

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The VOICE

November –December, 2015

PASTOR TONY'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Good and gracious God, we thank you for all those who have come before us, leaving a legacy of faith. Thank you for the myriad ways they modeled for us what it means to love you and love one another. We are grateful for the sacrifices they made, the gifts they shared, and the time they gave so that your gospel might be proclaimed from this place and among these people.

Gracious God, the baton has now been passed to us. Grant us wisdom and discernment, unity of spirit and courage that we might continue the good work begun by others. We pray in Christ's name and for the sake of his kingdom. Amen.

Leaving a Legacy of faith. As we move toward one of the busiest season of the church year let us consider the legacy of those we celebrate during All Saints Sunday! Let this celebration be our launching as we celebrate God's gift to humanity. A legacy is not only for one to cherish but also to strengthen us to further proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds," quoted Sir Francis Bacon. In our longing, waiting, and anticipating Christ to come please stay alert for some new ministry ideas. Faith requires us to make opportunities. Yes some wait while others look for opportunities. However I want to stretch us to seek and find opportunities. The opportunities that God is calling us. The church is being pushed to go beyond normalcy and live with expectations of God's word. Scriptures tell us to seek and we will find, ask and we will receive, knock and the door will open And additionally speak those things that be not as though they are.

Stay tuned and be ready as we continue ministry.

Let us give thanks in the season of thanksgiving for truly God is Good and worthy to be praised.

Blessings,
Pastor Tony

NOVEMBER WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, November 1, 2015
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 1:1-8

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

Sunday, November 8, 2015

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Psalm 127

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

Sunday, November 15, 2015

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

I Samuel 1:4-20

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

Sunday, November 22, 2015

Thanksgiving Sunday

2 Samuel 23: 1-7

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

Thursday, November 26, 2015

Thanksgiving

Joel 2:21-27

Psalm 126

I Timothy 2:1-7

Mt 6:25-33

Sunday, November 29, 2015

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

I Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36'

DECEMBER WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 13, 2015

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Sunday, December 27, 2015

First Sunday after Christmas

I Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52



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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

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

Nov. Readers

Nov. 1– Keith Gingrich
Nov. 8– Sharon Hibshman
Nov. 15– Robin Getz
Nov. 22– Regina Engler
Nov. 29– Youth Sunday

Nov. Flowers

Nov. 1– Brenda Good
Nov. 8– OPEN
Nov. 15– Ken & Violet Leibensperger
Nov. 22– Terry & Ginny Knapp
Nov. 29– Barbara Trainor

October Attendance

October 4, 2015– 55
October 11, 2015– 63
October 18, 2015– 71
October 25, 2015– 57

Nov. Bulletins

Nov. 1– Brenda Good
Nov. 8– Priscilla Rentschler
Nov. 15– Ken & Violet Leibensperger
Nov. 22– Terry & Ginny Knapp
Nov. 29– Barbara Trainor

Nov. Coffee Host

Nov. 1– Ken & Violet Leibensperger
Nov. 8– Ken & Violet Leibensperger
Nov. 15– Ken & Violet Leibensperger
Nov. 22– Ken & Violet Leibensperger
Nov. 29– Ken & Violet Leibensperger

November Deacon

Pam Emery

SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flowers: Nov. 8
Dec. 20



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 Neal & Jean Ann Grimes

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

Dec. Readers

Dec. 6- Neal Grimes
Dec. 13- Wendy Dorsey
Dec. 20- Pam Emery
Dec. 27- Pastor Herb Hibshman

Dec. Flowers

Dec. 6- Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
Dec. 13- Aleta Babe
Dec. 20- OPEN
Dec. 24- Larry & Louise Walmer
Dec. 27- Larry & Louise Walmer

December Deacon

Joe Ditzler

Dec. Bulletins

Dec. 6- Neal & Jean Ann Grimes
Dec. 13- Aleta Babe
Dec. 20- Priscilla Rentschler
Dec. 24- Larry & Louise Walmer
Dec. 27- Larry & Louise Walmer

Dec. Coffee Host

Dec. 6- Pat & Earl Ziegler
Dec. 13- Jean Ann Grimes
Dec. 20- Jean Ann Grimes
Dec. 27- Jean Ann Grimes



From the Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

Christian Education Committee wishes to thank everyone who bought flower bulbs from our fundraiser! We have two upcoming events that we hope you'll come out to support:

- Sunday, November 15 wearyour red and green and come ready to wrap and pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! (No Sunday School classes will meet this morning because we will all be packing and wrapping! Bring a friend and come prepared to have some fun!)
- Sunday, December 6 is the annual intergenerational Advent Workshop during which we will make Chrismons!



