

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

November 2014

The New Big Bang by Pastor Tony

(Reuters) – Scientific theories including the “Big Bang” believed to have brought the universe into being 13.7 billion years ago and the idea that life developed through a process of evolution does not conflict with Catholic teaching, Pope Francis said on Tuesday, October 28, 2014. The Big Bang Theory and the role of God in creation, there is no doubt that this debate will continue throughout the ages. The church has many different perspectives on this issue and the idea of evolution will continue and yes thinking critically is important in the life of the church.

However, another collision or interaction of the church is present. There are now two different cultures in the midst: older members and young members. The colliding of two worlds in the church is causing the church to think about co-existence and the way church is done. Slowly penetrating into the church is thought of “technology.” The thought of iPhones, Ipads. Tablets and smart phones is challenging the model of listening and hearing the pastor preach the sermon. The idea of art and visual aid is changing people perspectives of opening a book and reading along. Yet, I still love to hold the books, papers and bulletins in my hands. Then the question about honoring the earth with all the disposal of papers/ bulletins and destructive of trees which are important to the air we breathe come to mind.

The Bid Bang is how do we still honor our creeds, look simultaneously forward and backward? The church still needs to read the stories about what God did for his people thousand years ago; about Abraham, Issac and Jacob, the burning bush and the parting of the Red Sea, about Moses standing in gap, and the Reformation of the Church. We should boldly proclaim the story of our risen Savior just as it was told the first time 2000 years back in history that seizes our attention and makes us the people of God.

Yes, our faith is further dated by the centuries of Christian history since the Bible was written. We make our professions in the words of ancient Greek, read various scholars viewpoint, other different Old Testament scholarship, and we sing hymns that empowered our foreparents hundreds of years ago, we practice rites and go over older languages which are recited very much today.

However the talk about Gyroscopic Grace or how to get right-side up when your world is upside down, is pushing the church to share differently. As our society encounters new technologies we must remain in touch with the social media. Just like gyroscopic grace no matter how you twist and turn your tablet or smart phone, the images manage to move right with you. Thanks to a nifty little thing called a gyroscope, everything stays “right-side up.” Don’t you wish relationships had a gyroscope? Wouldn’t it be nice, if no matter how turned around things got, there was always a way to get right-side up? Imagine the church in the challenges of new technologies and vast amount of social media and participating right in the midst of the conversation.

While the church is trying to figure out how to use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TED, and Messenger, another whole world exist. A generation of people are already engaging in the technological applications today that use gyroscopes which are computer pointing devices, racing cars, motor bikes, spinning tops, gyrocompasses, virtual reality, anti-roll devices/stabilizers, monorail trains, ship stabilizers, artificial horizons/autopilot, Segway scooters and robotics. Can these worlds coexist even in the church? The New Big Bang Theory exists.

God’s grace is sufficient. God’s unmerited favor, that – in spite of all the upside-down stuff we’ve done – puts us right side up. Some things might need to happen, of course: repentance, restitution, confession. But, given these factors, God’s grace is going to get things right. God’s grace will whip our world around so that things are aligned properly again. That’s gyroscopic grace in the midst of The New Big Bang.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, November 2, 2014

Josh 3:7-17

Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37

Mathew 23: 1-12

Sunday, November 9, 2014

Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78: 1-7

Matthew 25: 1-13

Sunday, November 16, 2014

Judges 4: 1-7

Psalm 123

Matthew 25: 14-30

Sunday, November 23, 2014

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Matthew 25: 31-46

Sunday, November 30, 2014

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

Mark 13: 24-27

Laity Sunday by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank those who participated in our Laity Sunday celebration on Oct. 19. Our participants were: Andrew Eberhart, Jason Eberhart, Zach Seltzer, Tiara Fields, Julie Ditzler, Noah Gingrich, Nick Benfer, and Jodie Fields. We especially thank Joe Ditzler who presented the sermon for the day. Many thanks go to all of you for using your spiritual gifts on this day.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 30, 2014, following morning worship. We will approve the 2015 budget and elect the new Elders and Deacons.

CHECK YOUR CLOSETS

There is a Woman's Lands End Red Coat with hood and with a zip out lining size 1X that has been at the church for awhile. If you are missing this coat stop by the church or pick it up on Sunday. It is hanging on the back coat rack in the Social Hall.

Also there is a Man's British Mist Grey Topcoat with a zip out lining size 42 Long. The coat is on the back coat rack in the Social Hall which can be picked up during Church hours or on Sunday.

St. John's Fellowship by Ginny Knapp

An in deep planning session highlighted the meeting of St. John's Fellowship as we planned for the coming holiday activities. Priscilla Rentschler, President, conducted the business session.

