

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April—May , 2018

Pastor Tony's Message

Easter Sunday I preached for the first time about Easter and April Fool. And It was unusual for these events to occur on the same day. Since 1700, 318 years ago, Easter has fallen on April 1 only 11 times! The last time Christians celebrated Easter April 1 was in 1956 -- more than 60 years ago when the world was so unlike the world and culture we inhabit today.

It is unusual. Although Easter falls on April Fools' Day again in 2029 and 2040, it will then not be observed April 1 for another 68 years -- 2108. And then another wait of 62 years ... 2170. And since it has been 62 years since the last conjunction of April Fools' Day and Easter, this fascinating coincidence *begs* to be noticed and mentioned.

However the most important fact is that Resurrection happens. And not only did Jesus arose from death we his collaborators will rise. And just like we are waiting for Spring to finally occur in its fullness society is waiting for our Resurrection.

Most of us would agree, this has been an unusual and extensive winter, and now I find myself yearning in desperation for Spring. I find my- self waiting for the trees to begin budding, the melodious melodies of the song birds, and the warmth of the sun to bring back the color of the grass and cause flowers to bloom. I love spring! I enjoy so much the signs of new and renewed life. My loins want that Vitamin D only the sun can bring. I want to see it, taste it, and hear the sounds of birds in the morning. However family and friends await our proclamation as collaborators in these dire strait times. We are the symbolic representation of Christ.

Inasmuch as Jesus Christ is no longer physically present, all followers of Jesus Christ become collaborators of God's grace to the world. This reality is concisely expressed in words written by Teresa of Ávila in the 16th century...

- *Christ has no body here on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.*
- *Yours are the eyes which express Christ's compassion to the world.*
- *Yours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good.*

And yours are the hands with which Christ is to bless us now.

"The Lord is RISEN! The Lord is RISEN, indeed!" The joy of Jesus' resurrection and the reality of his presence encourages us to be his hands and feet to those God brings into our lives. We are Collaborators!!! **Pastor Tony will be on vacation April 8th to April 14th.**

CALLING ALL 2018 GRADUATES

We need a list of all our 2018 college and high school graduates. Please contact the church office with the graduate's name, name of their high school or college, their future plans & names of "Relatives" in the congregation.

The students will be honored at the worship service on May 27th.

DEADLINE FOR NAMES MAY 14TH

Consistory News by Julie Ditzler, President

It's time to *SPRING* into action here at St. John's! We've had a long, cold winter, and we're looking forward to warm sunshine and brighter days ahead! We have some events coming up that are guaranteed to give you a lift!

Our all-you-can-eat breakfast will give us all a hearty start. Lots of breakfast favorites will be available from 7-10:30 am on Saturday, April 14, here at St. John's. Tickets may be purchased ahead of time, and are \$7.50 / person, and \$4 for children under 12. Plan to join us, and bring your family, friends, and neighbors!

Our Fellowship group will give you a chance to clean out your closets and drawers to supply their Spring Flea Market on April 26th and 27th. Soup and sandwiches will be available for sale during the day on Friday. These flea markets are wonderful fundraisers and a good chance to "recycle" things you don't need any more, and maybe find some new treasures. We appreciate all the effort that goes into this event two times a year.

Spring cleaning continues on Saturday, May 5th, as we have our annual clean-up day around our church building. There will be crews working inside and outside that morning, beginning at 9:00 am and continuing throughout the morning until we feel we are done. Come and give a hand as we "spruce up" inside and outside our church!

You'll have a chance to be creative as we meet on Saturday, May 19th, to work on decorations for this year's Vacation Bible School theme, *Rolling River Rampage*. We'll be working on projects to create a camping/woody/river theme throughout the church as we start preparations for this year's VBS. If you like making things, we can use your help. Join us as we get started on what we hope is another great experience for kids and grown-ups here at St. John's this summer.

As you can see, there are plenty of things to do this spring at church. Come, have fun, help us get things done, and be involved! We can use your help!



