

APRIL, 2009

St. James United Church of Christ
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Edited by Charlotte Lujan

Holy Week Begins

April 5th

April 5th marks the beginning of Holy Week. Our Palm Sunday Service is always a moving celebration, as once again we are invited to walk with Jesus through those last days of His ministry here on earth. Palm fronds will be given out as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the start of the very first Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday

April 9th - 7:30 pm

We will recall the Last Supper Jesus had with His disciples, and then be reminded of those last hours of Christ's life here on earth – and the flight of His disciples during our service of Tenebrae. This is a very special candlelight communion service! Twelve members of the congregation will serve as readers and 4 as acolytes – interested? Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Good Friday

April 10th

We are planning a Good Friday Service in conjunction with the Hamburg Presbyterian Church. This year's service will be here at St. James @ 7:30 PM. A skit will be offered with Reflections on "Were You There?"

Holy Saturday – Great Vigil of Easter

April 11th 6:30 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter is an ancient liturgy of the church with deep roots in scripture.

The vigil begins with the service of light. A tall paschal candle is used to represent Jesus Christ. The vigil continues with the Service of the Word in which readings from scripture remind us of all that God has done for the human family in preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

The service of water follows in which we renew our baptismal vows. In the sprinkling of water, each of us is reminded of our own baptism.

The Great Vigil of Easter concludes with a celebration of Holy Communion.

Please join us for this special Easter Vigil!

Easter Sunday -

April 12th - 10:00 a.m.

Our Easter Service is always special, and this year is no exception. The music will be spectacular, and Rev. Matlack is preparing a special sermon titled "God's Amazing Grace!" Come and help us celebrate the special gift that Christ has brought into our lives. Easter is, of course, the highlight of the church year. Having gone through the darkness and despair of Good Friday, we come to the joy of the resurrection. Come celebrate with us! Invite your friends! For Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

Easter Sunday Childcare

In addition to the special enrichment time, there will be childcare provided for children through age 4 during the worship service. Just bring your children to the pre-school room located down the hall from the lounge. Volunteers are needed to help.

Lenten and Easter Christian Education Events

Lenten Handouts

The Board of Christian Education is offering special Lenten materials to the families of St. James. Please be sure to check the basket near the bulletin board and help yourself to any of the items that interest you.

Meditative Lenten Walk

During the Lenten Season you are invited to "Walk The Easter Path". Discover and explore the steps that Jesus walked, following in his footsteps. Footsteps that were marked on Earth long ago, but continue to lead us today. During the Lenten Season there will be a series of stations for everyone to explore. Each of the stations will have symbols and reminders to stop and look at and reflect on the path that Jesus walked. Please take the time to visit each station alone or with your family or class. Stop, pray and reflect on the meaning of each station. The walk will be made available through out the Lenten Season until a week following Easter.

CHARACTER COUNCIL OF HAMBURG, INC.

Virtue is the moral excellence evident in my life as I consistently do what is right. To demonstrate virtue in my life, I will do what is right and encourage others to do the same. Guard my eyes, ears, words and thoughts. Teach me to learn to stand alone. Teach me to abstain from anything that might damage or pollute my mind or body. Teach me to treat others as I want them to treat me.

Easter Sunday Enrichment Time

There will NOT be any regular church school classes on Sunday, April 12th (Easter Sunday). Instead there will be a special Enrichment Time following the children's sermon and it will be held in the Horton Lounge. All children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend. We will be sharing a special Easter Lesson and Activity. Children maybe picked up in the lounge following worship. Speak to Karen if you would like to volunteer to help.

Easter Egg Hunt

Following the worship service there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children through 5th grade. If you are interested in helping with the egg hunt please speak to Karen Reinagel. The egg hunt has been traditionally held outside but it depends on the weather. It will be announced during the service where the egg hunt is being held. Volunteers are needed to help.

Please feel free to leave any donations to fill the eggs in the church office, Karen's mailbox or the CE 2nd floor office area. Thank you ahead of time for all of your donations.

Gospel of John DVD & music CD

If you are interested in borrowing either of these items please speak to Karen. This is a perfect time of year to spend time watch this moving DVD or listen to the wonderful soundtrack on CD.

St. James Scholarships

Scholarship applications for the St. James Scholarship and the Raymond Riefler Scholarship are now available in the rack outside the office door. Applications include a list of guidelines.

