

The St. James Connector

MARCH, 2010

St. James United Church of Christ
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Lenten Journey

Lent is a special time of year, a time when we seek to walk with Jesus through those final days of His ministry here on earth - the days of preparing for His death and then His glorious resurrection. It's a time for us to focus on what was given for us; a time to remember; a time to experience the wonder and the power of God's love.

Please join us for our Cluster Lenten Services, and of course our regular weekly services where our theme will be forgiveness, and in traditions like our Lenten Banner we try once again to focus on what is truly important this Lenten Season.

Lenten Banner

As part of our observance of Lent, once again we will add symbols to our Lenten banner each weekend. If you or your family would like to add a piece to the Lenten banner on a Saturday or a Sunday, please talk with Rev. Bob.

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, and 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 to 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 throughout the Lenten Season until a week following Easter.

World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 5th at 2:00 p.m. at All Saints Lutheran Church. We will be worshipping together with our sisters from West Seneca and Hamburg

churches.

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 Ed Scholarship.

Applications will be mailed out this spring to those that are eligible to apply. The completed applications MUST be turned in to the church office for approval NO LATER THAN, JUNE 1ST

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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

Please note:

Applications for the Raymond Riefler scholarship are due by **April 1st**.

Applications for the St. James Scholarship must be submitted for approval **no later than June 1st**.

EASTER FLOWERS

This year we have tried to make our sanctuary and Easter service more user friendly. We have decided not to sell fragrant flowers as part of our altar flowers. Many times fragrances keep members from attending our service. We will be taking orders for daffodils, tulips and mums and the cost will be \$7.00 each. This will allow all folks to attend our service. The deadline for ordering plants is Sunday, March 28th.

SERVERS

The Servers Fellowship will meet in the Horton Lounge on Tuesday, March 23rd at 1:00 p.m. All women of St. James are welcome.

SEWING MISSION

Our meeting will be March 9th at 9:30 a.m. We will meet in the Assembly Hall. Please bring a sandwich for lunch, and dessert will be provided by Nancy Banks. Everyone is welcome to join us.

STEWARDSHIP

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I would like to thank the congregation for your generous and quick response to our second appeal! It was because of you that the Budget Committee was able to make small but positive changes. St. James is an important family member to us and you make it possible. Thank you again!!

Yours in Christ,
Paul Hoock, Chair

Stewardship Committee

SOUTHTOWNS LENTEN SERVICES

Traditionally we gather for a potluck and services with our sisters and brothers from the Southtowns Cluster Churches. This Lenten Season we will gather at the following locations:

March 3 First Congregational
March 10 Faith Boston
March 17 St. John's
March 24 Trinity, Gowanda
for desserts

The schedule is the same each week with dinner at 6:30 pm (bring a dish to share and your place settings) with worship to follow at 7:30 pm. On March 24, we will be sharing desserts at Trinity Gowanda.

FOOD PANTRY

March 7 Pancake mix, oatmeal
March 14 Pasta, pasta dinners
March 21 Canned/dry soups
March 28 Peanut butter
Meat Products

HANDICAP SPACES

Please remember our folks who need these parking spaces. Many times, especially in the evening, these spaces are taken by the general public. It can be difficult for folks coming to meetings to get into the building if these spaces are taken. Thanks.

Honors for St. James Students

St. Francis High School once again is pleased to share with

St. James the accomplishments of Spencer L. Rubeck, and Joshua W. Rogers, who have achieved Honors for the second quarter of the 2009 academic year.

Congratulations to you both!!

IT'S RUMAGE SALE TIME LET THE SPRING CLEANING BEGIN!

Mark the dates on your calendar and let the cleaning begin! Sign up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board.

We will be accepting GENTLY USEABLE items beginning Monday April 12. A designated area in the Assembly Hall for your treasures will be marked..

If you need assistance to bring things into the church we will try and arrange a pickup.

There will be sign up sheets for **kitchen** and **floor** work as well as **people to bake** for the bake sale that will be ongoing during the rummage sale.

We are looking for people with trucks and vans to help with the removal of leftover items as well as volunteers with the cleaning of the assembly hall. Let's make this year go as smoothly as last year. Remember, Many hands make light work!

