



## Hilltop Views

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135 Myrtle Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083

610-446-3036

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

### FROM THE PASTOR

According to Forbes Magazine, this is number 13 in our countdown of 40 things you should say to yourself (and maybe others) before you die: **“This is my favorite thing.”**

How ironic that “This is my favorite thing” should come up during the first two months of my three month sabbatical.



I was always amazed (and I just saw it this week again) when in the “Sound of Music” Maria can rattle off in song a list of her favorite things. I am not sure I could do the same, much less with such ease.

So then, why is it that we have to really think for quite a bit before we can rattle off all of our favorite things. My guess is that for some, as it is for me at times, we have gotten just too busy to do some of our favorite things, thus they move to the back of our mind and are almost out of range.

Just this week, I took a peek at a book I am going to be exploring during sabbatical. It is called How To Be An Explorer Of The World: Portable Art/Life Museum, and in it, the author Keri Smith discusses ideas and makes assignments. I opened the book, to remind myself what will be the first “assignment” during sabbatical and found “Exploration #1: Right Where You Are Sitting,” where you are asked to “Write ten things about where you are sitting right now that you hadn’t noticed when you sat down. Use your senses. Do it quickly. Do not censor. Okay, begin.” I was astounded how many things I had not noticed though I had been seated in the room for over an hour. I had to sit a few more hours at the desk, so I took a break near the end of the day to do the assignment again, only to discover some of my favorite things were found right there – Luna my four legged-companion under the desk, the beautiful markings on my desk made from the blight of the American Chestnut, my dining room Shaker harvest table that was the first piece of furniture I purchased as I went to serve my first congregation in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania... And the list went on and on.

Sometimes, we don’t need to go somewhere else to find our favorite things, because they are right there in front of, around, and within us (in the form of memories). How great it is to know we don’t have to wait for our favorite things till we have time to go somewhere. Rather, many of our favorite things are with us now, if we would both take the time to notice. They are shimmering, savor them, summon them to us or let them summon us, and then be still, so as to cherish this moment and receive from it fully what it has to offer us.

In the months of sabbatical, I will be sure to enjoy some of my favorite things. My prayer is that you will have the opportunity to do so the same in the months ahead.

*Pastor Lynn*

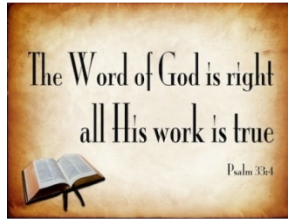
## WORSHIP

We warmly welcome Rev. Emily Livingston as our “Interim Pastor” during Pastor Lynn Lampman’s sabbatical, January 1 through March 31, 2019.



### READERS:

Jan 6 – Mary Beck	Feb 3 – Walter Smith
Jan 13 – Jay Vasell	Feb 10 – Lynne Major
Jan 20 – Marian McKenzie	Feb 17 – Cheryl Haley
Jan 27 – Bobbie-Lou Krok	Feb 24 – Dick Beck



*December 28, 2018*

*Dear St. James Church,*

*When I was called to St. James years ago, it was decided that I would be given a three-month sabbatical after serving for seven years. Well, that time has come. Therefore, I will be taking a sabbatical January – March 2019, which will consist of some travel, rest, spiritual renewal, and family time.*

*While I am away, the Rev. Emily Livingston will serve as Sabbatical Interim for January – March 2019. Pastor Livingston’s responsibilities will be preaching, leading worship, and responding to pastoral care emergencies (death, surgery, hospitalization, illness, personal crisis). If you need to reach Emily, she can be reached on her mobile phone: (267) 707-2360. Our heartfelt thanks to Emily for her willingness to serve our*

*congregation, and to Living Water United Church of Christ in Philadelphia for letting their Associate Pastor be with us for three months.*

*All of my responsibilities have been given to volunteers or staff. If you have any questions about who is responsible for what when you have a need, please contact the Sabbatical Team: Kathy Pioggia (610) 613-0888 or Maureen McGurk (484) 529-2320.*

*I thank you for this time and know that I will return to you well rested and further energized to undertake the next set of things God would have us do. Please see below to find out what process we will be using in the next 12 months to determine what God would have us do in the next three to five years.*

*With gratitude,  
The Rev. Lynn P. Lampman  
Pastor*

### Directional Process for St. James United Church of Christ (April 2019 – March 2020)

There have been some rumors that the church might be closing. Please put your worries to rest, for we have way too much to do for us to be thinking about closing up shop. We will be finishing our three-year strategic plan by April 2020. In preparation for the end of that strategic plan, we will be undertaking a twelve-month process, which will involve the whole church and produce a three-five year direction for St. James UCC. The process we will follow will look like this:

