



Hilltop Views

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135 Myrtle Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083

610-446-3036

www.stjamesucc.org

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

FROM THE PASTOR

Over the years, I have been working on the theme of “40 Things You Should Say Before You Die” and to date we have reviewed 37 things. For this edition of “Hilltop Views” I will be reviewing number 38 and 39 of the top 40: “I have made a decision” and “I love you.”

All of us know, when it comes to big decisions they are never easy. Yet, decisions are so important to make for without them we cannot move forward. Recently, I found an article that stressed three things that are paramount to making a good decision. First, we need to book time to think. Two, we must fall back on our values. Three, we will need to listen to our hopes.

First things first, we all rush around worrying there is not enough time. Yet, let’s face it, we can always make time for things that are important. When making an important decision we must give that decision ample time and part of doing that is allowing yourself time to ponder and go deeper.

Second, consider what values we have used in the past that have made decision-making possible or easier. Then, take the decision you are trying to make and weigh whether choosing this course of action would violate or affirm one or more of our key values.

Third, listen to our hopes. Often, when we are really struggling with a decision it is because our mind thinks one thing is practical while our heart wants something else. At times like these, we need to pay attention to what we hope will happen. We need to listen to our hopes because they often give us a deeper insight into the decision we actually want to make.

And then is number 39, the three words that are important to say, “I love you.” When our Director of Music Tony Dratwa died suddenly several years ago, I decided then and there to say, “Love you” whenever I felt it. Tony was a big presence that always shed lots of light and love wherever he went. He had a big heart and he wasn’t afraid to show it or say so. I realized after his death, life is short, way too short to hold back from expressing my love to those I love. Ever since then, I feel like I have lived a fuller and richer life, and my thanks to Tony.



Stay tuned, for the March, April “Note from the Pastor” where we will explore the last of the 40 things you should say before you die – “I understand.” Till then, may you make good decisions and say and hear “I love you” often.

Pastor Lynn

WORSHIP/SERMON SERIES: Over the years, we have attempted to foster greater understanding of the Bible. First, we took five years to study all 66 books of the Bible in the format of a monthly Bible Study. Then, we took a year for the “Essential 100” passages of scripture in the format of a weekly sermon and a weekly Facebook discussion group. In 2020 we will take 11 Sundays during worship to go through the great themes of the Old and New Testaments in the format of a weekly sermon.

Great Themes of Scripture (Old and New Testaments)



January 5 - "**Exodus: Journey of Faith**", Holy Communion, Ordination and Installation of Deacons

January 12 - "**Joshua - Kings: The Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary**"

January 19 - "**The Prophets: Radical Traditionalists**"

January 25 - "**Genesis and Job: God and Humankind, Good and Evil**"

February 2 - "**Salvation History: Faith in Evolution**", Holy Communion

February 9 - "**Matthew's Good News: The Reign of God!**"

February 16 - "**Mark and John's Good News: Jesus is Lord!**"

February 23 - "**Luke and Acts: The Gift of the Spirit**"

February 26 - (7:00 PM)- (Ash Wednesday), Holy Communion "**Give It Up or Take It On**"



READERS

Jan 5 – Mary Beck

Jan 12 – Julianna Torres

Jan 19 – Marian McKenzie

Jan 26 – Bobbie-Lou Krok

Feb 2 – Walter Smith

Feb 9 – Lynne Major

Feb 16- Cheryl Haley

Feb 23 – Dick Beck

CHILDREN

We closed out 2019 with a bang downstairs with the kids here at St. James! We had a whopping 19 children in the pageant which is the largest group since I began at St. James 6 Christmases ago. Each child was amazing and did a wonderful job in his or her role on stage. We were blessed to have our Youth Room painstakingly painted by Matt and Joe Tierney who were so amazing to give their time in service to our children. They painted the walls a light gray, the trim a bright white, and some accents in lavender. What a beautiful fresh and clean space for our youth to gather each week. And we have gotten to watch *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *The*

Wardrobe in entirety after our interest was piqued with clips throughout the year. Pastor Lynn even gave us some Turkish Delight to try for our Christmas Party!

