



Hilltop Views

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135 Myrtle Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083

610-446-3036

www.stjamesucc.org

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

FROM THE PASTOR

From the Pastor

Continuing the countdown of “40 Things You Should Say Before You Die” according to Forbes, we have the sentence, “**I am blessed.**”

We’ve just celebrated Christmas, and the words of Elizabeth to Mary are still in my ears, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.” Mary received a blessing, and Jesus was blessing to the world, and thus through him we have received many blessings.

Once you realize you have been blessed, you can savor and appreciate the good things and people in your life. And whenever you do that, a realization of enough and fullness comes into your mind and heart.

And that enough and full feeling, more often than not, naturally transitions into not only realizing one is blessed, but into a desire and motivation to be a blessing to others and to our planet.

This year, let’s all realize what we have, and then give it away. And I encourage you not to just be blessing in the same usual ways. Rather, in 2017 be a blessing to someone else, a group or a community in a completely new and different way. The first thing we are told about God is that God is a creator. The second thing we are told is that we are created in God’s image. In other words, God made you with the capacity and inclination to be creative. Don’t just say, “Amen” to that. Move from your head and let your blessing move to your heart, and then out into the world through your hands and feet.



Therefore, let us all take to heart and limb (branch out with) the words from the familiar writing of Charles Dickens, “Reflect upon your present blessings -- of which every man has many -- not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.”

Pastor Lynn

WORSHIP

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Jan. 1 - **New Years Day** - Holy Communion, Food Pantry Sunday

Epiphany Plus (7 Sundays: Jan 8 - Feb. 12)

"Risky Business"

If Jesus had lived in our day, the risk assessment folks would surely have rejected his application for life insurance. Time and again, he put himself in positions of risk- saying things that rubbed the rulers the wrong way, eating with people not fit for good company, and putting himself in harm’s way as he rubbed elbows with the sick and unclean. Through his actions, Jesus proclaimed that living into the reign of God requires the willingness to carry out a bit of risky business. Are we willing to make risks for love and justice? What price do we pay by playing it safe?



Jan. 8 - The Cat Is Out of the Bag (Mark 1:21-45)
 Jan. 15 - Not So Nice and Neat (Mark 4:2-22) – Jenn Gonsalves preaching
 Jan. 22 - Try As We Might (Mark 4:1-34) – Meagen McLeod preaching
 Jan. 29 - Not So Untouchable (Mark 5:21-43) – Meagen McLeod preaching
 Feb. 5 - Not Quite the Home Town Hero (Mark 6:1-29), Holy Communion; Food Pantry Sunday
 Feb. 12 - Let Your Light Shine (Mark 8:27-9:8)

"Practice, Practice, Practice: Doesn't Make You Perfect, But It Sure Does Help" (Feb. 19, 26)

Contemplative, Missional, and Communal Practices using the book by Brian McLaren Find Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices (chapters 10-12)

Feb. 19 – Contemplative and Missional Practices (Luke 5:15-16, Matthew 25:33-46)

Feb. 26 – Communal Practices (Hebrew 10:25), and **REMEMBRANCE DAY** (remembering those who have died in 2016)



Lent (5 Sundays, 1 Wed.: March 1-April 9)

"Holy Vessels" (2 Corinthians 4:7)

March 1 - (Ash Wed. 7:00 PM) Shattered (Psalm 56:8), Holy Communion

March 5 - Treasure (Psalm 139:13)

March 12 - Safekeeping (Psalm 86:7)

March 19 - Stories (John 4:10)

March 26 - Different Pictures (Exodus 15:26b)

April 2 - Restoration (1 Corinthians 9:17), Holy Communion

April 9 - (Palm Sunday) Holy, Holy, Holy (Psalm 118:1)

Pastor Lynn will be on a short medical leave January 13 – 31, as she undergoes and recovers from foot surgery. Rev. Mary Jane Kirby (cell phone 610-609-6703) will be filling in for pastoral emergencies.