### Research, Interviews, and Fact Finding on the Three Questions

(April – August)

1. Who are we: St. James UCC?
2. Who is our neighbor?
3. Who is God calling us to become?

### Presentation on Answers to the Three Questions (mid September) Congregational Meeting/Gathering Potluck

Consistory will share all the information gathered on questions one and two. After the presentation everyone will write on a card three

things that are either missing or brought them joy or excitement in the presentation.

**Period of Discernment** (mid September – mid October: four weeks)  
We will pray everyday about the three things we wrote on our card asking God for discernment, and then take time to listen to God.

**Determining Themes and Skills Needed** (mid October)  
**End of Discernment Worship Celebration and Congregational Potluck**  
Celebrate in worship the end of the four week discernment period. Then, the congregation will meet immediately following worship to share our dreams and what we learned from this time of prayer and discernment.

**Defining Themes and Future Calling** (early November)  
Consistory meets to review themes from the second Congregational Potluck regarding where the church is going in the next 3-5 years, how to get there, and how it will impact the budget.

**Determine Staffing Needs** (January - March 2020)

## CHILDREN

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

- Confirmand and Mentor Meeting is Sunday, January 27, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the church office.
- Church Service Project with One Family Member in February (to be determined by confirmand and family member)

## ADULTS & FAMILIES

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held Sunday, **March 3**, 2019, following worship. At that meeting annual reports of the various ministries and missions will be reviewed.

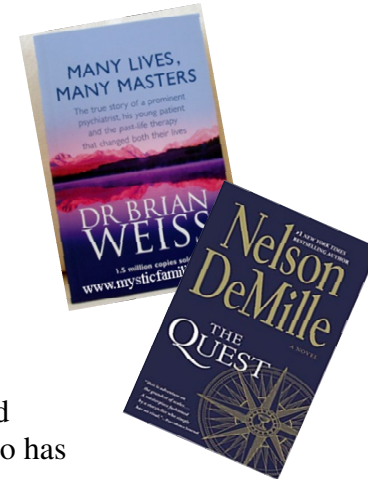


### **BOOK CLUB**

St. James Book Club will meet on the second Monday of each month at 7 pm. **January 14** and **February 11**. All are welcome and we would love for you to join us even if you haven't read the book.

We have selected the books for the first 4 months of the new year. They are:

- **Many Lives, Many Masters**, by Brian Weiss
- **The Quest**, by Nelson DeMille
- **Beneath the Scarlet Sky**, by Mark Sullivan
- **Rules of Civility**, by Amor Towles



All the books are available in paperback, and kindle. I would imagine the local library also has them. Hope to see everyone in January!!  
Joanne Morris

**COMMUNITY DINE AROUND** will be on **Monday, March 11**, at Annunciation BVM Church, 12:00 noon. This will be a St.

Patrick's Day celebration, and is for all ages. The cost is \$7.00. Please call the St. James Church office (610-446-3036) to make your reservation by Wednesday, March 6.



## MISSION/OUTREACH

### **PET THERAPY**

The **PAWS reading program** continues in January and February on the following dates:

- Tuesday, **January 8** (4:30-5:30 PM)
- Tuesday, **January 15** (6:30-7:30 PM)
- Tuesday, **February 12** (4:30-5:30 PM)
- Tuesday, **February 19** (6:30-7:30 PM)



Our Ladies of South Croft will meet at St. James on Thursday, **January 10** and Thursday, **February 14**, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. for Pet Therapy, snack and activity. If anyone is able to help Lynne Major on those dates they should contact her via text or call 610 924-0945.

### SAM'S KITCHEN:

Our next cooking and serving date is Wednesday, **January 9**, meeting at St. James at 4:30 p.m. for cooking, and 6:00 p.m. for traveling to the Life Center to serve. Would you like to help with the cooking or the serving? 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.

If you knit or crochet, or would like to learn, we welcome you to be part of St. James' Dorcas Ministry. No need to buy anything as we have plenty of supplies. You can enjoy the company of other "stitchers" on Monday nights, January 21 and February 18 in the Penn Resource Room 7pm – 8:30pm. We tend to cancel meetings if weather is questionable. Also, you do NOT have to come to meetings to participate. We have members who don't attend. Shawls in the sanctuary are available for you to gift to someone experiencing a health crisis or loss. We appreciate your continued prayers and support of Dorcas. Contact Joanne Morris or Connie George if you have any questions.



