

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November—December 2016

THE VOICE

PASTOR TONY'S MESSAGE

We are approaching the end of 2016. The foliage is changing. Nature is now preparing for the winter months ahead and life for the nature is dormant. Dormancy is like **hibernation** in that everything within the plant slows down its metabolism, energy consumption, and growth and so on. The first part of dormancy is when **trees** lose their leaves. They don't make food in the winter, so they have no use for masses of leaves that would require energy to maintain.

However for the church we do not allow our worship and purpose for living become dormant. For the church we increase our metabolism from the end of one church to the beginning of a new church year. As the church years energizes we move forward to All Saints Sunday through Advent into Christmas. We experience the greatest gift God gives to humanity.

This is the time of year we allow the Holy Spirit to walk alongside humanity reminding us of the love that God has for us. We are reminded that Omnipotent meets humanity. That the Holy one thought it not robbery to dress oneself with humanity and maintain the promises of God reveal to us.

Therefore, for those who desire to go dormant remember this as humanity changes into a digital culture and search on your multi media devices or blogs that all of creation speaks of God. In Psalm 24 it was David that said, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and its entire people belong to him." Now enjoy the fresh crispier air and brightness of the stars however remember God love you!

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

November—December, 2016

CONSISTORY REPORT by Brenda Good, President

We have been very busy this past month. Getting ready for the Pot Pie Dinner, November 5th. Thank you to everyone for your help.

By now we will have made our gift baskets and wreaths for the Christmas Bazaar at Northern Lebanon High School. Again, please bake pies or cakes for the bazaar. Thank you for your help.

Budget Budget Budget – I am up to here with numbers and papers. We are working very hard to make it better for you. I have had so many meetings, I really had to remember what notebook to take along with me to the meetings.

On Monday, December 5th, we will be going to the Baltimore/Washington Processing Center. Our shift to help unpack Shoeboxes will be from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. There will be hundreds of persons there unpacking Christmas Shoe Boxes. Operation Christmas Child Samaritan Purse is really an experience of Joy and Gladness. Then, every hour or so, they ring a very loud bell for completing another thousand or so shoe boxes. Last year we met a young lady that received one of our Christmas Boxes. All in all it was a good experience for me to help. So please think about signing up to go along on December 6th. If interested, please talk to Julie or Joe Ditzler.

ST. JOHNS FELLOWSHIP, by Ginny Knapp

It's party time again! The Fellowship will be holding the annual Holiday Party for residents of Cedar Haven on Tuesday, November 15th at 7:00 PM. The Christmas Dinner will be held Monday, December 12th, at 6:00 PM at Heisey's Diner, Lebanon.

We will be presenting a sing-along with residents of Cedar Haven. Howard Lee has asked anyone who loves to sing to come and join us. Soft cookies and finger jello are needed to supply the goodies. Each resident will receive a box of tissues. This is always a fun time for all. You receive so much more than you give at this affair. Members voted to go to Heisey's for our Christmas Dinner. The food is great, the fellowship is wonderful, so mark your calendar for December 12th. We hope to see you there.

These events will be our Fellowship meetings for November and December. We will not meet in January or February so our next regular meeting will be March 21st at 7:00 PM.. Please try to attend. We need your help.

NL Band Bazaar - Saturday, November 26

There will be a St. John's UCC table at the Northern Lebanon Band Parents Bazaar on Saturday, November 26th. Please consider donating homemade crafts or candies or a themed gift basket to sell at our table. Any questions, see Brenda Good (601-9616), Robin Gingrich (865-4573) or Louise Walmer (865-5103).



November—December, 2016

NOVEMBER WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, November 6, 2016
 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
 Haggai 1: 15b-2:9
 Psalm 145:1-5. 17-21
 Job: 19: 23-27a
 Luke 20: 27-38

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Psalm 100
 Philippians 4:4-9

Sunday, November 13, 2016
 Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost
 Isaiah 65:17-25
 Malachi 4:1-2a
 Psalm 98
 Luke 21:5-19

Sun-
 27,



day, No-
 vember
 2016

Sunday, November 20, 2016
 Reign of Christ
 Jeremiah 23:1-6
 Psalm 46
 Colossians 1:11-2
 Luke 23:33-43
 Thursday, November 24, 2016
 Thanksgiving

First Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 2:1-5
 Psalm 122
 Romans 13:11-14
 Matthew 24:36-44

DECEMBER WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday, December 4, 2016
 Second Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 11: 1-10
 Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19
 Romans 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12

Saturday, December 24, 2016
 Christmas Eve
 Isaiah 62:6-12
 Psalm 97
 Titus 3:4-7
 Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 11, 2016
 Third Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 35:1-10
 Psalm 146: 5-10
 Luke 1:47-55
 Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 25, 2016
 Christmas Day
 Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 18, 2016
 Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 7:10-16
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 Romans 1:1-7
 Matthew 1:18-25



NOVEMBER CELEBRATION

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
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!

