

# The St. James Connector

St. James United Church of Christ  
76 Main Street, Hamburg, NY 14075

## Summer Newsletter (June, July, August)

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### Character Council of Hamburg, Inc.

#### **JUNE: Justice**

Justice is taking personal responsibility to uphold what is pure, right, and true.

#### **JULY – Gentleness**

Gentleness is showing consideration and personal concern for others.

#### **AUGUST – Faith**

Faith is confidence that actions rooted in good character will yield the best outcome even when I cannot see how.

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## From Pastor Bob

### Baccalaureate Sunday - June 7<sup>th</sup>

This is graduation season! The colleges have already celebrated their graduations, and next weekend our local High Schools will be celebrating theirs.

Baccalaureate Sunday is a time when we honor our graduates. They have taken the gifts that God has given them, and applied them towards specific goals. It is appropriate that we celebrate this achievement with them, and even more appropriate that we do so in the context of worship.

This year we will honor our graduates on Sunday June 7th. The service will be followed by a special luncheon put on by our youth. We want to invite all of our High School graduates-to-be, and our college or graduate school graduates to join us.

We do need your help! We know who is graduating from our local High Schools, but our records are incomplete about college and graduate school programs. We would like to list all of our graduates in the bulletin (whether or not they can be here for the service), along with the degree which they have earned. If you are graduating, or know of someone who is, please contact the church office with that information.

**See page 5 regarding luncheon  
in honor of our graduates!**



## AND THE RESULTS ARE IN!

You have spoken - and by a narrow margin (47 to 44), **the congregation prefers 10:00 AM for our summer worship time** (15 liked 9:30). There was a lot of interest in this - and I'm glad that so many of you expressed your opinion. The important thing now, is that we all take advantage of the opportunity to worship - during the summer as well as during the rest of the year.

Please remember that if 10:00 AM isn't convenient on a given Sunday - we also worship on Saturday evenings at 6:30!

THANKS!

## Summer - Time of Renewal

This is the time of year when people think about sleeping in or doing things outside on a Sunday morning - instead of going to church. WRONG! Summer is a time of renewal - and we all desperately need that spiritual renewal. Yet true renewal begins with worship. It's not something you can do on your own - you need God and a community of faith as a vital part of that process. If you have a Sunday morning activity planned, then come and worship with us on Saturday evening!

Don't cheat yourself - this summer make a point of worshipping God regularly!!!

Thanks,

**Rev. Bob**

**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the  
New York Conference  
United Church of Christ  
June 5-7, 2009  
Silver Bay YMCA  
of the Adirondacks**

We will be honoring Rev. Geoffrey Black, our Conference Minister, at a special picnic on Saturday as he prepares to leave us in September to go forth into his new ministry.

On Saturday evening we will celebrate the ministries of Rev. David Felton, Western Area Regional Minister, as he retires at the end of October and Rev. Michael Caine, Southeast Regional Minister, as he moves to a pastorate in Philadelphia in August.

### **Casting Your Nets**



We are encouraging everyone to use your nametags. If you do not have one please see Roger Jackson; he will provide one for you.

### **Saturday Evening – July 18<sup>th</sup>**

After worship we will be having a campfire, roast marshmallows and make smore's. Bring a chair and enjoy.

### **Set Aside - June 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Kitchen Cleaning**

Our men have worked so hard sprucing up our facilities. Ladies, let's get together to clean the kitchen.

Bring your buckets, cleaning supplies and with many hands we will complete the job in no time.

Thanks,  
Alva

### **Thank You To . . .**

Laurie Karn, the TLC chef for providing lunch for our volunteers, Don, Horst and Mike.

### **Cleaning the Church**

The Church Council has decided to make a change in our Church cleaning arrangements. John Hochadel is no longer working for St. James.

On an interim basis, Jennifer Gilman Reinagel will be cleaning the church. The Church Council will be investigating various options and hopes to make a decision about long-term cleaning arrangements at their June Church Council meeting.

### **Servers Fellowship Picnic/August Meeting**



The Servers Fellowship will be having a picnic at Alva's house on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting will be held in the Horton Lounge on Tuesday August 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

All women of the church are welcome.

### **Womens Sewing Mission Group**

Our next meeting will be June 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. We will be meeting in the Assembly Hall.

We plan to go to Heidi's Restaurant for our lunch. If you have not made your reservation, please contact Jennie Altes at 649-3284. Reservations must be in by June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We will not be meeting during July and August.

### **ECUADOR or BUST**

Last winter, when the brochure came in for travel to Ecuador through St. Leo University for this August, my eyes lit up and I wanted to go. My parents said as long as I could pay for it, I could go. Like most young people, I have big dreams and very little money to support them. But I made a budget and thought I could do it with very little trouble.