Our annual trip to Cedar Haven for the Holiday Party will be Thursday, November 6th at 7:00 PM. Soft cookies and finger jello are needed for the event. Tissues will be distributed to all the residents. The program will include Howard Lee and the gospel singers, always a hit with the patients. Practice for the event is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4th at 6:45 PM.

A Christmas Party is planned for Tuesday, December 9th at 6:00 PM at Heisey's Diner. Cost of the meal is \$15.00 per person. Members are asked to bring articles of food for the Joy Pantry. Jean Ann Grimes and Aleta Babe are chairing the event.

Two Longerberger baskets have been filled with goodies and will be auctioned in a "silent auction" event Sunday, November 23rd. The baskets will be on display in the social hall from November 2nd until the day of the sale. An amount of forty dollars was spend on the fillings so we are asking that bids start at \$40.00.

Louise Walmer announced the Music and Worship committee has planned to have a treat night at the church Thursday, October 30th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Candies and hot chocolate will be served to the children attending. Harvest Home Sunday is set for November 9th with the food gatherings to go to Joy Pantry. Our annual Thank offering Sunday is November 23rd. The Thanksgiving Eve Service will be at Hamlin this year.

Consistory member, Pat Ziegler announced they are planning to have a Vacation Bible School next summer.

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Prices, colors, and dates will be available soon. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.

As you can see we have many activities planned but we need your help to keep them successful.

Can you Help?

Harvest Home

We will celebrate **Harvest Home** on **Sunday, Nov. 9**. Please bring in non-perishable food items to be displayed in the sanctuary and then donated to the JOY Food Pantry.

Needs at the Pantry include: Canned vegetables (beans, beets, carrots, corn peas, mixed vegetables, sweet potatoes, and potatoes, Stew, Span, Chili, canned Chicken, Baked Beans, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Hamburger Helper, Mayo, Pudding, Instant Potatoes, and Pasta. Size 4 and 5 diapers are also needed.

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

The Thanksgiving Lock In is November 26, 2014 at 9PM here at the church. Early in the morning on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27th, the youth will attend the Lebanon Association Youth Breakfast at Tulpehocken Trinity UCC, Richland, PA. where they will be served a continental breakfast and see some great entertainment. This event is for children ages 12 and over. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. For more information or to ask any questions, please see Scott Benfer.

NOVEMBER Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

1 MARGARET RUDY
2 MARY GERHART
3 JESSICA YINGST
4 PAT RENTSCHLER
6 BARRY FOX
9 JILLIAN DITZLER

9 DYLAN KAPP
10 DENA EBERHART
12 DELANAE SHAFFER
16 MICHIGAN DAUB
19 ELIZABETH OVERTON
22 EDITH TRAUTMAN

24 ASHLEY CARROLL
27 WALTER BOLLES
28 TERRY KNAPP
29 LARRY FOX
30 VIOLET LEIBENSPERGER

Happy Anniversary to:

8 DARLENE & STEVE STOLTZ
24 ROSANNE & WALTER BOLLES
29 KADIE & JEFF WALMER

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

October Readers

November 2 Paul Smith
November 9 Sharon Hibshman
November 16 Keith Gingrich
November 23 Regina Engler
November 30 Charlene Ziegler

November Flowers

November 2 Vickie Gonzalez
November 9 Joe & Julie Ditzler
November 16 Nancy Frantz
November 23 Jerry & Ginny Knapp
November 30 Gary Trautman

October Attendance

October 5	71
October 12	71
October 19	69
October 26	125

November Bulletins

November 2 Vickie Gonzalez
November 9 Joe & Julie Ditzler
November 16 OPEN
November 23 Jerry & Ginny Knapp
November 30 Barbara Trainer

November Coffee Hosts

November 2 Priscilla Rentschler
& Anna Marie Lauer
November 9 Pat Rentschler &
Anna Marie Lauer
November 16 Ken & Violet
Leibensperger
November 23 Ken & Violet
Leibensperger
November 30 Ken & Violet
Leibensperger

November Deacon

Connie Martin

SPONSORS NEEDED:

Nov. 16th Coffee Sponsors:
Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th



It's time to put the finishing touches on our Operation Christmas Child project! If you haven't begun your shopping, please do so soon! There are some cards left in the various categories to be filled, or if you see some other little fun items to add to our boxes while you're out and about, please feel free to do so. Our goal is to fill our eighty boxes with as much fun and love as we can! Envelopes to help defray the cost of shipping our boxes are in the pews in the sanctuary. If you can help in that way, please do. All donations and contributions for Operation Christmas Child must be at the church by **Monday, November 10th**.

Make sure you come and join our shoebox packing party on the morning of Sunday, **November 16th**. Festivities will begin at **8:30 a.m.**, so set your Sunday alarm a little earlier, and be part of the fun. Lots of Christmas music and spirit will surround us as we prepare our packages – you'll want to be a part of this joyous project!