November Readers

Nov. 6- Wendy Dorsey
Nov. 13- Pam Emery
Nov. 20- Julie Ditzler
Nov. 27- Regina Engler

November Flowers

Nov. 6- Senior Choir
Nov. 13- Terry & Ginny Knapp
Nov. 20- Wendy Dorsey
Nov. 27- Barbara Trainor

October Attendance

Oct. 2- 45
Oct. 9- 48
Oct. 16- 52
Oct. 23- 59
Oct. 30- 51

November Bulletins

Nov. 6- Senior Choir
Nov. 13- Terry & Ginny Knapp
Nov. 20- Wendy Dorsey
Nov. 27- Barbara Trainor

November Coffee Host

Nov. 6- Terry & Ginny Knapp
Nov. 13- Terry & Ginny Knapp
Nov. 20- Terry & Ginny Knapp
Nov. 27- Terry & Ginny Knapp

November Deacon

Pam Emery

SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flowers: Dec. 18th
Bulletins: December 18th
Coffee Hosts: Month of Dec.



DECEMBER CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

1 Janell Carroll
2 Jodie Fields
6 Mabel Rudy
6 Amy Zechman
11 Jarrod Kapp

11 Chris Rentschler
15 Jonathan Oskam
16 Brad Griffiths
18 Darlene Boltz
25 Shayne Tyrpin

25 Larry Walmer
27 Kadie Walmer
30 Judy Fox
31 Rev. Allen Helwig

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

Dec. 4- Robin Getz
Dec. 11- Keith Gingrich
Dec. 18- Brenda Good
Dec. 25- Neal Grimes

December Flowers

Dec. 4- Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
Dec. 11 - Nancy Frantz
Dec. 18- OPEN
Dec. 25- Jodie Fields

December Deacon
Brenda Good

December Bulletins

Dec. 4- Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
Dec. 11—Nancy Frantz
Dec. 18- OPEN
Dec. 25- Jodie Fields

December Coffee Host

Dec. 4- OPEN
Dec. 11 - OPEN
Dec. 18- OPEN
Dec. 25- OPEN

Merry
Christmas

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Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer

Our committee met on Monday, October 17th. Wendy Dorsey led our devotion time using the scripture, Proverbs 16:9. She played the song (using her phone) “Blessings” by Laura Story.

Louise reported that JB Yorty agreed to serve as our guest organist during the Sundays that Beth Ann has requested off. Rev. Lynn Wetzel will be our supply pastor for Pastor Tony’s vacation on Sunday, November 20th.

Set up for our All Saint’s Celebration will need to take place on Saturday, November 5th due to the memorial service for Priscilla Dearwechter on November 4th. In an effort to save money, we decided to make our own bud vase arrangements used for the remembrance celebration and given to the families.

Thanksgiving Eve worship this year will be at 7pm on Wednesday, November 23 at Zion Goshert’s UCC, in Mt. Zion. This year 3 congregations will participate in this worship service; Zion Gosherts, St. Paul’s UCC, Hamlin, and our church. There will be a joint choir singing an anthem that evening.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27th. For our Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Ceremony, we will be using Joel Raney’s, “Of the Father’s Love”. This arrangement includes choir singing, congregation singing, readings and a prayer. Members of the congregation will be contacted to do the readings and the prayers. Please consider saying yes, if you are asked to participate.

At the October Consistory it was agreed to have Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, December 24th at 9:00 PM and on Christmas Day a worship service at 10:30AM.

Our next meeting will be prior to Sr. Choir rehearsal on Wednesday, December 7th at 6pm. Gary Trautman will do our devotions.

All Saints Celebration by Louise Walmer

St. John’s celebrated All Saints Sunday during the morning worship service on November 6th. The church members, and the family and friends of church members remembered were: Elda Bugg, Priscilla Dearwechter, Betty Hassinger, Curtis Herr, Steve Kubik, Richard Light, Barbara Miller, Joe Miller, Craig Mohn, Brandon Reigle, Lori Rentschler, Dianne Rhoads, Brad Shirk, Roy Shirk, Sandra Wall, Arlene Walmer, Dan Wenger and Wayne Wetzel.

CONGREGATION MEETING

There will be a brief congregational meeting on November 27th. The purpose of the meeting will be to approve the 2017 budget, and elect new members of Consistory. Discussion of the budget and our financial situation is vitally important; please plan to attend this meeting.

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.

Sr. Choir by Louise Walmer

The Sr. Choir sponsored a Potato Bar after church on Sunday, October 31st. There were baked potatoes and all the “fixins” to be eaten in or to take home for Sunday lunch. A donation “music box” was available and any monies collected went to support the purchase of new choir music. We received \$275 in our donation box. We thank you all who enjoyed the potatoes and donated to our cause. And we especially want to thank all the kitchen helpers who made the Potato Bar possible.