However, the best laid plans sometimes do not work out. When I signed up for my trip, I did not plan on having a car accident which left me with a broken wrist and ten weeks of not being employed. I also did not plan on the State of New York rebuilding the highway in front of McDonalds in Orchard Park. This has caused my hours at my job to be cut in half since March and this will continue until the end of July.

Because I am attending college summer school I can not pick up another regular hours job. So this is where I am asking my church help me!

I am willing to baby sit, do any form of yard work, any office work or any other odd job you can think of. If you need a few hours of help here and there, I am your man.

I can either charge by the hour or by the job. Clip this article and put it on your refrigerator. Every single penny counts and helps! Thanks

Cory Los Schumacher  
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## Music Ministry

During the summer months the Music Ministry invites all interested singers and instrumentalists to participate in worship. Please contact me if you have a special song, solo, or ensemble piece you would like to perform. I will be happy to help you in your musical preparation.

Thank you for a great year of singing. Music Appreciation Sunday will be June 7<sup>th</sup>.

God's blessings for a safe and happy summer.

**Christina Shrewsbury**  
Director of Music



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## Food Pantry

June 7	Cake & Muffin Mixes
June 14	Canned Vegetables
June 21	Instant Potatoes
June 28	Noodles and Macaroni
July 5	Paper Products
July 12	Jello & Pudding Mixes
July 19	Bisquick & Bread Mixes
July 26	Hot & Cold Cereals
Aug. 2	Spaghetti Sauce/Canned Stew/Ravioli
Aug.9	Pancake Mixes & Oatmeal
Aug.16	Pasta & Pasta Dinner Mixes
Aug. 23	Canned & Dry Soups
Aug. 30	Peanut Butter & Meat Products

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## St. James Christian Education Program

**Our Vision:** To provide a quality program for the children who enter our doors throughout the year.

**Have a Great Summer and Remember to Make St. James a Part of it!**

As the weather gets warmer and our schedules change, we often forget about our commitment to attend church. St. James is open all summer; we have child-care during the service and Summer Church School following the children's sermon each Sunday for children from K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We even serve lemonade, ice tea and cookies following worship.

Try something new - walk to a service or plan to attend a service and then do a family activity on your way home. We miss you when we don't see you all summer long. We are open, please stop by!

## Summer Church School Program Opportunities

Even though the regular church school year ends with our annual church picnic and service at Dunkirk Conference Center, the recruitment of teachers and other staff for the summer months is ongoing. We are looking for Church School Teachers, Assistants, Childcare workers, substitutes, coordinators, snack donations, refreshments coordinator & craft people. If you are someone that has been thinking about offering your time and talent to the Christian Education Program @ St. James please talk to Karen Reinagel and let's see if we can put our heads together and find a place where you would feel comfortable and enjoy volunteering. We need people to work with our summer program which includes June 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>. Please consider volunteering for a Sunday or two and spending some quality time

with the children that enter our doors over the summer months. There is no prep time; Karen has all the supplies ready for you each Sunday. If interested please speak to Karen, sign up on the bulletin board, or fill out an interest slip and return it to the CE Department.

## Opening of Fall Church School Program - Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

The fall church school program will begin on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate the opening of the program with our annual Ice Cream Social. Don't forget to mark your calendars. In fact mark your calendars to invite a new neighbor or a friend to join us on this special day!

The Board of Christian Education is in the process of doing annual CE Staff Reviews and recruiting teachers, assistants, subs, middle high youth leaders, etc. for our regular church school program which starts up on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Each year we have many staff members that are willing to return and volunteer their time to our program but we are always looking for new people to volunteer in a variety of ways in our Christian Education Program. If you are someone that has been thinking about offering your time and talent to the Christian Education program at St. James please talk to me (Karen Reinagel). We are always looking for people to teach, assist in the classroom, lead mini courses, work with the youth program, and help work AV or video equipment, or serve on the Board of Christian Education. You are invited to try one or more of these activities. Areas that we still are in need of help are; youth house chaperones, person/s to oversee the CE storage area where our supplies are kept, CE office assistants, substitutes and classrooms assistants at the middle high level. We are flexible and encourage people to volunteer as little or as much as

they like. We don't want to burn people out.