Youth Bowling Event

Fredericksburg Recreation Center

Sunday, November 8 from 1-4pm

Bowling & snacks for youth ages 8-18 (no cost)

Sign up on the sheet provided on the church bulletin board.

Any questions, see Melissa Seltzer



Summer Musical Offering Thank You by Charlene Ziegler

The Music and Worship Committee wants to thank everyone who provided musical offerings this summer. Thank you to the following members of our St. John's Family: Gary Emery and Bruce Ford Sr., Bruce Ford Jr., St. John's Singers and Denise Voshell. We were pleased to welcome back Adrienne Griffiths and Tom and Mary Ellen Heffelfinger. Regina Engler's sons, Glenn and Darryl also returned with her great-grandson Shawn Burke. New to our musical offerings was Gretchen Emery. There was a wonderful variety of music this year with bass guitar, trumpet and a bag pipe! Beautiful voices sang songs that touched our hearts, praised the Lord and jazzed things up. Thank you to all.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

St. John's UCC will be having a Chicken Pot-Pie dinner on November 7th from 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

Eat in or Take-out available.

Cost: \$8/Adult - \$5/Child 8 & under- Takeout is \$6

We will need baked goods and helpers to work that evening.

Signup sheets will be on the bulletin board.

NEW HORIZONS 2015

New Horizons is an opportunity for fellowship for single adults, sponsored by the Parish Life Committee of the Lebanon Association, Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ. For additional information for future programs, please call Betty Holdren (866-2013), Dolores Wolfe (867-1807), Eleanor Hollowell (865-8087), Etta Cuddleford (273-8140), Eleanor Baylor (865-4977), Ann Wagner (867-8087), or Patricia Rentschler (865-1492).

November 28—9:00 AM Breakfast at Country Fare Restaurant, Myerstown. Reservations due by November 21.

December—no meeting. Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with family and friends.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Note—Programs are subject to change. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members whose names and phone numbers are listed at the top.

Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee met on Monday, September 21st. Charlene led our devotion time reading Psalm 5: 1-7, 12.

Beth Ann asked to have September 27th service off. Louise was unable to secure a substitute organist and will play for that Sunday worship service as well as the September 23rd & 30th choir rehearsals. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find a substitute organist.

Pastor Tony will have a vacation Sunday on October 25th. Pastor Herb has agreed to preach and lead worship that day

Dates were set for the following celebrations:

Harvest Home – Sunday, October 11th – donations go to the JOY Food Pantry.

Trick or Treat on our Parking Lot – will be from 6-8pm. on October 29th. Our committee has always sponsored this event and will again this year. However, we would like if the Congregational Life Committee would take over next year. Jean Ann has agreed to attend our event this year to see how we do it.

Our Military Veterans – will be honored during worship on Sunday, November 8th. We would like to have military honor guard present the colors prior to the special choir anthem planned for that day.

Thank Offering – Sun., Nov. 22 to collect the Thank Offering boxes / cans distributed by the Fellowship. The Fellowship will designate where these monies will be donated.

During worship on All Saints Sunday, November 1st, we will celebrate the lives and memory of St. John's members, family members and friends. Currently the committee has this list of names: Members of the Brown's family, Charles Eberhart, Members of the Field's Family, Geraldine Fisher, Jack Good, Naomi Good, Ken Grimes, Loretta Lutz, Connie Martin, Jerry McOmber, Joan Bender Richie, Patsy Shirk, Shirley Bender Sweager and Edith Trautman.

Our congregation will plan to host St Paul's UCC, Hamlin, for the annual Thanksgiving Eve Worship on Wednesday, November 25th. Pastor Tony will contact Pastor Wilson.

Our last 5th Sunday Youth Sunday for 2015 will be on November 29, which also happens to be the 1st Sunday of Advent. Our youth have once again agreed to take part in this worship service. Hunter Lutz will read the scriptures. McKenna Lutz will lead prayer. Jason Eberhart will bring the message for that day.

Advent and Christmas Season are fast approaching. Louise picked out an "old" Christmas cantata that we have and made contact with John W Peterson Music to get the CD accompaniment.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 19th at 7pm. Robin will lead our devotion time. We ended our meeting by praying The Lord's Prayer.

Trick or Treat on the Parking Lot by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee gave out candy, snack bags and hot chocolate on Trick or Treat night. Thank you to all who donated treats and helped.