READERS:

January 1 – Mary Beck

January 8 – Jay Vasell

January 15 – Marian McKenzie

January 22 – Bobbie-Lou Krok

January 29 – Walter Smith

February 5 – Lynne Major

February 12 – Cheryl Trump

February 19 – Dick Beck

February 26 – Cindy Keaveney

MUSIC

A reminder that we continue to invite the congregation to *Second Sunday Choir* each month, to join the Chancel Choir at 10:00 a.m., in the music (choir) room to learn the anthem for that morning. If interested in taking an anthem home to practice beforehand, see Maggie for the sheet music on the first Sunday of every month. Or, just join us that Sunday, and learn the anthem in 20 minutes!

CHILDREN

The 2016 Breakfast with Santa was a great success! Huge Thank You goes out to Santa and Mrs. Claus and all 20 Santa helpers on Friday and Saturday. We also want to thank the congregation for donating so the pantry families could participate in the fun and food. We had a 38% overall increase in attendance this year and several families attended that have never been inside St James. They got a wonderful welcome from Pastor Lynn and many Santa helpers. I'm so happy to have hosted this event with my co-chair Bobbie-Lou Krok. Proceeds of this event will go towards the 2018 Adult Mission trip.



Happy New Year!
 Peace
 Cheryl T.

ADULTS

Happy New Year! What a privilege to start off 2017 with you and your children at St. James. On January 1 the children will have the opportunity to reflect on the past year, and share their hopes for the new year, while being "present" with one another. We will interview each other to learn about what is most special to each of us - and possibly start some new traditions.

Beginning January 8, we will spend a number of weeks learning about the life and teachings of Jesus. Over the weeks the kids will hear (and tell) stories, watch videos, play games, get their hands dirty, do artwork and share with each other. As Jesus embodied the vast mystery of God in his everyday, human life - we will start with very tactile, concrete materials to help kids begin to grasp some very deep and complex foundations of our faith. We will



start with our annual Three Kings Day celebration in Sunday school, and tackle the meaning of Epiphany. We will save learning about the baptism of Jesus for January 15, and what baptism means for us. On January 22 we will learn about

the people that Jesus called to be his followers, and talk about how Jesus is calling each of us as well. We will finish up January with a look at the Beatitudes - and hopefully your children will then be able to tell you what that big word means to them!

Come February, we will explore the meaning of salt and light, making peace, loving without limits, and listening to Jesus. The overall themes for this series follow the texts from the Revised Common Lectionary. If you are unfamiliar, a great resource can be found at



<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=A&season=Epiphany>

May this new year bring you much health and wholeness, while bringing you closer to God and one another.

-Pastor Aimee Brackbill

"THE LIFE OF JESUS: R (READING) AND R (REFLECTING) IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE" Weekly Post on Facebook by Pastor and Group Members and Group Meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Coordinator: Pastor Lynn Lampman (lplampman@comcast.net)

January 3 - (Luke 3:1-22) John Baptizes: **Group Meeting** (to be held at Starbucks: 116 W. Township Line Rd. Havertown)
Jan. 10-16 – (Luke 4:14-30) Jesus Sermon at Nazareth
Jan. 17-23 – (Luke 5:1-11) Great Catch of Fish
Jan. 24-30 – (Luke 6:1-16) Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath
Jan. 31–Feb. 6 – (Luke 7:1-17) Healing the Centurion's Slave

February 7 – (Luke 7:18-35) Tell John What You See and Hear: **Group Meeting**
Feb. 14–20 – (Luke 7:36-50) Woman Weeps at Jesus' Feet and is Forgiven
Feb. 21-27 – (Luke 9:28-45) Transfiguration
Feb. 28-March 6 – (Luke 9:51-62) Jesus Starts for Jerusalem and Rejected in Samaria

BOOK CLUB

The next two meetings of the St. James Book Club will meet at 7:00 p.m. on:

Monday, January 9 – Our book is Most Wanted by Lisa Scottoline

Monday, February 13 – The book is Bullet by Mary Louise Kelly. This is a non-fiction read. We hope you will come out and join us. We are a fun group!!

NB. Book Club will cancel if the weather is bad. If you have a question, please call me at 610-742-8509

Have a very Happy New Year!!

Joanne Morris



TEAMS AND COMMITTEES:

Consistory, **Wednesday, January 11**, 6:30 p.m.

