



# Hilltop Views

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135 Myrtle Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083

610-446-3036

[www.stjamesucc.org](http://www.stjamesucc.org)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

FROM THE PASTOR

## GROWING IN FAITH AND SERVICE: "I CAN MASTER THIS."

Continuing with our countdown list of the "40 things I should say before I die" is #20 **"I can master this."** How appropriate that it would come up on our list of 40 in the exact month when we have the distribution of our commitment cards for 2018 and as we end the year and look forward to having a new start in January of 2018.

"I can master this." is a bold statement that announces loud and clear that you think with practice and perseverance you will become competent, and maybe even proficient in whatever you are seeking to master. This year, as a church we are focusing our energy, time and resources on doing the two things we think as a church should be our priority and primary focus: growing in faith, and coming together in service. Both of these are a must for us as a church, and as individuals, if we are to truly follow Jesus and walk in his footsteps.

Yet, the inner journey of prayer, scripture, meditation, forgiveness, financial giving, and worship takes work, which requires practice. Day and day doing it, so that it becomes not only a habit, but a part of you, as if it were a companion to your very breath - that which you can't do without because it is a must for your very existence.

The outer journey is no different. Serving others takes a certain level of perseverance. I think the perseverance comes into play in two areas. One, is you must clear the time to serve others. Our world is constantly making all kinds of demands on us. Yet, the



question is whether we will make service a top priority in such a way that it is always on our mind to do, and keep as a part of our lives and thus we say our "no's" accordingly, so serving others may stay at the top of our "to do" list. The other factor which can peek out

coming together in service is dealing with our discomfort. Serving others often means doing what we have never done before for those with whom we are unfamiliar or just a tiny bit familiar. Sometimes when we realize this, fear sets in. Yet, we must persevere and work through the discomfort and fear of unfamiliarity to the point where it takes a back seat, and actually serving takes the front seat.

So then, carry on my brothers and sisters in Christ, so you too can say when it comes to growing in faith and coming together in service in 2018, "I can master this." You are encouraged to utilize and fill out the 2018 commitment card either placed in your church mailbox or mailed to your home, and bring it to worship on November 19<sup>th</sup> or mail it to the church by that date or soon thereafter. May God richly bless you as you step out in faith and service.

*Pastor Lynn*

## WORSHIP

### WORSHIP/PREACHING SCHEDULE

#### A Place at the Table (November 5-26, 2017)

This series focuses on Holy Communion and the biblical theme of shared meals. When we break bread together, whether at the family dinner table or at the Lord's table, we share in the fellowship and love with God and with one another. Over these four weeks, we move from setting the table, to inviting guests, blessing the meal, and extending the table.



*"The Bread that we break is a communion (koinonia) with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body, because we all have a share in this one loaf." (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)*

November 5 – "Setting the Table," Holy Communion

November 12 – "Invitation to the Table," Holy Communion,

Baptism: Zoe George

November 19 – "Blessing the Table," Holy Communion

November 26 – "Extending the Table," Holy Communion

#### God Bless Us Everyone! (December 3-24, 2017)

This Advent/Christmas series will take a look at how living in God's economy of grace and justice is the antithesis of the life-threatening addiction to money, success, exclusion and looking out for ourselves. The chimes of the clock-tower bells in Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol provide a wake-up call for Ebenezer Scrooge and turn him from his resentment, fear and isolation. Just as God's presence was born anew into the world, we too can be born anew, woken up and redeemed into renewed life, joy, passion, generosity, humility and love.

*"God has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things..." (Luke 1)*



December 3 (1st Sunday of Advent) - "Bah Humbug! Making Change" (Luke 1:46-47, 52-55), Holy Communion

December 10 (2nd Sunday of Advent) - "The Remembrance of Christmas Past: Hope from Heartbreak" (Luke 2:8-14)

December 17 (3rd Sunday of Advent) - "The Life of Christmas Present: Look Upon Me" (Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Matthew 2:1-18), Sunday School Christmas Pageant; The Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross) Offering

December 24 (4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve) - The Hope of Christmas Future – "Death-Defying Acts" (Revelation 1:4, Romans 8:4b-17) and "Keeping Christmas Well" (Luke 1:26, 2:20, John 1:1-14); Bethany Children's Home Offering