Applications for the St. James scholarship must be submitted for approval **NO LATER THAN JUNE 1st**.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Our ladies knit and crochet beautiful prayer shawls. The shawls have been given to many people. Roswell Park Hospital called right after the plane crash and said they were in dire need of the shawls. We were fortunate enough to have them on hand. Roswell was very thankful for them. The ladies have made the shawl available for folks at Fox Run and various nursing homes. If you know someone in need of one, please call the church office.

Paula Pfister Christian Education Scholarship

Graduating high school seniors, who have served in the Christian Education program at St. James during their high school years, including their senior year, are eligible to apply for the Paula Pfister Christian Education Scholarship. Applications will be mailed to those that are eligible to apply. Completed applications **MUST** be submitted for approval **NO LATER THAN, JUNE 1ST**.

SERVERS

The Servers Fellowship Group will meet on April 28th at a local restaurant at 1:00 p.m. All women of St. James are welcome to attend.

We will not be having a Spring Soup Sale this year. We hope you all look forward to our Fall Soup Sale in October.

Paula Pfister Dessert Auction Palm Sunday, April 5th

You can tell that spring is on it's way when it's time for the Paula Pfister Dessert Auction! Please sign-up and bring a dessert or two to be bid on for this worthwhile event. Paula was CE Director from 1982 - 1987 and a pie/dessert auction is held twice a year to raise funds for a scholarship that is in honor of her memory. The scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors that have volunteered during their four years of high school in the Christian Education program at St. James either as a church school teacher, assistant or CE office assistant. Paula was a wonderful person and this is a wonderful way to honor her memory. We hope to see you during

WOMEN'S SEWING MISSION

Our next meeting will be help April 14th. We meet in the Assembly Hall at 9:30 a.m. Bring a sandwich. Dessert will be provided.

We are in need of old sheet for our chux pads.

CIA NEWS

Bibles

Churches In Action is partnering with Functional Literacy of Haiti for the 3rd year will buy 700 Creole Bibles for Haitian adults who have just learned to read. We are offering Church members and friends an opportunity to purchase a Creole Bible to donate . for \$10.00 (but there is no limit on the number of Bibles you can purchase). You may sign a personalized label to return with your donation. The labels will be taken to Haiti and affixed in each Bible. Bibles will be presented to each Haitian graduate at their graduation ceremony on a Sunday in June, 2009.

Taste of Home

St. James will be sponsor to the CIA Taste of Home event again this year. We will be assembling the bags to give at the show on April 27th beginning at 8 a.m. until we finish. Snacks will be provided. This is a good opportunity to meet with folks and share fund raising ideas. If you can spare some time on that day come on over to the AgriCenter and join us. We need many hands to accomplish this task.

The Taste of Home Show will be April 27th. The doors open at noon this year for the trade show. We will again give out bags and sell cookbooks. We need folks to appear on stage in the show, give out bags, and sell books. Men are gratefully welcomed. If you can give an hour or a few hours, we could use your help.

The money raised at this show goes to help fund the Mother's Day weekend project. This event alone raises over \$2500.

CIA Mother's Day Work Weekend

Our annual work weekend is May 8th and 9th. Our project this year is Westside Ministries in Buffalo. Their website is at (www.westsideministried.org). This non-profit organization seeks to follow Jesus by serving the people of the under-resourced West side. It began in 2000 to provide home ownership for those demonstrating an ability to own a home. We expect up to 100 volunteers to help. Please plan to join in this venture. There is something for everyone to do.

Wednesday Family Night April Fools Day!

Don't be a fool, plan on attending! - April 1st, 6:30pm - 8:30pm Join us for pizza, salad, dessert, beverage and fellowship. This will be the last family night until September. Please consider joining us. it's a chance to visit with other parents while your children attend choir, or just a chance to get out of the house and let the pizzeria do the cooking. Please remember to sign-up on the bulletin bd. so we have an idea how much pizza to order. Any question speak to Karen Reinagel.

Lasertron - April 25th

\$20 per person. Check Sunday bulletin for details. Anyone young and old are welcome to come to this event. Talk to Donna or Karen if you are interested.

Board of Christian Education Staff Reviews

The Board of CE is currently in the process of conducting it's yearly reviews of CE Staff. This involves speaking to current CE Staff and finding out how their experience has been during this year. If you would like a CE Bd. Member to contact you regarding teaching opportunities in the fall or the summer, helping with the pageant or any other CE

sponsored events or activities please call Karen and she will be glad to have someone from the board contact you or you may speak directly with Karen.

Annual Church Picnic & Worship - Sunday, June 14th "DUNKIRK DAY"!