APRIL WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, April 1, 2018
Easter

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
I Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18

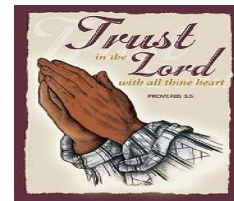
Sunday, April 8, 2018
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
I John 1: 1-2.2
John 20: 19-31

Sunday, April 15, 2018
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3: 12-19
Psalm 4
I John 3: 1-7
Luke 24: 36b-48

Sunday, April 22, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 5-12
Psalm 23
I John 3:16-24
John 10: 11-18

Sunday, April 29, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
I John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8



MAY WORSHIP NEWS

Sunday, May 6, 2018
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
I John 5: 1-6
John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 13, 2018
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:15-17. 21-26
Psalm 1
I John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2: 1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16: 4b-15

Sunday May 27, 2018
Trinity Sunday
First Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 6: 1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8: 12-17
John 3: 1-17

APRIL CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

6 Rev. Drew Morris
6 Jordan Seltzer
6 Aidan Zechman
7 Sheila Fox
7 Pat Ziegler
8 Cathy Rentschler
9 Keith Gingrich

10 McKenna Zohn
11 Ken Mohn
11 Steve Zechman
12 Andrew Fegan
13 Erika Flanick
13 Josh Stoltz
15 Christine Lutz

18 Wade Tyrpin
18 Zachary Baynard
20 Becky Martin
20 Leah Stoltz
20 Sharon Hibshman
20 Kayla Benfer
26 Rick Rudy

Happy Anniversary to:

9 Peggy & Charles Wike
14 Linda & Mark Tyrpin
18 Betty & Vernon Schriver
21 Kim & Jarrod Kapp
27 Linda & Mike Nace

If your information is incorrect or not included, please contact the church office. Thank You.

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

April Readers

Apr. 1 Robin Getz
Apr. 8 Pam Emery
Apr. 15 Louise Walmer
Apr. 22 Charlene Ziegler
Apr. 29 Youth Sunday

April Flowers

Apr. 1 Bob & Melissa Seltzer
Apr. 8 Elizabeth Overton
Apr. 15 Scott Benfer
Apr. 22 Millie Schriver
Apr. 29 Ken & Violet Leibensperger

March Attendance

Mar. 4 47
Mar. 11 41
Mar. 18 44
Mar. 25 50 (Palm Sunday)
Mar. 29 18 (Maundy Thursday)

April Bulletins

Apr. 1 Bob & Melissa Seltzer
Apr. 8 Elizabeth Overton
Apr. 15 Scott Benfer
Apr. 22 Millie Schriver
Apr. 29 Ken & Violet Leibensperger

April Coffee Host

Apr. 1 Ken & Violet Leibensperger
Apr. 8 Ken & Violet Leibensperger
Apr. 15 Ken & Violet Leibensperger
Apr. 22 Ken & Violet Leibensperger
Apr. 29 Ken & Violet Leibensperger

April Deacon
Brenda Good



MAY CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to:

2 Priscilla Rentschler
2 Zachary Seltzer
3 Scott Benfer
6 Paul Getz
7 Dylan Walmer
10 Nancy Frantz

12 Curtis Herr
13 Austin Zechman
17 Bob Losiewicz
17 Lisa Jo Rudy
23 Amber Daub
24 Robin Getz

25 Cory Daub
25 Pam Emery
26 Anthony Quairoli
29 Rachel Baynard
30 Mike Nace

Happy Anniversary to:

2 Ginny & Terry Knapp
9 Shirley & Al Fortna
13 Michelle & Brad Walmer
25 Robin & Paul Getz

30 Missy & Bob Seltzer
30 Chase & Kari Mease
31 Pastor Tony & Jodie Fields

If your information is incorrect or not included, please contact the church office.
Thank you.

