

The St. James Connector

JUNE 2011

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

Robert Matlack, Pastor
Alva Looze, Associate Pastor
Karen Reinagel, Director of Christian Ed
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Ciaran Krueger, Director of Music
Jonathan Rizzo, Accompanist
Patty Jensen, Office Secretary
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Baccalaureate **Sunday/Recognition** **Sunday - June 5th**

This is graduation season! The colleges have already celebrated their graduations, and next weekend our local High Schools will also 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 that we do so in the context of worship.

In addition, on Sunday June 5th we're going to recognize our Church School Staff, our Music Program participants and our volunteers on various Church Committees and other areas of the life of our church. This should be a very special day - please plan on being part of it!

The service will be followed by a special luncheon and we would to invite everyone to join us in recognizing our Graduates, and also the many, many volunteers who contribute to the life of our church.

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. Thanks.

Tops Cards

You will notice posters for the sale of Tops Cards around the church. Our Casting Your Nets group is now selling these very useful cards. If you shop at Tops, please consider buying these cards. There are various denominations available so that they will fit into your budget. Please see Heidi Mueller on Sunday mornings or Patty Jensen during the week to purchase your card.

Spread The Love

Your gift to *Strengthen the Church* builds UCC's future now by funding The Still Speaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation, especially among women and people of color. Please use the envelopes in the bulletins, the pews or in the church office to make a donation.

Summer Worship

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

From National Disaster Ministries

Images of communities which were torn apart by tornados and neighborhoods under water from spring floods. Our hearts and prayers are with all who have been impacted by devastating spring storms and all of those who are ministering with them.

Please support UCC's US Spring Storms Appeal which has now been launched.

Florence Coppola
National Disaster Ministries

Best Wishes to Jess

This past year Jess Kacalski has been with us as a student. Her original mission was to spend several hours a week learning the workings of a larger church. Instead of a few hours she has thrown herself into the life of this church as if she were a member, attending meetings, helping with events, and assisting in our services every week.

It would be an understatement to say we will miss you, Jess. Your enthusiasm has touched every one of us. We wish you well in whatever you do and hope you won't forget us. You have been a blessing to us.

Church & Ministry Committee

Women's Sewing Mission

Our next meeting will be June 14th at 9:30 a.m. in the Assembly Hall. We will combine our usual work session with our annual end of the year luncheon.

The luncheon will be at Heidi's Hideaway on Camp Road. Reservations and payment must be complete by June 5th. See Jennie Altes or Karen Sutton for more information.

To The Music Participants:

This year as the choirs are winding down, it is a good feeling to be saying thank you to those who have treated us to such wonderful music over the past year. Thank you to each and every member of the choir and instrumentalist.

Ciaran and Jonathan each deserve a special thanks for bringing great music back to St. James. It is such a treat to listen to the music chosen and directed by Ciaran and for the special music Jonathan plays after worship on Sundays.

Thank you to all who participated. We look forward to next season.

48th Annual Meeting - New York Conference UCC

This will be the last year of our annual meeting to be held at Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks. The theme for this year is going to be "Stewards of the Covenant". Our delegates are Barb and Dan Newcomb, Karen Touris and Alva Looze with Donna Ludwig as a visitor. Jess Kacalski is also attending as a representative for her church, Good Shepherd Community of Faith.

It is always a time for renewing friendship, attending the business sessions, attending workshops, looking at displays, music and just enjoying the beautiful surroundings.

Habitat for Humanity

Did you know that you can help Habitat build more houses without lifting a hammer? You can donate items such as large and small appliances, furniture, building materials, hardware, electrical materials, fixtures, housewares, plumbing fixtures, windows, doors, cabinetry, landscaping materials and equipment **OR** you can shop or work at one of the ReStores.

Our stores are located at:

501 Amherst St, Buffalo, NY on the corner of Bush St. between Elmwood and Grant. The entrance and parking are in the back. Store hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon and Sunday from Noon to 4 p.m. The phone is 852-6607.

1675 South Park Ave., Buffalo, NY between Macamley and Koester St. Store hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The phone is 852-6607.

3rd Annual Buffalo Amputee Golf Classic

The Buffalo Amputee Golf Classic was first organized and continues to be directed by long-time PGA member and local golf instructor Peter Fenn.

The event will tee off Thursday, July 7th at Brierwood Country Club here in Hamburg.

Amputees and non-amputees are welcome to participate in a great day of golf. Tournament proceeds provide college scholarships for amputees and their family members.

The event includes 18 holes of golf, your cart, driving range use, lunch, dinner and awards. There will also be a split club and Chinese auction included in the festivities.

For further information call:
716-698-5335.

The Character Council Of Western New York June 2011

Boldness vs Fearfulness

Boldness is confidence that what I have to say or do is true, right, and just.