Come join the fun and festivities as we celebrate and praise GOD! We hope you will mark the date on your calendars and look for information in next months Connector.

WAY - Annual Work Weekend

Interested in helping Dunkirk get ready for the summer months. Speak to Karen or Donna if you want details.

When: May 16th - 17th

Where: Dunkirk Conference Center

Who: Western Area Youth

What: Help prepare Dunkirk for the upcoming camping season

Christian Education Staff Appreciation Luncheon Program Sunday, May 3rd

On Sunday, May 3rd we will be honoring our Christian Education teaching staff, assistants, substitutes and anyone who is involved with the Christian Education Program at St. James. Everyone is welcome to attend this special occasion. There will be a special musical program as part of this special event which honors all of our Christian Education volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and space to indicate what you would like to bring. Traditionally the Board of Christian Education brings salads and the Church Council will be providing desserts.

If you are interested in helping to honor those involved with our Christian Education program please check the "would like to help" column on the sign-up sheet. We can always use a hand setting-up, cleaning-up, putting the food out making coffee, drinks or rolling meat for platters. It's a nice way to get involved and thank the people who have volunteered their time and talent to nurture our children and help to guide them on their lifelong Christian journey.

N. Y. State Youth Event Report (SYE 2009)

Donna & Bill Schumacher and a group of 8 youth from St. James attended this years event in Painted Post, NY. The theme was "God's Rhythm", and rumor has it that a great time was had by all. St. James is blessed to have a

couple as dedicated as Bill & Donna to volunteer to drive, be responsible for and spend a whole weekend with the youth that are interested in attending special events like this. I should also mention that the kids in our group are pretty special too!

Youth Service

A special thank you to Donna, Bill & Rita for all there hard work on this year's Youth Service.

Youth Board Meeting

There will be a Youth Board Meeting Tuesday, April 28th at 6:15 p.m.

Board of Christian Ed Meeting

There will be a Board of Christian Ed Meeting Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks to our Youth

Thank you for your most generous gift of \$440 to the South Towns Food Pantry here at All Saints. It was added to other funds that have been donated to give aid to members of the community.

Pastor David B. Menz

MUSIC NOTES

Singers and Instrumentalists are needed to perform for Teachers' Appreciation Sunday, May 3rd. Come and join in the fun. We will prepare solos and Ensembles for this special occasions. Please see Christina as soon as possible if you can participate.

Cherubs and Youth Choirs singing Palm Sunday at 10 a.m.

Meet at 9:30

Rehearsals Wednesday, April 1, 25 Cherubs at 7 and Youth at 7:30

Chancel Choir Rehearsals

Wed. 4/9, 7 pm Easter Messiah

Sun. 4/5 11 a.m. Easter Messiah

No rehearsals Sunday 4/12 or 19

Rehearsal 4/26 11 a.m.

Chancel Choir will be singing Palm Sunday, 4/5 and Easter Sunday 4/12. They will not be singing 4/19

April 26th, Special Music Sunday

BAPTISM

Payton Alexis Penrod

Born: January 6, 2009

Baptized: February 28, 2009

Parents: Tracy and Patrick
Penrod

FOOD PANTRY

April 5 Bisquick/bread mixes
April 12 Hot/cold cereals
April 19 Spaghetti sauce,
canned stew, ravioli
April 26 Pancake mix, Oatmeal
May 3 Pasta/Pasta dinners
May 20 Canned/dry soups
May 24 Canned juice/mixes
May 31 Dry milk

RUMMAGE SALE

April 23rd, Thursday set up and pricing, 9:00 a.m. to ??
April 24th, Friday preview night \$1.00 admission, 5:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.

April 25th, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

April 26th, Sunday, bag sale after worship and clean up. There will be sign-up sheets on the Bulletin Board for help with set-up, pricing, kitchen and floor, bakers for bake sale, and clean up. Many hands will be needed in this very large job.

You may start bringing your "gently" used items on Monday, April 20th. There will be an area designated in the Assembly Hall.

Roast beef sandwiches, desserts, coffee, tea and pop will be available to purchase.

If you have questions, please call Patty Jensen in the church office.

Remember one man's junk is another man's treasure!

MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE

The Church & Ministry Committee will be sponsoring a hanging basket sale on Saturday, May 9th and Sunday, May 10th. The proceeds will benefit our Scholarship Fund. Please see Charlotte Lujan or a Church & Ministry Member if you have something special you would like to order. We will have baskets available outside the Lounge to purchase. The price will be \$20 per basket

HELP -

THE YOUTH HOUSE IS MISSING THE FOLLOWING!!!!!!

