

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

September 2014

## Saturday, October 25, 2014

*Celebrating 275 years  
as a people of faith!*

4:00 p.m. Service of Thanksgiving

5:00 p.m. Catered dinner; cost is \$15/person, and reservations are required.

6:00 p.m. Special program featuring an overview of our history.



### St. John's United Church of Christ Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania

Visit [www.stjohnsuccfburg.org](http://www.stjohnsuccfburg.org) for a reservation form.

141 W. Main Street,  
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

\*Deadline for reservations  
for the dinner is Sunday,  
October 19, 2014.

## Celebration Season!

We have much to look forward to in the coming months as we mark our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a congregation. Please set aside time on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of October to join in on the celebration.

On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, we are planning a worship service for 4:00 p.m. Our service will blend aspects of our Pennsylvania Dutch and German Reformed history with a theme of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness in the life of our church. The service will be followed by a dinner in our social hall. This event will be a catered one; we chose that option so that none of us has to be involved with food preparation or serving for this special event. The cost of the dinner will be \$15/person; however, we do not want the cost to be a factor in anyone not being able to attend. If the cost of the dinner provides a hardship for anyone in the congregation, please contact Pastor Tony or Joe Ditzler to secure help from our Deacon's Fund. Reservations for the dinner must be made by Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Following the dinner, we will have a program in the social hall focusing on our history. We have some ideas for bringing the history of our church to life, and we will be asking people to help us with this project. We want to end the evening with a unique look at our congregation as it exists right now, bringing our story right up to the present day.

The following morning, our worship will look toward St. John's future, as we celebrate the installation of Pastor Tony. This special service will be followed by a cake and punch reception in the social hall.

As you can see, this will be a memorable time in the life of our church. Save this time on your calendar and plan to be part of our celebration – you won't want to miss it!

# SEPTEMBER WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, September 7, 2014  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, September 14, 2014  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 14: 19-31  
Psalm 114  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-25

Sunday, September 21, 2014  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105  
Philippians 1:21-30

Sunday, September 28, 2014  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 17:17-7  
Psalm 78:1-4  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

## PASTOR TONY'S MESSAGE

### The Voice

What unites us is far greater than what divides us, for God creates us to live together in unity. We are approaching a time of celebrating, "How Great is Our God." God is at work preserving and empowering a holy bond of love for us over the years, in our presences, and launching us into our future for the continual existence of the life of the church (His Bride). In our celebration, let us hear the Still Speaking Voice of our God.

In this new adventure ask yourself this question; is your life, "larger than you imagined"? Several events are before us and during these different occasions we have our Tailgate/ Rally Day, Flea Markets, Dinners/ Sub sales, our Pastor Installation Service and honoring the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of God's faithfulness to His people.

Therefore, mark your calendars as we are launched into new mercies and graces of God. Great is thy faithfulness. We are bound together in the unconditional love of God and humanity is yearning to hear "The Voice" of St John's. Do we have something to say?

## Consistory News by Joe Ditzler, Consistory President

The renovation project in the sanctuary is set to begin on Monday, September 8. Hopefully, all work will be completed within the two weeks that we won't need to use the sanctuary because of the Hinkelfest. Consistory has authorized the re-painting of the sanctuary, and the installation of paneling along the bottom portions of the wall to replace the wallpaper. We look for the project to be completely done by the end of the month.

## St. John's Fellowship by Ginny Knapp

It's that time again! Time to go through cupboards and closets and bring those unused items to St. John's Fall Flea Market and Bake Sale. The event will be held Friday, September 19th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday, September 20th from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Priscilla Rentschler, President, conducted the business session. Opening devotions were led by Regina Engler. It was reported the group's pledge of \$2,500 has been paid to the church treasury with an added \$100.00.

Jean Ann Grimes, Congregational Committee, announced plans to schedule a Birthday Social next February. The theme will be "St. John's Got Talent". Sounds like a fun evening! The group also will plan an Avon project for the holiday season.

