

The St. James Connector

April 2011

St. James United Church of Christ,
76 Main St., Hamburg, NY 14075
716-649-6171

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Holy Week Begins **April 17th**

April 17th 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. It's a day that is filled with celebration, but that celebration is bitter sweet, for we know what lies ahead. As usual, 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 21st - 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 Service

April 22nd @ 7pm at the Hamburg United Methodist Church, 116 Union St., St. Matthews UCC, Hamburg Presbyterian, Hamburg United Methodist and St. James UCC participating.

There will be a power point presentation with scripture, and reflections. Hamburg United Methodist Praise band will play along with the organist. All choir members are invited to participate. The offering will go to Churches in Action.

Holy Saturday – Great Vigil of Easter

April 23rd 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.

Easter Sunday - **April 24th - 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 "I Have Seen the Lord!" 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!



St. James Scholarships

Scholarship applications for the St. James 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

Inaugural "Sports Day" at St.

James On Sunday, April 3rd from 11:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., all members of all ages are invited to participate in our first Sports Day. It will be held in the Assembly Hall and feature 5 different sports stations: balance, putting, football toss, baseball target throw and ladder throw. Between station visits participants will visit the infield to answer sports trivia questions. While competitors vie for prizes, DVDs may be viewed of noted Bills and Sabres games. Sports food, including hot dogs, chips, nachos, popcorn and sports drinks will be available. Youth will be assisting with decorations and set-up. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, and pre-registration is appreciated. Volunteers are both needed and welcome. Contact Peter Fenn at 698-5335; pete@peterfenn.com for more information.



ARE YOU AVAILABLE

A number of our folks are needing rides to the doctors or the hospital. If you haven't signed up on the Time and talent sheets please let the office know if you have some time and can help. Thank You.

WHEAT FREE COMMUNION WAFERS

We now have wheat free communion wafers, free of gluten, wheat, dairy, eggs, sugar, nuts and corn. If you are on a gluten free diet please let Bob or Alva know so when communion is served you may have that option and can participate in communion.

From the Office:

If you are moving, please let the church office know as soon as you know your new address. It saves the office on postage due fees.

If you receive the Newsletter by email and cannot open it, you may view it on our website. The address is on the front of the newsletter.

If you would like the newsletter emailed and aren't on the email list, let the office know.

If you currently receive the newsletter and wish not to receive it anymore please let the office know so we can take you off the list.

Women's Sewing Mission

Our next meeting will be April at 9:30 a.m. We meet in the Assembly Hall and welcome anyone interested in joining us. Bring a sandwich and dessert will be provided by Nancy Banks.

We are in need of old sheets to make pads for HEART.

SERVERS

Our next meeting is Tuesday April 26th at 1pm at a local restaurant, Check the bulletin for the location.

Mark your calendar for May 24th, the date of our annual Server's Tea. All women of St. James are welcome and bring a friend too!



Mother's Day Plant Sale

Church & Ministry is planning a Mother's Day Hanging Basket Sale again this year. The proceeds from this sale go to the Scholarship Fund to help our students who are on their way to college or already continuing their education. This is a good way to have a Mother's Day gift to take home and help the students as well.

Benefit Concert - May 15th

Our church will be hosting a benefit concert on May 15th at 4 pm. The benefit is for "The New Way U.C.C." The New Way U.C.C. is a Hispanic congregation within Pilgrim-St. Luke U.C.C. Pastor José A. Claudio. They are a Christ centered congregation that embraces inclusiveness and compassion without prejudice or discrimination. The concert will feature St. James choirs, St. Matthews choir, Faith Boston along with "Grupo Adoración" choir from The New Way U.C.C. A love offering will be taken and you're invited to stay for refreshments.

Thank You's

Thanks to all those who have kept Peter and me in their thoughts and prayers these past several months. I am especially grateful to those who provided transportation, occasional meals and treats, sent cards and spent time visiting with us. St. James has many warm, kind-hearted people who serve Christ and their church very well indeed!

Deb Fenn

PRAYER SHAWLS

We are thankful for the wonderful ladies who knit or crochet beautiful prayer shawls. If you know of anyone in need please stop by the office. We have delivered many beautiful shawls to Roswell along with specially made shawls to Fox Run

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

“Make us spiritual and religious followers of Christ, so that we might cause your love to be known by all people.”

This is what our congregation prayed for on a recent Sunday. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) gives us the opportunity to share God’s love with people in need throughout our country and the world.