The Youth House is missing some items and we are asking people to let us know if you know their where about 's. Please speak to Karen Reinagel if you have any information about them. The value of missing items is estimated at \$180.00 and are as follows:

- Playstation 2 Game System
- 2 Game Controllers
- 2 Playstation 2 Games
- Hook Up Cables for Playstation 2 and Game Cube System
- 5 Game Cube Games
- 3 Computer Games

If you would be interested in making a donation of a game system or helping to donate to the cost of replacing the game system please speak to Karen or Donna.

Summer Childcare & Church School

I am looking for help for our Childcare/Enrichment Time for the summer months. There are a variety of choices for helping: oversee the sign-up and remind people when they volunteered, people to keep a watch on the Childcare Room, people to donate snacks, and people willing to help serve a mini version of coffee hour after worship.

If you can help, it is a nice way to let a mom or dad spend a well deserved hour in peace and prayerful reflection. Children up to age 4 are in childcare until the rest of the children join them in the lounge for Enrichment Time following the children's sermon. If you are interested in more information please speak to Karen Reinagel.

Dunkirk Conference Center Camping Opportunities - Theme for 2009 "Breakthrough"

It's not too late to register for camp at the Dunkirk Conference Center. Dunkirk's program committee has been working hard over the past several months to make sure 2009 is a great season. Get a registration form from the CE bulletin board area or outside the CE office on the 2nd floor, fill it out, hand in your registration form and deposit to Karen Reinagel and we will do the rest.

This year's theme is "Breakthrough". What would it be like to meet Jesus? The gospels provide a variety of accounts of those who encountered Jesus during his lifetime. Some reacted negatively, actively seeking to stop his ministry. Others had no reaction, choosing to ignore him or walk away. But for many others, their encounter with Jesus was a breakthrough a transforming experience that changed their way of seeing God, themselves and the world around them. The theme of "Breakthrough" will explore a series of biblical stories that represent transforming encounters with Jesus.

Dunkirk is a non-profit center that is committed to enrich the lives of children, youth and adults in a Christian environment. The camp has a dedicated staff of volunteer directors and counselors that are to be commended for their long hours and untiring efforts. They are special people who enjoy working with our youth who are our leaders of tomorrow. The Conference Center is handicap accessible. If you would like to learn more about the center go to www.dunkirkcc.org or speak to Karen Reinagel.

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Registration forms are located outside the Ce office and also on display near the lounge on the CE Bulletin Bd. display. The deadline's for registration have change this year. Please note that the Super Early Bird Rate is NO longer available, instead the Early Bird Rate Deadline is payment in full by April 15th and if you register after that date the full fee is due at the time of registration. In order to meet the Dunkirk Early Bird Deadline St. James has set a deadline date for registration and money to be in by Sunday, April 5th. Any registration after April 15th are the full rate.

St. James offers a scholarship to all campers. The scholarship covers 1/2 of the cost of the April 15th Early Bird Registration. All camping registration forms and monies are to be handed into the Christian Education Office by April 5th in order for the CE office to process the registration and get to Dunkirk by their April 15th deadline.

Help Wanted, Web Master

Dunkirk is looking for a web master to take over the maintenance and development of their web site. This is a good opportunity for a college student to help in the site's redesign and be able to add this to their college portfolio.

The Auction Will Start Promptly at 10:00 a.m. For information, call Ron Bieler at 716-941-9183. Donations can be made of new and used items except for used clothes, organs, pianos, old T.V. sets, and pool tables. These items are almost impossible to sell. Items that sell well are: Garden Tools, Lawn Mowers, Riding Mowers, Snowblowers, Tractors, Boats, Cars, Trucks, Fishing & Hunting Gear, Antiques of any kind, Lawn Furniture, Hand Tools of all Trades, New Clothing, Comic Books, China Ware, Office furniture & Equipment, Tables, Chairs, All Types of Furniture, Musical Instruments and whatever else you may want to donate.

If you don't have any of the above that you want to donate, here are some other ideas where you can participate. Donate Theme Baskets, Gift Certificate, and Baked Goods to sell. Or you can donate money for our cause.

Jack Kestor from Boston, NY will serve as auctioneer. There will be a 10% buyers premium in place, and there will be a food and beverage tent where you can buy hot or cold drinks, snack foods, along with hot dogs and hamburgers.

