



Hilltop Views

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135 Myrtle Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083

610-446-3036

www.stjamesucc.org

JULY/AUGUST 2018

FROM THE PASTOR

According to Forbes Magazine, this is number 15 on our countdown of 40 things you should say to yourself (and maybe others) before you die: **“This was my contribution.”**

When it comes to making a contribution, I think we need to ask ourselves two things:

1. Are we giving at all, and if not, why not?
2. If we are giving, are we giving all of what we have to give?

Some of us neglect in making a contribution, because we think our contribution is not needed. We feel like it is being taken care of by others, so we are not that essential and thus not really needed. Yet, that is often a misperception on our part. It is so hard to tell what is needed, unless we are behind the scenes and in touch with all the details of what is needed. So, that leaves each and every one of us who are not behind the scenes and in the know to ask what is needed and then to assess whether we can truly and honestly meet

that need.

The average weekly offering contribution to church within our Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ is \$8.50. If we do the math, there then is a yearly contribution of \$442. Add that by the number of people we currently have as members 63 and you would get a yearly income of \$27,846. What



church can run on that amount of yearly contributions? This was an eye opener to me. One which caused me to look once again at what people are giving to St. James – we have some above the \$8.50 a week range, and many below that amount.

Now, onto what is needed which you may not know. The Consistory (board) of St. James upon analyzing our finances regarding the first five months of 2018 compared to 2017 (a typical year for us at St. James, a pattern that was similar to the previous five years) concluded we have received \$8,500 less contributions in current giving (our offering plate collection and offerings mailed in) compared to last year to date. In addition, we have had to spend twice (\$14,000) as much as last year for building repair in maintenance than the first five months of 2017 (\$7,000). Why? More money has been needed for a new cleaning service, a stone wall on the property that needed repointing, and services to manage the mice (in this “old barn”). Thus, we have had to make an additional \$15,000 drawdown from our savings which now amounts to \$50,000 savings drawdown for the first five months of 2018. We have not needed to draw down that amount of money since 2011.

This is where we are as a church giving the first five months of 2018. And given that, maybe those who have a bit of money to share now can share it with the church. And maybe, now we may all know that our contribution is needed.

What gives us real fulfillment in life? Scripture says in the giving away of ourselves and what we have. Jesus says, "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." When all is said and done and we leave this earth, all of us want to be able to say, "**This was my contribution.**" We hope you will find your life, in making a contribution whether it be with time, talent or money to your church. I know it has helped me find fulfillment, and I encourage you to join me and find that which is life-giving when we give ourselves away.

Pastor Lynn

WORSHIP

WORSHIP/PREACHING SCHEDULE

We Live, We Love (July 8 - September 2)

The struggle with right relationship is a human theme that we've been dealing with ever since we were "humans." To live is to love - no way around it! These themes cross boundaries of time and geography and we also find them in some of the most ancient stories of our Judeo-Christian tradition. How are we to deal with human frailty and the ways in which our fear shows up in difficult relationships?



July 8 - "Leaving Home" (Genesis 3:22-23) Holy Communion
July 15 - "Finding Refuge" (Genesis 7:1-3),
July 22 - "Looking Back" (Genesis 19:17)
July 29- "Rejected" (Genesis 21:9-10)
August 5 - "Birth Order" (Genesis 25:27-28) Holy Communion
August 12- "Playing Favorites" (Genesis 27:29)
August 19 - "Wrestling with God" (Genesis 32:24; 33:20)
August 26 - "Face to Face" (Genesis 33:10)
September 2- "Reconciled" (Genesis 45:14-15)



READERS:

July 1 – Mary Beck	August 5 – Lynne Major
July 8 – Jay Vasell	August 12 – Cheryl Trump
July 15 – Marian McKenzie	August 19 – Dick Beck
July 22 – Bobbie-Lou Krok	August 26 – Ray Leonardo
July 29 – Walter Smith	

CHILDREN

We had a great wrap-up to our Summer School year with four presentations in the month of May – Mother's Day, a song for Pentecost as well as a God Rod presentation, and our goodbye poem for Ms. Maggie! It was wonderful to see the children come together for all of the performances but especially for the God Rod act which was done entirely by the children!

In June we gave gifts to the men in our congregation celebrating all that they have poured (or spilled!) into us. In the last week of June, we were joined by many children for our celebration of LOVE! We talked about how we could be a RAINBOW in someone else's cloud, and the children had lots of wonderful ideas for how to do that – from little things like a hug, to bigger things like standing up to a group of protesters.



As we move full-swing into summer, we are working on art projects based on some of the bible stories that we learned about this past school year. Each week, children of all ages will join together to revisit the bible story, then create a multi-media project that explores the story more fully. As has been done in past years, there will be only one caregiver on Sunday mornings as Ms. Andrea and I take turns coming each week.



Last, our garden is flourishing! If you haven't already, please sign up for a date to tend (weed and water) our garden! We need all of the help we can get. You can visit this link to help –

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0449adaa22a0f49-garden>

Please save the date for September 2 – which will be our Summer Wrap-Up and Blessing of the Backpacks! As always don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or want to chat 😊

Best,

Allison Fineberg

ADULTS & FAMILIES

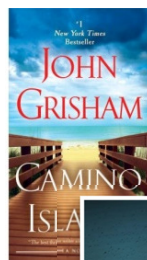
POTLUCK FOR BODY AND SOUL– “Nature’s Bounty: A Summer Picnic.” A potluck luncheon will immediately follow worship on Sunday, **August 5**, for the purpose of getting to know one another better, and having caring conversations about faith. You are encouraged to bring your favorite “taste of summer.”