The President announced she has tickets for the annual Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" sale to held in October. A \$5.00 ticket will give you added money off merchandise.

A card thanking St. John's for their warm welcome to her was received from a summer visitor, Charlotte Blien, Smyrna, Del.

"Happy Birthday" was sung to August celebrants, Barbara Miller, Betty Schriver, and Jerry Mohn.

The next meeting, Tuesday, September 16th, will be at 6:00 PM to set up for the flea market. Please come out and help. Everyone's help is needed to make this successful.

### THANK YOU!

When I retired, the first time, and Sharon and I went looking for a church family with which to continue our faith journey, we were guided to St. John's. You accepted and welcomed us as part of the St. John's family. Sharon sings in the choir and knits pocket prayer shawls, and I stay out of her way, some of the time. When there was the need for an interim pastor, I am glad that I was able to serve the St. John's family in that way.

On the occasion of the Christmas in July celebration, in addition to Santa "roasting" me, you presented Sharon and me with a thank-you gift. The gift was two gift cards to two places that we had never heard of (Country Fare Restaurant and Dutch-Way Farm Market), but, even if we have to travel all over Lebanon County, we will locate them.

We want to thank you for the gift cards, but much more important, we want to thank you for the privilege of being a part of God's family here at St. John's.

Pastor Herb & Sharon

### **Ladies! For your information! Mark your calendars now!!**

Women's Retreat at Hartman Center is scheduled for November, 14-15-16, 2014. Details and theme to follow later. Any questions contact Sharon Hibshman.

# SEPTEMBER Celebrations

## Happy Birthday to:

2 Courtney Marinkov  
3 Chester Michael  
4 Neal Grimes  
9 Robin Gingrich  
12 Al Fortna  
13 Ann Mulholland

14 Kaitlin Fegan  
14 Chelsea Michael  
16 Reagan Lynn Walmer  
17 Wyatt Hevel  
17 Megan Nace  
25 Noah Gingrich

25 Barry Fox Jr.  
27 Emily Rentschler  
28 Adam Martin  
30 Julie Ditzler

## Happy Anniversary to:

1 Cynda & John Kless  
4 Judy & Larry Fox  
6 Steve & Amy Zechman  
9 Darlene & Rodney Boltz

12 Pam & Roger Myers  
13 Joan & Bob Losiewicz  
20 Cindy & Chester Michael  
20 Elizabeth Overton &  
Philip Brewer

27 Louise & Larry Walmer  
29 Mildred & Al Schriver  
29 John & Yvette Oskam

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

# Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

### September Readers

September 7 Robin Getz  
September 14 Hinkelfest  
September 21 Charlene Ziegler  
September 28 Marc Griffiths

### September Flowers

September 7 Arlene Walmer  
September 14 Hinkelfest  
September 21 OPEN  
September 28 Larry & Louise  
Walmer

### August Attendance

Aug. 3- 75  
Aug. 10- 47  
Aug. 17- 58  
Aug. 24-

### September Bulletins

September 7 Arlene Walmer  
September 14 Hinkelfest  
September 21 OPEN  
September 28 Larry & Louise  
Walmer

### September Coffee Hosts

September 7 Paul Smith  
September 14 Hinkelfest  
September 21 Gary Trautman &  
Brenda Good  
September 28 Gary Trautman &  
Brenda Good

### September Deacon

Robert Seltzer

### SPONSORS NEEDED:

Flowers: November 16th  
Bulletins: October 12th, 26th,  
30th  
Coffee Sponsors: Oct. 5th &  
the months of Nov. & Dec.  
The sign up sheets are in the  
Social Hall.



## Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

Tailgate Sunday kicks off our Christian Connection year at 9 a.m. Sunday, September 7 with some fun family activities and games with a picnic outdoors (weather permitting) following the worship service.

Christian Connection classes will commence at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 21! Hope to see you there.

