



Hilltop Views

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135 Myrtle Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083

610-446-3036

www.stjamesucc.org

JULY/AUGUST 2017

FROM THE PASTOR

Congratulations! is definitely one of those things we should say to ourselves before we die. Yet, why wait? So here goes - I want to say to the Consistory of our church and to you too as a congregation, congratulations - for entrusting this excellent group of leaders with the process of a three-year strategic plan. In the end, the process produced more than I could have ever asked or thought.

Initially, the Consistory was responsible to take a hard and honest look at the church and then develop a mission statement, discern our core values and look at our current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and trends and threats (S.W.O.T.)

Here's how it fell out. This is what we knew to be true about ourselves. This is what we agreed would continue to guide us into the future.



Mission Statement:

**As an inclusive community of love and support,
St. James United Church of Christ
is a spiritual home for all people to grow in faith
and come together in service.**

Core Values:

**Compassion,
Diversity,
Honesty,
Respect,
Social Justice**

Next, they were to develop a **vision statement**. To do this, we decided not to concentrate on “what” we are going to do, before looking at who is underserved (which we could serve well because of our strengths) or not being served at all (where were the gaps). It was then we determined that we would:

- Utilize **pet therapy dogs** to: help kids with reading, reduce stress, decrease isolation and increase socialization of those in our community. Initially, we will be offering this summer pet therapy on the first Wednesday of each month on June 7, July 5 and August 2 9:00-10:00 AM (for those in our food pantry facing stress due to illness, unemployment, disabilities, and living in poverty, and a reading for children of participants of the Essential Oils classes three times during the summer: June 27, July 25 and August 15 (7:30-8:30 PM).
- Support **those dealing with cancer**. Initially, we will provide resources for those going through chemotherapy beginning Fall 2017.
- Advocacy and support to the **LGBT** (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) **community**. Initially, we will have a workshop for LGBT couples, which will be held winter 2018.
- Help **families dealing with addiction**. Initially, we will have a workshop for those who are dealing with addiction in their family, which will be held spring 2018.



Last, but by no means least, the Consistory decided a better way to look at our three years of filling gaps and providing what is so needed in our community is to see them as new adventures, and not settle for the familiar yet dry, boring term: strategic plan.

In the fall, as part of our stewardship campaign, we will be presenting to the congregation ways they can actively support these new adventures.

And so, congratulations Consistory, and St. James! You have refused to say we are already doing enough. You have refused to say we have never done this before, and so can't do it now. Congratulations for having the heart of Jesus, a vision for God's reign on earth, and a mind that has keenly seen what is and what is not and then acted on God's prompts and nudges regarding these things. I could not be more pleased or proud as your pastor. Just add it to my list as another reason why I love being here, and serving with you. And so I say again, Congratulations!

Pastor Lynn

WORSHIP

PREACHING SCHEDULE

(8 Sundays: July 2 – Aug. 20)

"On the Mend"

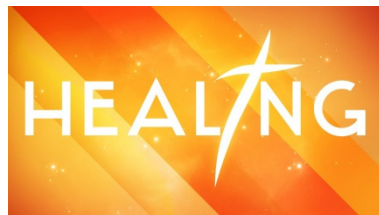
This series will look at the many ways Jesus offered healing to those around him. Each week there will be a time at the end of the service for those who need prayers for healing for themselves or others to receive prayer and anointing with oil.

July 2 - Healing Intentions (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

July 9 - Healing Inhibitions (Mark 7:24-37)

July 16 - Healing Fear (Mark 8:27-38)

July 23 - Healing Pride (Mark 9:30-37)



July 30 - Healing Division (Mark 9:38-50)

August 6 - Healing Trust (Mark 10:13-16)

August 13 - Healing Hold Outs (Mark 10:17-31)

August 20 - Healing Power (Mark 10:34-45)

We are pleased to have as our **guest for two Sundays, Pastor Sharrell Shippen** whom Pastor Lynn had the privilege of mentoring through her ordination process and who is currently serving as the Associate Pastor of Grace Christian Church (UCC) in Philadelphia.

August 27 and Sept. 3 – Pastor Sharrell Shippen



Pastor Lynn will be away on vacation August 13 (evening) – 17, and August 22 - September 4. Information on pastoral care coverage will be available soon.

