

The St. James Connector

February 2012

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

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Annual Meeting

Come One - Come All!!!

The Annual Meeting of our Congregation will be held on Sunday, February 12th following worship. Please join us and be a part of this important gathering! At this meeting we will vote on a budget for 2012, reflect on the work and ministry we have done together in 2011, and elect members to positions of service within the life of our congregation. We need your input!! There will also be reports on our progress in gearing up for the pastoral search process, and the plans to proceed in discussing our wedding policy.

The Annual Reports will be available the Sunday before the meeting (Feb. 5th) to be picked up by members of the congregation.

The youth will be serving a Soup luncheon for the second year during and after the meeting. There is no charge, but all donations will help defray the costs of the NYE2012 trip.

Children are invited to the Lounge following church school for a DVD and donuts and juice while they parents attend the meeting.

Ash Wednesday

Easter is April 8th this year, which means that Lent begins on February 22nd. 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 plan to attend!

Southtowns Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. Traditionally, we gather for a potluck at 6:30 p.m. and Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 p.m. here at St. James. Then each Wednesday thereafter we gather for potluck and services with our sisters and brothers from the Southtowns Cluster churches.

The schedule is the same each week with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and worship will follow at 7:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your place settings.

Schedule:

February 29, St. James
March 7, St. John's, Eden
March 14, Faith, Boston
March 21, First Cong., Angola
March 28, Trinity, Gowanda

Souper Bowl Of Caring

Sunday, February 5, 2012 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 5th, 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.



Server's

Our meeting will be February 28, 2012 at 1 p.m. We will meet at a local restaurant to be announced at a later date.

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, to visit the meditative walk that can be found throughout the church building. This is the eighth 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 Reinagel.

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.

Board of Christian Education

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 7th in the Resource Room.

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.

Help Needed:

We need a volunteer to take over maintaining our church website. If needed, training will be provided.

Please contact Rev. Bob Matlack if you're interested!

February Family Night

Our next Family Night will be Wednesday, Feb. 1st at 6:00 p.m. at 8:30 p.m. Please remember to sign up on the Bulletin Board.

Western Association

Our next meeting will be at St. Matthews UCC here in Hamburg on Saturday, February 25th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please let Alva know if you would like to join us so that reservations may be made.

St. James Permanent Permission and Registration Form

Just a reminder to make sure your child has a Permanent Permission/Church Registration Form on file with the Christian Ed Department! Each child should have a completed and signed permanent permission form on file in order to attend youth events. This saves the chore of signing permission forms and saves us from handing out and collecting. The forms can be obtained from the Christian Ed Office, the Bulletin Board or Youth Bulletin Board. Both sides need to be filled out, signed by the parent/s or guardians and returned to the Christian Ed Department. The form is for local activities the youth/children may attend, and there will still be additional forms when we attend something like WAY Events or the New York State Youth Event. If you have any questions please feel free to speak to Karen or Donna. The form is also required to be filled out by any friends that attend activities with us. We have reviewed using these forms and have found it works so well we are asking parents with children of all ages to fill out a form and have it on file with the Christian Ed office.

"12 Hours of Winter Saturday, February 18th

This event will be for Middle and Senior High youth. More information will follow in the weekly bulletin. Talk to Donna Schumacher if you have questions.

Youth Board Meeting

The Youth Board will meet Tuesday, February 28th at 6:15 p.m. in the Resource Room.

Youth Service

The Senior High youth have begun plans for their annual Youth Service, so please attend class regularly so you can be a part of this event.

Youth Winter Event

Sledding at Chestnut Ridge is a Youth sponsored event for everyone, weather permitting.

*Please note this is a weather pending event. Due to the lack of snow this winter we haven't set a date so be on the lookout for more information in the weekly bulletin - Noon - ? The youth are inviting everyone to go sledding at Chestnut Ridge. 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 & paper products, all we ask is you sign-up, bring something to share and bring your warm clothes and a sled or toboggan!

**Rummage Sale & Lasertron
is coming sometime during
the spring so be on the
lookout for dates and
information.**

***Please don't forget our
Youth Fund Raising Projects:***
-Youth & Bottle Drive
-Candy Sale
-Paper Recycling Program
-St. Paulys Clothing Drive
-Dimes for Dunkirk

Dunkirk 2012 Camping & Retreat Information

Celebrating 90 years of Faith, Friends, Fellowship & Fun!!

