

# The St. James Connector

## MARCH 2011

St. James United Church of Christ,  
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716-649-6171

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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.

As we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, we will again have a special service focusing on confession and penitence.

Ashes are used as a symbol of mortality and penitence as we humble ourselves before God. Please join us. Our worship service is at 7:30 with a potluck supper at 6:30.

### 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 pierce to the Lenten banner on a Saturday or a Sunday, please talk with Rev. Bob.

### CLUSTER LENTEN SERVICES

Please join us for our Cluster Lenten Services. The schedule is as follows:

#### March 16

Faith UCC, Boston - Pastor Alva Looze preaching

#### March 23

St. John's UCC, Eden - Rev. Sue Hodges preaching

#### March 30

St. James UCC, Hamburg - Rev. Jack Bacon preaching

#### April 6

First Congregational UCC, Angola - Rev. Jim Riedling preaching

#### April 13

Trinity UCC, Gowanda - Rev. Bonnie Bates preaching

We begin each week with a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. followed by worship at 7:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your own place settings.

This is a good way to fellowship with other folks in our Cluster. Please think about attending one or more of the evenings.

### Sermon Series

Through March and into April we're doing a sermon series on the Apostle's Creed - an old Creed, familiar to many of you, that has been used by the church for many centuries as a vehicle for talking about and confessing our faith. The series is as follows:

March 6 "I Believe in God"  
Rev. Bob

March 13 "We Believe in Jesus Christ" Pastor Alva

March 20 "The Holy Spirit" -  
Rev. Bob

March 27 - "The Holy Catholic Church" - Jess Kacalski

April 3 Youth Service

April 10 "Saints - You? Me? Who?"

### Food Pantry:

March 6 Dry/canned milk  
March 13 Cake, muffin or bread mixes  
March 20 Canned fruit and vegetables  
March 27 Instant potatoes & dry pasta

## 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 Raymond Riefler scholarships are due by **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Applications for the St. James Scholarship must be submitted for approval no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Women's Sewing Mission

Our next meeting will be March 8<sup>th</sup> 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

The Servers Fellowship will meet in the Horton Lounge on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. All women of St. James are welcome.

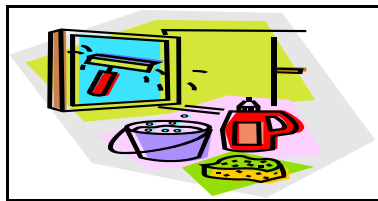
### From the Office:

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 web-site. 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.



## ATTENTION LADIES!

We are still work on spring cleaning the kitchen. With the help of Nancy Banks and Joanne Roberts we accomplished a lot. We will be continuing on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. Please bring your bucket, and your favorite cleaning supplies.

## Board of Christian Education Meetings

Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Resource Room

Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Resource Room

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

## Daylight Savings Time

It's time to spring the clocks ahead on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and to spring out of bed and come to church in your PJs. That's right it's 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!

## PLYMOUTH CROSSROADS

We are happy to learn that Plymouth Crossroads has opened and that eight men are currently residing at the facility. WNYACC contributed about eight thousand dollars worth of gifts. Our Servers gave 6 twin size mattresses.

## Wednesday Family Nights

Weds., March 2<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Weds., April 6<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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

## 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

## Sports Day

On Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 five different sports stations: balance, putting, basketball, baseball target throws and ladder ball. 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 will be posted, and pre-registration is appreciated. Volunteers are both needed and welcome. Contact Peter Fenn at 698-5335 or email me at [pete@peterrfennngolf.com](mailto:pete@peterrfennngolf.com) for more information.

## **IT'S RUMMAGE 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 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 4<sup>th</sup>** date to begin bringing in items.

**Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>** 9:30 a.m.  
– ??: Set up and pricing

**Friday April 8<sup>th</sup>** 5:30 p.m.  
to 8:30 p.m. PREVIEW NIGHT,  
\$1 DONATION

**Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>** 9:30 a.m.  
– 3:00 pm. Bag sale begins at  
1:00 pm.

**Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>** 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!

## **Lasertron, Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Any Middle & Sr. High Youth that do volunteer hours working for the Rummage Sale are invited to attend Lasertron for FREE following the Rummage Sale. Time and other information to be announced! Check the Bulletin & the Youth Bulletin Board for more details as they become available. This event is being sponsored by the Middle and Senior High Youth Group and includes the St. James Church Family and friends.