As we look ahead to a new year, we will be getting back to "normal" with our Sunday School lessons and readings. Our new year begins with the New Testament and lessons such as Jesus' Baptism, The Disciples and The Lord's Prayer. Each child was given a word or phrase to take home with them which is another name for Jesus. We are also mounting those words downstairs so we can refer to them throughout the year as we read the bible and discuss.

Also with the new year begins our new **CARING KIDS SERVICE CLUB**. This outreach will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month during the time that PAWS takes place, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Each month will focus on a different service opportunity to help the children become familiar with many ways that they can be of service to those around them. Sign ups will be sent out and posted on the St. James Facebook Page on the 1st of the month. Hope to see many of our St. James kids there!

Best,
Allison Fineberg

FAITH FORMATION: GROWING IN FAITH

HARMONY HALL BIBLE STUDY, Wednesday, **January 8**, and Wednesday, **February 5**, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Pastor Lynn always welcomes anyone who would like to go with her.

CENTERING PRAYER (Penn Resource Room) Every other Thursday. All are welcome to learn and pray.

- **January 23** (7:00-8:30 PM)
- **February 6 & 20** (7:00-8:30 PM)

WINTER RETREAT: FINDING THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN SILENCE

Friday, January 10, 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Two teachings on centering prayer and two periods of centering prayer.

Saturday, January 11, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. A time to enjoy silence, find time for reflection, and experience the presence of God. We will be sure to usher you in gently and God will be sure to make it worth your effort. Experience a significant way to deepen your faith and enliven your spiritual growth. Registration is required by January 5. Please contact Pastor Lynn at 610.733.1502 (text) or lplampman@comcast.net (email).

RAISING WHITE KIDS, Sunday, **January 12, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.**

We will gather to hear a summary and have a discussion of the book, Raising White Kids in a Racially Unjust America, by Jennifer Harvey, which explores how parents of white children should navigate the topic of race in the United States.

WHITE FRAGILITY, Sunday, **January 19, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.** We will gather to hear a summary and have a discussion of the book, White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism, by Robin DiAngelo.

NEW TO ST. JAMES GATHERING

Those who have become members or started attending St. James over the last year or so meet throughout the academic year to get to know each other better, be introduced to a spiritual practice that can help us grow in faith, and learn about one of the outreach or missions of St. James. Our next gathering will be Sunday, **January 26, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.** in the choir loft of the sanctuary.



LENT SERIES: DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL HABITS OF PURPOSE

Tuesdays, Feb 25, Mar 3, 10, 17 (8:00-9:00 PM) via Conference Call. To participate, call 604-475-3220 and put in participant number “650222#” when requested.

Each week we will discuss the daily and weekly habit for the upcoming week and share with one another how our daily and weekly habit experience was from the previous week as outlined in *The Common Rule* by Justin Whitmel Earley. Join us in

transforming from frazzled days into lives of love for God and neighbor.

Habit 1 – Daily: Kneeling Prayer at Morning, Midday, and Bedtime

Weekly: One Hour of Conversation with a Friend

Habit 2 – Daily: One Meal with Others

Weekly: Curate Media to Four Hours

Habit 3 – Daily: One Hour with Phone Off

Weekly: Fast from Something for Twenty-Four Hours

Habit 4 – Daily: Scripture Before Phone

Weekly: Sabbath

ADULTS & FAMILIES

BOOK CLUB

Happy 2020 everyone!!! The St. James book club meets the second Monday of each month throughout the year. We use the Penn room and meet at 7pm. Some of the participants are members of St. James, while others are from the community. All are welcome!

The **January 13th** meeting will discuss 'Winter Garden' by Kristen Hannah which delves into deep family history and secrets.



In **February (10th)** we are immersed in a thriller, 'The Flight Attendant' by Chris Bohjalian. Both books are available in paperback and I understand that 'The Flight Attendant' is being made into a movie or tv show.

All our books for the year are on the St. James website. Please understand that I live several miles from church so if there is even a hint of bad winter weather I will cancel. On those dates you can stay snug and warm and read!

I will always email the group if we have to cancel, but if you are not on my list, please call or text me--

610-742-8509. I can also be reached by email at

morrisjoanne16@gmail.com

Hope to see you at book club! Happy reading!

