

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March-April, 2019

Pastor Tony's Message

We are approaching Lent and Easter season already. In a few weeks we will set our clocks forward. And with much anticipation days will be longer and darkness will have to gracefully bow out. And as the snow flakes become heavier as surface temperatures increases and are just above freezing especially as our seasons prepare to change. Thank you Punxsutawney Phil. As Mother Nature changes again we will have the opportunity to see God interact with humanity in a wonderful way.

Oh don't let these next few months be another old story. Let the changing of the season remind you of new adventures and new things that we can experience and share. God is allowing us to engage in the reconciliation of humanity. You afforded the opportunity to engage with society in different countries, languages, ethnicities, and if you are open to new ways of worship. Just as the seasons change from cold snowy days to longer and brighter days may this Lenten season experience be the same for your heart. May your heart be fulfilled as you continue in the journey God has for you. Rather it be physical, emotional, or spiritual growth can occur. And sisters and brothers growth has no age restrictions.

God doesn't want us to be spectators as he reveals great mysteries to humanity but the hands and feet as we are collaborators (walking and teaching) in our life journey. Imagine that we believe all that we confess on Sunday and the work we do to ensure the church remains a vital part of ministry are instrumental and conduits to enhance our church, community, and society.

The scripture that comes to mind is Isaiah 43: 19 that states, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." And especially as we encounter our Lenten season. Perhaps the new is not just physical but also spiritual. Imagine God is setting "called out" people on a platform to allow humanity to God's glory. Then perhaps what we do on earth is not for selfishness but to restore humanity into a place of shalom.

Let the ashes be a reminder that you are created in the image, likeness, the characteristic of God. That your life matters not only for you but also the restoration of humanity.

Then as students or disciples in your Lenten studies and discipline that the brokenness you encounter previously or the joyful celebrations you experience remind you that God is still journeying alongside you. May this journey empower you to live as hopeful and blessed people.

For the next two months let this be your affirmation.

We affirm the life-giving, renewing work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. In Christ the past is past. It is gone. It no longer determines who we are or who we can become. Christ took care of all that so that we may look to him for our identity and hope. We are reconciled to God through Christ. We are made new creatures. We receive the promise of God's daily presence and mercy. We are God's children! We affirm our choice to live as those whose inheritance is sure, whose joy is secure, and whose present and future are held in the loving hands of our gracious Lord and Savior.

May it be so!!!

Consistory News by Louise Walmer

The Consistory met on January 28th for their first meeting of 2019. Officers were elected as follows: Keith Gingrich, President; Scott Benfer, Vice President; Charlene Ziegler, Secretary; and Louise Walmer, Treasurer.

Angela Michael reported that our Vacation Bible School will be July 8-12 from 5:45 to 8PM. The theme this year is "To Mars and Beyond".

Scott Benfer reported that Building and Grounds is working on the New Shed Project and that the boiler is up to code.

Dates for Fund Raising Projects were set. Brenda Good will be in charge of a Chicken Noodle Soup and Bake Sale on Friday, February 22nd. Scott Benfer will chair a Breakfast on Saturday, March 30th and a Krall's Subs Sale for May.

The pastors of the Lebanon Assoc will meet here on Tuesday, February 19th. Julie Ditzler and Brenda Good volunteered to provide lunch for them.

It was approved to collect a "Love Offering" on Sunday February 10th & 17th to benefit Hartman Center.

Deacon of the Month for March is Elizabeth Overton And February Communion Preparer is Charlene

CALLING ALL 2019 GRADUATES

We need a list of all our 2019 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 26th.

Unshakable Hope

The adult class meeting during Christian Connection time each week will embark on a new study beginning on Sunday, March 3rd. Using the guide, *Unshakable Hope; Building Our Lives on the Promises of God*, by Max Lucado, we will explore how we can become People of the Promise, relying on God's promises rather than life's circumstances to guide and sustain us. If this discussion is of interest to you,

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Entering the Passion of Jesus—By Amy-Jill Levine

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus* the author explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. The book provides a rich and challenging learning experience for small groups and individual readers alike. The book's six chapters include: 1. Jerusalem: Risking Reputation;

2. The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger; 3. Teachings: Risking Challenge; 4. The First Dinner: Risking Rejection; 5. The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends; & 6. Gethsemane: Risking Temptation.

Pastor Tony will cover the same material both at noon and at 6:00PM. During our lunch studies, we will have sandwich and soup. The Bible Studies will begin Wednesday March 13th and continue every Wednesday until April 17th. Signup sheets are on the Bulletin Board in the Social Hall. Any questions, see Pastor Tony. Please pick up your book for the Bible Study in Pastor Tony's office.

