



# Hillstop Views

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135 Myrtle Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083

610-446-3036

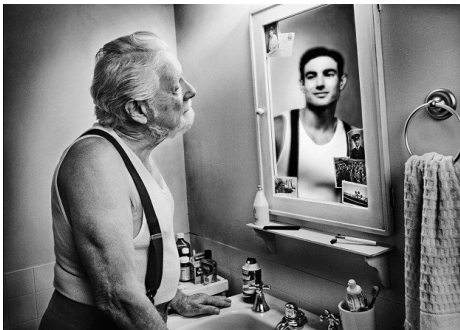
[www.stjamesucc.org](http://www.stjamesucc.org)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

## FROM THE PASTOR

**“Dam\_ I look good”** is number 22 in the countdown of 40 things I need to say before I die.

I think it is important to have a good self-image. Yet, if how we feel about ourselves is based only on how we look, then we will all eventually conclude we don't fit all the criteria that is considered to be a must, in order for someone to be declared beautiful. Maybe we don't have the “right” features given our ethnic group, or race, or gender, or sexual orientation. Maybe we hear ourselves or others think whatever we have is too big and that is too small, isn't the right color – too dark or too light, or the right width, or we are too curvy, not curvy enough, too heavy, too skinny, and the list can go on



and on. It is a crazy hamster wheel we are on, if we define our worth based on any given moment, group or fixed period in time.

According to scripture, we can get the undeniable truth about whether we are good or not, in the first few chapters of the Bible. When God created humankind, the first words out of God's mouth were “You're good.” And in the end, isn't God's opinion about us what matters most to us? Right now you might be saying, but I'm the exception. Yet, God did not say we were perfect! That was not the criteria for God saying any of us are good. But rather, God said we were good, because God created us in God's image and God is nothing but good. So, therefore, being created as such, then God could do nothing else but say we are good.

Next time you stand in front of the mirror, or compare your looks to someone else, ignore the cultural mandates and focus on and even say aloud, “Dam\_, I look good.” And that's the truth, the real truth and nothing but the truth, according to God. Given that great truth, let all of God's people say, “Amen” (it is so).

*Pastor Lynn*

## WORSHIP

### Preaching Schedule

We are pleased to have as our **guest preacher for Sunday, September 3, Pastor Sharell Shippen** whom Pastor Lynn had the privilege of mentoring through the ordination process and who is currently serving as the Associate Pastor of Grace Christian Church (UCC) in Philadelphia.

**"Bless to Me"** (September 10 - October 29, 2017)

*"I will bless the Lord, at all times; God's praise will always be in my mouth." (Psalm 34:1)*

The tradition of blessing prayers has endured through centuries among the people called "Celts". These blessings reveal a sense of the holy in every moment, in every thing, in every person. This is a way of living - of



observing and celebrating, blessing and being blessed by the ordinary acts and encounters of life. Inspired by this tradition of Celtic spirituality and featuring the blessing poem of Beth A. Richardson (Christ Beside Me, Christ Within Me: Celtic Blessing), we will spend this fall steeping in the blessings that surround us and live within us.

September 10 - **"Through the Day: Celebrating God's Presence in Each Moment"** (Psalm 113, Matthew 6:11), Holy Communion  
September 17 - **"Holy Moments: Celebrating the Gifts of Life"** (Psalm 148, Luke 12:27)  
September 24 **"Seasons: Journeying through the Year"** (Psalm 104, Ecclesiastes 3:1-18)

October 1 –  
**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
 and  
 Neighbors in Need Offering



October 8 - **"Passages: Special Moments"** Psalm 42:1-8, (Luke 1:57-80), Holy Communion  
October 15 - **"Heart Prayers: Blessing the World"** (Psalm 103:1-18, Matthew 5:1-12)  
October 22 - **"The Struggling Times: Facing Illness, Loss and Grief"** (Psalm 31, 2 Corinthians 4:8-10)  
October 29 - **"God Is In: Celebrating Presence"** (Psalm 139, Romans 4)

#### **READERS:**

Sept 3 – Marian McKenzie  
 Sept 10 – Lisa Baglione  
 Sept 17 – Kathy Pioggia  
 Sept 24 – Walter Smith