## **Vacation Bible School**

**August 24<sup>th</sup> - August 28<sup>th</sup>**

**9am - Noon**

**Location - Hamburg**

**Presbyterian Church**

**Theme - Exploring and Sharing Our Gifts "Let Your Gifts Shine"**

VBS will be centered on various workshops that children/people will sign up to attend for the whole week. Leaders for the workshops will lead the various workshops. Some of the possible workshops the VBS Committee is looking into are; beads & things, cooking & baking, carpentry, gardening, clowning, animal care, first aid, books (reading & writing), mothering (dolls), musical instruments, puppet ministry, knitting, geology, dance, languages, sign languages, Greek & Hebrew Alphabet. There will also be a time during VBS to work as a group on mission projects, have snack time and gym like activities. This is still in the planning stages, so please be on the lookout for information in the bulletin, on the bulletin board and possible a special mailing. If you are interested in volunteering to work on VBS and share a special talent please speak to Karen Reinagel. We are also looking for people to do child care, bake for snack time, a snack chairperson or snack workers, donations financial and items such as glue sticks etc. for VBS; we also are looking for people to volunteer to lead gym activities. Speak to Karen Reinagel if you are interested in being a part of this year's VBS Experience!

## **Stuffed Animals for Children**

The Christian Education Department has a basket of donated Stuffed Animals for worship time. In the rear of the sanctuary is a basket labeled "Stuffed Animals for Worship." If you have a new or clean gently used stuffed animal you would like

to donate please just place it in the basket. These soft furry friends are for children to love and pray with during our worship service. They are a nice quiet friend to sit with during the service and give the children something to keep them occupied if the service is a bit longer than their attention span. At the end of the service the children are encouraged to return the furry friend to their basket so they will be there for next week's service.

## **Dunkirk Day - Annual Church Picnic & Worship Service @ Dunkirk Conference Center Also A New Event Called Clean Cabin 13!**

*Sponsored by the Board of CE & CABINET*  
3602 East Lake Rd.  
Dunkirk, NY  
<http://www.dunkirk.org>

**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>  
Worship Service @ 11am**

Picnic, Games & Fellowship to follow the service!

Bring your swimsuit, if the weather is good the pool will be open. The games are all planned and the prizes ready to be awarded. Hopefully you have signed-up on the sign-up sheet and are giving some thought to the dish you are bringing to share. All you need to do now is pack the cooler and pray for sunshine. Even if we don't get the sunshine we will still gather together and have a great time.

First Congregational UCC from Angola might be joining us for this festive day. We will worship, pray, praise and play together as we celebrate. Our theme for this year is "Jesus Walks With Me."

Come and join us as our children are an active part of the service and our ministers lead us in worship. If you need directions, you may pick up a map on the table near the church office or

check on the Dunkirk Conference Website.

We will also be offering a chance during the day to Clean Cabin 13 which is the cabin St. James sponsors. So bring along a pail and some cleaning supplies and anyone that is interested in helping can find a space of time during the day to help get the cabin in order and cleaned up for the opening of the summer season.

***Hope to see all of you!!!!***

## **Dunkirk Camping News**



There is still time to register for the Dunkirk Camping Experience this summer provided

there are still openings available in the camp you choose to attend. Scholarship money from St. James is still available to members of St. James who wish to attend one of the camps at Dunkirk. Speak to Karen Reinagel if you are interested in more information. Please remember to hand all registrations in through our CE office. This is the only way we have to track who is going and what funding we have to issue.

## **Burgerfest**

**Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**

Plans are underway and the Youth are planning to host a variety of events during Burgerfest, Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Last year we sold popcorn, birch beer, freeze pops, water, and tickets for our Theme Baskets Raffle and we plan on having this and more at this year's Burgerfest. We had a great time last year and plan to repeat it this year. If you would like to help plan and be a part of the activities at St. James during Burgerfest please speak to Karen Reinagel or sign-up on the bulletin board. We are in need of Theme Basket donations. If you are able and willing to donate a basket please sign-up on the bulletin board and have your baskets turned in by Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Baccalaureate Sunday -

### Luncheon Honoring our Graduates Following Worship - Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

The Middle & Sr, High Youth of St. James are inviting the congregation to attend a Baccalaureate Luncheon in honor of all our graduates....High School....College....etc.

Please sign up on the bulletin board to bring a dish or dessert to pass if you plan on attending the luncheon.

Bill Schumacher & some lucky volunteer (speak to Karen if interested in being the lucky volunteer) will be grilling and we need a head count in order to prepare enough food for all who attend!

Dress casual so you can participate in the games that are being planned!

## Family Night

Family Night will resume in September. Please be on the lookout for the time and date in the September newsletter.

Thank you to everyone that is a part of this fun monthly event. Have a wonderful summer.

## All Church Cleaning Event

The Board of Christian Education will be holding a Cleaning Event sometime at the end of August or early September to get our church and classrooms ready for the opening of church school in September. Please be on the lookout for more information in the church bulletin and bulletin once a date has been set. This will be a cleaning event and a cookout.

All are welcome and encouraged to bring supplies to wash window, dust, mop, vacuum or whatever your specialty is when it comes to cleaning!