### FOOD PANTRY

Our 2018 Food Pantry served 265 times, providing families with a nice full bag of staples, plus fruit and veggies, bread and bagels, pastries, toiletries, extra food, plus occasional Giant Food Store gift cards, and during the month of November, a Giant \$25 gift card for every family who came (30). We have been keeping

records since 2014, which means our present location food pantry is now 5 years old. A lot of people make this happen – our volunteer pantry personnel, our community donors, including the Haverford Township Library and the Community Y, but most of all the people in the St. James pews, who generously support the food pantry throughout the months. God bless you all.

The food pantry is always in need of staple items like tuna, peanut butter and jelly, breakfast items like cereal, pancake mix and syrup, oatmeal, pasta sauce. We collect the first Sunday of each month during worship – or anytime that is convenient for you.

Lynne Major

### ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Many thanks for your gifts to this year's Alternative Gift Market. Donations were made to the following:

Angel Flight East - \$230  
Elders Fund at St. James - \$60  
Hispanic Federation/Unidos - \$330  
Teaching Tolerance - \$160  
Wissahickon Valley Watershed Assoc. - \$90  
Total: \$890

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



God bless our winter birthday folks!

### JANUARY

5 – Keenan McGurk  
8 – Mary Daily  
22 – Lynne Penn



### FEBRUARY

9 – Connie George  
16 – Karen Penn  
21 – Jeff Penn

“Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change.” —Bob Kerrey

### OTHER NOTES:

➤ 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.



### **BAD WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY**

St. James United Church of Christ  
Havertown, PA

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 be notify all staff (John Callahan and Allison Fineberg). The pastor will work with designated individuals to see that the cancellation is posted on the homepage of the church website ([www.stjamesucc.org](http://www.stjamesucc.org)) by Connie George and its Facebook page by Cheryl Haley. All members with email should check the website or Facebook page to get information on whether the event is cancelled.

If a cancelation 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 or text the Consistory President using the Consistory President's mobile number (610-613-0888).



## POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

*Dick Beck, in honor of Mary Beck*  
*Ruth Deiss, in honor of loved ones*  
*Cheryl and Pat Haley, remembering our parents*  
*Joan Hauck, in memory of loved ones*  
*Christa Farnon, in loving memory of William Farnon*  
*Connie George, in memory of Bob George, loving husband and father*  
*Marian McKenzie and Walter Smith, in honor of our marriage, December 20, 1980*  
*Robert Meyers, in memory of wife Cynthia Meyers*

Many thanks to those who sponsored poinsettia for the beautification of our sanctuary this Christmas.



**THE REV. LYNN P. LAMPMAN**  
Pastor's Phone: 610-733-1502  
John Callahan, Director of Music  
Allison Fineberg, Director of Children's Ministries  
Andrea Angiulo, Nursery  
Church Office 610-446-3036  
Email: [secretary@stjamesucc.org](mailto:secretary@stjamesucc.org)  
Website: [www.stjamesucc.org](http://www.stjamesucc.org)

# For the children . . .

Q: Where does a snowman keep his money? A: In a snow bank.

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast? A: Snowflakes.

Q: What kind of ball doesn't bounce? A: A snowball.

Q: What is a girl snowman called? A: A snow-ma'am.

## Word Search



D I C E R I N K I I Y V C I D  
J S N O W F L A K E C X O A J  
V Z S L E D S K T R C E A S I  
U M S J B V N P N S H B T I C  
B S I A G L O V E S R L I T I  
I S H T N B W E F C I A M H C  
Y M M O T T M S I C S N U A L  
B V G A V E A K R O T K Q T E  
O S B V Z E N I E L M E S F S  
O K R M B A L S P D A T L R P  
T A T U B I N G L C S T E O S  
S T I V H A A W A Q E E I S C  
H E X P J X Y Y C O Z J G T A  
I S A R C E K S E T P I H H R  
C U J J A H O T C O C O A Z F

fireplace  
snowman  
tubing  
shovel  
sled  
frost

Christmas  
icicles  
sleigh  
gloves  
ski  
scarf

hot cocoa  
blanket  
skates  
Santa  
coat  
cold

snowflake  
ice rink  
mittens  
boots  
ice  
hat