Oct 1 – Lynne Major  
 Oct 8 – Lisa Baglione  
 Oct 15 – Bobbie-Lou Krok  
 Oct 22 – Ray Leonardo  
 Oct 29 – Dick Beck

## **MUSIC**

*MUSICALLY SPEAKING . . .*  
*from Maggie Realley, Director of Music/Organist*

*"Sing for joy to the LORD, all the earth; praise him  
 with songs and shouts of joy!" Psalm 98:4 (GNT)*

As summer vacations wind down and the school year begins, our Chancel Choir will also resume. Beginning Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at 10 o'clock to practice our morning's anthem, and then have choir rehearsal from 12:00 to 1:00 P.M.



Along with the beginning of our new church season, I am happy to share the news that we will continue with our "Second Sunday Sing with the Choir" program. All are welcome to join us at 10 a.m., in the music room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month to practice that morning's anthem before worship, beginning September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Looking forward to an exciting new church year, and warmly welcoming new members! See you soon!!!

*God has given us the beautiful gift of music  
 to be creative and expressive,  
 to give voice to our praise,  
 to connect us with our heritage and tradition,  
 and to help us express the inexpressible  
 when words alone cannot convey what we feel.*

## **CHILDREN**

### **NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

We are pleased to have as our new Director of Children's Ministries Allison Fineberg. Allison is not new to us, given she has been our Nursery Teacher for the last four years. Allison

brings both a wealth of knowledge as a teacher and a depth of understanding and experience when it comes to working with children. We will continue to have Maria McGovern work with our children as a teacher's assistant, and Allison is working on hiring a new nursery teacher, since she will be now be overseeing all ages and teaching the 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade class.

We are grateful for the six years Pastor Aimee Brackbill has been with us as our Children's Ministry Director. We are grateful for her time with us, and wish her all the best for her future.

### NEW CURRICULUM

Hello St. James families!

As summer turns to fall, we are in a season of change here in Children's Ministry as well. Our beloved Children's Ministry director, Aimee Brackbill, is moving on from her role here at St. James. While she and her children, Ella and Henry, plan to attend church from time to time we will surely miss seeing them each week as well as miss the wonderful activities that Pastor Aimee planned for the children and families of St. James.

We have exciting changes to look forward to as well! I am looking forward to taking on new responsibilities downstairs and becoming a bigger part of the church community. We are starting this school year with a new Sunday School and Nursery Curriculum. We will be using the Spark Classroom series this year which focuses on familiar bible stories through song, readings, crafts, and other fun activities. Our



goal this year for the Nursery children is that they will become familiar with bible stories, start to relate to bible characters, and understand the basic meaning of the stories. For our school-aged Sunday School our goal is for them to comprehend and relate to the bible stories as well as apply faith-based actions to their own lives.

In addition we are making a renewed commitment to our Milestone Ministry series. The second Sunday of each month will be our

Milestone Ministry Sunday, and we will be marking important events such as Presentation of Bibles, Kids and Money, Prayer for Preschoolers, and many more. An e-mail will be coming soon to check in with you about which milestones your youngster has already received, as well as which ones he or she is slated to receive this coming year.

My "door" is always open so please feel free to reach out at any time by e-mail at [AllisonFineberg@aol.com](mailto:AllisonFineberg@aol.com) or by text/calling 610-804-5549. Looking forward to a great new year!

Best,

Allison Fineberg

### **ADULTS & FAMILIES**

### BOOK CLUB

Book Club will start its 15th season on Monday, **September 11**, 7:00 p.m. with a work of fiction by Christina Baker Kline. She is the author of Orphan Train, which we all really enjoyed. September's book is A Piece of the World, another piece of pure fiction about Christina Olsen, who was the main figure in Andrew Wyeth's painting, "Christina's World."



October's choice is The Woman in Cabin 10, by Ruth Ware. That's October 9.

November is The Dressmaker, by Rosalie Ham. That's Nov. 13. All meetings are at 7pm in the Penn Room. We will cancel if snow is falling or predicted for that evening. Some of us travel too far to worry about dangerous roads.

We invite and welcome any members that are interested in sitting in on a meeting. You need not have read the book. Just join us for an evening of conversation and community.

