

# The St. James Connector

**July/August 2011**

St. James United Church of Christ,  
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*From our Pastor,*

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. Yet when we give in to that temptation, we are only cheating ourselves. Summer is a time of renewal, and we all desperately need that spiritual renewal - as well as physical and emotional rest and recreation. True renewal begins with worship. It's not something that we can do on our own, as we also 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! By all means, enjoy this beautiful world that God has created, but make sure that that enjoyment doesn't come at the expense of time spent in prayer and worship, as nothing brings greater joy than a deepening of our relationship with God.

Bob

## **New York Conference**

The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the New York Conference was held again at Silver Bay. This was our last year at this site. Next year our meeting will be held in Binghamton. There have been numerous changes in staffing at the Conference level in order to meet our budget.

I would like to thank Barb and Dan Newcomb, and Karen Touris for attending the conference along with Matthew Touris, Jess Kawalski and Donna Ludwig. Matthew took part in the Youth Worship on Saturday.

If you would like to see Silver Bay and highlights of the Annual Meeting, please go to [www.uccny.org](http://www.uccny.org).

Alva

## **Character Council of Hamburg**

### **July 2011**

Contentment v. Covetousness  
Contentment is realizing that true happiness does not depend on material conditions.

### **August 2011**

Benevolence v. Selfishness  
Benevolence is giving to others' basic needs without having as my motive a personal reward.

## **Christian Education Program Our Vision:**

To provide a quality program for the children that enter our doors throughout the year.

### **Have a Great Summer! Don't Forget We Are Open!**

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 - 6<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 are open, please stop by!

## **Opening of our Fall Church School Program Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

We will be celebrating our Fall Church School kick-off Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Included in the festivities be ice cream, a bounce house and other fun things. Don't forget to mark your calendars. In fact, mark your calendars and invite a neighbor or friend to join us on this special day!

### **Women's Sewing Mission**

After a restful and rejuvenating summer, we welcome our group back for our first work session of the season. Our meeting will be Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the Assembly Hall.

We are in need of new members and would eagerly welcome you into our group

Bring your lunch. A fabulous dessert will be provided by Helen Markus.

We look forward to seeing you on September 13th.

### **Server's**

Our annual Server's picnic is Tuesday July 26<sup>th</sup> at Alva's home, starting at 1:00 p.m. and serving at 4 p.m. All women of the church are welcome to attend. Please sign up via the sheet on the bulletin board outside the Horton Lounge.

Our next meeting is Tuesday August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Horton Lounge. Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

### **Council Meeting/Picnic**

The Church Council will have it's annual summer meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. We will meet at Butch Meyer's home at 3566 Pleasant Ave. Please bring a chair.

### **Board of Christian Education Summer Picnic and Meeting**

Our Board meeting and picnic will be held on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. at Vicky Loretto's home, 4489 Shadyridge Drive in Hamburg. All Board of Christian Ed members please remember to RSVP to let us know whether you are bringing a dessert or salad. Vicky is supplying rolls, meat, drinks & paper products along with her home and a swimming pool. Please feel free to bring a swim suit and towel if you'd like to swim.

### **Summer Church School Program Opportunities**

Even though the regular church school year has ended, the recruitment of teachers and other staff for the summer months is ongoing. We are looking for Teachers, Assistants, Childcare workers and substitutes, coordinators, snack donations, refreshments coordinator and craft people. If you are someone that has been thinking about offering your time and talent to the Christian Education Program please talk to Karen Reinagel and let's see if we can put our heads together to find a place where you would be comfortable and enjoy volunteering. We need people to work with our summer program which includes July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and September 4<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 plenty 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.

### **Save this date:**

The Southtowns Cluster is once again having a picnic. We will gather at the park in Angola on August 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. More information will follow in the bulletin.

