshipping? And incorporate the sovereign work of God in our community to come and invest their gifts and talents with us? In our caring for others, will we allow ourselves to be vulnerable, tell stories, increase our commitment, as well as challenge people to find we are safe haven?

The Resurrection is the gospel triumph that brings new life to all while causing a revival. If a revival is a coming to life from the dead or a quickening and kindling of spiritual life in an individual Christian, church, community, or country. Subsequently, the resurrection promise may be that God's Spirit dispels darkness and brings a fresh and vivid scriptural emphasis that The Light will overcome darkness. Therefore, everything around us that seems chaotic or dead may be God is calling for total revival in the life of the church, Christians, communities, and our country. More so, maybe President John F Kennedy's quote is still relevant today. He stated, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." However, I like to broaden this statement, especially with everything happening around us. Let us ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country, church, community, and neighbor.

May-June, 2017

Consistory News by Julie Ditzler, President

Springtime is a busy time of year; it seems there is always something to be done. That is certainly true for our church family as well this year!

At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to the **spring flea market** on April 28th and 29th. We appreciate all the effort that is put into this semi-annual event, as well as the successful outcome.

The Consistory is sponsoring a **spring clean-up** the next Saturday, May 6, 9:00 AM at the church. We hope to get our building and grounds “spruced-up” inside and out. Please come and lend a hand if you can. There will be plenty of jobs for everyone, plus some treats as well.

We are planning our first-ever **Trivia Night** as a way to have some fun together this spring. It will be held on Saturday, May 20, beginning at 4:00. Questions will involve St. John’s and Fredericksburg trivia as well as the basic kinds of categories. Come and be part of the quiz fun as we challenge your knowledge of local lore as well as standard facts. We will compete on teams, so no one will be put “on the spot”. And, of course, there will be food to share as well, so don’t miss out on the fun! Speaking of first-ever events, we are also looking forward to our **Golf Tournament** on June 10th. Please recruit your golfing friends to participate in the tournament, and local businesses to provide sponsorships for our eighteen holes. We will need some volunteers to help out during the day as well, so please see Robin Gingrich or Chad Zohn if you are able to help.

Vacation Bible School will be held at St. John’s from July 17th through the 21st. We will spend time this spring preparing activities and securing teachers and helpers for our classes. Please help us recruit area children to attend our program, and consider how you might help us make it successful. Any questions should be directed to Angela Michael.

The Consistory is working on some long-term projects as well. We are aiming to improve **communication** within our congregation by assigning each deacon and elder a small list of people to contact with news, updates, or notifications as necessary. We are hoping this is a first step in strengthening our active membership, with an eye toward outreach when possible.

Another way we are looking for **outreach opportunities** is by contacting local agencies within the Fredericksburg community to offer our help and appreciation. On Wednesday, April 12th, a group of us took a tray of breakfast treats to the Matthews Public Library, and delivered a letter from our Consistory thanking the library staff for their service to the community. We hope to do the same with other groups. If you would like to be part of this outreach, or if you have a group or event you would like to see supported in this way, please see Julie Ditzler.

We are looking to strengthen our involvement once more in the **wider church** as well. Charlene Ziegler and I will serve as delegates this year to the Lebanon Association. Pastor Tony and I are attending several area meetings this spring as representatives of St. John’s: a church; vitality workshop sponsored by the conference on April 22nd at Colonial Park UCC; and the annual corporation meeting for the UCC Homes at the Lebanon Valley Home in Annville on April 27th. We are looking for **delegates** to the annual meeting of Penn Central Conference on June 10th and 11th at Susquehanna University in Selingsgrove. Please consider attending the activities this weekend on our behalf. All expenses would be covered by the church. If you are interested, or would like more information, please see Pastor Tony or Julie Ditzler.

As you can see, our cup runneth over with ways to be involved in the work – and the fellowship – of our life at St. John’s. We hope that you will take an **active role** wherever you can, because that is what we need to make these activities, and our church, **thrive!**

May-June, 2017

MAY WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, May 7, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
I Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Sunday, May 14, 2017
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 7:55-56
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
I Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 21, 2017
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
I Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 28, 2017
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

JUNE WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday, June 4, 2017
Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-35b
I Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, June 11, 2017
First Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, June 18, 2017
Second Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 18:1-15
Exodus 19:2-8s
Psalm 100
Matthew 9: 35-10:8

Sunday, June 25, 2017
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10: 24-39

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 Quairol
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 your information is incorrect or not included, please contact the church office. Thank You.