Our New Bulletin Cover!

We now have an updated picture of the church our bulletin. Thanks to you, John Ortner for the print

Food Pantry

June 5 Dry/canned milk
June 12 Cake/muffin mixes
June 19 Canned vegetables/fruit
June 26 Instant potatoes, dry pasta

Please pick up contributor's statements the beginning of July. It saves on postage. Thank you.
Barbara Reuter

St. James Christian Education Program

St. James provides quality programming for the children that enter our doors throughout the year. Don't forget to make St. James a part of your summer! 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 for children from K - 5th grade. We even serve lemonade, iced 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!

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. 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.

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 over the summer months is on-going. We are looking for Teachers, Assistants, Infant through Preschool staff, snack donations, a refreshments coordinator and craft people. 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 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 also need people to work with our summer program which includes June 19th & 26th, July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, August 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and September 4th.

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.

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.

Youth Fundraisers

We appreciate you supporting our can & bottle drive (No glass please), paper recycling, candy bars sales, clothing shed & our newest fundraisers Dimes for Dunkirk. Thank You!

Recognition Sunday and Luncheon

honoring all volunteers in the life of St. James and Graduates - **Sunday, June 5th following worship in the Assembly Hall.** The Board of Christian Ed and the Youth are sponsoring a Recognition Sunday to thank everyone who volunteers at St. James in any capacity to attend this special event. In the past we have held a CE appreciation luncheon and program but have realized that there are many people who share in the work of the church and have decided it's time we began to recognize everyone who volunteers. So please mark the date and plan on attending this special event in your honor. This event also includes recognition of all graduates including high school, college, etc. and is considered Baccalaureate Sunday as well.

Please sign up on the bulletin board to Bring A Dish or Dessert to Pass if you plan on attending the Luncheon following worship. We are looking for volunteers to grill the meat and we need a head count so PLEASE sign up in order so we have enough food for all who attend!

Our Menu:

Grilled Chicken, beverages, rolls, and salads provided by the Board of Christian Education & anyone that would care to make a salad to share.

Desserts provided by the Church Council

Board of Christian Education

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 7th at 7p.m. in the Resource Room

Youth Board Meeting

will be on Tuesday, June 28th

Dunkirk Camping News

The Summer Camping Theme for 2011 is "Got Spirit". It's not too late to register for camp at Dunkirk Conference Center. You will have to pay a little more but it is worth it! You will still be eligible for the St. James Camp Scholarship based on the Early Bird Rate. Get a registration form at the CE bulletin board area or from the CE office on the 2nd floor, fill it out, hand in your registration form and your deposit or half of the payment, making the check payable to Dunkirk Conference Center and Karen Reinagel will do the rest.

The Board of Christian Education and the Legacy Committee offer one-half off registration based on the Early Bird Rate. Children entering First grade in the fall of 2011 are eligible to register as first time campers. Camps are offered for children and youth through post high, a women's weekend, family camps, an adult music camp. If you have questions, stop in or call the church office. See CE bulletin Board Display for information on camp dates or speak to Karen Reinagel.

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.

Summer Youth Events News

Calling all Middle Youth and Senior High: Remember to check the Youth Bulletin Board and church bulletin during the summer for sign-up sheets, dates, events, activities. You never know when we have something planned. If we don't have your email address be sure to give it to Karen 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.

Dunkirk Day - "Got Spirit"

Our Annual Church Picnic and Worship Service will be at Dunkirk Conference Center on Sunday, June 12th with worship 11a.m. and our picnic, games and fellowship following the service! This event is sponsored by the Board of Christian Ed Cabinet. The address is 3602 East Lake Road, Dunkirk, NY [http: www.dunkirk.org](http://www.dunkirk.org)

Bring your swimsuit, in case the pool is 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. We will worship, pray, praise and play together as we celebrate. Our theme for this year is "Got Spirit!"

Come and join us for worship along with our children, music leaders, ministers, and other members of our church family. If you need directions, you may pick up a map on the table near the church office or check on the Dunkirk Conference Website.

Hope to see all of you!!!!

Bison Game and Family Night

Plans are underway to attend a Bison's Game early-to-mid summer. A date and details are being worked out. People are signing up on the bulletin board so we know there is an interest in this event. Sorry the date was not decided before the newsletter went to print, keep your eye open for more information.

Thank you to everyone who supported the children of the Church School Program during their CROP Walk!

Burgerfest

Saturday, July 16th -

Plans are underway and the Youth are planning to host a variety of events during Burgerfest, Saturday, July 16th. We will be selling popcorn, birch beer, 50/50 split tickets and tickets for our Theme Baskets Raffle. 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 or items for a basket (gift certificates, lottery instant win tickets, wine, etc.) please sign-up on the bulletin board and have your baskets or items turned in by Sunday, July 3rd.