### **St. James Scholarship Recipients**

Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2011 St. James Scholarship. Each will receive a \$300 scholarship:

Spencer Rubeck, Christian Henderson-Sargent, Jennifer Bimber, Danielle Adymy, and Erica Jackson.

### **Legacy Grant Recipients**

The St. James Legacy Fund is funded primarily through trusts and bequests that have been left to the church. The monies cannot be used for the church budget, and our goal is to use the majority of these funds to help organizations that help people in our community, our nation, and our world. Requests for funding start with a group in St. James that makes the request. These requests go to our Legacy Committee that considers them and makes recommendations to the Church Council, which takes the final action authorizing the grants.

At the June Church Council meeting the following grant was approved:

Buffalo Amputee Golf Classic in the amount of \$350. Peter Fenn organizes this Golf Tournament and it's an incredible event. Proceeds from it go towards scholarships.

### **Our Parking Lot:**

This summer approximately half of our parking area will be resurfaced during the month of July

The work is being done out of the funds donated in our Capital Funds Campaign. Donations are still welcome - and will help us continue to make improvements. For example, we hope to be able to resurface the other half of the parking area next summer.

It will be a large improvement.

### **HELP**

I attended the Server's Tea and found that I am missing the saucer to my tea cup. Please check your tea cups and saucers and see if you have the wrong one. I collect tea cups and would love to reunite my tea cup with the proper saucer.

Thanks! Karen Reinagel

## **Burgerfest**

**Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

Plans are underway and the Youth are planning to host a variety of events during Burgerfest this year. We will be selling popcorn, birch beer, tickets for our Theme Baskets Raffle and 50/50 split tickets. 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 Baskets and items to fill baskets. 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 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you need a basket to fill for the event speak to Karen Reinagel, we have plenty in the youth house. We are also in need of a couple of pop up tents to sit under during the event.

## **Dunkirk Camping**

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 for those 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.

## **Vacation Bible School**

August 1<sup>st</sup> - August 4<sup>th</sup> - 9am - Noon @ St. James UCC

### **Theme - "Helping Hands for Haiti"**

#### ***VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!***

Join together with your church neighbors (St. James UCC, St. Matthews UCC and Hamburg Presbyterian) and share your time and talents with our kids! See some ideas below. If you can help talk to Karen Reinagel. Don't miss out on this fun event! Carpentry - Cooking - Music - Arts & Crafts - Snack Prep - Recreation - Child Care - Donations financial and items such as glue sticks etc.

Closing Thursday night at 6pm OPEN to Anyone - Dinner and VBS Closing Program. Free Will Offering. Please fill out VBS registration form included in newsletter and return it in the offering plate or to the CE office.

There will also be a time during VBS to work as a group on mission projects, have snack time and gym like activities. Be on the look out for more 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 talents please speak to Karen Reinagel.

## **Family Night**

Our 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!

## **Stuffed Animals for Children**

The Christian Education has a basket of donated stuffed animals for worship time located in the rear of the sanctuary. 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 gives 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 Walk A Thon**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Dunkirk Conference Center Walk-a-thon will be held on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Please save this important date and help us make this event an even bigger success than last year. Please use the sponsor sheet included with the newsletter to begin getting pledges. Sponsor sheets can also be picked up outside the CE office or by the bulletin board. Let's show our support for Dunkirk and plan on raising money through pledges and walking on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to let the CE office know how much you get in pledges so we can get matching legacy funds. Sign-up on the bulletin board if you plan on walking so we can go as Team St. James!

## Summer Youth Events

Calling all Youth, Middle and 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, her email address is

(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.

## Youth Fund Raising Projects

### Paper Recycling Drive

Please support paper recycling!

### Can & Plastic Bottle Drive

Please remember to drop off your returnables on the front porch of the Youth House. Please note - NO GLASS CONTAINERS. We don't want any youth or volunteers getting cut on broken glass!