**Calling all youth!** You're invited out to the church social hall for a fun pizza and ice cream party on September 28, 2014, from 5:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. If you're interested in coming out, or if you have any questions about this event, please speak to Dena.



With the approval of Pastor Tony and The Christian Education Committee, I, Pastor Herb, would like to lead a new Christian Connection Class starting on September 21 from 9 to 10 am, meeting in the west end of the social hall.

### MODERN PARABLES CLASS

One definition of a parable is an earthly story with a spiritual truth. Jesus spoke in parables many times to share a truth with his followers. The Gospel of Luke contains more of Jesus' parables than any of the other Gospels, and the Gospel of John contains the least. Many of the same parables are contained in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The fact that Jesus used parable so often to teach, I believe, leads us to understand how important a teaching tool they can be.

Sometimes the parables of Jesus used stories that the people of his time on earth could readily apply to themselves, but that seem strange to us in our current setting. That doesn't in any way mean that biblical parables do not apply to us today. But perhaps God has provided us with some modern day parables that can also guide us to some spiritual truths.

I hope and pray that in sharing with you some parables that do not come directly from our Bible, we can discover some truths about ourselves. I say ourselves because I believe that we need to see ourselves and our truth, not our neighbors or others, in the message of the parables we share.

Two of the books that I will be using will be One Minute Wisdom by Anthony de Mello and Stories For Telling by William R. White.

If you have not been in a Christian Connection Class (Sunday School) for a while, now is a chance to see if "God Is Still Speaking" by attending one of the Sunday morning classes.

## **Music and Worship Committee**

The Music and Worship Committee met on Mon., Aug 11. Charlene led our devotion time using the theme, Jesus Is Calling. She read the 08/11 reading from a daily devotion based on Eph.5:18 and Acts 2:4. Using a gardening glove she demonstrated that the glove can't do anything without the hand in it to guide and direct its actions.

The Sacred Choral Reading Session attendees met prior to the meeting to review the music we sang and decide on which selections were are favorites. This is the music that we draw from to sing as Sr. Choir anthems throughout the year.

Discussions included plans for: World Wide Communion celebration on Oct. 5, Laity Sunday on Oct. 19, the Choir Festival at Quentin UCC on Oct. 19, music for our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Pastor Tony's Installation and the All Saints Celebration on Nov. 2. Advent and Christmas music and worship will be on the agenda at our next meeting.

It was noted that the Acolytes and their schedule should fall under the Music and Worship Committee responsibilities.

Because there is so much going on in Sept and Oct, we decided not to have an outdoor vesper service this year. However, we will have a picnic and vesper service at Memorial Lake on Sunday, August 30, 2015. The Music and Worship Committee will take responsibility for this event.

This committee will meet next on Mon., Oct. 13 at 7pm. Louise will lead our devotion time.

## **Senior Choir**

Rehearsals for the 2014-15 Singing Season will begin on Wed., Sept. 3 at 7pm. We have lots of new music to learn for upcoming events. Our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Pastor Tony's Installation Service, the Lebanon Assoc. of the UCC Choir Festival, just to mention a few.

Come and sing with us. New members are welcome.

Anthems for September are:

Sept. 7 - "Let There Be Peace"

Sextet: Wendy Dorsey, Dena Eberhart, Robin Getz, Sharon Hibshman, Louise Walmer and Charlene Ziegler

Sept. 14 - Hinklefest

Sept. 21 - "I Feel a Song Rising in My Spirit"      Sr. Choir

Sept. 28 -

## **Lebanon Association of the UCC Choral Festival** by Louise Walmer

Choirs and church members of the Lebanon area UCC churches will present a Choir Festival at 4pm on Sun., Oct. 19, at Quentin UCC. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Choir Festival sponsored by the Lebanon Association.