#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

**On Sunday, December 24, there will be no Sunday morning service, only a Christmas Eve service at 5:00 PM.**

**The Haverford Township  
Ministerium presents**

### ***Interfaith Thanksgiving Service***

**Sunday, November 19, 2017 3:00 p.m.**

**Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church  
100 N. Edmonds Ave., Havertown**

***Anthem by joint choir.  
Refreshments will follow.***

***Freewill offering will go  
to the local Interfaith  
Hospitality Network.***



## READERS:

Nov 5 – Dave Winters	Dec 3 – Walter Smith
Nov 12 – Kathy Pioggia	Dec 10 – Bobbie-Lou Krok
Nov 19 – Joanne Morris	Dec 17 – Joanne Jones
Nov 26 – Marian McKenzie	Dec 24 – Pastor Lynn Lampman
	Dec 31 – Pastor Lynn Lampman

### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT FAMILY SERVICE**

**Sunday, 5:00 P.M.**

**Bethany Children's Home Offering**

**No 10:30 a.m. worship service on  
Sunday, Dec. 24**



### **CHILDREN**

We have been busy downstairs in Children's Ministry! Many of our youth attended their first Mission Trip early in the fall, and have brought back ideas for service opportunities throughout the year. Our youngest children are enjoying getting to know our new nursery caregiver, Andrea! And the school-aged children are working their way through the Old Testament during Sunday



School. We are really enjoying the use of our new curriculum, Spark. The nursery and school-aged kiddos work on the same topics each week, and take home a family handout that gives ideas for follow-up

activities and prayers related to the bible reading. The children have enjoyed the illustrated stories in our Children's Bibles and the

fun pamphlet we complete each week during our Sunday School time.

Beginning in November we will be hearing the impactful stories of the Ten Commandments, Battle of Jericho, Naomi and Ruth, and David and Goliath. We are also beginning to work on several opportunities to sing during worship. We will be singing a welcome song to Zoe George during her baptism, as well as a Thanksgiving poem and song. Our biggest upcoming performance is of course our Christmas Pageant! This year we will be presenting a traditional pageant. We hope to see full pews on **December 17** when we perform the story of Jesus' birth.



Best,  
Allison

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** – Mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 9, 9–11:30 AM** for this year's Breakfast with Santa. There will be a delicious breakfast buffet, craft table for the



children, and photos with Santa (and Mrs. Claus!). The cost for the buffet is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 2–12 years old. Would you like to help with this fun event? Please contact Cheryl T, [cmtrump@comcast.net](mailto:cmtrump@comcast.net). We need some help Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.



You have an opportunity to sponsor a Food Pantry family for this event. A donation of \$22 will sponsor two adults and three children. Please mark your check Breakfast with Santa/Food Pantry. Donations should be in to the church no later than Sunday, December 3.



## MUSIC

### JOIN THE JUBILANT RINGERS OF ST. JAMES UCC IN RINGING THE “GOOD NEWS” ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Rehearsals, held in the music room, will be on:  
Sundays 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>

Please fill out the sign-up form below and return  
to the church office or Maggie Realley's  
church mailbox by November 10<sup>th</sup>.



I am interested in ringing  
in our handbell choir  
on Christmas Eve:

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I commit to attending all four rehearsals:

11/19    12/3    12/10    12/17

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Return by Nov. 10)

## ADULTS & FAMILIES

**FALL RETREAT: Road Trip: Five Adventures You're Meant to Live** (Identity, Faith, Discipleship, Contentment and Service).  
Saturday, **November 4**, 12:00 – 5:00 PM at the church. Go with us on a “road trip” that provides you with more than an ample dose of inspiration, encouragement, and resources to help you live your life even more fully. Registration is required. Let us know you are coming at [pastor@stjamesucc.org](mailto:pastor@stjamesucc.org).

### **BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS**

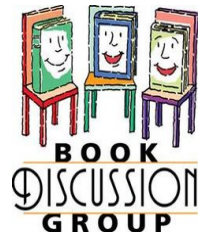
Please join us for the last session of the three-month Bible Study focused on Orientation, Disorientation, and Reorientation. A face-to-face meeting will be held on Thursday, **November 9**, and Facebook postings and comments will be published weekly. Photographs from Visual Faith Project will be utilized for discussion.

