

The St. James Connector

November, 2011

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

Robert Matlack, Pastor
Alva Looze, Associate Pastor
Patty Jensen, Office Secretary
St. James email: stjamesucc2@verizon.net

Karen Reinagel, Director of Christian Ed
Ciaran Krueger, Director of Music
Jonathan Rizzo, Accompanist
Website: www.saintjamesucc.com

Mission 1/Harvest Home Weekend – November 12th and 13th

At Thanksgiving time one of the natural things to do is to give in gratitude to help those who are less fortunate than we are. This year we will take an extra special offering of food during the first two weeks of November and culminating on the weekend of November 12th - 13th. This year we are participating in this offering with churches around the United Church of Christ, as we work together to fight hunger, which is Mission 1! Please bring a special offering of food to church during this time.

Commitment Sunday

This year during the weekend of November 19th and 20th is our Commitment Weekend. Pledge cards will be mailed out ahead of time. Everyone is encouraged to bring them to church that weekend, or mail them if you can't be there, so that together we make our commitments as we travel this journey together into God's future!

GIFT Thanksgiving Dinner

GIFT – Growing in Faith
Together.

GIFT is five UCC churches that have been meeting and sharing together in a variety of ways as we support one another on our journeys as Christians. These churches are:

St. James (Hamburg);
St. John's (Strykersville);
First Congregational (Angola);
St. John's (Eden); and
First Congregational (Niagara Falls).

The Thanksgiving meal has become an annual tradition – and a wonderful one. Please plan on joining us. The meal is free. Just sign up on the bulletin board so we know about how many people to expect. It's a wonderful gathering – with great food (a full turkey dinner), great company (from our six different churches), and great worship!

We eat a 5 at p.m. on Saturday, November 12th. Worship is at 6:30, and afterwards we go back to the Assembly Hall for coffee and dessert. Please join us!!!

Christian Ed Advent Items

On the first Sunday in Advent, November 27th, during the Children's Sermon, the children will receive a special Advent gift. They will also hear about the special "No TAG Left Behind" policy for this year's Angel/Mitten Tree which was mentioned in the November newsletter.

A basket of advent items is on display located near the bulletin board. Please help yourself to any items you might like during the advent season, compliments of the Board of Christian Ed.

WESTERN AREA FALL MEETING

The Annual fall meeting will be held on November 6, 2022 at Phoenix UCC at 1280 N. French Road. in Amherst. Phoenix UCC will be dedicated and blessed at that time, along with, celebrations and reports, budget, elections and installations.

Registration \$8.00 including lunch. Reservations need to be in by Oct. 28th. Please let Alva know if you will be attending

'GOD IS STILL SPEAKING' at St. James UCC

"No matter who you are, where you are on life's journey you are welcome here."

Sewing Mission

Our November meeting will be Tuesday, November 8th at 9:30 a.m. the Assembly Hall.

We are in need of sheets for our chux pads. If you have any to donate, please label the bag and leave it in the church office. Thank you!

We are also looking for new members to join our group. We welcome you whether or not you have sewing skills. Please join us on November 8th, bring a lunch and a delicious dessert will be provided by Ruth Rathman.

4th Grade Bible Study

Our 4th graders will be studying with Pastor Alva in preparation to receive a copy of The Good News Bible on Sunday, November 13th & November 20th, and they will be presented with their Bible on Sunday, November 27th during worship. This is a special time in the life of the children; they are now old enough to be able to read and have an understanding of what has been written about within the covers of this special book. If you have a child in 4th grade and have not received a letter before the classes start please speak to Karen or Pastor Alva. There will be a parents meeting to sign your child's Bible on Sunday, November 6th in Rm. 220 at 11am following worship.

If you have a child in fourth grade be on the look out for a letter explaining the details of the Bible study and the presentation. If you have any question please feel free to speak to Karen Reinagel.

Snow Angels

Don't forget youth are needed again this year to help in the community. If you can sign up, please contact Lynn Detzel at 649-6170 or email me at ldetzel@villagehamburg.com or contact Recreation Director Bill Nye at bnye@villagehamburg.com.

Paula Pfister Pie Auction Sunday, November 20th.

Twice a year a pie/dessert auction is held to raise funds for the Paula Pfister Christian Education Scholarship Fund. This fund was established to honor the memory of Paula who served as CE Director at St. James for several years. Students who serve faithfully in our CE program for their high school years are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Paula was a wonderful person who worked hard for our children and congregation. Please honor her memory by participating in this wonderful event.

If you would like to help with this event please sign-up to bring a pie in a non-returnable pie plate. Just sign-up, bring in the pie or dessert the day of the auction, fill out a bidding sheet the day of the event (which is held in the Assembly Hall) and stay and bid on other pies or watch as your donation raises money for this worthwhile event. All types of desserts are welcome.

CHARACTER COUNCIL OF WESTERN NEW YORK

Determination vs

Faintheartedness

Determination is purposing to accomplish right goals at the right time, regardless of the opposition

-To demonstrate determination in my life, I will Set goals.