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

May Readers

May 7- Louise Walmer
May 14- Julie Ditzler
May 21- Neal Grimes
May 28- Charlene Ziegler

May Flowers

May 7- Ginny & Terry Knapp
May 14- Nancy Frantz
May 21- Robin Getz
May 28- Barbara Trainor

April Attendance

Apr. 2- 43
Apr. 9- 55
Apr. 13- 12 (Maundy Thursday)
Apr. 14- 15 (Good Friday)
Apr. 16- 12 (Sunrise Service)
Apr. 16- 58 Easter
Apr. 23- 50
Apr. 30-

May Bulletins

May 7- Ginny & Terry Knapp
May 14- Nancy Frantz
May 21- Robin Getz
May 28- Barbara Trainor

May Coffee Host

May 7- Ginny Knapp
May 14- Ginny Knapp
May 21- Ginny Knapp
May 28- Ginny Knapp

May Deacon

Elizabeth Zimmerman



JUNE CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

1 Holli Brown	10 Taylor Gingrich	22 Dave Marinkov
3 Donna Eberly-Lehman	17 Jeff Walmer	23 Jean Ann Grimes
3 Hunter Zohn	17 Grayclin Griffiths	26 Harry Swanger
4 Greg Yingst	18 Karen Davis	30 Haley Martin
5 Gail Grimes	18 Bailey Lynam	
6 Jim Rudy	19 Clint Fegan	
8 Nick Benfer	20 Gina Lutz	

Happy Anniversary to:

11 Dave & Lori Marinkov
21 Julie & Joe Ditzler

22 Glenn & Margaret Rudy

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

June Readers

June 4- Brenda Good
 June 11- Wendy Dorsey
 June 18- Robin Getz
 June 25- Regina Engler

June Flowers

June 4- Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
 June 11- Gerald Rudy
 June 18- Joe & Julie Ditzler
 June 25- OPEN

June Deacon
Brenda Good

June Bulletins

June 4- Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
 June 11- Gerald Rudy
 June 18- Joe & Julie Ditzler
 June 25- OPEN

June Coffee Host

June 4- Ken & Violet Leibensperger
 June 11- Ken & Violet Leibensperger
 June 18- Ken & Violet Leibensperger
 June 25- Ken & Violet Leibensperger

SPONSORS NEEDED

Flowers: June 25th
 July 2, 9th & 23rd
 August 20th & 27th
 Bulletins: June 25th
 July 2, 9th & 23rd
 August 20th & 27th
 Coffee Hosts: Month of
 December



Music and Worship Committee

The Committee met on March 6th. Pastor Tony, Dena Eberhart, Kass Myers and Charlene Ziegler were in attendance. Final plans were made for the remaining Lenten Studies and worship services. There will be a Good Friday worship service at noon here at St. John's. The Good Friday Community worship will be at St. John's Lutheran church at 7PM that evening. Easter Dawn worship will begin at 6:45AM at Cedar Hill Cemetery. There will be a continental breakfast at the church following this service. Julie Ditzler and Ginny Knapp will assist Pat Ziegler in serving this breakfast.

Louise Walmer and Charlene Ziegler will serve as worship leaders for Pastor Tony's vacation on Sunday, March 26.

Victoria Velez from the Lebanon Valley UCC Home will bring the message that day.

Rita Geesaman will serve as substitute organist on Apr. 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

Our 2017 Graduates will be honored during the May 21st worship service.

Ideas for activities for a Women's Retreat were discussed. Brushed Strokes on Canvas was ruled out as an option because of their charge. Other craft ideas, and a women's health speaker was discussed.

Pastor Tony suggested we look into using a Praise and Worship song book to introduce more contemporary music in our services. He presented a sample book to the committee.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday, May 15th at 7pm. Pastor Tony will do devotions.

Financial Report by Robin Getz, Finance Chair

Total Revenue	(1/1/17-3/31/17)	\$25,147.83
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Total Expenses	(1/1/17-3/31/17)	\$24,646.14
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We need to collect \$1750.00 weekly to meet budget and currently we are averaging \$1,772.96 per week through March 31st. When the budget was presented at the congregational meeting held in

November 2016, it was mentioned that we would have to do fundraisers to balance the budget. We truly need to consider ways to raise revenue through different fundraisers to assist with balancing the budget. The Consistory has taken over the fundraising projects and has a number of fundraisers schedule throughout the year. So far this year the 2 fundraisers (Soup Sale & Pancake Breakfast) netted \$1580.61 & we have received \$60.00 to date from our Dine & Donate at Esther's Restaurant.