Consistory, **Wednesday, February 15**, 6:30 p.m.

WINTER POTLUCK FOR BODY AND SOUL (Sunday, February 12,



immediately following worship) A potluck supper will be held for the purpose of getting to know one another better and making time for care our bodies and souls through a nourishing meal and nurturing sharing and discussion. Please bring some food to share

(can be homemade or bought, both are appreciated).

Coordinator is Lynne Major (lamajor1@comcast.net).

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JAMES CHURCH will be held on **Sunday, February 19** immediately following worship. At this time, annual reports of the various ministries and missions will be reviewed. Leaders of the various church committees, teams, etc. are asked to submit their Annual Report to the church office by Tuesday, February 7.

COMMUNITY DINE AROUND The next meal will be on **Monday, March 13**, at Annunciation BVM Church, 12:00 noon. This will be St. Patrick's Day celebration, and is for all ages! Mark your calendar for this fun event.



MISSION/OUTREACH

YOUTH MISSION TRIP HOMEMADE SOUP FUNDRAISER

In 2017 Pastor Lynn plans on taking the youth (tween and teen ages) to the Heifer Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts. To help support the trip we will be hosting a SOUP SALE, **Sunday, February 26** after worship, featuring pints and quarts of homemade soups and chili's. See Cheryl Trump if you have any questions and would like to prepare your favorite soup or chili to donate to this wonderful fundraiser. More information will be posted in the weekly bulletin.



FOOD PANTRY

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11

St. James is a place of incredible thoughtfulness and concern for those in need and it has shown in the generosity of giving over the holiday season. So many of you participated in the "reverse advent" bags giving our food pantry families such bounty along with giving money to allow families to enjoy Breakfast with Santa. Thank you so much for all you have done.... In addition we had several groups help with donations, packing and making drawings to bring joy to those who need it. As we move into 2017, we continue to seek to provide food security for those who need help in making ends meet. Thank you for your continued donations to the food pantry, and we will continue to have first Sunday of the month food pantry collections and hope you will pick up some things while you are doing your own shopping. Donations are welcome any time. Items of need include but are not limited to:

Pasta and Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Tuna
Soup
Canned pastas
Juice
Canned baked beans
Canned chili



Breakfast items (cereal, oatmeal, pancake/syrup)
Macaroni and Cheese
Sides like rice/potatoes
Personal Hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, body lotions, soap)

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Many thanks for your gifts to this year's Alternative Gift Market.

Donations were made to the following:

Books Through Bars: \$155
Helping Hands Monkey Helpers: \$240
Malala Fund: \$170
Phoebe Ministries Clinical Ed: \$140
Total: \$705.



God bless the people of St. James UCC for your generosity!

SAM'S KITCHEN:

The first Sam's Kitchen for 2017 will be on Tuesday evening, **January 10** for cooking and Wednesday, **January 11** for serving. At this time we have a full slate for both cooking and serving- thank you all.

Our next scheduled cooking/serving will be Wed. March 8.

I am so grateful to everyone who has volunteered over the past year so that this important mission continues to thrive. I hope all will continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers, and that you will consider joining us in some way. The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. Feel free to sign up for an upcoming date.

Happy New Year to all!!

Joanne Morris

610-742-8509

DORCAS YARN MINISTRY.

Dorcas Ministry has prayer shawls, prayer scarves and pillowcases available for you to gift to those you know who are ill, bereaved or going through a difficult time who you feel would benefit from being gifted something from the ministry. Please contact Pastor Lynn, Ailene, Joanne M, Connie G or someone else involved with Dorcas.



We are looking forward to meeting in the Penn Resource Room at 7:00 pm on Monday nights, **January 16** and **February 20**. We chat, stitch, can teach, pray and laugh. We'd love for you to join us and we have lots of supplies waiting for you! But we are lightweights when there's bad weather. If the weather is "iffy" regarding snow or ice, please reach out to Joanne Morris or Connie George to be sure we're meeting.

You are also welcome to participate even if you can't come to meetings. Our group spans a couple of counties with not everyone able to come to meetings because of distance or schedules.

Please keep Dorcas Ministry in your prayers.