Here are the dates to remember:

Monday April 12th date to begin bringing in items.

Thursday April 15th 9:30 a.m. – ???:Set up and pricing

Friday April 16th 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. PREVIEW NIGHT, \$1 DONATION

Saturday April 17th 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 pm. Bag sale begins at 1:30 pm.

Sunday April 18th AFTER CHURCH, bag sale, and clean up. \$2.00 a bag, meaning only items that FIT into a bag. Everything else will be half

price.

Friday and Saturday there will be roast beef sandwiches, baked goods and beverages for sale.

Please call Patty Jensen at the church office, 649-6171, if you have questions.

Happy Cleaning!

Music Ministry

Lenten Music Rehearsals

This is a great season to worship through song and to participate in the Chancel, Cherub or Youth choirs at St. James.

Rehearsals are open to all interested in singing or playing an instrument during worship Sunday mornings. If you play the flute, violin, or any other instrument, please see me.

Lent is a time of reflection and offering ourselves to God's service. Join in the fun and sing with us!!

Chancel Choir Rehearsals:

Sunday, March 14, 21, 28 at 11am

9:15 warm up March 14, 21, 28

Cherub/Youth singers Rehearsals on Wednesday, March 10, 17, 24, 31. The cherub and youth singers will participate in Palm Sunday worship

Sunday March 28 is Special Music Sunday

EASTER SUNDAY ENRICHMENT TIME

There will NOT be any regular church school classes on Easter Sunday, April 4th. 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 K 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. Volunteers are needed to help.

ST. JAMES PERMANENT YOUTH PERMISSION FORM

Each Middle and Sr. High Youth is being asked to have a signed permanent permission form on file with the CE Department in order to attend events. This is to save the parents the chore of signing countless permission forms and to save the CE Department from the countless forms that are handed out and collected. The forms can be obtained from the CE office or the Youth Bulletin Board. Both sides of the form need to be filled out, signed by the parent/s or guardian and returned to the CE Department. The form is for local activities which the youth attend. There will still be additional forms when we attend something like WAY Events, the New York State Youth Event, Regional or National events. If you have any questions please feel free to speak to Karen or Donna. The form is also required to be filled out by friends that attend activities with our youth group so be sure to remind your youth to have their friends fill one out if they plan on attending events with us. The forms are good for one year and then they will be reviewed to see how this is working out and if it works well we will just update them for any new information each year. It is also better for the environment

since we will be using less paper

MID ATLANTIC REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT (MARYE)

The MARYE is being held at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA on July 21st - 25th. "Take the Journey...Follow the Holy Brick Road" - One of the best youth events you have EVER attended is coming your way THIS SUMMER! Our journeys of life can take us all over the map, but there is one very EXCELLENT way to follow - the way of the Holy Brick Road! This youth event will take you on a journey of faith and celebration, and by the strength of the Holy Spirit, you will be able to follow the Holy Brick Road and discover a whole lot about God, yourself, our world, and much more!

There will be great youth-led worship, music, speakers, many workshops (Moments of the Road), great friendships, and oh, so much more.

Registration information can be found on the Youth Bulletin Board, outside the CE office or by talking to Donna or Karen. You can also check on line at the RYE website www.marye-ucc.org.

Come with us! Take the journey...Follow the Holy Brick Road! All forms will be processed and mailed through St. James. They need to be turned in to Karen so she can get them to MARYE. The cost to attend this event is \$100.00

per youth to attend plus any additional spending money they bring. If you are registering after the February deadline the cost is \$125.00 (from March 1 - May 30th and \$150.00 after June 1, but before July 1st Please speak to Karen to make sure of availability

NEW YORK STATE YOUTH EVENT

All youth in Grades 9 – 12 are invited to attend March 5th thru 7th at Watson Homestead in Painted Post, NY. The theme is "Connect the Dots"

This year is an exciting New York State Youth Event and we have several youth and advisors registered to attend.. It is entitled "Connect The Dots" and is focusing on connecting with yourself, community, and God! It will be a wonderful opportunity for youth and adults from all over the state to get a chance to meet, learn, have fun, & worship together. The weekend is packed with many exciting as well as challenging workshops, plenty of fun and free time!