Music has been received and anyone from the congregation who wants to sing in this festival is welcome. You do not have to be a member of the choir to participate. There will be special rehearsals just for the music for the festival here at our church at 6:30pm on Wednesdays, Oct 1, Oct 8, and Oct. 15.

## **All Saints Sunday – Nov. 2, 2014**

As in previous years, the memory of members, family members and friends of St. John's congregation will be remembered during the morning worship on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014.

This year we will remember: Liz Coffey (grandniece of Regina Engler), Verna Rentschler, and Colleen Tice (sister-in-law of Becky Griffins).

If you have a family member or friend who passed away since our last All Saints Remembrance Service on Nov. 3, 2013, that you would like us to remember this year, please notify our church secretary at 865-7222 before Oct. 26. Thank you.

## Breads of the World – Worldwide Communion Sunday

**October 5, 2014** by Louise Walmer

To celebrate Worldwide Communion Sunday we want to have breads from different countries throughout the world to share during the worship service.

It is Pastor Tony's and this committee's hope that members of the church will sign up to bake, make or buy bread from other countries to share for communion that day. Our goal is to have 10 loaves from 10 counties. There will be a sign up sheet and recipes to help our baking volunteers prepare the breads.

We are also looking for pictures or souvenirs from these countries that the members may have visited to have available to illustrate life there. It is our hope that the bakers will tell us why they chose a particular country and what if anything that country means to them. We'd like to share those thoughts with the congregation during the worship service.

## Laity Sunday – October 19, 2014

by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee will be contacting "laity" to participate in our Laity Sunday celebration. This year our Laity Sunday will be on Oct. 19, 2014, the Sunday on our UCC calendar that is set aside for laity. The theme this year is "Living Messages".

Usually we have our Lay Leaders Sunday in June, when our pastor goes to Penn Central Conference meeting. The month of June was a little different for our congregation this year. Our new pastor began his ministry with us on the PCC meeting weekend, and we missed Laity Sunday. Pastor Tony and the Music and Worship Committee have decided to have a Laity Sunday in October when the UCC designates a Sunday for Laity.

Please consider prayerfully if you are asked by the Committee to participate in this worship service.

## Christmas in July

by Louise Walmer

We celebrated "Christmas in July" with decorations, a Christmas tree, a covered dish meal, and carol singing on Friday, July 25.

Santa even interrupted his vacation to stop by that evening. He notified some attendees that they are on his "24/7 List" and that he's become high tech using drones to keep an eye on everyone.

We used the opportunity of this event to honor Pastor Herb for his service to the congregation as our interim pastor over the last year and a half.

After the fun and frolic, we went to the sanctuary and the Choir and Friends sang the cantata, "Bethlehem's Child", reminding us to continuously praise God for sending us His son. The birth of our Savior is just as alive in our hearts and minds throughout the year as it is in December.

Thank you to everyone who came and those who helped make this a successful event for our church.

## Sr. Choir Picnic 2014

by Louise Walmer

The unsettled weather on Saturday, August, 23rd caused us to move the Sr. Choir Picnic for 2014 from South Center St. to the church fellowship hall. However, the food, fun and fellowship for the attendees was not "unsettled". As always we had plenty to eat. Let it be said that our choir members can sing and cook.

Regina Engler was the first to guess the name of the "animal on her back". Sharon Hibshman and Marc Griffiths took the prizes for getting their flip flop into the hula hoop, using their feet to throw it. Pastor Tony plans to practice this stunt for next year. Don't tell him ... we usually don't play the same games every year.

Team 2 (Robin Getz, Neal Grimes, Pastor Herb Hibshman, and Tiara Rice) won the "Gargle a Song" game. Hats off to the Star Gargler of the evening, Neal Grimes. Other garglers who did well gargling were Sharon Hibshman, Regina Engler, Pastor Tony, Dena Eberhart, Beth Ann Griffiths and Brenda Good. Their teams just weren't able to identify the songs as quickly as Neal's team.

Thanks to everyone who came to the picnic and willingly participated in the fun. You guys are the best.

