



Hillstop Views

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135 Myrtle Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083

610-446-3036

www.stjamesucc.org

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

THE PASTOR'S POST

The warm weather has greeted us with a grand entrance this summer and things are blooming and offering us a beautiful Pennsylvania landscape. It is a blessing to be able to be out in the elements to enjoy the beauty of God's creation a bit more safely this year. With our cities opening up more and more to us, it is a good time to catch up on those summer events we may have missed out on over the past two summers.

LeAundra and I are hoping to take some time away and head to the shore, since we've heard so many great and wonderful things about the entertainment, the beaches and the food found on



these stunning shores. We hope to find a nice place to relax near the water and take some time to relax, relate and release. I hope that each of you are taking time for your own self-care. It is imperative that we listen to our mind, bodies and spirits and know when to rest them. It is healthy to take time to reconnect with our Creator, with ourselves and with our loved ones. Take some time for all things, you.



While I know it is the summer months and many people do vacation during this time, I will say I miss your faces in worship, and I look forward to being able to worship with more of you over time. Nonetheless, I am so

glad many of you are able to get away and enjoy your summer. Lately during worship, we have been learning more about the love of Christ and what that means for us as the called children of God. Understanding how we are called to care for one another, and how God delights in our attention to our neighbor's needs, as well as our own.

During the month of July we worked through a sermon theme around "freedom." Freedom in heart, mind and spirit. The first Sunday of the month we talked about how learning and accepting the truth that we are INTERdependent upon one another, helps us to heal emotional, spiritual and psychological wounds. This healing definitely brings about freedom within the heart, within mind and definitely within the spirit. The following week we learned that forgiveness, in particular self-forgiveness, is a huge factor in our freedom as well.

Many times we hold on to our own mistakes, and unintentionally use them to stifle us from our own spiritual growth, simply because we refuse to forgive ourselves, do not realize that we have not forgiven

ourselves, and/or failing to realize that we *need* to forgive ourselves. We must remember that God forgives us, and I believe it is beneficial for us learn to appreciate, love and forgive ourselves just the same. Forgiving ourselves free's us up to nestle victoriously in our emotional and spiritual freedom.



The next week's sermon was about healing. How we benefit greatly from inviting and *allowing* God to heal us from the inside out. Allowing God to heal us promotes the best freedom we could ever experience. Forgiveness is never about letting you or the other person "off the hook" for what was done to hurt us. No, forgiveness puts the power over our lives back in our hands. When we refuse to forgive ourselves and/or others, we are allowing that person who hurt us to keep the power of that wound over us. This power can destroy lives, if it is not given over to God and given back to you through true and lasting forgiveness.

We will soon begin talking more about prayer in our sermon reflections, and I hope you will join us however you can for these lessons on praying together as a spiritual community and family.

In even greater news, St. James has added two new members to our church family. We welcome them both to our tremendous and amazing church and congregation! It is my prayer that we continue to grow our church family, as we work together in building the Kin-dom of God. Since we began meeting in-person, we have had a good number of folks join us in the Sanctuary for worship. It is also exciting to know that the children are also enjoying themselves, by being at the church doing fun and adventurous things outdoors with Mrs. Allison and Mrs. Andrea!

We also started a *Mission Moment* as a part of worship in June. Our first Mission Moment guest was Mr. Abraham Siafa's of *Springs of Joy Ministries*. Mr. Abraham came to talk to the church about his ministry that sends the children of Sierra Leone, West Africa to school free of charge. Mr. Abraham shared with St. James that he was seeking assistance in collecting school bags and gently used children's shoes for these students. Not surprisingly, we collected a good amount of bookbags, shoes and gift cards for Mr. Abraham to take back to the primary school children in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Mr. Abraham put out the call and asked for these donations, and St. James came through as always. So again, Thank you.

Finally, the church grounds have undergone some beautifications and we hope this makes us feel proud of our church and its grounds. In June, we had all the trees and bushes trimmed up and cut back. We had fresh mulch laid and some new plants

added to the landscape. I thought the church would look more welcoming and inviting with a couple of chairs out front and a welcome sign on the front door.

We've had lots of positive feedback from not only members of the church, but also from people who live in the neighborhood about how nice the church is looking these days.

Also, Ed Bayliss, our electrician, put a timer on our front porch light so the church could be lit up at night for safety and illumination. I believe we are moving in the right direction with the church starting from the inside out, and I hope we continue to work together to keep St. James pressing toward the mark for the prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Thank you, St. James, for being all that you are for and to our St. James church family. I am so glad to be called your Pastor and I Thank God for each of you, every day.

In God's Peace,
-Pastor D

P.S. Sundays in August and September are designated as "casual Sundays." Please dress in the fashion that you feel cool and comfortable in!



The Church Office will be closed August 24 through 31. Ailene will be away, but Pastor D will check phone messages daily.