MARCH WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday March 3, 2019
Last Sunday after Epiphany
Exodus 34: 29-35
Psalms 99
2 Corinthians 3:12 -4:2
Luke 9:28-43a

Sunday, March 10, 2019
First Sunday of Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 4: 1-13
Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, March 17, 2019
Second Sunday of Lent
Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18
Psalms 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13: 31-35

Sunday, March 24, 2019
Third Sunday of Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalms 63:1-8
I Corinthians 10: 1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 31, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Joshua 5: 9-12
Psalms 32
2 Corinthians 5: 16-21
Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32



APRIL WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday, April 7, 2019
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalms 126
Philippians 3: 4b-14
John 12:1-8

Sunday, April 14, 2019
Sixth Sunday of Lent
Palm Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalms 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 23:1-49

Sunday, April 21, 2019
Easter
Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalms 118: 1-2, 14-24
I Corinthians 15: 19-26
John 20:1-8

Sunday, April 28, 2019
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32
Psalms 118:14-29
Revelation 1: 4-8
John 20: 19-31

MARCH CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

1 Anna Marie Lauer	8 Randy Ziegler	24 Steve Shaffer
6 Missy Daub	16 Paul Smith	26 Jeremy Stoltz
6 Rev. Thomas Jackman	16 Marlene Zechman	28 Gary Trautman
6 Glenn Rudy	20 Mildred Schriver	30 Melissa Seltzer
6 Brenda Good	21 Kathy Fegan	
6 Tiara Rice	21 Ginny Knapp	

Happy Anniversary to:

2 Violet & Ken Leibensperger
15 Marc & Beth Ann Griffiths
27 Jeremy & Alyssa Stoltz
29 Barb & Thomas Trainor

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

March Readers

Mar. 3	Robin Getz
Mar. 10	Julie Ditzler
Mar. 17	Keith Gingrich
Mar. 24	Paul Smith
Mar. 31	Hunter Zohn

March Flowers

Mar. 3	Pastor Tony & Jodie
Mar. 10	Brenda Good
Mar. 17	Donna Eberly-Lehman
Mar. 24	OPEN
Mar. 31	Barbara Trainor

February Attendance

February 3	40
February 10	36
February 17	46
February 24	32

March Bulletins

Mar. 3	Pastor Tony & Jodie
Mar. 10	Brenda Good
Mar. 17	Donna Eberly-Lehman
Mar. 24	OPEN
Mar. 31	Barbara Trainor

March Coffee Host

Mar. 3	OPEN
Mar. 10	OPEN
Mar. 17	OPEN
Mar. 24	OPEN
Mar. 31	OPEN

March Deacon
Elizabeth Overton



APRIL CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

6 Rev. Drew Morris
6 Jordan Seltzer
7 Pat Ziegler
8 Cathy Rentschler
9 Keith Gingrich
10 McKenna Zohn

11 Ken Mohn
12 Andrew Fegan
13 Josh Stoltz
18 Wade Tyrpin
18 Zachary Baynard
20 Becky Martin

20 Leah Stoltz
20 Kayla Benfer
26 Rick Rudy

Happy Anniversary to:

9 Peggy & Charles Wike
14 Linda & Mark Tyrpin
18 Betty & Vernon Schriver
21 Kim & Jarrod Kapp
27 Linda & Mike Nace

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

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

April Readers

Apr. 7 Robin Getz
Apr. 14 Pam Emery
Apr. 21 Beth Barto
Apr. 28 Charlene Ziegler

April Flowers

Apr. 7 Missy Seltzer
Apr. 14 Pastor Tony & Jodie
Apr. 21 Millie Schriver
Apr. 28 OPEN

April Deacon
Jerry Mohn

April Bulletins

Apr. 7 Missy Seltzer
Apr. 14 Pastor Tony & Jodie
Apr. 21 Millie Schriver
Apr. 28 OPEN

April Coffee Host

Apr. 7 Terry & Ginny Knapp
Apr. 14 Terry & Ginny Knapp
Apr. 21 Terry & Ginny Knapp
Apr. 28 Terry & Ginny Knapp

SPONSORS NEEDED

Flowers: March 24th,
April 28th
Bulletins March 24th,
April 28th
Coffee Hosts – Month of
March



Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee met on Monday, February 4th. Charlene Ziegler led our devotion time.

Our Lenten Season scheduled was discussed. Ash Wednesday worship will be at 7PM on March 6th at Zoar's Lutheran Church, Mt. Zion at 7:00PM..

Our Lenten Studies will be on Wednesdays at 12 Noon and 6pm. We decided to have a Healing Service during the Sunday morning worship on March 24th. There will be no Maundy Thursday worship. The Good Friday service will be a community service at 7PM at Zoar's Lutheran Church, Mt. Zion. We will have an Easter Sunrise Service at Cedar Hill cemetery, with a continental breakfast at the church following that service.

It was decided to have our 2nd Women's Retreat on Saturday, June 1st. Our theme for the retreat will be "Bad Girls of the Bible."

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 18th at 7pm. Robin Getz will lead devotions

Sr. Choir by Louise Walmer

Recently the Sr. Choir has been finding that the winter weather is cutting into our rehearsal times. And there were Wednesdays that had to be canceled due to "lack of a director". However, even if we don't rehearse, we can sing anthems because we do our best to work ahead.