READERS:

July 2 – Mary Beck

July 9 – Jay Vasell

July 16 – Marian McKenzie

July 23 – Bobbie-Lou Krok

July 3 – Walter Smith

August 6 – Lynne Major

August 13 – Cheryl Trump

August 20 – Dick Beck

August 27 – Cindy Keaveney

CHILDREN

Welcome to summer! I hope you are able to enjoy a somewhat more relaxed pace with your family and try something new. At St James we have plenty of opportunities to do just that.

Our summer curriculum is An Illustrated Compassion. The children will learn what it means to live a compassionate life through story, art and service. The kids will enjoy high quality coloring pages and original music. We will explore 4 main stories over the summer months.

- Deuteronomy 10:12-22: You Were Immigrants (June 18-July 2)
- Micah 6:6-8: What is Good (July 9-23)
- Matthew 25:31-46: Lord, When Was It? (July 30-August 13)
- Luke 10:25-37: The One Who Showed Mercy (August 20-September 3)



Due to the fact that attendance is lower during the summer months, we will have one main staff person for the children during the worship service and Sunday school. We will have teen helpers when possible. Meet us in the front pew at 10:30 for the beginning of worship and pick up in the Sunday school room after the service. And remember - families are encouraged to sit together up front when possible. We love to have you join us in the best seats in the house!

One of our teens, Carlyne McGurk is working on her Girl Scout Silver Award. She is doing a project on painted inspirational rocks that have become a kindness phenomenon of late. She will periodically work with the Sunday school kids over the summer, to help them paint rocks. We will keep you updated on her progress.

Don't forget to check out our 2017 Sunday school garden. This year we have 3 beds planted by the lower parking lot. We have zucchini, tomatoes and flowers for our pollinators! Produce will go directly to our St James food pantry. If you would like to sign up to help water the garden over the summer, please contact Aimee at brackbill@gmail.com. You can choose a week to keep an eye on the garden, water and pick as necessary.



Enjoy the summer months!

Pastor Aimee

ADULTS & FAMILIES

BOOK CLUB

Our little book club is chugging right along this summer! This is the first summer in our history that the members have decided to meet during the hot summer months. The following are the dates, times, and books for the summer months. Even if you can't join us, you might want some good beach reads.

Monday, **July 10** – 7:00 pm **AUTHOR VISIT!**

Stars in the Sea by Jeanne Taylor

McClellan. A short read, authored by my college roommate. She will be joining us that evening. All are welcome!!!!

Monday, **Aug. 14** – 7:00 pm Love You More

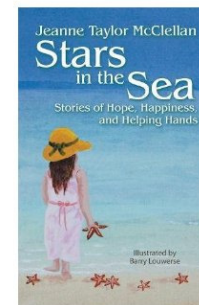
by Lisa Gardner. Suspense, murder, a fast read. Perfect summer reading

Monday, **Sept. 11** – 7:00 pm A Piece of the World by Christina

Baker Kline. She is the author of 'Orphan Train', one of our favorites. The story has to do with the famous painting, Christina's World by Andrew Wyeth. So, a local connection.

Again, please join us for any or all of our readings. I think you will enjoy the evening! Any questions, please call or text me Joanne Morris

610-742-8509



POTLUCK FOR BODY AND SOUL:

Following worship on Sunday, **July 16**. Come for a mid-summer potluck luncheon to visit with your church family. Each family asked to bring a homemade or store-purchased contribution to the meal. ☺



MISSION/OUTREACH

SAM'S KITCHEN:

Ed gives H(e)artfelt thanks to all who volunteered to cook and serve in May. Special thanks to Joanne and Nancy for their

willingness to advise and assist as I coordinate Sam's Kitchen for the first time.

Serving date is Weds, July 12. Nancy and I will be serving, so we only need cooks and baggers. Based on volunteers' availability, we'll decide in a week or two whether we'll **cook Tues, July 11 evening, or Weds afternoon.** Prep goes fast with 4-5 people and I'll be there regardless of day/date. Please contact me 610 449 3728 or hart.edwardm@gmail.com to volunteer, or talk to me at church—and thank you for helping Sam's Kitchen continue to feed our community!



FOOD PANTRY

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?'"
Matthew 25:31

The good people of St. James live out this scripture passage month in and month out. God bless you for your generosity! This summer's Food Pantry is in special need of:

breakfast cereal
peanut butter & jelly
beans (pinto, black, etc.)
canned pasta (i.e. Chef Boyardee)



tuna
baked beans
drinks
pasta sauce
canned fruit

DORCAS YARN MINISTRY.