FROM CONSISTORY PRESIDENT

After monitoring a process lasting over two years, corresponding with various attorneys and experiencing court delays due to COVID, Wells Fargo Bank has finalized selling the assets in the Taubel Trust Fund of which St James Church was the sole



beneficiary. We have recently received a check in the amount of **\$258,835.74**. In addition to the check previously received for the required minimum distribution for 2021, our total deposit is **\$261,261.74**. The bank has withheld approximately \$1,000 for incidental expenses and ultimately, the final balance will be paid to us.

This amount has been deposited in our Endowment Account with the Vanguard (also known as Account #1). We have created procedures to be in compliance with instructions from the Pennsylvania Attorney General. Our attorneys have confirmed the procedures we will be following are acceptable. There is no need to amend our existing Endowment Document.

Each January we will withdraw from Account #1 any amount over the original principal amount. Those funds will be deposited into our general operating budget.

Albert Taubel was never a member of St. James Church. When he died in 1949, part of his estate was left to Hope Reformed German & English Church at 61st and Haverford. Hope Church merged into the Palatinate Church (originally located at 60th and Girard). Ultimately, the Palatinate merged into and became a part of St James Church in 1969. To my memory, just three Palatinate members joined St James. Long time members of St James will undoubtedly remember the Kreutz twins, Carl and Sidney, and Sidney's wife Leona.

There is one final Taubel Trust Account remaining of which St James is one of three beneficiaries. While the other two churches were willing to join us in petitioning the termination of the Trust, Wells Fargo indicated they were not in agreement. Accordingly, we anticipate continuing to receive quarterly income checks. In the 2020 year, \$11,200 was received and coded as trust fund income from this Trust Fund.

God Bless Albert Taubel!

Kathy Pioggia

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 at 3 PM



Everyone! Save the Date. Our Pastor, Dionne Boyce, will be installed as our permanent called Pastor on **Sunday, September 19** at a special ceremony at 3 pm in the Sanctuary. This is a momentous occasion for our church as well as for our Pastor. After a special ceremony we will (hopefully be able to) celebrate with light refreshments in Fellowship Hall. Representatives from the Philadelphia Association Committee on Ministry will be participating as well as other guests. Pastor D and Le are excited to be sharing the event with members of their family who will be traveling from Kansas City.

We will provide details closer to the date. In the meantime, please plan to attend. Child Care will be provided.

AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY OFFERING

The annual offering for American Indian Ministry will be held on **Sunday, September 26**. The Council for American Indian Ministry is comprised of five ministries, 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. They are an integral part of the life of the United Church of Christ. They maintain Indian traditions by employing Native values and cultures to witness in communities through authentic and postcolonial Indian expressions of the Christian faith. CAIM is working to raise awareness, participation and funds for its member congregations. Please be as generous as you can.

And once again this year, we have a church member who holds CAIM especially close to her heart who will match all gifts given to American Indian Ministry during the month of September.

BOOK CLUB

The St. James Book Club has continued to read, meet, and discuss a wide variety of books throughout the pandemic. We accomplished this by meeting on Zoom! After a couple of meetings it was suggested that we continue this forum even when we could get back to church. For those of us that live a distance this was a welcome decision.

Our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month- including summer months- at 7 pm. Our choices for the next couple of months are as follows:

- August 9 - Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
- September 13 – Eternal by Lisa Scottoline



We welcome all readers to join us. Don't feel that you have to finish a book, or 'like' a story. All opinions are welcome and often lead to vibrant conversation. If you are interested, please contact me and I will give you the information needed to join the group on Zoom.

Happy Reading!!

Joanne Morris

610-742-8509

CHURCH SCHOOL

We are looking forward to lots of fun this fall in Children's Ministry! We are finishing out the month of August with special events for each week of our outdoor childcare during Worship:

- August 1 - Bikes and Trikes
- August 8 - Creek Walk
- August 15 - Backyard Games
- August 22 - Popsicle Party



We will be holding our "**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**" on **August 29** and are looking forward to welcoming all students to

church that Sunday with a backpack to be blessed for the year ahead.

Sunday, September 12 will begin our regular Sunday School programming with the children broken into groups by age. Nursery will be for children birth through Kindergarten. Sunday School will welcome children grades 1 - 5, and the Youth Room will be bustling this fall with lots of kids in grades 6 - 12. If you feel as though your child would better be served in a room that does not match his/her age please let me know so we can work it out.

Ms. Andrea and I are really looking forward to seeing and being with your children this fall - we have so missed them!

Best,

Allison Fineberg

610-853-0545 Cell 610-804-5549

CONSISTORY

The St. James Consistory will meet Wednesday, **September 15**, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM. There is no meeting scheduled for August.

FOOD PANTRY

Wednesdays: **August 4 & 11** (9:00-11:00 AM), **August 25** (6:00-7:00 PM)

Wednesdays: **September 1 & 8** (9:00-11:00 AM), **August 22** (6:00 – 7:00 PM)



We are currently in need of juices and shelf-stable milk. At this time we have plenty of breakfast foods and pastas. But the staples (canned veggies and fruit, spaghetti sauce, tuna, etc.) are always appreciated. 😊

Once again we have been blessed with a couple of super generous monetary gifts, so we continue to have \$20 Giant gift cards for each family, one per month, to help with dairy veggies, fruit etc. We are so thankful for these gifts!