Joanne Morris

610-742-8509



### **BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS**

Please join us for this three-month Bible Study focused on Orientation, Disorientation, and Reorientation. Face-to-face meetings will be held **September 14, October 12, and November 9**, and Facebook postings and comments will be published weekly. Photographs from Visual Faith Project will be utilized for discussion. Registration is required ([pastor@stjamesucc.org](mailto:pastor@stjamesucc.org)).

### **POTLUCK FOR BODY AND SOUL:**



Following worship on Sunday, **October 1**. Come for an autumn potluck luncheon to visit with your church family. The theme is “Around the World with Bread Tasting.” Each family asked to bring a homemade or store-purchased contribution to the meal. ☺

**COMMUNITY DINE AROUND** will be on **Monday, October 9**, at Union United Methodist Church, 12:00 noon. This will be a Fall Harvest celebration, and is for all ages! The cost is \$7.00. Please call the St. James Church office to make your reservation by Wednesday, October 4.

The 2017-2018 Dine Around schedule is:

Oct 9	Union United Methodist Church	Fall Harvest
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:**

Ed gives H(e)artfelt thanks to all who volunteered to cook and serve in July. Our next serving date is Wednesday, **September 13**. We'll plan to **cook on Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.** Would you like to

help prepare the meal or serve at the Life Center? Please contact me at 610 449 3728 or [hart.edwardm@gmail.com](mailto: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!

Ed Hart, Coordinator



**COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY OFFERING** will be taken on Sunday, **September 17**. As has been the case for quite a



few years, one household of our congregation has generously offered to match any gifts made during the month of September. A special CAIM offering envelope can be found in your box of offering envelopes. Thank you for your generosity.

The Council for American Indian Ministry is comprised of five ministries with 22 congregations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The Eagle Butte Learning Center, an educational center designed to enhance the leadership skills among clergy and lay leaders of the American Indian UCC congregations, is also an important part of CAIM. CAIM is an integral part of the life of the United Church of Christ. It maintains Indian traditions by employing Native values and cultures to witness in communities through authentic and postcolonial Indian expressions of the Christian faith.



Please keep in prayer the participants in our  
**HEIFER FARM MISSION TRIP**  
to Rutland, Massachusetts  
on September 22-24.

Naseer Christmas  
Katrina Christmas  
Emma Gonsalves  
Brady Gonsalves  
Ed Hart  
Liya Hauben

Lynn Lampman  
Carlyne McGurk  
Melody Rauscher  
Hannah Wilson  
Christopher Wilson

### **PET THERAPY**

As a program and training site for PAWS for People, St. James is offering both a visitation with a pet therapy dog to those with intellectual disabilities who live in Havertown, and a reading program for ages 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade in which the children read to a pet therapy dog. Reading programs will be held at the church on Tuesday, **September 26**, and Tuesday **October 24**, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. If interested in assisting with these programs, or registering a child to participate in the reading program, please contact Pastor Lynn at [pastor@stjamesucc.org](mailto:pastor@stjamesucc.org).



### **FOOD PANTRY**

*For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Ecclesiastes 4:10*

Many can now be heard saying, where has the summer gone? It is another in our treasure of memories and we move into a new season ...Autumn. Cooler weather, changing leaves.... In this new season we think about those who have had a summer that may have been full of struggles, challenges and tribulations. We as a church



community embody the scripture from Ecclesiastes as we continue to lift up those we know need support, care and love. The summer is a time when donations are smaller as people are away and the fall is a time of building up what has been depleted. This is the need we have now, our stocks are getting low, our cupboards bare.... Please as you do your shopping and see all the abundance, consider sharing some of it with the food pantry so we can lift up those whom we serve.

All donations are welcome ....Of particular need right now:

Pasta sauce

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Canned fruit

Tuna fish

Canned pastas like Chef boy-r-dee

Baked Beans

Macaroni and cheese

Boxed Rice and Pasta Sides or potatoes

Breakfast items (cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix and syrup)

Snacks – of all types



As you come into this new season there are other ways you can be of help. Here are some ideas:

A workplace food drive

A neighborhood food drive

Special Event (birthday/anniversary, etc) where you don't want gifts – donations could be made to the food pantry.

As always, this community along with the community partners we have made along the way is sustaining and a great gift to many. Thank you for your ongoing support and donations.