Have you noticed all of the prayer shawls on the pews? They are there for you!

Drape one around your shoulders or over your lap to warm you up. Place it over the pew in back of you to cushion your back.... Or folded under you to cushion your bum. Wrap it around your shoulders when you need to physically feel God's love or a hug.

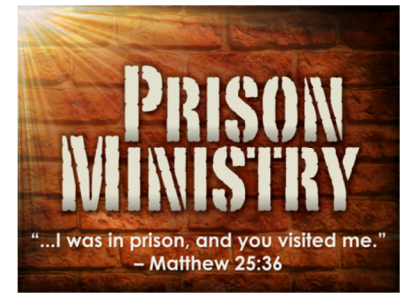
Gift one to a friend, family member, colleague or neighbor who is managing health issues or bereavement. Feel free to take it with you to give away. If you prefer a prayer pillowcase for someone in a nursing home or hospital, or a prayer dishcloth for someone's new home, let us know.



Dorcas is a St. James Ministry. It's open to all church and community members who "wish to stitch" and welcomes your prayers and support.

THRESHOLDS

We would like to share with the congregation what we do at Thresholds (a decision-making class) and how rewarding it is at Montgomery County Prison. It is a volunteer program once weekly on Mondays. We teach both men and women. Men's class is 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Women's class is 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Class size varies from 5 to 15 people. Subjects such as decision making, addiction, anger management, victimage, boundaries, and self-esteem among others are taught. These are unique groups of clients. We value their honesty and willingness to learn. They share their life experiences with us, although not required. The population we teach can vary from offenses such as petty theft and drug abuse, although most are there for some kind of drug issue. Some are first timers, some repeat offenders.



Volunteers are needed to participate in this life changing and fulfilling teaching experience. Our pen pal list has grown and volunteers are needed for this as well. The rewards are great! If interested, please contact:

Nancy Benkert nanbenkert82@gmail.com

Bobbie-Lou Krok robertakrok@yahoo.com

Lynn Sharrar lsharrar@weedsinc.com



"I haven't a clue how my story will end, but that's all right. When you set out on a journey and night covers the road, that's when you discover the stars."

—Nancy Willard (born 1936)
Children's Author, Poet, And Novelist



**Rev. Bill Worley's recap of the
Pennsylvania Southeast Conference UCC
2017 Spring Meeting**

After last year's fruitful Annual Meeting, I challenged the Planning Team to create an even better event. Last weekend, they succeeded!! The weekend was not without its challenges (dorm room beds that were too high and pillows that were too thin) BUT we executed the business of the Conference in a transparent, effective manner (Thanks to moderator Rev. Barb Pence) and got to the spiritual revival and transformation that we (and this world) desperately need.

Our UCC Executive Minister for Justice and Witness, Rev. Traci Blackmon, preached a prophetic word after we installed our new Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development, Rev. Cean James. Our workshop presenters led conversations and shared planning to transform ourselves and our congregations. Shane Claiborne shared a vision for a transformative community that leads in the direction of the New Reformation. On Sunday morning Evelyn Greenberg, the last Consistory President of Pilgrim Community UCC in Philadelphia presented the Conference with a \$200,000 check from the sale of their church building. The members of this church wanted their legacy to live on and have asked the donated funds go to Member In Discernment education and new church starts. During our closing worship, Sunday morning, Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder challenged us to add chairs to the tables around which God gathers us for potluck and holy communion.

We quickly amended our Conference Constitution and Bylaws, and we overwhelmingly agreed to continue the merger conversation with the Pennsylvania Northeast Conference. Ten folks have applied to be part of the team to make that happen. If you'd like to be considered, fill out the application and send it to Sue in the office at susan@psec.org by July 1st. We nominated and installed the leaders of our Conference before which I issued a few challenges of my own in a State of the Conference Address .



JULY

23 – Charlotte Caples
30 – Claire Caples

AUGUST

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



OTHER NOTES:

- Chancel Choir resumes leading the congregation and with weekly rehearsals beginning Sunday, September 10th. 10 AM pre-service rehearsal, and one-hour practice: 12 noon - 1 PM.



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

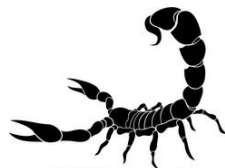
Church Office 610-446-3036

Email: secretary@stjamesucc.org

A SCORPION MOMENT

by: Author Unknown, Source Unknown

There was this Hindu who saw a scorpion floundering around in the water. He decided to save it by stretching out his finger, but the scorpion stung him.