Haiti, Pakistan, Darfur, Chile, and now Japan. There is no shortage of disasters that call our attention and stir our compassion.

Funds we donate through the OGHS appeal go to help people affected by disasters, as well as those striving to overcome disease, hunger, and lack of education opportunities in areas of great poverty.

Often our church agencies provide help in situations of need long after the media’s attention has shifted to some new emergency. Such is the case in New Orleans, where the UCC’s Disaster Ministry continues to help victims of Hurricane Katrina to rebuild their homes and lives.

Throughout April we will collect donations for OGHS. Please look for a donation envelope in your newsletter or in the pews. If you don’t see one, make your own or simply write OGHS on your check. Please take this opportunity to share God’s love.

STEWARDSHIP

On behalf of the Stewardship committee, a BIG thank you to all who pledged, and to those who continue to support St. James in every way. The devotion and commitment to St. James never ceases to amaze!

If anyone would be interested in being on the committee, or maybe just has an idea or two, please contact the church or talk with me anytime.

Yours in Christ,
Paul Hooch- Stewardship chair

SHUT-INS

Please keep them in mind at this time of year, send a card, make a phone call, say a prayer. They appreciate all the contact they get from their church family.

Also don’t forget those who are at home recovering from illness. They appreciate contact also. Many times an offer of a meal, help cleaning, or a ride to a medical appointment is appreciated.

We have many members who are quietly doing these things every day and we thank them for all their help. Sick & Shut in lists are available on the table in the back of the church as well as the table outside the church office

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.

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.

RUMMAGE SALE

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 USABLE items beginning Monday April 4th. 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 4th date to begin bringing in items.

Thursday April 7th 9:30 a.m. –
??:Set up and pricing

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

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

Sunday April 10th 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



Lasertron, Saturday, April 9th

Leaving from St. James @ 3:15pm, arriving for 4:30pm reservation. Returning to St. James @ approximately 6:30pm. This event is being sponsored by the Middle & Sr. High Youth Group and includes the St. James Church Family and friends. The cost is \$10 for youth to attend & \$20 per person for adults which includes laser tag, beverage, pizza & game tokens. Anyone who would like to attend please sign up on youth bulletin board & have your money in on April 3rd (to Karen Reinagel), this is on a first come, first serve basis. Any Middle or Sr. High Youth that helps with the Rummage Sale on Friday, Saturday or Sunday will receive \$10 off the cost of attending Lasertron (that means you could go for FREE). The way it works is you pay and we reimburse you if you work on the rummage sale.

Wednesday Family Night

Weds., April 6th, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00
Please remember to check the bulletin board for a sign-up sheet and other information.

Youth Bd. Meeting

Tuesday, April 26th @ 6:15pm
in the Resource Room. *Please call the church office (649-6171 if you cannot attend the meeting.*

Easter Sunday Childcare

In addition to the special enrichment time, there will be CHILDCARE provided for children through age 4 during the worship service. Bring your child/children to the pre-school room located down the hall from the lounge.

Volunteers are needed to help

Enrichment Time

There will NOT be any regular church school classes on Sunday, April 24th (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. Volunteers are needed 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 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.

Donations to fill the eggs are needed and may be left in the church office by Wednesday, April 20th in Karen's mailbox or the CE 2nd floor office area. All candy must be in wrapped packages. Thank you ahead of time for all of your donations.

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 out this spring to those that are eligible to apply

Lenten Meditative 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.

Paula Pfister Dessert Auction

Our Dessert Auction will take place Palm Sunday, April 17th, during Coffee Hour in the Assembly Hall. You can tell that spring is on its way when its 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 to 1987. We hold a pie/dessert auction twice a year to raise funds for a scholarship in honor of her memory. The scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who have volunteered during their four years of high school in the Christian Education program here at St. James either as a church school teachers, assistants or as Christian Education office assistants. Paula was a wonderful person and in this way we can honor her memory.



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!

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 fund-raiser for our youth program and we appreciate your help.

Enjoy the City Coupon Books

are still available for \$20 each in the church office.

Dimes for Dunkirk

The youth are collecting change to donate to Dunkirk. Please be on the look out for a jug to place your donations in.

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; help is need to oversee the sign-up (we will put up the sign-up sheet) and remind people of the date they are volunteering, we also need people to keep a watch on the Childcare Room, we need people to donate snacks for the children and people that are willing to help serve a mini version of coffee hour following worship.