### **BOOK CLUB**

November's meeting of the St. James Book Club will be held on Monday, **November 13** at 7:00 PM. We will discuss two books at this meeting. They are The Dressmaker by Ruth Ware, which is a work of fiction which takes place in a little town in Australia, and First Women by Kate Anderson Brower, which highlights real events of our First Ladies from Jackie Kennedy through Michelle Obama. Two very different offerings. In December we will discuss Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly. This is a very interesting story that follows three young women during WWII. This meeting is on Monday, **December 11**, 7:00 PM.

I'm including an updated list of our offerings through June for anyone who would like an interesting book list. We hope that you would consider joining us, but if that's not possible the list is available to all.

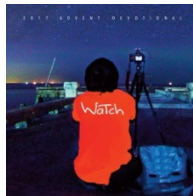
Have a wonderful holiday season!  
Joanne Morris



Nov. The Dressmaker by Rosalie Ham and/or  
First Women by Kate Anderson Brower  
 Dec. The Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly  
 Jan. Framed by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (NF)  
 Feb. Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty  
 March Camino Island by John Grisham  
 April Me Before You by JoJo Moyes  
 May Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult  
 June Chaperone by Laura Moriarty

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.** There will be a congregational meeting to vote on a new Consistory slate for 2018, and to discuss and vote on our 2018 budget. The meeting will take place immediately following worship on **Sunday, November 19.**

**UCC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE FOR 2017** will be put in everyone's church mailboxes on Sunday, **November 26.**



**COMMUNITY DINE AROUND** will be on **Monday, December 11,** at



Temple Lutheran Church, 12:00 noon. This will be a Christmas celebration, and is for all ages! The cost is \$7.00. Please call the St. James Church office to make your reservation by Wednesday, December 6.

The remaining 2017-2018 Dine Around schedule is:

Dec 11	Temple Lutheran Church	Christmas
March 12	Annunciation BVM Church	St. Patrick's Day
May 14	St. James UCC	Spring Picnic

### MISSION/OUTREACH

#### **SAM'S KITCHEN:**

Our next serving date is Wednesday, **November 8.** We'll plan to cook that afternoon at **4:00 p.m.**, and put finishing touches on the meal and pack and head down to the Life Center at **6:00 p.m.** Would you like to help prepare the meal or serve at the Life

Center? It will without doubt be a rewarding experience for you. Please contact me at [hart.edwardm@gmail.com](mailto:hart.edwardm@gmail.com) or 610-449-3728 to volunteer, or talk to me at church—and thank you for helping Sam's Kitchen continue to feed our community!  
 Ed Hart, Coordinator

**DORCAS YARN MINISTRY.** Shawls laying across pews in the sanctuary are available for you to use and for you to gift to someone you know who is dealing with health issues or loss. Dorcas is a St. James ministry open to all church and community members who "wish to stitch." Some participants come to our monthly meeting for fellowship while knitting or crocheting on the third Monday night of the month at 7pm in the Penn Resource Room. Others stitch from home and bring/send prayer shawls and other items to St. James. The commonality among all participants is our interest in combining our love of Christ and interest in "stitching" to help others.

Our group has just finished providing 20 prayer shawls for the St. James Cancer Packages ministry. It was a labor of love that we were privileged to do. Now we need to restock! We are in need of more people (men and women!) who wish to knit or crochet prayer shawls. If you are interested or you know someone who may be, please be in touch with Joanne Morris or Connie George. Our prayer needs are for more participants and for enough items for those who need these gifts. Our next meetings are **November 20** and **December 18.** If the weather is questionable, please verify that the meeting is still going on.



#### **PET THERAPY**

The PAWS reading program will take place on Tuesday, **November 21, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.** There will be no session in December. The next session will be January 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. To register a child to participate, please contact the church office at 610-446-3036, or [secretary@stjamesucc.org](mailto:secretary@stjamesucc.org).



We will be hosting a holiday celebration along with some pet therapy for Our Ladies of South Croft (a group home for developmentally disabled seniors) on Thursday, **December 21** (6:30-7:30 PM). If you would like to help with this event and get to know these wonderful women, please be in touch with Pastor Lynn ([lpampman@comcast.net](mailto:lpampman@comcast.net)) or 610-733-1502.