Vacation Bible School

"Helping Hands for Haiti"

SAVE THE DATE: August 1st - thru August 4th from 9a.m. to Noon at St. James UCC

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Join together with your church neighbors from St. James UCC, from St. Matthews UCC, and from 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, both financial and items. Closing Thursday night at 6 p.m. is OPEN to Anyone. A free will offering will be taken for both the dinner and VBS Program.

Please fill out VBS registration form included in newsletter and return it in the offering plate or to the CE office.

Opening of Fall Church School Program

The Fall church school program will begin Sunday, September 11th. We will have a celebration for the opening so look for details in next months newsletter. 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 new teachers, assistants, subs, middle high youth leaders, etc. for our regular church school program . 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, 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 where we still need help are youth house chaperones, persons to oversee the CE storage area where our supplies are kept, CE office assistants, substitutes and also classroom assistants. We are flexible and encourage people to volunteer as little or as much as they like.

Thank You!

Church & Ministry would like to thank everyone who helped with our hanging basket sale. This sale goes toward Scholarships every year. Thanks to Clyde Collins who came on Saturday to unload the truck, those who helped Sunday selling baskets, especially the Newcombs, Bea Young for donating three plants, and those who purchased a basket. We made a profit of \$250 thanks to you all.

Charlotte Cialone, Chair

Thank You

To all who made our benefit concert a success! It takes many hands to have a concert run so smoothly. From the advertising, the set up and take downs. The ushers and all those who helped, participated and attended. We gave "The New Way UCC Church \$1000 in offerings. Without God's help and all of you this could not have been accomplished. God Bless and thank you. Alva

Goodbye Jess Kacalski

It has been a privilege and a joy to have Jess as a student in care. We wish her much success and vision for her a very bright future.

God Bless, Alva

Personal Thanks

I have always known what a kind and giving congregation this is, however this past winter when I had many health issues, there were so many folks who helped it would be impossible to name them here. Bob and Alva were frequent visitors at Lakewood as were many others from St. James and my phone calls were full of good wishes as well as my room decorated with beautiful cards. I need to say thanks to everyone who helped my mother and me during my illness. We could never have done it without you. Charlotte Cialone

REGISTRY

Deaths:

Marjorie Vara
Born: April 7, 1927
Died: May 9, 2011
Service: May 12, 2011

Baptism:

Madelyn Eva Schrubb
Born: November 22, 2010
Baptized: May 1, 2011
Parents: Wayne & Carissa
Schrubb

From Jess

My time of supervised ministry has come to a close. I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment here at St James. This has been like my own home church for me and I thank you very much the experience. I would like to thank Bob and Alva for all their guidance and support during this past year. It has been a real pleasure for me to be able to work with them. I would also like to thank Charlotte Cialone and the Church and Ministry Committee for all their support.

Thank you for the fellowship time on Saturday May 21st. and the coffee hour and cake on May 22nd. Thank you St James, for the Stoll you gave me on Sunday. I will cherish it always and will wear it proudly. Thank you again and I hope to see you all soon.

Jess

HAVE A
HAPPY
SUMMER!!!!



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



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A Hasidic Legend

Excerpt from **Psalms 16**: "I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me."

Reflection by Felix Carrion, Coordinator of The Stillspeaking Ministry, UCC

Recently, I read a Hasidic legend that spoke to me. I hope it speaks to you.

When God created human beings, the angels were jealous because God had endowed the humans with divine wisdom that would guide them through life. So the jealous angels conspired to hide this gift from the humans. "Let's take it to the peak of the highest mountain," said one. "No," said another, "Let's bury it at the bottom of the deepest sea." But the smartest angel of all said: "Let's hide divine wisdom deep inside each person. It's the last place they'll ever look."

It sure is hard for us humans to really believe that God placed in us the divine counsel that would guide and show us the path of life. Sometimes we do need the counselor or personal coach or the friend that does not leave our side, because the crisis calls for it. But when we are ready, then the true work of inner explorations and of soul-searching begins. The very best counselors know this. Their efforts wisely guide us back to ourselves. When we come upon an epiphany, the best counselors never take credit. They point back to where it came from.

At a meeting I heard someone say, "We have to learn to listen, to listen to learn." Why not learn to listen to the deepest knowledge God placed in us when we were created? Finally, we can stop running to and fro looking for a treasure that lies right beneath our noses, closer than our breath, more mysterious than the pulse of our heartbeat. Will this be the last place that you will look?

Prayer: O God, how clever you are! And, oh yes, how playful! Now I can laugh because all along I was looking in the wrong places. Now I can look in the right place. I'll meet you there. Amen.