## Summer Youth Events & News

### Support Our On-Going Fund-Raising Efforts

**Calling all Youth (Middle Youth & Senior High)** - Remember to check the Youth Bulletin Board and weekly church bulletin during the summer months for sign-up sheets, dates, events, activities, etc. You never know when we'll have something good planned. If we don't have your email address be sure to give it to Karen, ([karen@saintjamesucc.com](mailto:karen@saintjamesucc.com)) or Donna so we can contact you if an event is scheduled.

Remember to sign up to come and help with child-care and/or enrichment time during the summer months.

### On-Going Paper Recycling Drive

Please remember to drop off your paper recycling in our paper retriever at the rear of the church parking lot.

### On-Going Can & Plastic Bottle Drive

Please remember to drop off your Cans and Plastic Bottles on the front porch of the Youth House (please place in appropriate plastic bins on the front porch). Please note - **NO GLASS CONTAINERS** we don't want any youth or volunteers getting cut on broken glass!

### On-Going St. Pauly's Clothing Shed

Please think of us as you clean up from your garage sale or cleaning out your closet and bring your used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys and place them in our shed. (Please ...**NO** rags, fabric scraps, pillows, toys or household goods. Please understand that the above items are a hardship and expense to dispose of.) Help us keep your donation clean and dry. If possible, please put clothing in plastic bags. Thanks!

"Share a little bit of your love my friend!

Take off the bushel basket and let your gifts shine!

**VBS - August 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>; 9:00 - Noon**

This is your opportunity to share your gifts with the children in Vacation Bible School.

If you are interested in providing assistance with any of the following items, please contact Karen Reinagel.

Assistance is needed in the following:

- Carpentry
- Gardening
- First Aid
- Languages
- Child Care
- Puppet Ministry
- Geology
- Arts and Crafts
- Snack Preparation
- Quilting
- Knitting
- Animal Care
- Recreation
- Music
- Clowning
- Beads n' Things
- Dance
- Cooking/Baking

## NY Conference Free Financial Training

Saturday, June 20 – 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Faith UCC, Boston  
8651 Boston State Road, Boston

Topics:  
Treasurer's Workshop  
Annual Financial Campaign  
Year Round Stewardship

RSVP Required –  
Call Faith Boston – 716 -941-3529  
Or Lex Liberatore – 585-591-2705



## Summer Calendar Items

### June

2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Board of CE
4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
4 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	TLC Board Meeting
5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>		NY Conference at Silverbay
6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	Property Committee
7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Baccalaureate Sunday and Choir Appreciation Service and Luncheon
8 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 a.m.	Sewing Mission Meeting and Luncheon
9 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	VBS Meeting at Hamburg Presbyterian
11 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Worship Service at St. James
14 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m.	Service at Dunkirk Conference Center
18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 – 3:00	NY Conference Free Financial Training at Faith UCC, Boston
20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	Property Committee
20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 – Noon	Women of the Church to clean the kitchen
21 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Fathers Day – Men will lead worship
25 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study

### July

2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:00 p.m.	TLC Board Meeting
5 <sup>th</sup>		Deadline to submit Theme Baskets for Burgerfest Raffle
18 <sup>th</sup>		Burgerfest
18 <sup>th</sup>	Approx. 7:00 p.m.	Campfire hosted by Casting Your Nets
28 <sup>th</sup>		Servers Picnic at Alva's

### August

6 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	TLC Board Meeting
25 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 p.m.	Servers Fellowship in the Horton Lounge
24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 – Noon	Vacation Bible School at Hamburg Presbyterian Church



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## **Psalm - by Penny Donovan**

This life I live is a gift from God. It is an open and free gift to be made into anything I choose. Indeed it is such a gift that I do not have the right to judge its value as unworthy of my deepest love, respect and attention.

I have a goal, a goal of my choosing to fulfill. I cannot reach my goal if I will not accept the means to reach it. The steps along the way may appear difficult or unrewarding, but they are the steps that I have created to walk the path toward that which I desire.

This is life – the means by which I reach my goal and every step is holy because I am a Child of God.

I do not walk alone. He walks with me. He does not choose for me. He only honors that which I choose and does not let me walk alone. When I choose Truth and Light, He draws close to rejoice in me. When I choose error, He draws close to heal me and to patiently wait for me to choose again.

He does not become discouraged or disappointed in me. He believes in me. He trusts me. He loves me. He follows where I go and grants my wishes no matter how foolish they are. He comforts me.

There is nowhere that I can wander where He is not. Even to the depths of my self-created despair, there I find Him loving me still.

His joy is giving to me. His greatest joy is when I accept His gifts and thank Him. He sings to me.

He is the music I hear, the poetry I write, the beauty I express, the love I give. His is the path, the journey, the goal, the life, and I am His beloved Child.