The choir will begin rehearsing on Wednesday evenings in September and will be participating in morning worship beginning September. 21st.

## BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP By Neal Grimes

JULY	INCOME	Y.T.D.
WEEKLY OFFERINGS (4WEEKS)	\$ 7,117.00	\$ 56,542.00
DEFRAY COST OF ENVELOPES	0	283.00
BULLETINS	40.00	200.00
JOINT MEN'S & WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	1,300.00	2,600.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	0	275.00
FUNDRAISING	36.00	1,392.17
SPECIAL SERVICES	0	179.00
SOCIAL HALL RENTALS/MISC	46.00	316.00
INTEREST	2.78	17.06
TOTAL INCOME FOR MAY	\$ 8,541.78	\$ 61,804.23
EXPENSES	\$11,635.46	\$ 53,137.38
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ (3,093.68)	\$ 8,666.85

Our budget for weekly offerings is \$2,300. For July we averaged \$1,779.25.

I have shown you in every way; by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he said "It is more blessed to give than receive."

Acts 20:35 NKJV

## SERVICE OF INSTALLATION of the Rev. Tony Fields, Sr.


Sunday, October 26, 2014, 10:30 A.M.

Guest Minister: Rev. Persida Rivera-Mendez, M. Div.

Ordained Minister/Local and National Settings/Diversity Ministries

The Rev. Persida Rivera-Mendez is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ with experience in the local church and National UCC settings of the UCC. She has worked with ecumenical partners in church development, congregational vitality, justice advocacy, and congregational assessment, living out the UCC commitment to Inter-cultural and Multi-ethnic Church (I'M Church). She has worked closely with Ethnic minority congregations in church development. She assists the Hispanic/Latino constituency of the denomination with resourcing, coordinating gatherings and workshops. She works with all settings of the UCC in developing strategies for ministry with and for diverse communities specifically the Hispanic/Latino community. She is a member of Mount Zion Congregational Church UCC, Cleveland, OH where she now resides.

# September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM	3 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study - Noon Choir Practice-7:00 PM	4 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM	5	6
7 <b>Rally Day</b> 9AM Tailgate Sunday 10:30am Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Potluck Picnic following Worship	8	9 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM	10 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study - Noon Fundraising Committee - 6:00 PM Choir Practice-7:00 PM	11 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM Dine & Donate - Hoss's Restaurant	12	13
14 <b>Hinkelfest</b> Community Worship Service @ Fireman's Park 10:30am	15 <b>VOICE Deadline</b>	16 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM 7:00 PM Fellowship Meeting	17 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study - Noon Choir Practice-7:00 PM	18 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM FLEA MARKET Set UP 8:00 Am—5:00 PM Budget Committee Meeting—7:00 PM	19 FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE 8:00 am—5:00 pm	20 FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE 8:00 am—11:00 am
21 Devotions at 9AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Christian Ed. Meeting following Worship Meet & Greet Pastor Tony 2:00 - 5:00 PM	22	23 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am—3:00 PM	24 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM Bible Study - Noon Choir Practice-7:00 PM	25 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM	26 Little Learners 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	27
28 Devotions at 9AM Followed by Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Dine & Donate - Esther's Restaurant Deacon's Sunday YOUTH SUNDAY 5-7 pm	29 <b>Office Hours</b> 9:00Am-3:00 PM <b>Consistory Meeting</b> 7:00 PM	30	<b>UPCOMING EVENTS:</b> R & B Sub Sale—Oct. 9th at Delivery 4PM—Orders due by Sept. 28th Oct. 25th—275th Anniversary Service & Dinner— 4 –7 PM 4:	<b>UPCOMING EVENTS:</b> Oct. 26 Pastor Tony's Installation 10:30 am Nov. 1 Pot Pie Supper		

## 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](mailto:stjohnsucc@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.stjohnsuccfburg.org](http://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

### 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