We must look to outside sources to close the budget gap. 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 if you have any ideas you would like to share or suggestions. We need your prayers and assistance more than ever!!

ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP by Ginny Knapp

"Everything is ready" was the word on the Spring Flea Market and Bake Sale to be held April 28th & 29th. This is our big money making project and we appreciate the help given to make it a success.

Louise Walmer, Consistory reporter, announced that Saturday, May 6th will be Clean Up Day at the church. Both inside and outside chores will be done. Everyone is asked to consider giving a few hours of the day to complete this project. May 21st we will honor the graduates of the congregation.

We will be selling geraniums for Pentecost Sunday, June 4th. These plants will then be planted around the church grounds. Come join us in our projects to keep the church and its grounds a source of pride for the community. We need your help!

CALLING ALL 2017 GRADUATES

We need a list of all our 2017 college and high school graduates. Please contact the church office with the graduate's name, name of their high school or college, their future plans & names of "Relatives" in the congregation.

The students will be honored at the worship service on May 21st.

DEADLINE FOR NAMES MAY 16TH

St. John's UCC

141 W. Main St., Fredericksburg, PA 17026

Come discover your strength in God this summer at

COKEBURY'S VBS

HERO CENTRAL

July 17 to 21, 2017, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Pre-k to 6th grade

Visit our website at www.stjohnsuccfburg.org.

Though not required, preregistration is preferred.

For more information call Jodie,
717-673-4287 or the church office,
717-865-7222.

Children are encouraged to wear their favorite superhero t-shirts to VBS!

Sr. Choir by Louise Walmer

Our 2016-17 Singing Season is winding down. Only a few more rehearsals and anthems to sing before our summer break.

May rehearsals are scheduled for: Wednesday, May 3rd and Wednesday, May 17th. There will be no rehearsals on May 10th, 24th, and 31st.

May Anthem Schedule is:

- May 7 - Sr. Choir will sing, "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need", by Jay Althouse
- May 14 - A Men's Chorus will sing the Hymn, "How Firm a Foundation"
- May 21 - Sr. Choir will sing, "Blessed Be the Name", by Tom Fettke
- May 28 - The Hand Bell Choir will present our special music

June 4th is Pentecost Sunday and the last Sunday of the choir's singing season. Our anthem for that day will be, "Fly Away Medley", arranged by Mark Hayes. And then "we'll fly away until the fall"so to speak.

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	3 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	5	6 Spring Clean Up Day 9:00am
7 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	8	9 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	10 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	11 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	12	13
14 Mother's Day 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship JOY Pantry	15 7:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting	16 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Fellowship Meeting	17 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Choir Practice 9:00 AM—3:00PM	18 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	19	20 Trivia Night 4:00 PM
21 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Honor Graduates	22 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	23	24 Secretary Vacation Day	25 Ascension Day Secretary Vacation Day	26	27
28 10:30 Worship Deacon's Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	29 Memorial Day	30 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	31 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM			

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	2	3
4 Pentecost Sunday 10:30 Worship Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	5	6 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	7 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00 PM Northern Lebanon High School Baccalaureate	8 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	9 Penn Central Conference	10 Penn Central Conference Golf Outing @ Pine Meadows
11 10:30 Worship JOY Pantry	12	13 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	14 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	15 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	16	17
18 Father's Day Pastor Tony Vacation 10:30 Worship	19 Pastor Tony Vacation	20 Pastor Tony Vacation Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	21 Pastor Tony Vacation Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	22 Pastor Tony Vacation Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	23 Pastor Tony Vacation	24 Pastor Tony Vacation
25 10:30 Worship Deacon's Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	26 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	27	28 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	29 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	30 General Synod	

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**May 21st Last Sunday of
Christian Connection at
9:00 AM Until Fall
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

Julie Ditzler, President
Keith Gingrich, Vice President
Louise Walmer, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Keith Gingrich
Neal Grimes
Ken Leibensperger
Bob Seltzer
Louise Walmer

Deacons

Scott Benfer
Julie Ditzler
Brenda Good
Elizabeth Overton
Elizabeth Zimmerman