Want to learn more about the food pantry? Just give me a call or drop an email, 610-585-4955, kirk@bohемassociates.com.

Kirk Gosweiler

MUSIC

In May we began our search for a vocalist to lead us in worship each week. We posted a job listing on Indeed, which received 19 applications, and I recruited several individuals directly through LinkedIn. After hearing 10 recorded auditions and seeing 3 people for in-person auditions, we are thrilled to have offered the position to **Lucy Horton**, whose first Sunday was 7/25.



It has been exciting to be in the sanctuary creating live music again, and I trust Lucy will inspire you to lift your voice in song during our worship services. In addition to introducing new songs and hymns to the congregation, we will be singing familiar favorites from our hymnal and contemporary repertoire.

Choir will resume (likely in a modified capacity) in September. The specifics are still TBD depending on the CDC guidance for choirs at the time, but in *some form* we will again bring St. James the blessing of choral music. I'm excited that some of you have reached out to me interested in joining the choir. **If you are interested in joining the choir**, please send me a message at johnwcallahan@gmail.com.

John Callahan

SAM'S KITCHEN

Our meal at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County, 63rd and Market Streets in Upper Darby, will be prepared and delivered on **Wednesday, September 8th**. Contact Ed Hart at 610-449-3728 or hart.edwardm@gmail.com if you can help with meal preparation. The Covid 19 practice continues, in that we deliver our food to the Life Center, where the meal is served by the staff to the thirty Life Center residents, but not to non-residents. So no serving is actually done by our St. James folks. Hopefully things will return to normal very soon.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

AUGUST

1 – Marty Kitagawa
1 – Asher Gonsalves
1 – Joanne Morris
6 – Christine Miller
8 – Dylan McHale
11 – Pastor D
12 – John Callahan
15 – Dick Beck
15 – Walter Smith
17 – Vanessa Von Dulm
18 – Cheryl Haley
30 – Bobbie Lou Krok
31 – Grace McKenzie-Smith



SEPTEMBER

2 – Frauke Vogel
10 – Cindy Keaveney
11 – Audriana Schlegel
19 – Joanne Jones
21 – Robert Meyers
22 – LeAundra Boyice
26 – Barbara Adams
26 – Maureen McGurk
29 – Jenn Hayden
29 – Mary Beck
30 – Bill P. Penn

“Life isn’t about your age. Life is about living. So when your birthday comes, be thankful for the year that has just passed, and anticipate with a happy heart what the coming year will bring.” Catherine Pulsifer

THE TEACUP STORY

There was a couple who used to go to England to shop in the beautiful stores. They both liked antiques and pottery and especially teacups. This was their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. In one beautiful shop they saw a beautiful cup. They said, "May we see that? We've never seen one quite so beautiful."



As the lady handed it to them, suddenly the cup spoke. "You don't understand," it said. "I haven't always been a teacup. There was a time when I was red and I was clay. My master took me and rolled me and patted me over and over and I yelled out, 'let me alone,' but he only smiled, 'Not yet.'

"Then I was placed on a spinning wheel," the cup said, "and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. Stop it! I'm getting dizzy! I screamed. But the master only nodded and said, 'Not yet.'

"Then he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat!" the teacup said. "I wondered why he wanted to burn me, and I yelled and knocked at the door. I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as He shook his head, 'Not yet.'

"Finally the door opened, he put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. 'There, that's better,' I said. And he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Stop it, stop it!' I cried. He only nodded, 'Not yet.'

"Then suddenly he put me back into the oven, not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. All the time I could see him through the opening, nodding his head saying, 'Not yet.'

"Then I knew there wasn't any hope. I would never make it. I was ready to give up. But the door opened and he took me out and placed me on the shelf. One hour later he handed me a mirror and said, 'Look at yourself.' And I did. I said, 'That's not me; that couldn't be me. It's beautiful. I'm beautiful.'

"I want you to remember, then," he said, 'I know it hurts to be rolled and patted, but if I had left you alone, you'd have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I knew it hurt and was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened; you would not have had any color in your life. And if I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't survive for very long because the hardness would not have held.

Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you."

~ Author Unknown



THE REV. DR. DIONNE BOYCE

PastorD@stjamesucc.org

816-716-9388.

Virtual and Physical Office hours:

Tuesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

John Callahan, Director of Music

Allison Fineberg, Director of Children's Ministries

Andrea Angiulo, Nursery

Ailene Dunlap, Secretary

Church Office 610-446-3036

www.stjamesucc.org

For the children . . .

Back-to-School Maze

What 5 school supplies to you pass to get out of the maze?



A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN GOING TO SCHOOL.

Dear Jesus, you who promise to be with me always,
I pray that you would be with me today as I go to
school. Bless my going and my coming. Bless my
learning and my playing. Please protect my heart
from fear. Please keep me safe. Please give me
good friends. Give me joy this day, and thank you
for loving me from head to toe. In your name.
Amen.