The man still tried to get the scorpion out of the water, but the scorpion stung him again. A man nearby told him to stop saving the scorpion that kept stinging him. But the Hindu said: "It is the nature of the scorpion to sting. It is my nature to love. Why should I give up my nature to love just because it is the nature of the scorpion to sting?"

Don't give up loving.

Don't give up your goodness.

Even if people around you sting.

THE CIRCUS

by: Dan Clark, A 2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul

Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me. There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. You could tell they didn't have a lot of money. Their clothes were not expensive, but they were clean. The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, elephants and other acts they would see that night. One could sense they had never been to the circus before. It promised to be a highlight of their young lives. The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was



holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, "You're my knight in shining armor." He was smiling and basking in pride, looking at her as if to reply, "You got that right." The ticket lady asked the father how many tickets he wanted. He proudly responded, "Please let me buy eight children's tickets and two adult tickets so I can take my family to the circus." The ticket lady quoted the price. The man's

wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man's lip began to quiver. The father leaned a little closer and asked, "How much did you say?" The ticket lady again quoted the price. The man didn't have enough money. How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight kids that he didn't have enough money to take them to the circus?

Seeing what was going on, my dad put his hand into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill and dropped it on the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word!) My father reached down, picked up the bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your

pocket." The man knew what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking, embarrassing situation. He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied, "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family." My father and I went back to our car and drove home. We didn't go to the circus that night, but we didn't go without.

Join Box Lunch & A Book for its 3rd Annual Summer of
**FREE Literacy, Workshops (Arts & Crafts, Science, Languages and more),
Special Events, and Great Lunches**
**Hosted at three community sites and open to
All Lower Merion and Haverford Township families**
Zion Baptist Church, 92 Greenfield Ave., Ardmore (Daily, Mon-Thurs)
Monday, June 26 to Thursday, August 24, 2017, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Saints Memorial Church, 47 S Warner Ave., Bryn Mawr (Daily, Mon-Thurs)
Monday, June 26 to Thursday, August 17, 2017, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Memorial Church of God in Christ, 747 Buck Lane, Haverford (Mon, Tues & Wed)
Monday, July 10 to Wednesday, August 9, 2017, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
**For more details and to make donations,
contact Virginia at 610-649-4485 or June at 610-896-9647
or email boxlunchandabook@gmail.com. Look us up on Facebook.**

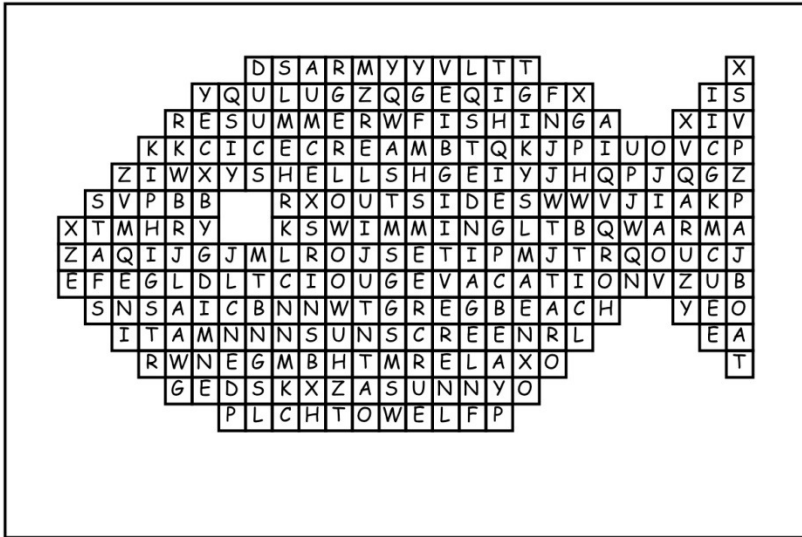
Box Lunch & A Book

Summer 2017

Feeding our children's body and mind.

Books, Donations and Volunteers Wanted.
Are you interested in donating books, coordinating a book drive,
volunteering, serving lunch, running an arts & crafts, science or language
workshop...call Virginia at 610-649-4485 or June at 610-896-9647.

For the children . . .



SUMMER WARM SUNNY SWIMMING BEACH SAND
 SHELLS POOL TOWEL SUNSCREEN ICE CREAM VACATION
 GAMES OUTSIDE SMILING FISHING BOAT RELAX