The Sr. Choir is spending their Wednesday evenings rehearsing anthems for the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas season.

Choir anthems for November include:

Nov. 6 “There Is Room in My Father’s House”, by Joseph Martin

Nov. 20 “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”, arranged by Patti Drennan

There will be a joint choir for the Thanksgiving Eve worship at Zion Goshert’s UCC in Mt. Zion

Special thanks to J.B. Yorty who will be our guest organist on Nov. 13th.

Choir Members please note the following rehearsal schedule changes:

There **will be** choir rehearsal on Wed., Nov. 2nd and Wed., Nov. 16, and Wed., Nov. 30.

There **will not be** choir rehearsal on Wed., Nov. 9, Nov. 23.

There **will be** choir rehearsal on Wed., Dec. 7, Wed., Dec. 14, and Wed., Dec. 21

There **will not be** choir rehearsal on Wed., Dec. 28.

Financial Report by Robin Getz, Finance Chair

Total Revenue	(1/1/16– 9/30/16)	\$ 67,748.83
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Total Expenses	(1/1/16– 9/30/16)	\$ 86,161.87
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As you can see we are running in a deficit of our 2016 budget. We must also consider the lost giving of members who are no longer attending for one reason or another over this last year. That fact has also added to our shortfall. There is serious concern with our ability at meeting budget over the 2016 year which will result in utilizing more of our cash reserves than anticipated, shortening the life bread of our church. When the budget was presented at the congregational meeting held in November 2015, we were very clear that the continual shortfall would continue to be detrimental to the church's financial health. We truly need to consider ways to either raise revenue through solid fundraising (and not just the committee of 5) OR look at ways to cut expenses which will mean some truly tough choices as there really is not "fluff" in the approved budget. We have budgeted \$8000.00 in fund raising and to date we only have \$105.00 which is mainly our Dine & Donate income. We must look to outside sources to close the budget gap. We have several things coming up which we are hoping will help bring in some revenue. The Pot Pie Dinner on November the 5th from 4PM—7:00 PM and also a table at the NLHS Band Parents Bazaar. 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. We need your prayers and assistance more than ever!!

The Budget Committee has been working very hard on the 2017 Budget which will be presented at the Annual Meeting on November 27th.

The Financial Committee is always diligent with monitoring expenses. I am thankful for the dedication of the members and their continued efforts. Note: We are always looking for members to serve and, if there is any interest, they can contact me.

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Hours 8:00AM-1:00PM	2 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM 7:00 PM Choir Practice	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings time ends All Saints Sunday 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30AM Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	7	8 Secretary Vacation Day	9 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM NO Choir Practice	10 Secretary Vacation Day	11	12
13 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	14	15 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM 7:00 PM Holiday Party at Cedar Haven	16 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM 7:00 PM Choir Practice	17 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	18	19
20 NO Christian Connection Packing Shoe Boxes 10:30 AM Worship Pastor Tony	21 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM Pastor Tony Vacation	22 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM Pastor Tony Vacation	23 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM NO Choir Practice 7Pm Thanksgiving Eve Service at Zion Goshert's UCC.— Mt. Zion	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Pastor Tony Vacation	25 Pastor Tony Vacation	26 Pastor Tony Vacation
27 First Sunday of Advent 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday Annual Meeting After Worship	28 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	29 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	30 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM Deadline for Res- ervations for Heisy's Christmas Dinner—Cost \$15.00 7:00 PM Choir Practice			

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	2	3
4 Second Sunday of Advent 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30AM Worship (Communion) Bible Study & Lunch following Worship Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	5	6 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	7 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM 6:00 PM Music & Worship Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Practice	8 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	9	10
11 Third Sunday of Advent 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30AM Worship Bible Study & Lunch following Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	12 6:PM Christmas Dinner at Heisey's Diner	13 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	14 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM 7:00 PM Choir Practice	15 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	16	17
11 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30AM Worship Bible Study & Lunch following Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	19	20 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	21 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM 7:00 PM Choir Practice	22 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	23 6:00 PM Blue Christmas Service	24 Christmas Eve 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 10:30 Worship	26	27 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	28 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM NO Choir Practice	29 Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM	30	31

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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Every Sunday
9:00 AM Christian Connection
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

Brenda Good, President
Pam Emery, Vice President
Robin Gingrich, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Joe Ditzler
Robin Gingrich
Neal Grimes
Ken Leibensperger
Bob Seltzer
Louise Walmer

Deacons

Scott Benfer
Pam Emery
Brenda Good
Elizabeth Overton
Mark Tyrpin
Pat Ziegler