Joanne Morris

CONSISTORY meets Wednesday, **January 15**, and **February 19**, 6:30 p.m.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, **March 1, 2020**, following worship. At that meeting annual reports of the various ministries and missions will be reviewed.

**MISSION: COMING TOGETHER
IN SERVICE**

SAM'S KITCHEN, our meal at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County, 63rd and Market Sts. in Upper Darby, will be prepared on **Tuesday, January 7**, beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meal will be served on **Wednesday, January 8**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Please note change of date. Contact Ed Hart at hart.edwardm@gmail.com or 610-449-3728 if you can help on either date.



FOOD PANTRY

Wednesdays: **Jan 8**, (9:00-11:00 AM), **Jan 22** (6:00-7:00 PM)
Wednesdays: **Feb 5 & 12** (9:00-11:00 AM), **Feb 26** (6:00 – 7:00 PM)
As we enter a new year and a new decade, we continue to deal with many of the same societal issues including food insecurity. Our St. James Food Pantry has helped many families over the last decade and in doing so we have opened our hearts to new experiences and opportunities to be a blessing and to be blessed.

We have been blessed by the lives we have touched, by the community partnerships we have formed and by the generosity that surrounds this ministry.

As we move forward and continue to meet the needs in our community, remember what a Blessing you are each time you shop and pick up something for the food pantry, volunteer to help shop, pack bags, put things away, pick up donations.... Thank you for

the Blessings you have given and will continue to give –
Remember those who need us....

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Items the pantry is in need of:

Soup
Tuna
Pasta sauce
Canned Fruit
Canned pastas (chef boy-r-dee)
Baked beans
Chili/Beef Stew



All donations are welcome and appreciated.

GRATITUDE 4 GRANDPARENTS:

As part of our five-year strategic plan (2020-2024) St. James has begun a partnership with the Delaware County organization called “Gratitude 4 Grandparents” who provide resources and emotional support to grandparents raising their grandchildren and grandchildren being raised by their grandparents.

We were able to **raise \$265 through our Alternative Gift Market** in December to help grandparents **buy food for their holiday meal and buy Christmas presents** for their grandchildren.

In January, we will be helping Gratitude 4 Grandparents with a fundraising **SHOE DRIVE**. We will be collecting new or in good condition men’s, women’s and children’s shoes which will be either given to grandparents for their grandchildren or be given money by an organization who helps those in Africa begin entrepreneurial endeavors through the starting of a shoe business. Either way, every shoe you donate will go to helping Gratitude 4



Grandparents. Please check your closets and get the word out to those you know who might be able to donate shoes.

PET THERAPY AT HARMONY HALL (Elwyn: Media, PA)

Wednesday, **January 15** (2:30-3:30 PM)

Wednesday, **February 19** (2:30-3:30 PM)



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA Once again breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus turned out to be a fantastic fun event and fund raiser. There was delicious food and the infamous sausage made a comeback. Craft bags and Gifts from Santa for children. Selfies with Santa and singing Christmas carols. I think the adults had as much fun as the children. Food pantry families enjoyed the food and warm hospitality.

We served 20 dozen eggs, 30 pounds of sausage, 340 pancakes, 6 gallons of juice and 60 cups of coffee.

A heartfelt huge thank you to the Puerto Rico Service team and many people who helped over two days to make this event a success. A special thank you to Santa and Mrs. Claus who took time out of their busy schedule this time of year to visit us at St James.

Peace and Love
Cheryl Haley



SOUP AND CHILI SALE, Sunday **January 26**, immediately following worship. Back by popular demand. Pints \$4. Quarts \$7. Benefits Adult Service Trip to Puerto Rico in March.

DORCAS YARN MINISTRY.

Dorcas Ministry welcomes women, men and teens who knit or crochet, or who would like to learn how. Our biggest need is prayer shawls Big rectangles of love and warmth for people who are dealing with illness or loss. We have plenty of needles, hooks and yarn so no worries about investing in supplies. We will also be meeting on Monday, **January 20** and Monday, **February 17** in the Penn Resource Room 7pm – 8:30pm if the weather is

good. You can also stitch from home at your convenience. Participation in this ministry is open to the community so feel free to invite friends and neighbors. Shawls on the pews in the Sanctuary are available for you to gift to someone experiencing illness or loss. We appreciate your continued prayers and support of Dorcas. Contact Joanne Morris or Connie George if you have any questions.