BAD WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

The pastor will consult with the Consistory President to determine if the service of worship should be cancelled, and the pastor will determine if other scheduled activities and events should be canceled due to bad weather. If the pastor is away, the President will make the decision regarding cancellation.



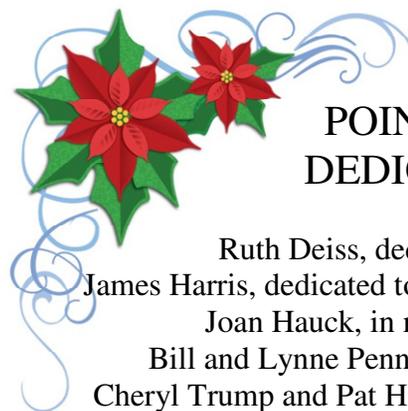
Sunday morning cancellations will be made by 7:00 AM.

Weekday and Saturday cancellations will be made 2 hours prior to the event or activity.

The pastor will notify all staff. The pastor will work with designated individuals to see that the cancellation is posted on the homepage of the church website (www.stjamesucc.org) by Connie George and its Facebook page by Cheryl Trump. All members with email should check the website or Facebook page to get information on whether the event is cancelled.

If a cancellation involves a particular group, the pastor will make sure the group is notified via homepage message on the church website.

If anyone is unsure of whether an event or activity will be held, they are encouraged to call the pastor (610.733.1502).



POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Ruth Deiss, dedicated to loved ones
James Harris, dedicated to June D. and Richard E. Harris
Joan Hauck, in memory of loved ones
Bill and Lynne Penn, in memory of loved ones
Cheryl Trump and Pat Haley, in memory of our parents



God bless our winter birthday folks!

JANUARY

3 – Jillian Morris
5 – John Endicott
13 – Ophelia Klein-Keane
15 – Samuel Richardson
22 – Lynne Penn
24 – Ron Jones, Jr.
27 – Cristin Jones

FEBRUARY

1 – Stephen Schweers
9 – Connie George
13 – Pauline Greene
16 – Karen Penn
20 – Nicky Bayliss
21 – Jeff Penn
25 – Ryan Labar
26 – Brooke Bayliss
26 – Matt Jones

OTHER NOTES:

- A reminder that in the new year you can make your offerings to St. James electronically through **VANCO**. If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving option. As the pace of life speeds up, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. It's easy to sign up – just call the church office for an Authorization Form.
- The 2017 issue of the **CHURCH DIRECTORY** will be coming out soon. Please let the church office know if your address or phone number or email address has changed.



THE REV. LYNN P. LAMPMAN

Pastor's Phone: 610-733-1502

Maggie Realley, Director of Music

Pastor Aimee Brackbill, Director of Children's Ministries

Allison Fineberg, Maria McGovern, Nursery

Church Office 610-446-3036

Email: secretary@stjamesucc.org

In the New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship, never in want. ~ Irish Toast

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called "Opportunity" and its first chapter is New Year's Day. ~ Edith Lovejoy Pierce

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way. ~ Minnie L. Haskins

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man. ~ Benjamin Franklin

A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year. ~ Edgar A. Guest

The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul. ~ G. K. Chesterton

For the children . . .



Hibernating Animals Word Search



j	g	y	l	f	r	e	t	t	u	b	g
r	g	r	o	u	n	d	h	o	g	e	t
g	o	p	s	n	a	k	e	a	e	s	v
o	o	p	k	d	n	g	e	i	y	u	q
h	h	u	j	z	n	a	p	x	a	o	a
e	t	e	s	i	o	t	r	o	t	m	i
g	a	p	d	s	p	s	a	w	a	r	g
d	d	c	o	q	z	r	a	e	b	o	o
e	a	b	s	n	a	i	l	s	r	d	r
h	o	e	l	a	d	y	b	i	r	d	f
z	t	e	d	e	n	m	r	b	c	j	f
a	g	k	n	u	k	s	o	m	z	e	o

bat	bear	bee	butterfly
dormouse	frog	groundhog	hedgehog
ladybird	skunk	snail	snake
toad	tortoise	wasp	