Please consider helping out with our Childcare during the summer months, it a nice way to let a mom or dad spend a well deserved hour in peace and prayerful reflection (something all parents appreciate). 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 helping or would like more information please speak to Karen Reinagel.

CHARACTER COUNCIL

April- Cautiousness vs Rashness, Cautiousness is knowing how important right timing is in accomplishing right actions.

Church School CROP WALK

Sunday, May 1st during class

Our 2nd annual spring CROP WALK. Be on the look out for children looking for pledges for CROP! Children will be bringing more information home during April. Please support us in this worthwhile event to help fight hunger. Please remember to have a permission form on file with the CE Department so your child can participate in this event.

Annual Church Picnic & Worship

Sunday, June 12th - Service is @ 11am with picnic & games to follow. **"DUNKIRK DAY"**! Mark your calendar to come join the fun and festivities as we celebrate and praise GOD! Look for information in next months Connector or the bulletin.



Refrigerator Needed for Youth House

Just a reminder that the Youth House is in need of a refrigerator. If you are getting a new fridge we would love to take you old fridge if it's in good working order....or feel free to buy us a new fridge....or feel free to make a donation toward the cost of a new fridge....or if you see a good deal on a fridge let us know!

Thank you from the Youth of St. James!

Board of Christian Education Meeting

Tuesday, April 5th at 7 p.m. in the Resource Room

Please call the church office or email the church office if you cannot attend meeting.

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.

Food Pantry:



- April 3 Paper products
- April 10 Jello & pudding mixes
- April 17 Cereal, breakfast bars
oatmeal
- April 24 Spaghetti sauce, canned
pasta, canned stew

Registry:

Welcome new members:
Susan Flaherty, Amy
Fantaske and Louise Johnson

Dunkirk Camping Information "Got Spirit"

Within all of us is a deep hunger to know the presence of God. Through a variety of biblical and contemporary stories campers will explore ways to connect with God everyday.

The 2011 calendar is packed for the entire year! There has never been more opportunities to spend your time at DCC. Want to learn how to ride a horse? We have a weekend camp just for you. Itching for family camp in the spring and just can't wait until July?? Try our mini-camp over Memorial Day Weekend- You will explore every inch of our 110 acres! Like to play soccer, swim, bike or scrapbook?? We have all new week-long camps just for you! Our traditional youth and family camps offer you fun, fellowship and friendship that will last you a lifetime. As always, new week-long campers get 50% off full fees! As soon as last summer's season ended the planning began for the 2011 season.

The super early bird deadline is April 15th (and in order to get the checks and information to Dunkirk on time the St. James deadline is Sunday, April 3rd). So keep that in mind and be on the look out for the Dunkirk Camp Display on the CE Bulletin Area as well as the bin outside the CE Office on the 2nd floor. That is where you will find the forms and information you need to sign up to attend camp.

Permission Forms

Please don't forget to complete the St. James Permanent Youth and Child Permission and Church School Registration Form. It is important that these forms be on file for your child to attend activities.

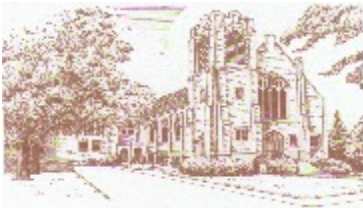
The Auxiliary of the Dunkirk Conference Center, Inc.

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. The camp then was able to use this gift money for equipment for the center such as dining tables, kitchen equipment, paint, ramps for handicap accessibility, and playground equipment.

Patty Jensen will be available during the month of March to collect dues for the Auxiliary. The membership fee is \$2.00 per individual or \$5.00 per family. You may make checks payable to "The Dunkirk Auxiliary". This is an annual membership drive and includes receiving the "Spirit" Newsletter.

Many other UCC churches participate the Auxiliary. Traditionally, our church picnic is held at the Conference Center. Rain or shine we have a wonderful time. If we have to, we move indoors to a warm heated building that still allows us to celebrate in picnic style. Also, in the summer months there are numerous camps to attend from ages 7 up to 100 plus, children's families, or groups. 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 2011 and enjoy your visits to the Dunkirk Conference Center

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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YOUTH SERVICE

Saturday April 2nd @ 6:30pm and Sunday, April 3rd @ 10am
This year the Youth have chosen the theme - "God's House - Doorways, Mirrors & Reflections." The Youth and their Advisors have spent a lot of their time preparing for this service.

Please join us for this special Youth Service and Coffee Fellowship afterwards.

