

The St. James Connector

February 2011

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ANNUAL MEETING

Come One - Come All!!!

The Annual Meeting of our Congregation will be held on Sunday, February 13th following worship. Please join us and be a part of this important gathering! At this meeting we will vote on a budget for 2011, reflect on the work and ministry we have done together in 2010, and elect members to positions of service within the life of our congregation. We need your input!!

The Annual Reports will be available the Sunday before the meeting (Feb. 6th) to be picked up by members of the congregation.

All children are welcome to come to the lounge following church school to view a DVD and have donuts & juice while the annual meeting is taking place. The youth will be serving a lunch the day of the annual meeting. Look for details on the bulletin board and in the Sunday bulletin.

CHARACTER COUNCIL OF WNY

February

Flexibility v. Resistance

Flexibility is willingness to change plans or ideas without getting upset.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Easter is April 24th this year, which means that Lent begins on March 9th. We will mark that day with our traditional Ash Wednesday observance. During the service members will be invited to come forward and receive a cross of ashes on their forehead as a sign of penitence for our sins.

Our worship will begin at 7:30 and a potluck supper will precede it at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish to pass. I hope you will plan to attend!

WESTERN AREA WINTER MEETING

Our winter meeting will be held on Saturday February 26th at Payne Avenue Christian Church. The program is a "Youth Extravaganza" and will include presentations, resources and workshops for youth. Information on Mission trips, work groups, and inter-generational worship music will be featured. Reservations need to be in the church office by February 18th.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 6, 2011 is the day of the Super Bowl or at St. James The Souper Bowl of Caring! Help the children of the church school program as they battle hunger with thousands of others. Every dollar you drop into a soup pot will help people in need feel the power of God's Love. This program began 20 years ago on Super Bowl Sunday when a group of inspired young people decided they wanted to do something to help fight hunger. They created the Souper Bowl Day of Caring.

On Sunday, February 6th, our church school classes will decorate soup kettles and be walking throughout the building following worship looking for people to donate to their kettles and their cause. Don't forget to stop at the Christian Ed Bulletin Board Display and vote for the charity you would like to see receive our donation this year. If you have any question regarding this event please speak to Karen Reinagel, Vicky Loretto or Jen Mumm.

New Member Class

We will be having a new members class on Tuesday, February 15th at 7 p.m. in the Lounge. Please see Bob or Alva if you would like to become a member of St. James.

Sewing Mission

February's meeting will be Tuesday February 8th. As always, we meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Assembly Hall. Please join us if you can. Bring your lunch; dessert will be provided by Doris Sillence. We are in need of old sheets for chux pads.

Server's

The next Server's meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22nd at 1:00 p.m. at a local restaurant.

Board of Christian Education

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 1, 2011 in the Resource Room. Please let us know if you cannot make the meeting

Youth Board Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 22nd at 6:15 p.m. in the Resource Room.

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.

DEATH

Shirley E. Dennies

Born: August 25, 1930

Died: December 25, 2010

Service: January 1, 2011

Rummage Sale

Start thinking about "Spring" cleaning. The St. James Rummage Sale will be April 8th and 9th. More information will follow in the March newsletter.
Patty Jensen

Stuffed Animals to Love During Church

Don't forget we have snugly animals located in the rear of the sanctuary for children to hold and love during the church service and we also have activity bags for the children to use. Please return items to the baskets following worship each week.

Upcoming Family Night

Wednesday, February 2nd is the date for our next Family night. It will be from 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. ****Please note that we are starting 1/2 hour earlier!*** Remember to check the bulletin board for a sign-up sheet and other information.

Youth Service Save the date!

We have schedule our annual Youth Service for Saturday, April 2nd and Sunday, April 3rd. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend one of these services.

Youth House Need

The Youth House Refrigerator has died! The good news is it's winter and things can be kept on the porch. If anyone has a fridge they are willing to donate to the Youth House we would love to take it off your hands. Talk to Karen Reinagel if you can help.