-Make sure my goals are right.

-Ignore distractions.

-Not be discouraged by others.

-Face problems.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Our Annual Advent Workshop will be held December 4th after church. The youth will be providing us with a lunch. We have new ideas for craft project for all ages.

Come join us for lunch and fun activities.

Family Movie Night

Come and join us on Friday, November 18th. The movie starts at 7 p.m. Remember to sign-up if you are planning to attend. Please remember to bring a snack or dessert to share. People are also needed to stay and help with the clean up after the event. This is a great event to invite some friends to! The name of the movie will be posted on the bulletin board along with the sign-up sheet.

DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Cabinet will be meeting Saturday Nov. 26th at 10 a.m. to decorate for the holidays. Come join us as all helping hands are appreciated.

Heifer Fair

We began the Fall Church School Program by working on a Heifer Fair which was held on Sunday, October 16th following worship in the Assembly Hall. The church School children raised over \$400.00 and legacy funds will be doubling that amount which will be sent to Heifer International. This is an annual event that the Church School presents. GREAT JOB KIDS!!!! Thank you to everyone who supported this great event and cause.

CROP WALK

On Sunday, October 16th the Community CROP Walk was held and we donated the \$65.00 that the Church School children raised for this cause when we walked in May and with matching Legacy funds we are sending CROP a check for \$130.00. Thank you for you support for this worthwhile cause.

T h a n k Y o u

- To Carol & Jerry Wahlenmayer for donating a grill to the youth for their grilling needs.

- To the Jensen's for raising \$296 for DCC at the annual Walk A Thon.

GREAT JOB!

Angel/Mitten Tree

Each year during the Advent season the Board of Christian Education sponsors the theme of "Giving" and with that in mind the Board is pledging to make sure every tag on the Angel Tree has a gift to be sent back to the Salvation Army with the No Tag Left Behind policy. The money donated in the children's offering envelopes will help to defray the cost of purchasing the gifts we need in order to fulfill our goal. You are also invited to make monetary donations to help defray the cost of purchasing gifts to fill the tag requests during the advent season. Please help make this Christmas special for someone in need. The Angel Mitten Tree has been a tradition at St. James for as long as I can remember. The warm hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves are placed on the branches of the tree and given to those in need. The tags on the tree are to be taken so you can purchase a gift for the child whose name appears on the tag you've chosen. You may either purchase the suggested items or choose one that you like. The gift tags will be in the Lounge once they arrive so be on the lookout for them and let the giving begin. *Remember do not gift wrap your gift!!!!* Please just return it and place it under the tree in the sanctuary or the lounge with the original tag attached to the items. The Salvation Army needs to be able to see all the gifts. The deadline to bring in gifts is Sunday December 12th. If you have any questions please speak to Karen Reinagel.

Men's Breakfast

Our first men's breakfast was a great success. Thanks to all who attended. For those of you who couldn't make it, you missed a great speaker and a good breakfast. Keep your eyes open for our spring breakfast.

Ken Roth

Youth News Registration/Permission Forms

Please take the time to fill out a Permanent registration and permission form for Middle and Senior High Youth, as well as all the children in our Church School program, and return it to the CE office. Please be sure to fill out both front & back of the form and include your cell number. Forms can be found on through out the building.

Our fund-raising projects

- Abitibi Paper Recycling;
- St. Pauly's Textile Drive, and
- Candy Bar Sale
- Can and bottle drive

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Youth Program!

Youth Calendar of Events 2011 - 2012

If you are a member of our Youth program you should pick up a copy of the Youth Events Calendar 2011 - 2012 in the bin outside the CE office or at the Youth Bulletin Board.

Upcoming Youth Events to mark on your calendars

Be sure to check Youth bulletin board and sign-up if required.

Poinsettia Sunday

Orders for Poinsettias must be received by Sunday, December 4th. The cost of each plant if \$7.00. You may mail your order to the church office or place it in the offering plate in an envelope marked for Poinsettias along with the order form and payment. You may pick up the poinsettias December 11th after one of the Christmas Eve services

Plants that are left will be delivered to a sick or shut-in.

Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant is Sunday, December 18th this year, so circle the date on your calendar. It is always a special morning and service when the children of our congregation tell the story of the birth of the Christ Child. The service begins at 10:00 a.m. and the pageant will be presented in place of the children's sermon. Fittings for costumes will be taking place November 13th and finishing on December 4th. Please be sure to fill out a pageant permission form and return it. Permission slips may be picked up from your child's church school teacher, the church office or on the table by the CE bulletin board display. You may return the completed forms to any of the locations mentioned.

The dress rehearsal for the pageant is scheduled for Saturday, December 17th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon and will be followed by a holiday pizza party. If you would like to help with the pageant, rehearsal or party, please speak to Karen Reinagel. We always have room for all the children that would like to be included in the cast. Participation in the pageant is usually for children four years old and up. If a parent feels that their three year old is ready to be in the pageant, please speak to Karen to make arrangements. The youngest children are usually the stars. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Christian Education Office and speak to Karen.