PET THERAPY READING

Third Tuesday of the month (6:30-7:30 PM) **January 21, February 18.**

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

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

Donations were made to the following:

Come Unity Now - \$150

Gratitude 4 Grandparents - \$265

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education - \$190

St. James Service Trip to Puerto Rico - \$320

Total: \$925



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



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 be notify all staff (John Callahan, Andrea Angiuli, 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) 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 2019

Lisa Baglione, for peace and empathy
Dick Beck, in honor of Mary Beck
Cheryl and Pat Haley, remembering our parents
Joan Hauck, in memory of loved ones
Pearl Heil-Dolmatz, in memory of Ralph Dolmatz
Lynne Major and Lynn Lampman, in memory of Robert and Madeline Major, and Marge and Russ Lampman
The McGurk Family, in memory of Barbara McGurk
Marian McKenzie and Walter Smith, in honor of our anniversary
Robert Meyers, in memory of wife Cynthia Meyers
Clem Piccone, in memory of Gertrude Adelhelm



GOD BLESS OUR WINTER BIRTHDAY FOLKS!

JANUARY

5 – Keenan McGurk
8 – Mary Daily
10 – Cash Estes
13 – Ophelia Klein-Keane
22 – Lynne Penn



FEBRUARY

9 – Connie George
16 – Karen Penn

“Let your joy be in your journey—not in some distant goal.”
~ Tim Cook



FOR PRESENCE

Awaken to the mystery of being here
And enter the quiet immensity of your own presence.
Have joy and peace in the temple of your senses.
Receive encouragement when new frontiers beckon.
Respond to the call of your gift and the courage to follow its path.
Let the flame of anger free you of all falsity.
May warmth of heart keep your presence aflame.
May anxiety never linger about you.
May your outer dignity mirror an inner dignity of soul.
Take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention.
Be consoled in the secret symmetry of your soul.
May you experience each day as a sacred gift woven around the heart of wonder.

~ John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space Between Us



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

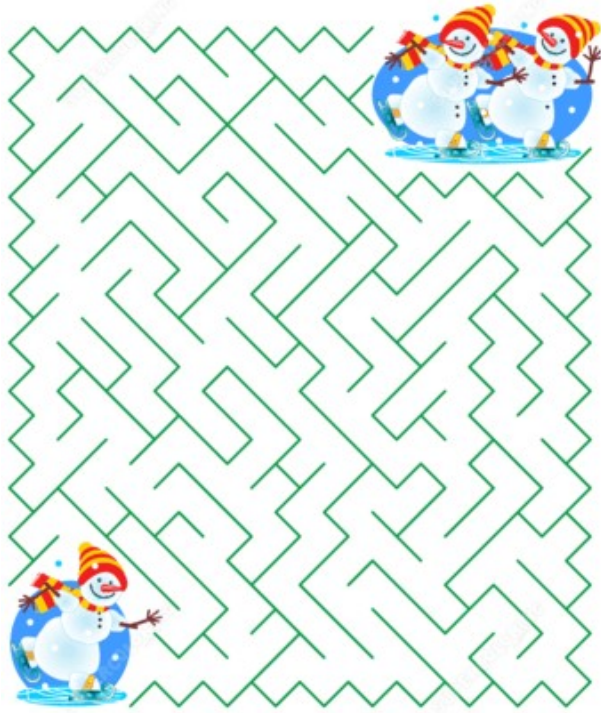
Ailene Dunlap, Secretary

Church Office 610-446-3036

secretary@stjamesucc.org

www.stjamesucc.org

For the children . . .



Q: What snack should you make for the Snowman Holiday Party?

A: Ice Krispy Treats.

Q: Is it quicker to be hot or cold? A: Hot is quicker, because you can catch cold.

Q: What do mountains wear to keep warm? A: Snowcaps.

Q: What kind of cake does the Ice Queen like to eat on her birthday? A: The flavor doesn't matter as long as it has lots of frosting.

Q: What does a gingerbread man put on his bed? A: A cookie sheet.

Q: What's the best kind of dog to get for Christmas? A: A "pointsetter."