Youth Calendar of Events 2011

Sledding at Chestnut Ridge is a Youth sponsored event for Everyone (weather permitting)

**Please note this is a new date.* Saturday, February 12th from Noon - 3pm or later if you care to stay! The youth are inviting everyone to go sledding at Chestnut Ridge. Watch for more information and don't forget to sign-up. We are hoping the toboggan run will be open. - THINK SNOW! Patty Jensen and Karen Reinagel will be providing chili, hot chocolate, coffee and paper products. All we ask is that you sign-up, bring something to share, bring your warm clothes and your sled or toboggan!

Sabres Game

Sunday, February 13th with a 3 p.m. game time. We will have lunch and a pep rally following the annual meeting and then head to the game.

Thanks

Thank You to Christina Wilder for volunteering to help with our Youth program, the youth love having you around and so do the parents and other advisors. THANKS!!!!

We received a note from Boston Valley School Nurse Cathy Maghran thanking St. James for all the hats, scarves and mittens we sent them from our Angel Tree. I have posted the note on the bulletin board if anyone would like to read it.

Thanks so much for my lovely poinsettia.

Flossie Reubeck

FOOD PANTRY

Feb. 6 pasta/pasta dinners
Feb. 13 canned/dry soups
Feb. 20 peanut butter/meats
Feb. 27 canned juice/mixes

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 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. A flyer with the 2011 schedule is included in this newsletter. More information will be on display and posted in the weekly bulletin as it becomes available.

Western Area Youth (WAY) Winter Retreat for Sr. High Youth Grades 9th - 12th

This year WAY will be held at Faith Boston from February 25th - 27th. The cost is \$20 for youth and \$10 for Advisors. Your registration must be postmarked by Feb. 16th or a \$5 late fee will be assessed. Look for information on the Youth Bulletin Board or in the weekly bulletin or talk to Karen or Donna. St. James deadline is Sunday, Feb. 13th so we can get our forms in on time. Forms can be picked up at Youth Bulletin Bd. or outside the CE office in bin.

Start: Registration: 7 pm
Friday, Feb. 25th

Finish: Pick up is 11:15 am
Sunday, Feb. 27th

Bring: Sleeping bag, pillow, conservative bed wear, towel, washcloth, soap, etc., good clothes for church service and warm outside clothes for tubing, a broom for broom ball, bowling ball & bowling shoes. BRING A NAME TAG and a snack to share.

Forms: All registration and Covenant Forms must be filled out completely, especially the Advisors: Medical portion must be filled out by everyone.

Checks: made out to Western Area Youth.

Please join us for an exciting, activity filled weekend at Faith UCC in Boston! It all starts with Broom Ball Friday Night in the church parking lot. Sat. morning we will be creating a mold of a face of God's creation, using your own face! Then we will bowl Saturday afternoon in Springville. and go Tubing Sat. night at Colden Tubing Company
<http://www.kbski.com/content/pages/tubing>.

All of the events just mentioned are the highlights, as we still have some other surprises in store for you during the retreat.

Also, the Western Association of UCC is holding a youth oriented Leadership Training at Payne Avenue Church in North Tonawanda from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. For those youth and youth leaders that may be attending that event, we will chaperone your youth during the 9-3 time frame so that you can feel free to attend.

All of this and our normal WAY fellowship and evening worship services too!

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

Lasertron

We will be attending Lasertron on Saturday, April 9th. If youth help with Rummage Sale they can go to Lasertron for FREE! If you volunteer to work at the Rummage Sale, your way will be paid. If you don't volunteer, then you must pay. St. James members family & friends can attend but must pay. Check bulletins and the Bulletin Board for more information as the event gets closer.

FYI...I heard it mentioned that Ciaran Krueger our new Music Director is thinking of attending this event!

Lenten Handouts

Lenten handouts will be available during the Lenten Season. They will be in a basket near the Bulletin Board. Please help yourself to one or more of the items for you and your loved ones to use and guide you through the Lenten Season

Lenten Meditative Walk

The Lenten Meditative Walk will be available during the Lenten Season. Please be sure to take the time, beginning the first week of Lent, March 9th, to visit the meditative walk that can be found throughout the church building. This is the seventh year the walk has been available and I hope people find it inspiring and thought provoking. There will be a list of stops on the walk at the rear entrance of the building. If you have any questions please speak to Karen.