March anthems are:

March 3 "We Are One in the Lord" by Joseph Martin
 March 17 "Walk by Faith" by J Paul Williams & Joel Raney

March 30 being the 5th Sunday of the Month will be a Music Sunday, the choir is preparing to sing:

"How Can I Keep from Singing" a traditional American melody arrg by J Honore'
 "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho" a traditional Spiritual arrg by L Larson
 "The Long Black Train" written by Josh Turner and sung by the men of our choir



From the Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael

As you may have heard VBS is going To Mars and Beyond this summer on Monday, July 8, through Friday, July 12, 2019, at 5:45 PM to 8 PM. While we're fortunate that most of our volunteers are returning to staff VBS this summer, we are in need of a few additional volunteers since we're adding a 5th/6th grade class. If you're interested in volunteering at VBS, please speak to Julie Ditzler or Angie Michael.

Important dates to know [not all VBS related!]:

Saturday, April 27, 9 AM, at church: anyone interested in helping to make VBS decorations is invited to come out this morning!

Sunday, May 19: Last day of Christian Connection for the summer!

Saturday, July 9, 9 AM, at church: anyone interested in helping to set up VBS is invited to come out to the church to help us decorate and set up the church; teachers should use this time to set up and decorate their classrooms!

Sunday, September 8: Christian Connection resumes for the fall/winter/spring session!



Financial Report by Robin Getz, Finance Chair

Total Revenue	(1/1/19– 1/31/19)	\$ 5,965.64
Total Expenses	(1/1/19– 1/31/19)	\$ (8,792.18)

We will need to collect \$1557.69 weekly to meet budget currently we averaged \$1436.25 per week through January 31st. However we had no service one Sunday due to the weather. As explained at the last Congregation Meeting we will truly need to consider ways to raise revenue through different Fund-raisers to assist with balancing the budget. We will have to have fundraising Projects to help bring in extra funds. We had a Soup Sale on February 22nd and it went very well. 178 quarts of soup were sold. All the bills are not in to date to have a profit on the soup sale. The bake sale made \$120.50. An All You Can Eat Breakfast is scheduled for March 30th from 7AM-11:30PM and sub sale will be held the beginning of May.

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 any suggestions. We need your prayers and assistance more than ever!!

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.

ST JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP by Ginny Knapp

Spring is just around the corner and with that we think of Spring Cleaning! The Fellowship will be having a Flea Market and Bake Sale, Friday, April 12th and Saturday, April 13th. So please comb your closets and cupboards for those unused items. We do hope someone is looking for that exact thing.

We're bidding adieu to Old Man Winter and our regular meetings will begin again on Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00PM. We need your help to keep this organization moving and working for our church. All our money goes back to improving our church and its grounds. You can be a part of this by attending our meetings and supporting our projects.

Hope to see you Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00PM.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Lebanon Valley Home in Annville has requested that we have a Delegate from St. John's UCC for the Lebanon Valley Home Auxiliary. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Pastor Tony or Louise Walmer.

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Time to Spring Ahead March 10th					1	2
3 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund Sunday	4	5 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	6 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Ash Wednesday Service at Zoar's Lutheran Church in Mt. Zion.	7 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	8	9
10 Daylight Savings First Sunday of Lent 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Christian Education Meeting following Worship	11	12 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	13 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Noon & 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00PM Choir Practice	14 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	15	16
17 Second Sunday of Lent 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship	18 7:00PM Music & Worship Meeting	19 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00 PM Fellowship Meeting	20 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Noon & 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00PM Choir Practice	21 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 	22	23
24 Third Sunday of Lent 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Healing Service) Dine & Donate	25 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Consistory Meeting	26	27 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Noon & 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00PM Choir Practice	28 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	29	30 7:00 AM—11:00AM All You Can Eat Breakfast
31 Fourth Sunday of Lent 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Deacon Fund						

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	3 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Noon & 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00PM Choir Practice	4 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	5	6
7 Fifth Sunday of Lent 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer	8	9 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	10 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Noon & 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00PM Choir Practice	11 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Flea Market Set Up & Drop off time 8:00 AM—5:00PM	12 Flea Market & Bake Sale 8:00AM— 5:00PM	13 Flea Market Bake Sale 8:00AM— 11:00AM
14Palm Sun- day 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship JOY Pantry Sun- day	15	16 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	17 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Noon & 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00PM Choir Practice	18 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM No Maundy Thursday Service	19 Good Friday 7:00PM Zoar's Lutheran Church	20
21Easter 6:15 AM Sunrise Service -Cedar Hill 9:00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Christian Educa- tion Meeting	22	23 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	24 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice	25 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM	26	27 9:00AM VBS Crafting Day
28 00AM Christian Connection 10:30 AM Worship Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate	29 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	30	 <div data-bbox="941 1753 1469 2005" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p><i>He is Risen</i> HAPPY EASTER! <small>© WWW.CELEBRATIONSOFLIFESTORE.COM</small></p> </div>			

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

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**9:00AM 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
Ms. Donna Eberly-Lehman Church Secretary

Consistory

Keith Gingrich, President
Scott Benfer, Vice President
Charlene Ziegler, Secretary
Louise Walmer, Treasurer

Elders

Julie Ditzler
Keith Gingrich
Brenda Good
Louise Walmer
Charlene Ziegler

Deacons

Scott Benfer
Jerry Mohn
Angela Michael
Elizabeth Overton
Mark Tyrpin