Senior Choir by Louise Walmer

The Senior. Choir needs singers! If you like to sing, you only need to be willing to give an hour of your time on Wednesday evenings to learn the music.

Our rehearsals are usually over by 8pm. Please consider singing with the Senior Choir. Talk to Louise if you are interested. Or come to rehearsal on Wednesday at 7PM.



St. John's Fellowship by Ginny Knapp

Party plans highlighted the meeting of St. John's Fellowship. Tuesday, November 24th at 7:00 PM we will be entertaining the residents of Cedar Haven with our annual Holiday Party. Soft cookies and jello treats are needed for this event.

A Family Style Dinner awaits you on Tuesday, December 15th at 6:00 PM. This affair will be held at Heisey's Diner on Route 72, The cost of the dinner is \$15.00 per person. Come out for a night of good food and fellowship.

More than \$1342.00 was netted from our Fall Flea Market and Bake Sale. A big THANK YOU to all who helped in any way! Projects now under way for the group are the sale of dish cloths, scrubbies, and the Avon sale. A reminder: all orders and monies for Avon must be in by November 1st.

We will be selling poinsettias to decorate the church sanctuary during the Christmas season.

Plans are being made to have the social hall, bathrooms and kitchen floors cleaned and waxed. The group also paid its remaining balance of \$1500.00 to the church treasury. A \$200.00 gift was given to a local soldier who was injured during his service period.

There will be no regular meetings until March 15, 2016. We will be having the Cedar Haven party and the Christmas party and then we give in to Old Man Winter for January and February. As you can see we have a full agenda, so we are always in need of some extra hands.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE LEBANON VALLEY HOME

For many years the people of our sponsoring congregation have brightened the lives of residents by remembering them with gifts of love at Christmas time.

Gift items are to **be new and unwrapped**. There will be a gift box in the Narthex to place your gifts with a **deadline of December 6th**.

Monetary donations are also appreciated and will be used to purchase additional items to make each individual resident's holiday special.

Please note: Donations of used or sample sized personal hygiene items cannot be accepted due to regulations.

Suggestions for Men and Women

iPod/iPod Shuffle Player	Calendars – large (animals, nature Inspirational)
Postage Stamps	Large print books (romance/mystery)
Circle the Word books	Lipstick/Chapstick
Pretty or festive pins	Slipper Sock
Pierced /clip earrings	Nail polish
Necklaces	DVD's/CD's
Pretty silky scarfs	Sunglasses
Birdfeeders	Large Piece puzzles (100 pieces or less
Birdseed	Books on CD
Body Spray	Ear phones
iTunes Gift Cards	Tissues (long or square boxes and small individual packs)

All Saints Sunday by Louise Walmer

During worship on All Saints Sunday, November 1st, we celebrated the lives and memory of: Charles Eberhart, Geraldine Fisher, Jack Good, Naomi Good, Ken Grimes, Loretta Lutz, Connie Martin, Jerry McOmber, Joan Bender Richie, Patsy Shirk, Shirley Bender Sweger and Edith Trautman.

These church members, family and friends were remembered with candles, flowers and the tolling of the bell while their names were read.

This year we also provided an opportunity for the congregation to remember loved ones who have passed by placing the names of relatives and friends on a prayer wall. After all, it is “All” Saints Sunday and we remember and celebrate the lives and memory of All who live in the presence of our Lord.

Congregational Meeting by Joe Ditzler

There will be a brief congregational meeting after the worship service on November 22nd. The purpose of the meeting will be to approve the 2016 budget, and elect new members of Consistory. Discussion of the budget and our financial situation is vitally important; please plan to stay and attend this meeting.

Outside Lighting by Joe Ditzler

As you read this notice, the outdoor lighting project on the east side of the building may have already been completed. If not, it should be done shortly. Lighting up the parking lot will provide a safer environment during hours of darkness. Consistory also liked the additional benefit of increased visibility of the church in the community at night. The LED lighting used will operate efficiently and at minimum cost.

Operation Christmas Child by Julie Ditzler

We are heading into the home stretch of our Operation Christmas project. During the first weeks of November we will make an effort to gather what is still needed for our boxes, and the rest of the sponsorship money to send them. On the morning of Sunday, November 15th, we will meet at 8:30 in the social room to wrap and fill the boxes. Please come and join us for this busy but fun event. The holiday music, a good selection of donuts, and our cheery boxes are sure to put you in a Christmas-y frame of mind! We will place the boxes in the sanctuary on November 22nd, and have them blessed during our worship service, and then they will be transported to the local drop-off center in Ono. Listen for updates and plan to join in the fun on November 15th so you can help to spread the joy to children all around the world this Christmas season.