New York State Youth Event

This year's event will take place on March 11th - 13th at Watson Homestead, Painted Post, New York (for grades 9 - 12) and is entitled "Who are We to Judge?". It will focus on the many aspects of bias and discrimination and how our faith can make us more open and accepting to all God's people! It will be a wonderful opportunity for youth and adults from all over the state to get a chance to meet, learn, have fun and worship together. The weekend is packed with many exciting as well as challenging workshops and plenty of fun and free time! This year we are excited to have a new format for our Saturday sessions. We will have a forum-style short session as one group with several leaders and will focus on different aspects of bias; then we will break off into smaller groups to have open dialogue with those leaders. The afternoon workshops and related activities have been expanded, with over 15 creative choices ranging from music workshop to hands-on crafts and yoga. We will have the ever-popular dance on Saturday night, as well as Bible studies and creative worship. Bring your musical instruments if you wish. Don't forget the beautiful indoor pool. Forms available on Youth Bulletin Board and in the bin outside CE office. Deadline to hand in Registrations is Sunday, Feb. 27th.

Youth Fund-Raising

Please continue to support our Youth fund-raising efforts.

PLEASE NOTE THE YOUTH HAVE NOW DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE!!!!!!

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 and 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 are still available in the church office or from any youth or advisor for \$20 each.

Dimes for Dunkirk - Be on the look out for a jug labeled Dimes for Dunkirk - this is a good way to put your loose change or bills in the jug and support Dunkirk Conference Center.

Automate Your Giving

Some of you may have forgotten, or new members may not know, that St. James offers pledging and regular givers the option of having contributions deducted from your bank. This works as it would for most monthly payments.

Just get a form from the church office and fill it out to sign up. You also need to fill out a new form any time you change the amount you are deducting.

Nothing can be deducted unless you authorize it. If you increase your giving you have the option of writing a check for the total increase, keeping the deduction the same.

Become a Committee Member

Each year at this time you will see sign up sheets outside the Horton Lounge. Members of St. James have many talents and we would love to have you join us in making a real difference in our Church family. It also gives you an opportunity to work with some really nice people.

Please consider becoming a member of one or more of the committees. Many committees only meet a few times a year while others meet more often. If you would like to know more about a committee, please ask. We will be happy to help you make a decision.

Update on Abby Reichard

If you would like to hear how our Abby is doing and read a sermon or two, please ask Dave or Maryann Reichard, or the church office. We are very proud of Abby.

Many thanks to everyone who gave me encouragement brought meals, went out in inclement weather to bring things to me and sent prayers. Charlotte Cialone

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A New Offering

Excerpt from [Psalm 40:1-11](#), "Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear."

Reflection by Felix Carrion , Coordinator of The Stillspeaking Ministry, United Church of Christ.

I heard a man say, "My father once asked me, son, why do you think God made you with two ears and one mouth? Not knowing, I asked my father why. Son, God made you with two ears and one mouth to do a lot more listening than talking." This father could see his son was a talker. He knew that if his son persisted in this practice, he would learn little, because understanding comes with being quiet long enough to really chew and taste the stories and lessons the ears swallow.

The second clause in this sentence seems to have no connection to the first one. "Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear." But the sentence is perfect. In the psalmist's days, people were taught that God not only desires sacrifice and burnt offerings but God required them. But here he says the opposite: what God most wants from us is the offering of an open ear.

In Hebrew, another rendering of the sentence is Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but ears you have dug for me. We are taught in the Christian walk to give offerings. We offer our time, our service to others, our tithes, our skills. But sometimes it's harder to be still and quiet and offer our listening ears. In this New Year why not make open ears a new offering to God, to a son, a daughter, a parent, a friend, a neighbor, a stranger?

Prayer : O God, help me be still and quiet so I can offer my listening ears. Amen.