Finally, our boxes will be blessed during our morning worship service on November 23rd, and will be taken to the local collection point at the Ono United Methodist Church after our service, to be gathered with those from other area churches and sent off to their final destinations. Let's do our part to share God's love with some of his youngest children in other parts of the world!

Bell Choir Dates —by Julie Ditzler

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to each and every one of you for your prayers, thoughts and cares you gave the Lutz family in the passing of Robert.

Also a big thank you to the Women's Fellowship for serving and doing a wonderful job with the luncheon.

The Lutz Family

BAZZAR

The Lebanon Valley Home's annual Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 22nd, 2014 from 9am to 1pm in the Chapel.

If anyone would like to donate homemade craft items or set up a table at the Bazaar, please contact Amy Tillinger, Director of Lifestyle Services, 867-4467.

They will be selling cookies by the pound & are requesting your assistance. We would greatly appreciate members contributing homemade cookies for the sale. If you would like to have your container returned, make sure your name is on the container & they may be picked up in the office the week after the Bazaar.

Please indicate the name of the cookie. A cart will be provided at the main entrance for cookie drop off on Friday, November 21st.

Craft & Christmas items and other homemade goodies will be for sale. Other foods available: hot dogs, sauerkraut, soup, coffee & soda.

Please come shop, browse, eat & enjoy!

Practice at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, November 12

Wednesday, November 19

Anthem on Sunday, November 23 – "We Gather Together"

Traditional Netherlands Melody, arranged by Frances Callahan

Music and Worship Committee

The Music and Worship Committee met on Mon., Oct. 13. Louise led our opening devotion time.

Participants for Laity Sunday were confirmed.

Julie Ditzler attended our meeting and went over the order of worship with us for the Anniversary Service. Pastor Tony was not at our meeting, but he had discussed the order of worship for his Installation Service with Louise and that was shared with the committee.

Since we missed celebrating Harvest Home in October, the committee set Nov. 9 as our annual Harvest Home Sunday. The non-perishable canned goods that are collected will be donated to the JOY Food Pantry.

Members, family and friends who passed away this year will be remembered at our All Saints worship service on Nov. 2. Kass Myers will order the white flowers. Louise will speak to Joe Ditzler to make arrangements for candles.

The Committee will sponsor "Treats" on the parking lot on Trick or Treat night, Thurs., Oct. 30 from 6-8pm. The congregation will be asked to donate some snack size candy and Robin Getz will provide hot chocolate.

Louise announced that Rev. Wilson from Hamlin contacted the church office regarding Thanksgiving Eve worship to be at St. Paul's Hamlin on Wed., Nov. 26. He said he would see that the music for the choir anthem gets to us soon.

The committee will meet on Mon., Nov. 3 to plan our Advent and Christmas worship. Robin Getz will lead devotions at the next meeting.

October Musical Offerings

The Anthems for November are:

Nov. 2 - All Saints Sunday

The Sr. Choir will sing, "The Journey of Faith". The words and music written by Joseph Martin.

Nov. 9 – Harvest Home Sunday

Nov. 16

The Sr. Choir will sing an arrangement of "This Is My Father's World", words by Maltbie D. Babcock and music by Steven Strite.

Nov. 23 – Thank Offering Sunday

The Hand Bell Choir will present our Musical Offering.

Nov. 30 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Sr. Choir Rehearsal Schedule for November

Attention Sr. Choir Members: Please note the following changes to our rehearsal schedule for the month of November.

Wed., Nov. 5 – Sr. Choir at 7pm

Wed., Nov. 12 – Sr. Choir at 7pm

Wed., Nov. 19 – Sr. Choir at 7pm

Wed., Nov. 26 – **NO** Sr. Choir Rehearsal. Church at St. Paul's, Hamlin 7pm

Lebanon Association Choir Festival

Eight members of our Sr. Choir sang with over 50 voices of fellow choir members from other UCC churches in the Lebanon Association the afternoon of Sun., Oct. 19.

The Festival was recorded and the CD is available. So, if you missed this inspiring afternoon of music and praises to the Lord, and want to listen to the CD, contact Louise Walmer.

Ladies! For your information!

Mark your calendars now!!

Women's Retreat at Hartman Center is scheduled for Friday, November 14th beginning at 7PM-Sunday, November 16th (ends with lunch)

MORE THAN A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR:

Healing and Praying with Mary Poppins

Come play and pray together as we let the wonder & wisdom prompted in Mary Poppins shape our time together. While it won't be all parasols and parrots, Poppins will help us to pray our possibilities, perspective, priorities, promises, power and passion.

Leader will be Cindy Garis from Oasis Ministries.

Cost \$125 includes 2 nights lodging in Michaux Lodge; 5 meals and all program costs.