**PENNSYLVANIA SPCA COLLECTION:** Barb Adams is managing a collection that runs from Thanksgiving through Christmas, on behalf of Cranberry, a dog she found emaciated and left to die in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia last November. The money raised



will go to help the PSPCA Vet Hospital and Humane Law Enforcement who work tirelessly to help abused animals from our region. Some of the items they need include, blankets, pet food (unopened), leashes and collars, aprons, and treats (unopened). A box for donations will be in the narthex starting the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

#### **ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET**

For two Sundays, **December 3 and 10**, you can make a monetary donation to any of the three organizations chosen for this year, in the name of a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative. Checks and cash are accepted. Cards will be available, so the person in whose name the gift was given may receive a card from you designating the gift. This year's selections will be:

##### **International**

##### **Heifer Farm:**

Flock of ducks, geese or chicks - \$20

Honeybees - \$30

##### **Local**

##### **Cancer Care Packages:**

Partial package -\$25, Full package - \$50

##### **Pet Therapy:**

Session for four developmentally disabled seniors - \$17

Session for six readers for our reading program with dogs - \$17

1 book for our reading program - \$10



##### **United States**

**Eco Homes for Tribal Families** (Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota) – 20 compressed earth blocks - \$33

One day workshop teaching a Tribal member about eco-friendly home building - \$71

##### **THE CHRISTMAS FUND – Sunday,**

**December 17.** Monies collected

provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees – the funds do not support programs or institutions, but people.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund provides for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees. Your gifts are needed

more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.



**BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS OFFERING.** A long tradition for St. James Church is the Bethany Children's Home

offering each year at Christmas. At our **Christmas Eve service**, please bring in to St. James your monetary gifts for Bethany. Christmas is the season when we think of God's supreme gift of the holy child Jesus to our world. How appropriate that during this Advent and Christmas season we offer our gifts to the children of Bethany in honor of Jesus. A special offering



envelope marked *Bethany Children's Home* is included in your boxed set.

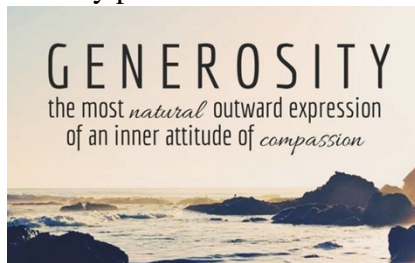


## FOOD PANTRY

*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*

What a wonderful thing to know that we have a relationship with God that informs all that we do, how we live, and that St. James lives out the generosity God teaches us. Our food pantry is often a beacon of hope for those who struggle to make ends meet, and in our generosity as a congregation we show the love of Christ each time we encounter our food pantry families.

Your individual generosity is what drives this mission and keeps it going. We constantly search for community partners to work with us but you are steadfast in your support. As we move into the holiday season and are out about preparing for our own celebrations please keep in mind adding a few extra things to donate to the food pantry.



There are other things you can do to help....

- Organize a food drive in your workplace, social group or neighborhood
- Ask your local merchant if they would donate any goods to the food pantry
- If you don't want or need gifts – ask your family/friends to donate food or grocery gift cards to the food pantry
- Tell your friends about the food pantry and our willingness to take donations

Thank you all for your continued support of this much needed mission. All donations are welcome - here are some suggestions:

Peanut butter and jelly	Macaroni and Cheese
Canned tuna and chicken	Canned Chili or stew
Soup	Canned pasta
Pasta Sauce	

Lynne Major



*Thanks to the generosity of the Haverford Community Y gardeners, our Food Pantry families received nutritious veggies throughout the summer and fall. ☺*

## LOOKING AHEAD:

### LGBT Workshop

**Saturday, January 20**, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. (Snow Date: Saturday, January 27). We will be offering an affirming and practical workshop for LGBT couples who are seeking to deepen and strengthen their relationship. The problem is not that we want too much from our relationships, but rather that we want too little. Come and join us for what will be a fun, meaningful, and



helpful day in which there will be great takeaways for couples on how to communicate more effectively, "fight" fair, and the importance of gratitude and appreciation in your relationship. Our desire is to provide a place where your commitment to one another is celebrated and you feel safe and affirmed by just spending time with those who understand you and your story, because it is their story too. The workshop is free. Registration is required ([pastor@stjamesucc.org](mailto:pastor@stjamesucc.org)).

