



## Hillstop Views

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

FROM THE PASTOR

The 40 words (more like phrases) we should say before we die series is continuing as it has for some time now. In this issue of the newsletter we are looking at the phrase “I’ll try it.”

This phrase could not be more apropos for my life right now. This summer, I took Fridays as vacation days, so I could finally make my art more public, other than just to St. James, friends, and family.

Little did I know how complicated it would turn out to be. It is billed as an easy way to build a website, yet trying to attach a method of payment to it was not easy. I never figured that guessing how much inventory to have would be so tricky. Nor did I know that I would have to file a PA 100 (yes, a government form) in order to be able to file sales tax payments for the art I did sell. And those were not the only challenges...

I have to admit, I slept lousy during the final month before launching my website and during the making of initial calls. I worried about rejection and humiliation. My inner critic seemed to be working overtime. Yet, I did not let her (the one I used to call “Hurricane”, who now I call “Breeze”) drive, though she did insist on sitting up front in the passenger seat, and I did let her turn on the radio, but I never let her get behind the wheel.



I had to finally decide whether the pain of not doing it was more than the possible pain of doing it. I concluded that it was more painful to keep this part of me and this dream under wraps.

So, out I came. I had come out before (though not in this arena), so I just used the same strategy I used the previous time I needed to come out. Weigh the outer cost vs. the inner cost, and then remember you are God’s precious child: valued, loved more than you know, beautifully unique, and essential to the work God is doing in the world.

Even though it is still the earliest stage of my art becoming more public, it has been worth it. Trying freed me to more fully live. Not trying was neither a benign nor neutral state. Rather, for me, not trying was leading me to slow decay and ever closer to feeling dead. I am so grateful and joyous about what trying has now brought into my life – my own resurrection. Yeah, to resurrection and new life!

*Pastor Lynn*

### **Pastor’s Sabbatical** (January 1– March 31, 2019)

When I came to St. James Church in 2008, the church had already included in my contract and job description a sabbatical that would be taken by the pastor after seven years of service to the church. In preparation for the time of sabbatical, the church began putting away enough money each year, so that an interim could be paid for and the pastor could still receive a salary during the three month sabbatical.

On November 1, 2018, I will have my ninth year anniversary as pastor of St. James. In conjunction with the Consistory it was determined that January – March, 2019 would be the best time for me to go on a sabbatical. A Sabbatical Team has been formed to handle the implementation of the sabbatical, and in meeting over



the summer was able to secure their first choice for sabbatical interim the Rev. Emily Livingston. She will be joining us on January 1<sup>st</sup> for three months and will handle the worship, preaching, funeral, and pastoral care along with working with the Consistory President and Building Chairperson (Kathy Pioggia) to handle any emergencies or needs

as they arise over the three months. All other responsibilities usually handled by the pastor will either be on hold for those three months or members of the church or staff will be providing coverage.

According to the guidelines established by our denomination (Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ) a sabbatical has three goals:

1. Rest and renewal for the pastor
2. Family time
3. Project which would benefit the church

The project designated and approved by the Consistory is for Pastor Lynn to interview churches, pastors, denominational executives and staff, and nonprofits to find out what churches/organizations of comparable size are doing to become more financially solvent. Pastor Lynn will return to the church upon completion of sabbatical with several strategies on how St. James can move toward greater **financial solvency**.

Any questions or concerns regarding the pastor's sabbatical should be directed to Pastor Lynn or Kathy Pioggia as Consistory President.

### Church's New Logo

After the hard work of defining and developing a mission

statement, core values, and a three year vision with goals, the Consistory decided it was perfect timing to take up graphic designer Ed Hart's offer of developing a new church logo to reflect more adequately our identity, mission, values and vision. Ed, the Pastor, and Consistory shared our ideas and explored scripture when developing the logo. When Ed put our ideas into images the Consistory immediately and unanimously adopted the logo.

Pastor Lynn will be having a worship series October 14 – November 18 that explores the many dimensions of our new logo.

The logo will be unfolding over the next year, and thus you will see it show up more and more in our church's life and many avenues of communication.

The logo's first debut will be on the backs of the Mission Team going to Florida for disaster recovery work the end of September. Pastor Lynn will have her daily morning devotions and evening reflection time using the church logo as our focus and inspiration.

## 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 fears show up in difficult relationships?



September 2- "Reconciled" (Genesis 45:14-15), Holy Communion

#### "The Many Faces of Jesus" (Sept. 9 - Oct. 7)

This series will explore the many dimensions and portrayals of



Jesus both in Scripture and throughout history in hopes of each of us getting a deeper understanding of the breadth and depth of Jesus and how others understand him in comparison to how we understand him.