### **World Day Of Prayer**

This year the World Day of Prayer service will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Hamburg Methodist Church. The ladies from the Southtowns churches will be presenting the program. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Each year this service is unique and beautiful. Please try to attend if you can.

### **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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **Enrichment Time**

There will NOT be any regular church school classes on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> (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 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.

### **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.

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 by April 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you ahead of time for all your donations

## **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.

## **CHARACTER COUNCIL**

Discernment vs. Shortsightedness  
Discernment is understanding the deeper reasons for why things happen.

### **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.

### **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 your 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!

### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year that the church school program at St. James has participated in this event. This year the children raised \$205.00 and are hoping to get legacy funds which will bring the grand total to \$410.00. The money raised will be sent to "South Towns Food Pantry". This is a great effort on the part of all the teachers and our congregation and of course, all who helped in anyway to make this mission project a success. A special thank you to Jen Mumm & Vicky Loretto for overseeing this event on Souper Bowl Sunday.

## **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.

### **Paula Pfister Dessert Auction**

Our Dessert Auction will take place Palm Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **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

### **Children and Youth Offering Envelopes**

Boxes of children/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 helps our church school program.

### **New York State Youth Event for Youth in Grades 9th - 12th**

March 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Watson Homestead - Painted Post, NY  
**Theme: "Who Are We To Judge"**

Once again it is time for another exciting New York State Youth Event. This year's theme will focus on the many aspects of bias and discrimination and how our faith can make us more open and accepting to all Gods people! It will be a wonderful opportunity for youth 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 freetime!

This year we are excited to have a new format for our Saturday sessions. We will be having a forum-style short session as one group with various leaders focusing on different aspects of bias; then we will break off into smaller groups to have open dialogue with the various leaders. The workshops in the afternoon session and the activities have been expanded, with over 15 creative choices ranging from music workshops to hands-on crafts and yoga, plus many more. We will also have the ever-popular dance on Saturday night, as well as Bible studies and creative worship. Bring your musical instruments if you wish and do not forget the beautiful indoor pool will be available. For more information check out the website [www.uccny.org](http://www.uccny.org). Consider attending along with over 200 other youth from all over New York State for fun and fellowship. Check the weekly bulletin for departure time for Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. For the return trip home the event ends at noon and parents will be called via cell phone with a time to pick up their youth at St. James. Youth will need to bring spending money and money to purchase dinner on Friday on the way to the retreat.

### **New Members Class**

Our new members class has been changed to Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. at 7 p.m. in the lounge. Please see Bob or Alva if you would like to become a member of St. James.

### **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.

### **CIA Work Weekend**

There will be information in our April newsletter as well as posters to let everyone know when and where this year's work weekend will be. This is an effort by all CIA churches to refurbish a shelter or other local agency in need. It is a fun weekend as well as rewarding. Please make plans to work one or both of the days to help others.

### **Keep Our Shut-Ins in Mind**

Enclosed in this newsletter is a list of shut-ins. Please keep them in mind, 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.



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



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### **Soft Power**

Reflection by William C. Green a United Church of Christ minister, is the Director of Long Looking, a consultancy service specializing in fundraising and education for congregations.

Excerpt from Proverbs 25:11-22: A soft tongue can break bones.

"When Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was shot in the head in the rampage that left five dead, staffer Gabe Zimmerman was killed coming to help. Speaking at Zimmerman's funeral, Mark Kelly, the congresswoman's husband, said that moments before the gunman opened fire, Zimmerman intervened in a heated argument between two constituents at the ill-fated "Congress on Your Corner." Kelly called Zimmerman the peacemaker who could calm down the angriest visitors and callers. Another staffer said he was known as "the constituent whisperer." His father said, "Gabe kept his voice soft and never returned anger, so how can we?"

When loud voices of anger poison disagreement, making it dangerous, we can reflect what we despise. Responding in kind to anger makes it a vicious circle. The idiotic behavior of some of our politicians can make me, if not idiotic, so furious that the intensity of my own reaction mirrors the problem.

It's not a matter of being more pleasant and agreeable in the face of damaging nonsense. It's not a matter of never raising our voices in anger and protest. As Gabe Zimmerman reminds us, it's a matter of knowing that hardened positions won't soften with more hardness. Difficult and impossible as it seems politically, we can learn from what's true personally: often what we all want is not so much agreement as listening and recognition. Without that, the bones of division and disrespect can't be broken.

**Prayer** : O God, keep me from becoming complicit in what I deplore by reacting in kind. Amen.