### Financial Peace University

Will be held in **February and March 2018**, and dates and time will be determined by participants. This 9-lesson course by Dave Ramsey includes both online viewing of the weekly session, and a weekly face-face gathering for discussion with Lynne Major as the facilitator. The nine lessons include: super saving, relating with money, cash flow planning, dumping debt, buyer beware, the role of insurance, retirement and college



planning, real estate and mortgages, and the great misunderstanding (generous giving). The cost for the course is \$129. Scholarships are available upon request. Registration is required ([lamajor1@comcast.net](mailto:lamajor1@comcast.net)).



#### NOVEMBER

- 1 – David B. Morris
- 2 – Charlie McKenzie-Smith
- 13 – Lois Adams



*"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not." - Oprah Winfrey*

#### OTHER NOTES:

- **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** ends 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning, **November 5**. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday evening.



- A reminder that at any time you can choose to send 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.

When Mrs. Klein told her first graders to draw a picture of something for which they were thankful, she thought how little these children, who lived in a deteriorating neighborhood, actually had to be thankful for. She knew that most of the class would draw pictures of turkeys or of bountifully laden Thanksgiving tables. That was what they believed was expected of them. What took Mrs. Klein aback was Douglas's picture. Douglas was a forlorn little one and likely to be found close in her shadow as they went outside for recess. Douglas's drawing was simply this: A hand, obviously, but whose hand? The class was captivated by his image. "I think it must be the hand of God that brings us food," said one student.



"A farmer," said another, "because they grow the turkeys."  
"It looks more like a policeman, and they protect us."

"I think," said Lavinia, who was always so serious, "that it is supposed to be all the hands that help us, but Douglas could only draw one of them."

Mrs. Klein had almost forgotten Douglas in her pleasure at finding the class so responsive. When she had the others at work on another project, she bent over his desk and asked whose hand it was.

Douglas mumbled, "It's yours, Teacher."

Then Mrs. Klein recalled that she had taken Douglas by the hand from time to time; she often did that with the children. But that it should have meant so much to Douglas ...

Perhaps, she reflected, this was her Thanksgiving, and everybody's Thanksgiving—not the material things given to us, but the small ways that we give something to others.





## THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Gracious God,  
we give thanks for the pleasure  
of gathering together for this occasion.  
We give thanks for this food.  
Prepared by loving hands.  
We give thanks for life;  
the freedom to enjoy it  
and all other blessings.  
As we partake of this food,  
we pray for health and strength  
to carry on and try to live  
as you would have us.  
This we ask in the name of Christ. Amen.



## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we celebrate your birthday  
be with us today around this table  
and help us to know true peace and joy.  
We remember those who are without food today,  
and we ask that through the generosity of others  
they may find nourishment and love. Amen.



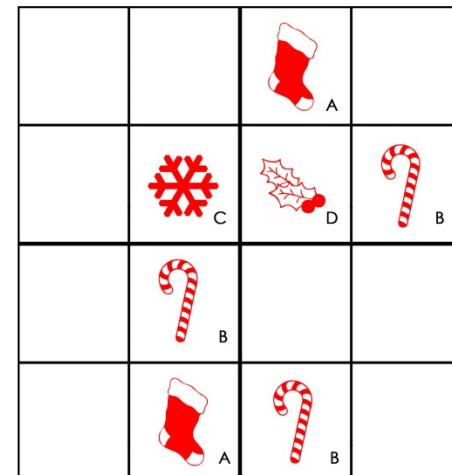
These prayers come from the St. James Table Graces booklet. If  
you would like a copy, simply contact the church office. ☺

For the children . . .



## Christmas Sudoku Puzzle

Fun with Printer Crafts



Would you like to present a **POINSETTIA** as a memorial or in honor of a loved one this Christmas season? Fill out the form below and attach your check made payable to St. James UCC. The cost is \$5.00 per plant. **Please submit your order by Tuesday, December 12.**

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### POINSETTIAS

\_\_\_\_red \_\_\_\_white

\$5.00 per plant. Please make payment at time of ordering.



Dedication:\_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME:\_\_\_\_\_

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### THE REV. LYNN P. LAMPMAN

Pastor's Phone: 610-733-1502

Maggie Realley, Director of Music

Allison Fineberg, Director of Children's Ministries

Andrea Angiulo, Nursery

Maria McGovern, Nursery

Ailene Dunlap, Secretary

Church Office 610-446-3036

Email: [secretary@stjamesucc.org](mailto:secretary@stjamesucc.org)