### 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!

## Thank You

**A special thank you** to everyone who helped with the Dunkirk Day worship service and picnic. It may have been a little cloudy but it didn't dampen our spirits. An extra special thank you to Ciaran, Jonathan, Nick & Philip for their musical talents, Jason Stuhr for manning the AV equipment and Kurt Schumacher for all his years of setting up and taking down the AV equipment.

**A special thank you to Bill and Donna Schumacher** for grilling for the Recognition Luncheon. Also thank you to everyone that helped set up, serve and clean up for the event.

**A special thank you to Luke Vail, his dad Frank Vail, Ken Roth and all the scouts** who worked at the Youth House to spruce up the front porch....it looks great!

**Thank you to Don Pfister and Horst Kristen** for all their work on the pillars and front of the Youth House... it looks better every day!

**Thanks to the Banks Boys for their great lawn mowing efforts!**

**A very special thank you to South Towns Appliance** for donating and delivering a refrigerator to the Youth House. It fits in perfectly and it is so nice to have a working fridge again!!!! It's people and businesses like this that make Hamburg a great place to live!

**A special thank you** to the members of the Board of Christian Ed for the lovely pearl and cross necklace and the plants they so generously gave to me at the Recognition Luncheon. You are a great group to work with.

## Diabetes Education

It is well known that diabetes has become a national problem. St. James will be offering several workshops on Diabetes in the Fall. Veronica Pigeon and Charlotte Cialone are training to lead these workshops through The Network of Religious Communities. Once the training is complete information will be offered to the outside community regarding diabetes. This course is for folks who are diabetic or if you know someone who may be diabetic or if you just want more information on diabetes. We will also will have tips on nutrition and blood sugar levels, label reading.

There will be more information coming in the Fall once we set up dates for the training. Please plan to join us.

## REGISTRY

### Deaths:

Joan Doctor

Born: August 14, 1934

Died: January 11, 2011

Service: June 18, 2011

### FOOD PANTRY

July 3 Paper Products

July 10 Jello/Pudding Mixes

July 17 Cereal/Breakfast Bars  
Oatmeal

July 24 Spaghetti Sauce,  
Canned Stew/Pasta

July 31 Pancake Mixes/Bisquick

August 7 Pasta Dinner Mixes

August 14 Canned/Dry Soups

August 21 Peanut Butter/  
Meat Products

August 28 Canned Juice,  
Juice Mixes

*HAVE A  
WONDERFUL  
SUMMER!!!*



76 Main St.,  
14075

St. James  
United Church of Christ

Hamburg, NY



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### **Where Are Your Wounds?**

Excerpt from John 20: 11 - 20: "Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side."

**Reflection by Anthony B. Robinson**, United Church of Christ minister, is a speaker, teacher and writer.

Two men faced God on the day of judgment. One looked beat and beat-up. Arm in sling, forehead bandaged, clothes tattered and torn. He looked awful. Moreover, his life had been so hard, he felt a failure. Ashamed, he would not lift up his face to look upon the Lord.

The second man looked as if he just stepped off the tennis court after winning his morning set. Dressed smartly, he was tanned and fit. His teeth gleamed. He appeared to have been nipped-and-tucked in the right places. Relaxed, he smiled confidently at the Lord.

The Lord looked at the two men, then turned to the one who was tanned and tucked and said, "Where are your wounds? Was there nothing to fight for down there?"

All of the stories of our Risen Lord returned have this element in common: Jesus' wounds are visible. He does not return unblemished, cleaned up, without sign of struggle or suffering. He returns to us bearing his wounds.

If you bear the wounds of the struggle for justice and peace, if you bear the wounds of battles for truth and righteousness, do not be ashamed. If life has not always been easy for you, do not be ashamed. You are in good company, actually the very best company. "Peace be with you," said Jesus, who then "showed them his hands and his side."

**Prayer** Lord, who does not look upon appearances but upon the heart, speak your word of peace to all who struggle and suffer in the cause of righteousness and truth. Amen.