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

May Readers

May 6 Regina Engler
May 14 Julie Ditzler
May 20 Neal Grimes
May 27 Paul Smith

May Flowers

May 6 Terry & Ginny Knapp
May 14 Nancy Frantz
May 20 Donna Eberly-Lehman
May 27 Barbara Trainor

May Deacon

Scott Benfer

May Bulletins

May 6 Terry & Ginny Knapp
May 14 Nancy Frantz
May 20 Donna Eberly-Lehman
May 27 Barbara Trainor

May Coffee Host

May 6 Brenda Good & Jerry Mohn
May 14 Brenda Good & Jerry Mohn
May 20 Brenda Good & Jerry Mohn
May 27 Brenda Good & Jerry Mohn

SPONSORS NEEDED

Flowers: June 24th
July 8th, 22nd
September 2nd & 9th
Bulletins: June 24th
September 2nd & 9th
Coffee Hosts: Months
July—December



Music and Worship Committee by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee has not been very active since the beginning of the new year. Bad weather and hectic schedule prevented us from having our meetings. We are planning a meeting in the near future.

Ascension Day is on May 10, forty days after Easter. Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, May 20th. This is the day to wear red to church and there will be red geraniums decorating the sanctuary. You will be able to purchase the red geraniums from the Fellowship Group in honor or in memory of someone. Then the geraniums will be planted in the flower beds around the church.

Our annual trek to Lititz to attend the annual Choral Reading Program sponsored by Loser's Music Store will be in July. Shall we set a date for a Baked Potato Bar? Shall we have another Women's Retreat? And I'm sure the Pastor has things for us to consider and assist him with.

Sr. Choir by Louise Walmer

On Wednesday, April 11th, our Sr. Choir will surprise Gary Trautman and have choir rehearsal in the activity room at Manor Care. We will rehearse our anthems and also sing some of the gospel songs that we sang when the "gospel singers" were an active group. Gary recently celebrated a birthday and this is our way to celebrate with him.

The Choir will soon be on our summer hiatus. We have 4 more anthems and a special patriotic anthem to sing on Sunday, July 1st.

Choir anthem schedule is:

- April 15 - "Jesus Keeps Me Singing"
- May 6 - "The Family of Faith"
- May 20 - "Holy Spirit Living Breath of God"
- June 10 - "Guests at His Table"
- July 1 - "This Is America"

THANK YOU

A most sincere thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, and cards I received during my surgery and recuperation.

It's a blessing to have such a wonderful and caring church family.

*Thank you, Jesus,
Ginny Knapp*

SPRING FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE

The Annual Spring Flea Market & Bake Sale is being organized by the Fellowship Group. The event will be held Friday, April 27th 8:00AM—5:00PM—and Saturday, April 28th 8:00AM—11:00AM.

Thursday, April 26th from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM sorting items & will be the time for items to be dropped off for the Flea market.

Please check your closets and cupboards for any useful items you might have that can be used for the Flea Market. PLEASE: NO Computers or Televisions

Baked goods are appreciated and can be dropped off anytime on Thursday from 8:00 AM—5:00PM.

Anyone who is available to help with the Flea Market please sign up on the Signup sheet in the Social Hall Bulletin Board. Any questions, please see Pat Ziegler.

From the Christian Education Corner by Angie Michael:

Planning has begun for this year's VBS which will be centered around the theme Rolling River Rampage. Some dates to keep in mind:

Sunday, April 15, following worship -- Christian Education Committee meeting during which we will continue planning VBS.

Saturday, May 19, 9 AM -- VBS work session during which we will make decorations for this year's VBS.

Saturday, July 7, 9 AM -- VBS work session during which we will set up and decorate the church for VBS.

Monday, July 9 - 13, 5:45 PM - 8 PM --VBS for children ages pre-K through 4th grade

Please join us for any or all of these dates to help prepare for VBS. If you can't stay for the entire work session, come for part of it; we'll appreciate the help! Volunteers are needed during the week of VBS to staff classes and stations; you're welcome to help out all week or a night or two as your schedule permits. Please talk to Julie Ditzler, our VBS volunteer coordinator, if you are interested in volunteering during July 9 - 13 to staff VBS. All of this is taking place at the church.