Your donations must be at Dunkirk by April 20th in the main dining hall. You will have to make your own arrangements to get items to Dunkirk.

The Auxiliary of the Dunkirk Conference Center, Inc.

The Auxiliary was organized in May 1932 by a group of women to provide support for the Evangelical Conference Ground at Dunkirk, NY. Dues became a gift to the camp. The camp then was able to use the gift money for dining tables, floor, and ceiling fans, kitchen equipment, smoke alarms, gas line repairs, paint, ramps for handicap accessibility, playground equipment and more. If you are interested in becoming a member, speak to Jennifer Reinagel. This is an annual membership drive. The membership includes receiving the "Spirit" Newsletter.

Other churches who participate are; Zion UCC, Christ UCC, Kenmore UCC, Faith UCC, Cleveland Heights Christian, Epiphany UCC, and St. Matthews.

Traditionally, St. James has the church picnic at the Center. Rain or shine we have a wonderful time. In the summer months there are numerous camps to attend from ages 7 up to 100 plus, children's families, or groups. St. James sponsors a cabin at Dunkirk, which is maintained by members of our congregation. Funds to make repairs and updates come from our annual rummage sale. So, yes we have plenty of opportunities throughout the summer/year to make use of this great facility.

In advance thank you for becoming a member of "The Auxiliary" for 2009 and enjoy your visits to the Dunkirk Conference Center.

Can You Help Dunkirk

2010 is coming soon! For the Program Committee NOW is when the planning must begin for new camps in 2010. If you have a skill or craft that could be shared with our youth at a mini camp or at a week long camp, we are interested in hearing from you. It does us no good to talk about photography camp without any knowledge of photography. Having a skill would not commit you to directing a camp, but it might allow several mini-camps in the same few days, allowing better programming for some activities. Can you Juggle, Knit, Teach diving, Tie-dye, Crochet, Teach camping skills, Make Kites, Paint, Teach outdoor cooking, Do boondoggle, Teach about flowers, Do skits or plays, trees, bugs, do origami, sharpen basketball skills, Use a compass, Teach photography, writing stories, haiku, Make jewelry, model cars and rockets. The list of possible activities that could be shared is endless. Please

contact Jean Haller at 633-9178 or you may email her at jeanhaller@yahoo.com if there is something you can do to help create a new camp. Thank you.

PARISH NURSING NOTES

Rev. Amos Acree, RN is director of Parish Nursing Ministry for the United Church Home. He has asked to remember National Health Care Decisions Day on April 16th. The United Church Home will be participating. Rev. Acree would welcome questions about this issue either by calling the United Church Home or visiting the website which can be found at:

www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org.

Other issues he would like to raise are ways to lessen connections to cancer such as stop smoking, avoiding second hand smoke, having your house tested for radon, restrict uses of pesticides, using sunscreen, eating healthy foods and have appropriate health screenings.

May is National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month as well as Skin Cancer Awareness Month. Please keep these in mind when you have your regular health checkups.

Thank You

Thank you so much for your many cards, phone calls and prayers following my recent surgery. Thanks to Rev. Matlack for his visits and Pastor Alva's calls. I feel truly blest to have such a kind and caring church family - Robin Lindstrom

Thanks to the Cabinet for organizing the potluck for the Wednesday night service. It was a job well done. Charlotte Lujan

Healthy Fear

Bible Excerpt from *Matthew 8:28-9:1* *Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their*

neighborhood. **Reflection by David Schoen, Minister and Team Leader, Congregational Vitality Ministries, Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, Cleveland, Ohio.**

Fear of God is not what we usually talk about. We talk about "love of God," "grace of God," and "peace of God" but not fear of God. But in today's scripture, the town's people meet Jesus and then asked him, begged him, to leave. Not the usual response we might imagine to Jesus in our midst. However, there is good reason to be afraid. I cannot read Jesus' words on what we do to the least among us without fear of Christ's judgment. When I consider our care of God's creation, I'm sure that God cannot be happy. When I remember that we are to be judged not only by what we do individually, but by what we as a people and nation do, I often think, with fear and trembling, "bring it on, God." Fear can be a good thing. Those who live without any fear can be very reckless. The Psalmist says that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: all those who practice it have a good understanding." I appreciate these words for the beginning of a day: May you love God so much that you love nothing else too much; May you fear God enough that you need fear nothing else at all. **Prayer** Dear God, teach me to so love and fear you that even in my reckless ways I begin to understand and practice your wisdom. Amen.