Lynne Major

*Fall House Cleaning? Please save those clean, used sheets and towels for an upcoming drive. More information will be detailed in our next Hilltop News for November.*



**NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. This offering will be received on Sunday, **October 1**. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Thank you for your support of this important offering.

#### **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 their interest in combining their love of Christ and interest in “stitching” to help others. We are currently 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 **September 18** and **October 16**.



#### **THRESHOLDS**

The St. James UCC Prison Ministry continues year-round. Now that summer has ended and many folks are back to more regular routines, perhaps you would consider joining our team, which travels to Montgomery County Prison each Monday afternoon and evening. We also welcome folks who would like to be pen pals to those who are incarcerated. We can give you lots of info ... just ask us!  
 Nancy Benkert [nanbenkert82@gmail.com](mailto:nanbenkert82@gmail.com)  
 Bobbie-Lou Krok [robertakrok@yahoo.com](mailto:robertakrok@yahoo.com)  
 Lynn Sharrar [lsharrar@weedsinc.com](mailto:lsharrar@weedsinc.com)



#### **SEPTEMBER**

1 – Bonnie Asbury  
 2 – Frauke Vogel  
 10 – Cindy Keaveney  
 11 – Audriana Schlegel  
 14 – Harper Klein-Keane  
 19 – John Milburn  
 21 – Robert Meyers  
 26 – Barbara Adams  
 28 – Olivia Krok  
 30 – Bill Penn

#### **OCTOBER**

1 – Billy Penn Jr.  
 3 – Ruth Deiss (102 years!)  
 11 – Lynne Major  
 11 – Thelia George  
 15 – Dave Winters  
 18 – Laura Hart  
 24 – Lisa Baglione  
 30 – Justin Klein-Keane

*My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style. ~ Maya Angelou*



## A MISFORTUNE OR A BLESSING

There was a poor old man who lived in a small village. He owned a beautiful white horse. Kings offered fabulous prices for the horse, but the man would say, "This horse is my friend." The man was poor, but he never sold the horse.

One morning he found the horse was gone from the stable. The whole village gathered and said, "You foolish old man! We knew someday the horse would be stolen. You should have sold it. What a misfortune!"



The old man replied, "That's not necessarily true. The horse is simply not in the stable. This is the fact. Everything else is a judgment. Who knows if it is a misfortune or a blessing?"

People laughed at the old man. They knew he was a little crazy. But after fifteen days, the horse suddenly returned. He had not been stolen, but had gone visiting. Not only that, a dozen wild horses returned with him.

Again the people gathered and said, "Old man, you were right. The disappearance of your horse is not a misfortune. It has indeed proved to be a blessing." The old man said, "Again you are going too far. Just say the horse came back. Who knows whether its return is a blessing or not? When you read a single word, how can you judge the whole book?"

The people did not say much, but they knew he was wrong. After all, twelve beautiful horses had come. The old man's only son started to train the wild horses. But a week later he fell from a horse and broke his legs. The people gathered and again they judged. "You're right! Getting twelve horses was a misfortune. Your son, who is

your only support, has lost the use of his legs. Now you are poorer than ever."

The old man said, "You are obsessed with judgment. Only say my son has broken his legs. Nobody knows whether this is a misfortune or a blessing. Life comes in fragments and more is never revealed."

After a few weeks the country went to war. All the young men in town were forced into the military. Only the old man's son was left, because he was crippled. The whole town cried because they knew most of the young men would never return. They said to the old man, "You were right. This is a blessing. Your son may be crippled, but he is still with you. Our sons are gone forever."

The old man said again, "Nobody knows! Say only this: Your sons have entered the army and my son has not. We can't know whether it is a blessing or a misfortune. Stop judging or you will always be obsessed with fragments and live in faulty conclusions."

Listen to God's word and know that all things will become a blessing through our LOVE for HIM.