SPIRITUAL EXERCISES GROUP will meet on Sunday, **July 8** at 9:00 AM in the Pastor’s office. August date will set by the group at their July meeting.

BOOK CLUB Our book club continues to meet on the second Monday of each month of the year, including throughout the summer. We gather in the Penn Room at 7:00 p.m. If you've never had an opportunity to join us, maybe summer is the perfect time!! We welcome all.

July 9 - Camino Island by John Grisham
August 13 - The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
September 10 - A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.



Looking forward to seeing everyone. Happy Reading!!!

Joanne Morris

MISSION/OUTREACH

PET THERAPY

- The **PAWS reading program** has two summer sessions in July and August on the following weekly dates:
 - Tuesdays, **July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** (6:30-7:30 PM) with Milo and Pam, Joy and Cheryl, Linus and Kate
 - Thursdays, **August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** (10:00-11:00 AM) with Luna and Pastor Lynn



There are a few spots open. To register a child to participate, please use Sign Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084fa4aa23abff2-paws>, or visit the St. James website.

- Thursday, **July 5**, 9:30 a.m. **Bible Study** at Elwyn’s Harmony Hall. Please let Pastor Lynn know if you’d like to come.
- On Thursday, **July 19**, 6:00 p.m. **Ice Cream Sundae Bar** at Elwyn for the residents of Harmony Hall. We invite you to join us either at 5:15 PM at the church for the carpool going to Elwyn or you could go there directly. Serving will start at 6 PM. All those interested should be in touch with Pastor Lynn so she can coordinate the evening. We have ice cream, but would appreciate contributions of toppings (syrops, whipped cream, cherries, sprinkles). Bring your contributions to church on Sunday July 15.



- Wednesday, **July 25**, 2:30 p.m. **Pet Therapy** at Harmony Hall.
- Wednesday, **August 1**, 9:30 a.m. **Bible Study** at Harmony Hall. Please let Pastor Lynn know if you’d like to come.
- Wednesday, **August 22**, 2:30 p.m. **Pet Therapy** at Harmony Hall.

PAWS ORIENTATION AT ST. JAMES Saturday, **August 11** (10:00 AM-1:00 PM) and Training on Saturday, **August 25** (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM). During these two sessions potential teams (dog and human) will be learn about PAWS, have their dogs STEX tested, and receiving training on how to make pet therapy visits. Registration is required. To register contact PAWS (pawsforpeople.org or (302) 351-5622).



SAM'S KITCHEN:

Our next COOKING and SERVING date is Wednesday, **July 11**, 4:00 p.m. for cooking, and 6:00 p.m. for serving. 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 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. Dorcas is on summer break, but members are still welcome to stitch at home! Please see Connie George, Joanne Morris, or the Pastor to obtain a prayer shawl to gift to someone you know who is having a hard time. Whether you are making items, blessing items, praying for Dorcas or gifting items, YOU are part of St. James' Dorcas Ministry. Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY

Summer is a time for many to relax, vacation, soak up the warmth of the sun, be more active..... For a food pantry it is often a time when donations slow and needs rise. Your donations continue to be the mainstay of our food pantry mission and we are grateful for your support even when things slow down. There are certain foods that we are in need of at this time including the following:

breakfast items (cereal, pancake mix and syrup, oatmeal, breakfast bars)
canned fruit
baked beans
canned tuna and chicken
juice
snacks
peanut butter and jelly
toilet paper



All donations are welcomed and help us continue our mission. God bless you for your generosity.



JULY

1 – Ed Hart
10 – Lynn Sharrar
23 – Charlotte Caples
30 – Claire Caples

AUGUST

1 – Marty Kitagawa
1 – Asher Gonsalves
1 – Joanne Morris
2 – Peter Krok
6 – Christine Miller
8 – Dylan McHale
8 – Dick Beck
15 – Walter Smith
16 – Richard Schatz
17 – Vanessa Von Dulm
18 – Cheryl Trump
30 – Bobbie Lou Krok
31 - Grace McKenzie-Smith

*"The best part of life
is not just surviving,
but thriving with
passion and
compassion and
humor and style
and generosity and
kindness."
Maya Angelou*

OTHER NOTES:

- **FREE BOX FANS** for folks age 65+. Pick up at Surrey Senior Center, 1105 Earlington Road, Havertown. Entrance on Kenmore Road. Picture ID required. No income eligibility. Open 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** For the summer, Pastor Lynn's day off will continue to be on Mondays. She will also be taking every Friday as vacation. Please only contact her in the case of an emergency (hospitalizations and death) on those two days. All other matters can and will be dealt with on the other five days of each week.
- **The Church Office will be CLOSED** August 31 – September 12. Ailene away on vacation. Phone messages will be checked daily.



THE REV. LYNN P. LAMPMAN

Pastor's Phone: 610-733-1502

Allison Fineberg, Director of Children's Ministries

Andrea Angiulo, Nursery

Ailene Dunlap, Secretary



Church Office 610-446-3036

Email: secretary@stjamesucc.org

Website: www.stjamesucc.org



For the children . . .

SUMMER WORD SCRAMBLE

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