This year we are excited to have our newly installed Regional Conference Minister from the Metro Association Rev. Freeman Palmer as our keynote speaker. He is a member of Riverside Church in Manhattan & has a wide range of talents ranging from Music & the Arts to effectively help us connect those dots in our lives.

The workshops and activities have been expanded with over 15 creative choices ranging from music workshops to AIDS awareness, Bias awareness,

Youth Mission opportunities, and many more.

We will also have the ever popular dance on Saturday night, as well as Bible studies, & creative worship. Bring your musical instruments and don't forget the beautiful indoor pool too.

For more information check out the website www.uccny.org. Consider attending along with over 200 other youth from all over New York State for fun and fellowship.

FAMILY PJ MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, March 12th at 7 p.m. we will be viewing "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs". Come and enjoy the movie.

Please feel free to bring a snack to share, beverages and popcorn will be provided!

Invite a friend to join you and don't forget to come in your PJ'S! Sign up on the bulletin board.

FAMILY NIGHTS

Wed., March 17 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m..

Wed., April 7 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Please remember to check the bulletin board for a sign-up sheet and other information.

Wednesday Family Night
March 17th, join us and celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style we will be having Pizza, Salad, Beverage, Dessert and Fellowship.

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.

Feel free to bring a St. Patrick's Day treat to share with everyone. (Suggestions: cup cakes or cookies, anything green) and don't forget to wear GREEN! If you have any question speak to Karen Reinagel.

Lenten Handouts

The Board of Christian Education is offering special materials to the families of St. James. Please be sure to check the basket on the CE table in the Bulletin Board. area and help yourself to any of the items that interest you.

PAULA PFISTER DESSERT AUCTION

Join us Palm Sunday, March 28, during Coffee Hour in the Assembly Hall for our annual Dessert Auction.

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 our CE Director from 1982 to 1987. A pie/dessert auction is held twice a year to raise funds for a scholarship that is in honor of her memory. These are awarded to graduating seniors that have volunteered during their four years of high school in the Christian Ed 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.

Easter Sunday Childcare

In addition to the special enrichment time, there will be CHILDCARE for children thru age 4 during worship. Just bring your child/children to the pre-school room located down

the hall from the lounge. Volunteers are needed to help.

Daylight Savings Time

It's time to spring the clocks ahead on Saturday, March 14th and to spring out of bed and come to church in your PJ's! That's right it PJ Sunday! We know how hard it is to remember to set your clocks so we want to make it easy for you! No excuses just get up and come to church in your PJ's! How easy is that!

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 you may speak to Karen Reinagel. The egg hunt is traditionally held outside but it is always dependent 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 (candy must be wrapped) 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!

YOUTH SERVICE

This year the Youth have chosen the theme - "." For their annual youth service. It will take place Saturday April 24th at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 25th 10 a.m.

Sunday morning class time is being spent preparing for the service so we are encourage

all youth to attend class as often as they can. Rehearsal for the Youth Service will be on Saturday, April 10th. Check the bulletin for the time and details.

Youth Calendar of Events 2009 - 2010

If you are a member of our Youth program you should have received a mailing of our yearly events calendar list for 2009 - 2010. If you did not receive one please let Karen know and she will have one sent to you or you can pick up a copy in the bin outside the CE Office or in the bin on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Youth Board Meetings

Please plan to attend if you are a Youth Board member or call the church office at 649-6171 if you can't make it.

Tuesday, March 30th at 6:15 p.m. in the Resource Room

Tuesday, April 27th at 6:15 p.m. in the Resource Room

Lasertron

Saturday, April 17th

Calling all Middle & Sr. High Youth, would you like to go to Lasertron for FREE?

.Just volunteer to work at the Rummage Sale and your way will be paid. If you don't volunteer, then you must pay. St. James members, family & friends can attend but must also pay. Check bulletins and bulletin board for more details.