From the office:

If you are moving, going away for an extended period of time, or do not wish to receive the newsletter, please let the office know. It saves on postage.

You may also get the newsletter by email or pick a copy up at church. Just let us know what you would prefer.

Thanks, Patty

Operation Christmas Child

The Power of a Simple Gift is a Samaritan's Purse Project sponsored by the Board of Christian Education and the Senior High Youth Group is being held **thru November 20th**. Operation Christmas Child bring joys and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Here is a way you can make a difference in the lives of those children:

Step 1 Shoe Box - Please pick up an empty shoe box (standard size) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box, (lid separately), but wrapping is not required. Most important pray for the child who will receive your gift.

Step 2 Boy or Girl? Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Use the appropriate boy/girl label provided with the shoe box. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

Step 3 Fill With gifts - Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. Gift Suggestions: School Supplies - pens, pencils, and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps, and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.; Toys - small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yo's, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.; Hygiene Items - toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.; Other - hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball, caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries); A Personal Note - In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child

and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child might write back). **DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out of date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Step 4 Include Your Donation

- Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover the shipping and other project costs. You can use the donation envelope included in the shoe box. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation.

Step 5 Drop Off - Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and drop off at the collection center near the lounge or church office by **November 20th** .

Family Night

Don't forget Family Night on November 8th at 6 p.m. Please consider joining us for this fun event. We share a meal of pizza, salad and a beverage and the kids go to choir and then if we have some dessert we enjoy it together. Sign up and join us.

Server's

Server's next meeting will be November 22nd in the Lounge at 1:00 p.m. Hostesses will be Gladys Hornberger and Ruth Rathman. Please plan to join us, we would love to have you.

The Server's would like to thank everyone for their support in making the Soup sale a success. A profit of \$2058.69 was made.

TLC Award

The Child Care Resource Network has awarded TLC Childcare Center, managed by Ms. Patty Connors, the 2011 Center-Based Program Award Winner. The Center has taken on the challenge of implementing Creative Curriculum in the child care program. Also it's dedication to providing children and families resources, events, and other activities creates a community within the child care program shows this program to be high quality.

Congratulations to Patty and the Staff of TLC for a job well done.

REGISTRY:

Wedding:

Robert Earl Black and
Nina Marie Kroczynski
Married October 15, 2011

Death:

Edward J. Goulding
Born: August 28, 1921
Died October 12, 2011
Service October 17, 2011

FOOD PANTRY

Nov. 6 pasta, pasta dinners
Nov. 13 canned/dry soups
Nov. 20 Peanut butter/meat
Nov. 27 Canned juice/mixes

Diabetes Informational Workshop

The time of year is a busy one and we have decided to postpone our informational workshop until Spring. Look for our information in the March newsletter. Please plan to join us mid-April to once again learn about diabetes.



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

**Non - Profit
Organization
Auto U.S.
Postage Paid
Hamburg, NY
Permit # 121**



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Two Thumbs Up!

Excerpt from Mark 3:1-3: "Then he went back in the meeting place where he found a man with a crippled hand He said to the man with the crippled hand, 'Stand here where we can see you.'"

Reflection by Lillian Daniel, Senior minister of the First Congregational Church, UCC, Glen Ellyn, Illinois

The famous film critic, Roger Ebert, is well-known for his thumb, which would point up for a good movie, but down for a bad one. He and his partner Gene Siskel kept movie fans' attention through the years with their passionate debates about the latest releases, where the best movies would get their most coveted award of "two thumbs up!" In a recent interview on National Public Radio, which you can read here, Ebert recalled Gene Siskel's years of illness and his death: "He was intensely private about the situation," Ebert recalls. "I respect it. I think perhaps it influenced me to be very open about my own illness." Today, Ebert has written a memoir and is a prolific blogger. He has been very open about his own struggles with cancer, which have left him unable to speak, and with a face that many of his fans would not recognize, disfigured after many surgeries.

In Jesus' day, people saw disfigurement as a mark of shame. So it must have been quite remarkable when Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, "Stand here where we can see you," right in the middle of the meeting place. I don't think Jesus was objectifying the man or scrutinizing him. I think Jesus was telling him that he had nothing to be ashamed of, and that he deserved attention not for what he looked like, but for who he was, a child of God.

Still writing and still moved by the movies, Ebert debated whether or not to allow himself to be photographed, since he looks very different today. "I was advised not to be photographed looking like this," he says. "Well, it's how I look. And there's nothing I can do about it. We spend too much time as a society denying illness. It's a fact of life." Ebert allowed his wife to photograph him and then posted the picture on his blog. "This is the face I have," he says. "I accept it." Two thumbs up for Roger Ebert. Two thumbs up for all those who work to make a more loving, less shallow world. Two thumbs up for taking your spot in the meeting place, and being appreciated for who you really are, deep down.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to see each other as beautiful, to see ourselves as beautiful, and to see you as the artist behind all that beauty. Amen.