September 9 - **Savior: Victor** (Over Sin and Death)

(Acts 13:23, I Corinthians 15:54-56, Rev. 19:16)

September 16 - **Brother, Friend** (Proverbs 17:17, John 15:12-17)

September 23 - **Guest Preacher**

September 30 - **Socio-Political Liberator** (Luke 4:18-19, Matthew 5:3-11)

October 7 - **Face of God** (Hebrews 1:1-4, Colossians 2:9, John 1:1-5), WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

**Church's New Logo** (October 14 - November 18)

This series will seek to unpack the many powerful and inspiring symbols in our new church logo by exploring their usage in scripture and the Church.

October 14 - **Tree: Cross, Roots, Water** (Jeremiah 17:7-8, Acts 13:28-29 Amplified Bible)

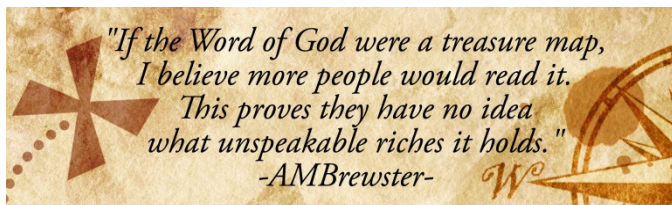
October 21 - **Triangle, Circle, Outer Ring** (Isaiah 40:18-23, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14)

October 28 - **Guest Preacher, The Rev. Emily Livingston**



**READERS:**

Sept 2 – Marian McKenzie	Oct 7 – Joanne Morris
Sept 9 – Lisa Baglione	Oct 14 – Bobbie-Lou Krok
Sept 16 – Lynne Major	Oct 21 – Jay Vasell
Sept 23 – Walter Smith	Oct 28 – Dick Beck
Sept 30 – Kathy Pioggia	



**MUSIC**

I couldn't be happier to join the community of St. James as music director! I'm looking forward to continuing old traditions, as well as creating new ones together.



Chancel Choir rehearsal will begin on Sunday, September 9th, from 12 – 1 pm in the music room. We'll sing in worship the following Sunday (9/16), and each Sunday after that.

We'll also be continuing the tradition of "Second Sunday Sing with the Choir", beginning October 14th. All are welcome to join us at 10am in the music room, where we'll rehearse an anthem to sing in worship that morning. All experience levels are welcome!

Looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

John Callahan

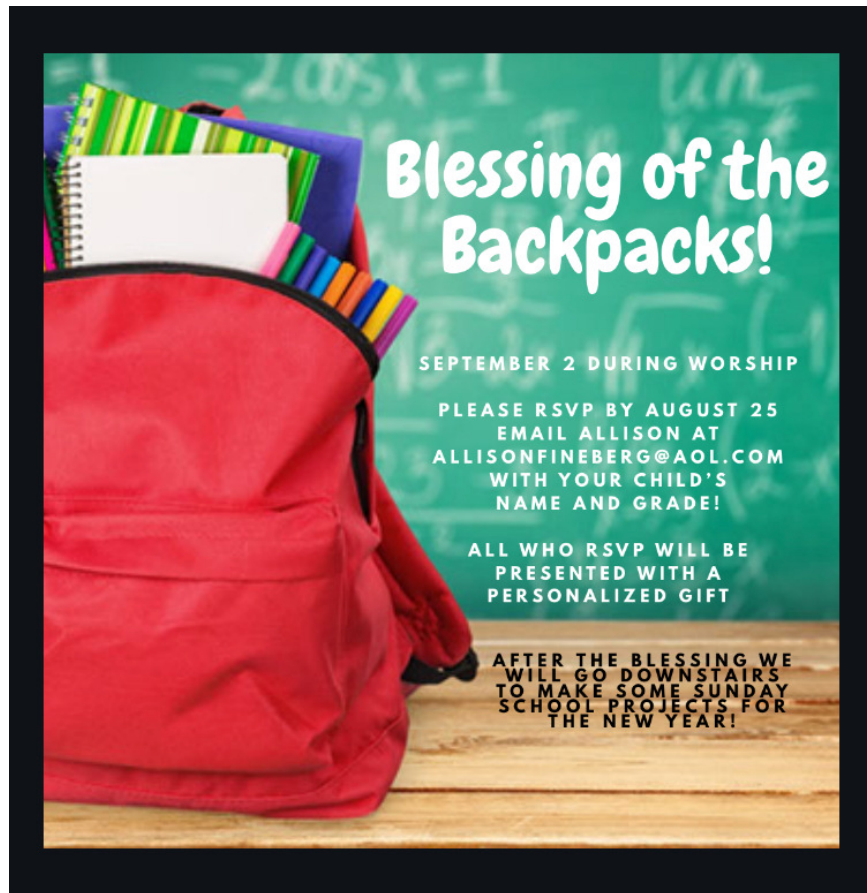
**CHILDREN**

We are excited to start our second year with our Sparkhouse Curriculum! Our Sunday School year kicks off on September 9! Nursery and Sunday School children will begin the year by working through the Old Testament in the books of Genesis and Exodus. Our youth will be participating in worship, engaging in service opportunities, and partnering with our younger children throughout the fall.

Please keep your eye out for an information gathering form for all families so that I can learn more about your children and how we can best serve you at St. James.

Hope to see lots of friends at The Blessing of the Backpacks on the 2nd!!

Allison Fineberg



**CONFIRMATION CLASS** for ages 12 & 13 will meet the second Sunday of the month at 9:00 AM in the Pastor's Study. The first two classes are September 9 and October 14.

**ADULTS & FAMILIES**

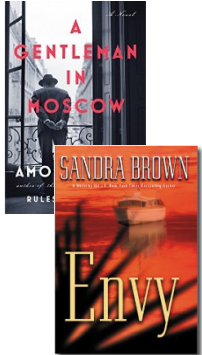
**SCRIPTURE, CONVERSATION AND PRAYER WITH HARMONY HALL**  
Join Pastor Lynn for this Bible Study at Elwyn, in Media, PA, on Wednesdays, **September 5** and **October 3**, 9:30 a.m.

**BOOK CLUB** The St. James Book Club will continue to meet the second Monday of each month throughout the year.

We meet at 7 pm in the Penn Room.

Our Sept. discussion will be held on Monday, **September 10** when our book will be A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. An extremely interesting and quite different read. We will meet on Monday, **October 8** to review Envy by Sandra Brown. As always, everyone is invited to join us whenever possible. You need not have read the book. Sometimes hearing the opinion of others is just enough to whet the appetite. Happy Reading Everyone!!!!

Joanne Morris



**RECLAIMING OUR STORY: EXPLORING LGBT FRIENDLY BIBLE STORIES** (Four Thursdays at 7:00 PM) **September 20, October 4, 11, 18.**

In these four sessions we will explore Biblical stories that will sound familiar because they reflect what is often found in lives of LGBT people: the closet/coming out, transition and transitioning, queer family (not M/F pairing), drag and disguise, breaking norms, sex positive. No Bible knowledge is required and no assent to a particular belief is required. Experience the Bible as your story too. Come and take part in LGBT community reclaiming the Bible as our book too! Join us and feel empowered as you see yourself and the LGBT community portrayed in a very positive light in the Bible.

**POTLUCK FOR BODY AND SOUL** Join your church family following worship on Sunday, **October 7**, for our quarterly Potluck Luncheon. An interesting topic will be presented for discussion, and good food will be shared!

**COMMUNITY DINE AROUND** will be on **Monday, October 8**, 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 3.



The 2018-2019 Dine Around schedule is:

Oct 8	Union United Methodist Church	Fall Harvest
Dec 10	Temple Lutheran Church	Christmas Celebration
March 11	Annunciation BVM Church	St. Patrick's Day
May 13	St. James UCC	Spring Picnic

**HARMONY HALL FALL FESTIVAL** will be Saturday, **October 13**, 6:30 p.m. at Elwyn. The folks from St. James will provide a nice harvest meal for our friends at Harmony Hall. Please let Pastor Lynn know if you would like to help out.



**LGBT COUPLES WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, November 10**, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. We will be offering an affirming and practical workshop for LGBT couples who are seeking to deepen and strengthen their relationship. The problem is not that we want too much from our relationships, but rather that we want too little. Come and join us for what will be a fun, meaningful, and helpful day in which there will be great takeaways for couples on how to communicate more effectively, "fight" fair, and the importance of gratitude and appreciation in your relationship. Our desire is to provide a place where your commitment to one another is celebrated and you feel safe and affirmed by just spending time with those who understand you and your story, because it is their story too. The workshop is free. Registration is required (pastor@stjamesucc.org).