Board of Christian Education Meetings

Tuesday, March 2nd at 7 p.m. in the Resource Room

Tuesday, April 6th at 7p.m. in the Resource Room

Please call the church office at 649-6171 if you cannot attend a meeting

Children & Youth Offering Envelopes

Children and youth offering envelopes are located on the tables at the rear of the sanctuary. Having your child put an offering in an envelope each Sunday is a wonderful way to involve them in the weekly ritual of making an offering. The envelopes are provided for those who wish to use them. All money placed in the envelopes goes toward our church school program.

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. The membership dues, became a gift to the camp, which then was able to use the gift money for the needs of the camp. This year our representative is Jennifer (Jen) Reinagel

Jen will be available during the month of March to collect dues for the Auxiliary. Dues are \$2.00 per individual or \$5.00 per family. You can make checks payable to "The Dunkirk Auxiliary". This is an annual membership drive. The membership includes receiving the "Spirit" Newsletter. Many other churches share in selling memberships around the area. The Center has many uses besides the many camps. Our church picnic is held at the Center for instance.. We have

a wonderful time, rain or shine. If we have to, we move indoors to a warm heated building that still allows us to celebrate in picnic style. St. James also 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.

In advance thank you for becoming a member of "The Auxiliary" for 2010. I hope you enjoy your visits to the Dunkirk Conference Center.

ATTENTION FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Hamburg United Methodist Church has begun a "respite" program the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at their church at 116 Union St. Trained volunteers will provide supervised fun activities, piano music/singing and a nutritious lunch for your loved ones all at No Charge – all are welcome.

Please contact Lisa Rood at 941-5703 for more information or to sign up.

REGISTRY

Baptism:

Emily Grace Bella
Born: September 21, 1009
Baptized: January 16, 2010
Parents: Robyn & Allan Bella

Deaths:

James E. Landes
Born: December 31, 1922

Died: January 2, 2010
Service: January 5, 2010

Robert L. Harms

Died: February 3, 2010
Service: March 13, 2010

UPDATING SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

We would like to make sure we have a current list of service folks.

Please leave a picture, name and address of a relative who is serving in the armed forces with the church office so that our Military Board can be brought up-to-date.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

This is the sixth year that the church school program at St. James has participated in this event. This year the children raised \$175.00 and are hoping to get legacy funds which will bring the grand total to \$350.00. The money raised will be sent to "Friends of the Night People". This is a great effort on the part of the teachers, the congregation and all folks who helped in any way to make this mission project a success. A special thank you to Jen Mumm for overseeing this event.

When the children arrive at their class on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday they have a soup pot filled with decorations sitting on the table. They are given half an hour to decorate the soup pot. When the church service ends the classes go to

their assigned areas to collect donations. They bang their pots with spoons, shake any change in the pot and hassle people to donate something. If you would like more information on The Souper Bowl of Caring and to explore their website just log on to www.souperbowl.org.

DISASTER CONFERENCE AT ST. JAMES

The New York Conference Disaster Response Team is organizing a one-day training experience for representatives from local churches. The Saturday program will be at St. James UCC in Hamburg, New York on April 17th.

Information in the program will include the cycles of a disaster and resources available when a disaster occurs. We will also discuss how families and churches can be prepared for a disaster.

Details will be in our April newsletter.

Youth Fund-Raising
Please continue to support our fund-raising efforts.

Youth Can & Bottle Drive

Please feel free to leave your cans and bottles in the bins on the front porch of the Youth House. If you need help getting your cans & bottles out of your vehicle please ask a youth to help you. Please remember NO GLASS Containers!

Youth Candy Sale

The youth are selling candy bars for \$1.00 each. They are located in the church office or ask a youth and they will be glad to sell you one or more.

Paper Recycling Program

The youth are continuing their paper recycling drive and the paper retriever bin is located at the rear of the church parking lot. Please support their efforts and bring your paper recycling and drop it off in the bin and help us raise money for the youth program at St. James. Remember - NO PLASTICS IN THE BIN, THIS MEANS NO PLASTIC BAGS ALSO!

St. Paulys Clothing Drive

We encourage you to bring your unwanted clothing to our clothing shed located at the rear of the Youth House lawn. It helps if the clothing is put in a plastic bag before it is dropped in the bin. This a great fundraiser for our youth program and we appreciate your help.

Enjoy the City Coupon Books

They are still available for \$20 each.