**Romans 8:28 - And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who *love God*, to those who are called according to *His purpose*.**



**THE REV. LYNN P. LAMPMAN**

Pastor's Phone: 610-733-1502

Maggie Realley, Director of Music

Allison Fineberg, Director of Children's Ministries

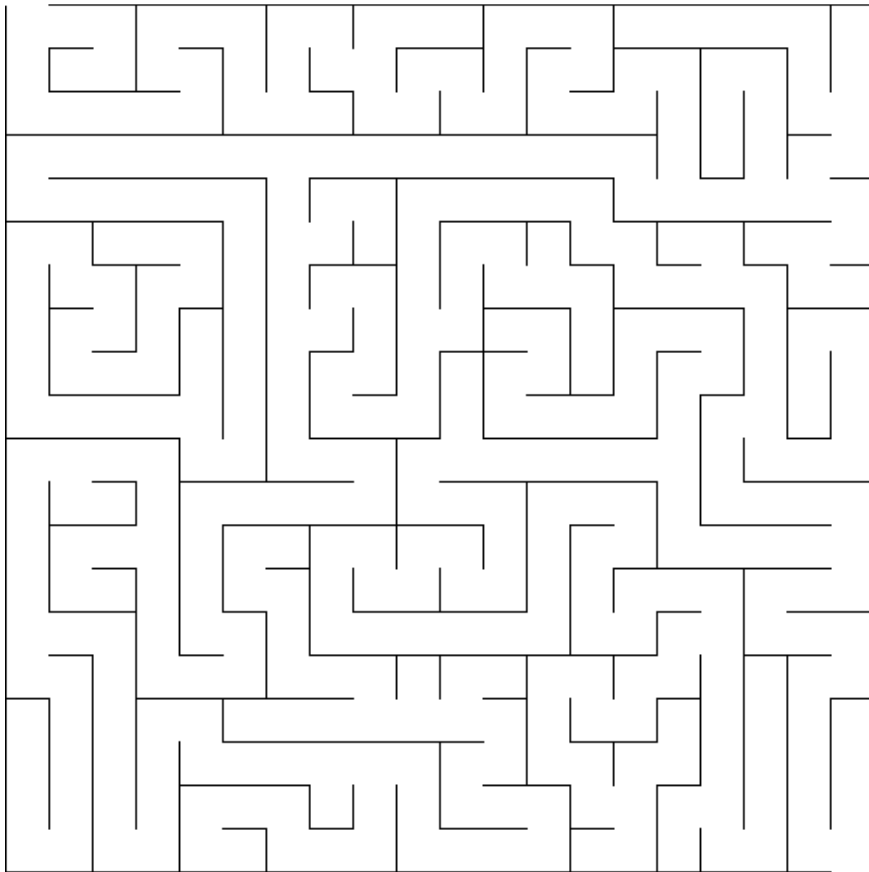
Maria McGovern, Nursery

Church Office 610-446-3036

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

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Finish

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2017



### In a Just World, UCC churches become Creation Justice Congregations

*God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. - Genesis 9:12, 14-15, NASB*

In a 2015 letter address to all bishops of the church, Pope Francis excelled in connecting climate change to economic inequality while also criticizing a modern anthropocentrism that views "nature" as an object to be exploited for human ends. The Pope's views reflect a historic and evolving current among faith traditions. This trend regards environmental consciousness and social justice as intimately intertwined. As part of this prophetic current, the language of "creation justice" has emerged. The word "creation" inherently evokes meanings that transcend artificial divides between the "human" and "nature." "Creation" signals the truth of our interconnected reality. Moreover, it evokes the sacred story of origin that not only speaks to our common connection to each other but to our common connection



to God. As Genesis 9:15 reminds us, God's covenant is not only with humans but with "every living creature."

Within the covenantal understanding of the web of life, the emphasis on justice arises as a central guiding impulse. ***If the word "creation" signals the totality of relationships with God, then creation justice signals the movement toward right relationships among all of God's creation.*** Building on the concept of eco-justice, creation justice entails an integrated, holistic ecology. It entails an understanding of the world which includes the built environment, culture, economic and political activity, and all of humanity as part of God's creation.

The UCC's Creation Justice Church program assists congregations in making the ministry of environmental justice an integral strand in the DNA of their faith community. A congregation can be designated as a Creation Justice Church by taking six simple steps. To learn more about this essential program visit:  
[www.ucc.org/how\\_it\\_works\\_becoming\\_a\\_creation\\_justice\\_church](http://www.ucc.org/how_it_works_becoming_a_creation_justice_church).

**In a Just World, Clean Water is Life.  
Protect the Sacred!**