**MISSION/OUTREACH**

**PET THERAPY**

- The **PAWS reading program** continues in September and October on the following dates:
  - Tuesday, **Sept. 11** (4:30-5:30 PM)
  - Tuesday, **Sept. 18** (6:30-7:30 PM)
  - Tuesday, **Oct. 9** (4:30-5:30 PM)
  - Tuesday, **Oct. 16** (6:30-7:30 PM)



- Wednesday, **September 19**, 2:30 p.m. **Pet Therapy** at Harmony Hall.
- Wednesday, **October 17**, 2:30 p.m. **Pet Therapy** at Harmony Hall.

**SAM'S KITCHEN:**

Our next cooking and serving date is Wednesday, **September 12**, 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



**COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY OFFERING** will be taken on Sunday, **September 16**. 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.

## 2018 ST JAMES HURRICANE RELIEF MISSION TRIP

Daytona Beach Area, Volusia County, Florida

**When: Sunday September 22 to  
Saturday September 29**

Project/Focus: Repair/Rebuild homes.

Roofing, gutting interiors, replacing insulation, siding, drywall repair and painting, flooring and other interior work as needed.



Mission Team: Rev Lynn Lampman, Lynne Major, Jack McGowen, Jenn Hayden, Ed Hart, Michael Fineberg, Michael Gonzalez, Cheryl T., Donna Mayforth, and Gloria Broeker. Two local Florida family members and friend Michelle Fineberg and Christine Davis will join us for a couple days.

The group is flying into Orlando Florida on Saturday evening September 22 and departing early Saturday morning September 29. Sunday we will attend worship at the Union Congregational Church (UCC) and shop for food and supplies for the week. There will also be time to explore the area.

Please join us Sunday **September 16** church service for commissioning and blessing.

If you have any interest in attending there is still room. Please see Cheryl T for more information.

cmtrump@comcast.net or 610-639-0868

*"Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven"* Matt 5:16

## DORCAS YARN MINISTRY.

Do you knit or crochet or do you want to learn? Stop by Monday nights, **September 17** and **October 15**. We meet in the Penn



Resource Room 7pm – 8:30pm. Your friends are welcome to join the ministry and the fun as this is open to the community, too. Feel free to contact Joanne Morris or Connie George if you have any questions. Shawls in the sanctuary are available for you 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

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

Fall is in the air...routines return after summer vacation, kids go back to school...For many, routines are interrupted by daily challenges, difficult circumstances and a struggle to make ends meet on a daily basis. For us at St. James, our routines provide support and care to those in need. The routines we have of donating regularly to the food pantry, cooking for the Life Center, collecting donations from community partners, praying for those who are in need and suffering make a difference in the world. St. James makes a difference in so many lives and your continued support and routine of supporting this ministry is truly appreciated. This is a time also to take stock of what we have and what we need. There are some items that we currently have in abundance (canned vegetables, pasta, soup) and then other items we tend to always have in short supply:



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

Pasta Sauce

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Tuna

Canned Chili and Beef Stew

Canned fruit

Canned pasta (like Chef-boy-ar-dee)

Juice

Personal Items:

Toilet paper

Shampoo

toothbrushes

Deodorant

Household Items:

Dishwashing liquid

Laundry detergent

Paper towels

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month is food pantry Sunday but donations are accepted anytime. Items are suggestions.... All donations are welcome!!!! Financial donations to the elders fund also help to support the food pantry.

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this 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. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. St. James UCC will receive the NIN offering on **October 7, 2018** as part of its World Communion Sunday observance.



## OTHER NOTES:

- **The Church Office will be CLOSED** August 31 – September 12. Ailene away on vacation. Phone messages will be checked daily.
- **SPIRITUAL FORMATION GUIDE** for September 2018 – August 2019 has been prepared by Pastor Lynn, and a copy is in everyone's mailbox. Please take a look at the many opportunities for "Growing in Faith and Coming Together in Service" available through St. James UCC. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office at 610-446-3036.

A man just got married and was returning home with his wife. They were crossing a lake in a boat when suddenly a great storm arose. The man was a warrior, but the woman was very much afraid because it seemed almost hopeless. At any moment they may capsize and drown. The woman was trembling and said, "Are you not afraid? This may be our last moment of life! It doesn't seem that we will be able to reach the other shore. Only some miracle can save us; otherwise death is certain." The man laughed and took the sword out of its sheath. The woman was even more puzzled.



Then he brought the sword close to the woman's neck. He asked, "Are you afraid?" She started to laugh, and said "Why should I be afraid? If the sword is in your hands, why should I be afraid? I know you love me." He put the sword back and said, "This is my answer. I know God loves me. So whatsoever may happen is going to be for the good. If we survive, good. If we don't survive, good, because everything is in his hands, and he cannot do anything wrong."