THANK OFFERING BOXES

The Thank Offering boxes will be collected at the morning worship on **November 22, 2015**. Please bring your boxes to the church on that Sunday.

FINANCIAL REPORT

by Robin Getz

Total Revenue (1/1/15 – 9/30/15) \$ 74,334.81

Total Expenses (1/1/15 –9/30/15) \$ 84,640.22

We need to collect \$1950.00 weekly to meet budget and currently we are averaging 1816.90 per week. Thank you to everyone for watching the numbers and doing their best to continue to support the church.

A draft of the 2016 Budget was presented to Consistory for consideration in preparation of the congregational meeting. There were many difficult decisions that were made and will continue to be made where the church finances are concerned. All of these items will be discussed in more detail during the November 22nd meeting.

A Thank You to the committee for all of their hard work and diligence in working through creating the budget as well as the choices that needed to be made.

Note: We are always looking for members to serve and, if there is any interest, they can contact me.

ORGAN RECITAL:

Tickets are now available for an organ recital featuring Mr. Bryan Lohr. The recital will take place at Quentin UCC, on Saturday, November 21, starting with an Hors d'oeuvre reception at 2:00 and recital at 3:00. This concert will benefit the six UCC Church Homes. *Ticket prices are only \$10 for an awesome afternoon of entertainment!* Bryan will be sharing music of Bach, Mendelssohn, Sweelinck and others. Completing his undergraduate performance degree at Juilliard School, he also holds a degree from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a member of the board of directors of the UCC Musician's National Network and serves as the General Synod Organist. Get your tickets today by contacting Kay at (717) 273-4156 or klboyer7@gmail.com All goes to a very worthwhile cause. Thank you for your support!

JOY PANTRY

Christmas is less than 2 Months away. It is not too soon to think about Christmas shopping. Going to local stores to shop? Giving Gift Cards for Gifts? If you answered yes to these two questions, why not support **JOY Pantry** by purchasing gift cards thru the **JOY Pantry** Script Program. Listed below are just a few of the Gift Cards available. Contact Rita 865-5666 or Kathy 861-4556

Amazon.com	Itunes	Rite Aid
Applebee's	Jcpenny	Ross Dress for Less
Bass Pro Shops	Jo-Ann Fabric & Craft	Ruby Tuesday
Bath & Body Works	Kmart	Sears
Bob Evans	Kohl's	Sheetz
Boscov's	Lowe's	Staples
Burger King	Marshalls	Starbucks
Cabela's	Michaels	T.J.Maxx
Children's Place	Old Navy	Tanger Outlets
Cracker Barrel	Olive Garden	Target
CVS pharmacy	Oriental Trading	Texas Roadhouse
Dick's Sporting Goods	Panera Bread	Toys"R"Us
Foot Locker	Payless Shoes	Walmart
Game Stop	PetSmart	Wendy's
Gander Mountain	Radio Shack	
Gap	Red Lobster	

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Sunday 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	2	3 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	4 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM Noon-Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	5 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	6 9:30—10:45 AM Little Learners	7 Chicken Pot-Pie Dinner 4:00-7:00 PM
8 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship JOY Pantry Youth Bowling Event-Fred. Rec. Center 1:00 PM—4:00 PM	9	10 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	11 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM Noon-Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	12 6:00PM Budget/Finance Meeting	13 9:30—10:45 AM Little Learners	14
15 8:30AM Wrap Shoe Boxes for Christmas Child 10:30 Worship	16	17 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	18 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM Noon-Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	19 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	20 9:30—10:45 AM Little Learners	21
22 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Dine & Donate Sunday Annual Congregation Meeting following Worship	23	24 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	25 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM Noon-Bible Study No Choir Practice 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve	26 	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent Youth Sunday 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Deacon Fund Sunday	30 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting					

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	2 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM Noon– Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	3 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	7	8 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	9 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM Noon– Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	10 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM 6:00 PM Budget/ Finance Meeting	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	14	15 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM 6:00 PM- Fellowship Group Christmas Dinner at Hei-	16 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM Noon– Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	17 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	18	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Christian Ed Meeting following Worship	21 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	22 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM	23 Noon– Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	24 7:00PM Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 	26
27 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Deacons Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday	28 Office Hours 9:00AM—3:00 PM 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	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
9:00 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
Morgan Hevel
Bob Seltzer
Mark Tyrpin
Pat Ziegler