To register or questions see Sharon Hibshman or contact Bruce at the Harman Center.

bruce@hartmancenter.com or phone 717-994-3769

Dear Pastor Fields and members of St. John's U.C.C.,

Thank you for inviting us to the 275th anniversary celebration on October 25. We enjoyed seeing everyone, and helping you to celebrate 275 years of faithful ministry to the Fredericksburg community and the world! We hope and pray that you will continue to be witnesses of Christ's love to the world. We have wonderful memories of St. John's, which we will hold on to for years to come. God has done some wonderful things with the people of St. John's, and God has a lot in store for you. Blessings to you as you move forward with your ministry!

Pastor Chris & Anne Rankin, Zach & Rachel Baynard, and Nancy Crawford

CHRISTMAS AT BETHANY

Bethany Children's Home 2014 Christmas Wish List

Gift Cards: Wal-Mart, Target, Home Depot, Lowes, JMAXX./Marshalls, Old Navy, Game Stop, Dick's Sporting Goods, Famous Footwear, Foot Locker, Barnes & Noble, Aeropostle, American Eagle, Bath & Body Works, Giant, Dairy Queen, McDonald's Turkey Hill, JoAnn Fabrics, Michael's and Hobby Lobby

Personal Care: Hair brushes and combs, electric shavers, hair dryers and curling irons.

Accessories (Men's & Women's) Jewelry, wallets, watches, umbrellas, infinity scarves, make-up sets, bath and body sets, cologne, overnight travel bags, gym bags and sunglasses.

Clothing: Plain white t-shirts, camisoles, sneakers, snow boots, winter jackets, men's winter gloves, pajamas, ladies' bathrobes, slippers, boys and girls socks, women's underwear, men's long boxer briefs, grey or maroon sweatpants, and girls' hoodies.

Hobbies/Games: Books (appropriate for teens and young adults) jigsaw puzzles, knitting and crochet items, scrapbooking supplies, snap Tite model kits, hard bound journals and paint by number kits.

School Supplies: Mechanical pencils, folders, pens, scientific calculators, 1,2 and 3 subject notebooks, 1" or 1 1/2" binders, construction paper and poster board.

Current residents of Bethany are between the ages of 13-18. We appreciate age-appropriate gifts with consideration for parental warnings, modesty, and safety. Please do not wrap general gifts and note that Bethany cannot accept children's toys, used clothing, or opened personal products.

Call us anytime with questions at 610-589-4501

BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP By Neal Grimes

SEPTEMBER	INCOME	Y.T.D.
WEEKLY OFFERINGS (4WEEKS)	\$ 7,247.00	\$ 72,565.00
DEFRAY COST OF ENVELOPES	0	283.00
BULLETINS	10.00	270.00
JOINT MEN'S & WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	0	2,600.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	0	275.00
FUNDRAISING	36.00	1,463.17
SPECIAL SERVICES	0	179.00
SOCIAL HALL RENTALS/MISC	15.00	346.00
INTEREST	2.84	22.49
TOTAL INCOME FOR MAY	\$ 7,310.84	\$ 78,003.66
EXPENSES	\$ 17,915.04	\$ 77,192.92
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$(10,604.20)	\$ 810.74

Our budget for weekly offerings is \$2,300. For September we averaged 1811.75.

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 NKJV

CHURCH TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

The new Church Telephone Directory's are available. If you have not received one, they are available for pick up at the church during church office hours or on Sunday morning.

SILENT AUCTION

The Fellowship Group is having a Silent Auction in the Social Hall through November 23rd. There will be boxes in front of the baskets and slips of paper. Please fill out the paper slips with the following information **Name, Phone number and the amount of your bid.**

Following the Sunday, November 23rd worship service the winners of the baskets will be notified.

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund	3 7:00 Music & Worship Committee	4 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	5 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM 12:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	6 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM 7:00 PM Annual Cedar	7 Little Learners 9:00 AM—12:00 PM	8
9 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	10	11 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	12 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM 12:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	13 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	14 Little Learners 9:00 AM—12:00 PM	15
16 8:30 AM Operation Christmas Child NO Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Christian Education Meeting	17 VOICE Deadline	18 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM	19 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice At St. Paul's UCC Hamlin	20 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM 7:00 PM Budget Committee Meeting	21 Little Learners 9:00 AM—12:00 PM	22
23 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Dine & Donate Sunday	24 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	25 Office Hours 9:00Am-3:00 PM 6:30 PM Tupperware Party	26 No Bible Study or Choir Practice 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Paul's UCC - Hamlin 9:00 PM Youth Lock In	27 	28 NO Little Learners 9:00 AM—12:00 PM	29
30 9AM Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Annual Congregation Meeting Following Worship Deacon's Fund						

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

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