Financial Report by Robin Getz, Finance Chair

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Total Revenue | (1/1/18– 3/31/18) | \$ 22,699.98 |
| Total Expenses | (1/1/17– 1/31/17) | \$ 28,285.05 |

We need to collect \$1788.46 weekly to meet budget and currently we are averaging \$1751.00 per week for the first quarter. We truly need to consider ways to raise revenue through different fundraisers to assist with balancing the budget. The Consistory has taken over the fundraising projects and has a number of fundraisers schedule throughout the year. The first one was held on February 23rd which was the Soup & Bake Sale and it netted over \$1300. On April 14th an All You Can Eat Breakfast is scheduled and the tentative date for the Golf Outing is June 23rd.

We must look to outside sources to close the budget gap. We ask our members to pray very hard on this matter and to speak with members of the budget and finance committee or members of Consistory if you have any ideas you would like to share or any suggestions. We need your prayers and assistance more than ever!!


The Financial Committee is always diligent with monitoring expenses. I am thankful for the dedication of the members and their continued efforts. Note: We are always looking for members to serve and, if there is any interest, they can contact me.



April 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1 EASTER 6:40 AM Sunrise Service Continental Breakfast -Social Hall 10:30AM Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Fund | 2 | 3 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 4 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM No Choir Practice | 5 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship JOY Pantry Sunday Pastor Tony Vacation | 9 Pastor Tony Vacation | 10 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Pastor Tony Vacation | 11 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice Pastor Tony Vacation | 12 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM Pastor Tony Vacation | 13 Pastor Tony Vacation | 14 All You Can Eat Breakfast 7AM 0 10:30 AM Pastor Tony Vacation |
| 15 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Christian Ed Meeting Following Worship | 16 | 17 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 18 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM No Choir Practice | 19 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Dine & Donate Sunday | 23 | 24 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 6:30 PM Fellowship Meeting | 25 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM No Choir Practice | 26 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 8:00AM-5:00PM Set Up Flea Market & Also Drop Off Day for items. | 27 Flea Market & Bake Sale 8:00 AM—5:00PM | 28 Flea Market & Bake Sale 8:00 AM—11:00AM |
| 29 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Deacon Fund Sunday | 30 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Consistory Meeting | | | | | |

May 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  | | 1 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 2 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice | 3 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 4 | 5 9:00 AM Spring Clean Up |
| 6 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship Helen Walmer Fund Sunday | 7 | 8 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 9 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM No Choir Practice | 10 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 11 | 12 |
| 13 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship JOY Pantry Sunday Happy Mother's Day | 14 | 15 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 16 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM 7:00PM Choir Practice | 17 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 18 | 19 Making Decorations for VBS |
| 20 9AM Christian Connection 10:30 Worship | 21 | 22 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 23 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM No Choir Practice | 24 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 25 | 26 |
| 27 10:30 Worship Honor 2018 Graduates Deacon Fund Sunday Dine & Donate Sunday | 28 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | 29 7PM Consistory Meeting | 30 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM No Choir Practice | 31 Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00PM | Mark your calendars for our 2nd Golf Outing on June 23rd. For more information see Robin Gingrich | |

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141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

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**9:00AM Christian
Connection
10:30 AM Morning
Worship**

St. John's United Church of Christ is: A church of faith, heeding to God's call, through worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. We are building on our church's history, while looking to our future. Our church is filled with messengers, who share the gift of God's love, with the community and beyond. We strive to be a church that reaches out to all with compassion, a vision of God's everlasting peace, and a witness of spiritual hope to our present and future generations. For all this and so much more, we pray in God's name.

Church Staff

Rev. Tony Fields, Sr. Pastor
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director

Consistory

Julie Ditzler, President
Scott Benfer, Vice President
Charlene Ziegler, Secretary
Louise Walmer, Treasurer

Elders

Keith Gingrich
Julie Ditzler
Neal Grimes
Louise Walmer
Charlene Ziegler

Deacons

Scott Benfer
Jerry Mohn
Brenda Good
Angela Michael
Elizabeth Overton