DCC offers many activities such as games, music, crafts, worship, swimming, archery, a rock-wall & ropes course, campfires, talent shows and a whole lot of fun! It is a time to make new friendships that can last a lifetime. DCC provides a setting for developing social skills, independence, and a deeper understanding of God. The 2012 calendar is packed for the entire year! There has never been more opportunities to spend your time at DCC. As soon as last summers season ended the planning began for the 2012 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 1st). So keep that in mind and be on the look out for the Dunkirk Camp Display in the Christian Ed Bulletin Area. Registration forms are available on line @ www.dunkirkcc.com, you can print your form, fill it out and hand it in to the Christian Ed Department. By doing this Karen Reinagel will be able to make sure you get your correct scholarship money and or discounts that apply to you.

A flyer with the 2012 schedule is located on the bulletin board display. More information will be on display and posted in the weekly bulletin as it becomes available.

Food Pantry

- Feb. 5 Pasta/Pasta dinners
- Feb. 12 Canned/Dry soups
- Feb 19 Peanut Butter/Meat products
- Feb. 26 Canned juice, juice mixes



New York State Youth Event

The event will be held March 9th - 11th at Watson Homestead, in Painted Post, New York for grades 9 - 12. This year's event is entitled "Mission Possible" 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! The ever-popular dance on Saturday night, as well as Bible studies and creative worship will be a part of the weekend. Bring your musical instruments if you wish and do not forget the beautiful indoor pool, too. More info. to follow in Sunday bulletin & on Youth Bulletin Board. Forms available on the Youth Bulletin Board and in bin outside Christian Ed office. The deadline to hand in registrations is Sunday, Feb. 26th.

REGISTRY

Deaths:

Terry D. Loretto
Born: November 7, 1961
Died: December 26, 2011
Service: December 31, 2011

Dorothy I. Snow
Born: September 29, 1960
Died: December 21, 2011
Service: January 7, 2012

Thanks,

We thank the Servers for the railing installed at the rear entrance and also thanks to Horst and Don for seeing to the installation.

Snow started later this year, but as soon as it appeared Clyde Collins was out making sure the walks were clear and salted. Thank you Clyde!

Boston Valley School Nurse Cathy Maghran sent a note 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. Also thank you to Laurie Karn for delivering all the items to Boston Valley.

Thanks

Thank you for the lovely Poinsettia and box of Girl Scout cookies. It was very nice to be remembered.

Gerry Hammond

Dear Pastor Alva and our church family.

In appreciation for the beautiful Memorial Service, luncheon and to all who contributed in any way in the celebration of Jack's life, we thank you. God Bless.

Viola, Paul and family

A Special Thank You to all who helped with Dorothy's memorial service and luncheon. She was well loved with over 400 people attending. We also want to thank you for your cards, thoughts and prayers over the last few months and the last few weeks before her death

Kevin Snow,
Joyce and Butch Meyer



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

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Be Still

Excerpt from Psalm 46: "Be still and know that I am God."

Reflection by Donna Schaper, Senior Minister of Judson Memorial Church in New York City

Around 9:15 one November morning I was driving on the Taconic Parkway in the mid-Hudson Valley. Out of nowhere a large 6-point buck appeared as I was driving in the passing lane, giving new meaning to the Christmas song about Grandma getting run over by a reindeer. I remembered all my country learnings and did not brake but drove through it. It died upon impact, I got the car off the road, an ambulance came, and I spent the next six hours at the Westchester Medical Center receiving superb care. The deer spent way too long in the middle lane until some people finally carried him off the road. My adult offspring drove up from the city in a Zip Car to accompany me. I had CAT scans of the head, neck, and chest and ultrasounds of the spleen and more. I had a pretty bruised arm on the left and some very sad toes to accompany them on the same side. Getting out of the car after the air bags go off is not easy.

As the ambulance arrived at the hospital, the woman at the desk said, "Is this one the deer?" I said "No, my name is Donna." A chaplain visited me in the emergency room, after I had been unceremoniously moved to a hallway to await the results of my many tests. He prayed with me. It was very beautiful. He also got my name wrong, asking God to bless Dorothy instead of Donna, but I didn't care.

I have now survived breast cancer, ten years, being hit by a drunk driver and now a deer. In each case, the scripture that mattered most was Psalm 46. "Be still and know that I am God." Being still, even if people get your name wrong, is a place beyond serenity. It is being really broken and also being really well, both and, not either or. Standing on the side of the road, awaiting care, all I could remember to say to myself was "Be still, and know that I am God." Same thing I did with the drunk and the mastectomy. By these words, I sensed that God was nigh. God is nigher than nigh, especially when we find ourselves scared stiff.

Prayer: Thank you God for the warm fundamentalists of my youth who insisted I memorize scripture and showed me how to drive through things. Amen.