

St. John's United Church of Christ

FEBRUARY 1, 2012

VOL. 2

Greetings,

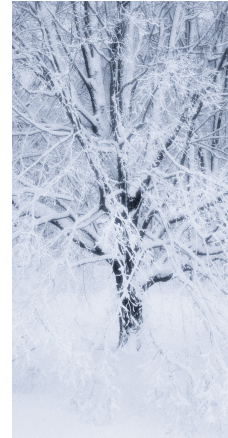
Within the church we often find ourselves pining over the numbers we used to have. As we strive to achieve sharing the good news in a new way, in a new and ever-changing culture we are continually encountering small core group burn-out. Having enough people and enough finances to achieve all the programming and all the various ministries of the church are accomplished with more ease when membership numbers are soaring. Yet, as Robert C. Crosby states in an article of the Winter 2012 Leadership Journal, "the life of the church is not about how big we can grow the church. The life of the church is really more about how well we can cast the net. While church facilities may be something people build, the Kingdom is something we spread. And when the Kingdom is spread, souls are reached for Christ and the world becomes a better place."

Scripture declares this; outreach or the sharing of the good news is a group activity. When Jesus sent his disciples out to the towns and villages, he sent them two by two. When he sent them to wait on the coming of the Holy Spirit, he sent 120 of them to a place of prayer in Jerusalem. Even when the first missionaries were commissioned, there were two leaders and one protégé sent out. If outreach was anything, it was together.

Outreach requires bold witness and a willingness to share our faith. We must not forget that Jesus said, "they will know you are my disciples by the love you have for one another." Inherently discipleship is not something that anyone can do alone. The Gospel is primarily a net (i.e., a culture) of grace and truth that we boldly and broadly cast together."

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ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
257 WEST WALNUT STREET
KUTZTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 19530

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KUTZTOWN, PA
PERMIT NO 1

Ph: 610-683-8531

Email: sfjohnssecretary@hometownnu.com

Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs. - 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
You are always welcome at
St. John's United Church of Christ**



Frank Runyeon, during his sharing of the 'Faith Story', also reminded us of this fact; discipleship is a community event. And we are not to be *afraid* to go forth and share this message. Yes, our numbers may be down from what they were 20 years ago and our demographics might look a bit different, but let us focus on the Gospel message and not be afraid. Mother Teresa once said, "God hasn't called us to do great things, but to do small things with great love."

In Crosby's article he shared this testimony, "When give back Sunday arrived at Access, there was \$9 in Ian Vibbert's envelope and \$100.00 in his wife Heather's. They pooled their money, added some of their own, and asked God what they should do. They finally called the Lakeland Regional Medical Center's neonatal clinic and found out how many infants were there.

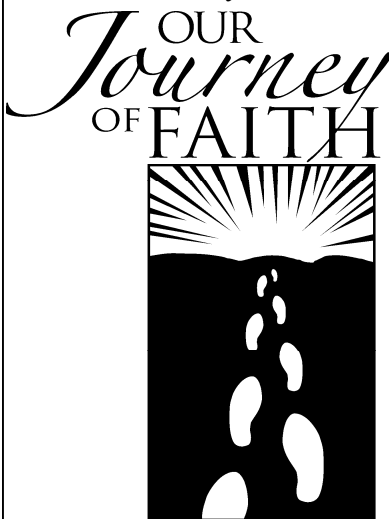
"I bought stuffed animals," Heather said, "and get well cards, and just wrote 'Jesus loves you' on them. Hopefully, it had an impact. It was worth it even if one person was touched."

As we move into our future here at St. John's let us move forward with the confidence of Christ with us, meeting us in every situation. We are now in the position of carrying on the work of the church, looking forward to where God is leading us. Changes often bring challenges, yet challenges also bring opportunities for growth. As we make the extra effort to work together, as we listen carefully to one another and to God, let us be confident that God will show us new ways of doing church and being "church." Let us be certain we are remaining open and receptive to what God has to say. As we declare in the UCC "our faith is 2000 years old, but our thinking is not." As our predecessor

John Robison so aptly stated, "...the Lord has more truth and light yet to break forth out of his holy word." And as we are open and willing to the Spirit, I am confident that God will continue to guide us along the path.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Sue Marie



Spirit on Tap - Reading

Reading Crown Plaza; Goodnites Lounge
1741 Papermill Road, Reading, PA

To encourage theological discussion, explore alternative views, and stimulate dialogue around issues of faith and spirituality

February 28, 2012 7 pm

"Spiritual, But Not Religious" Jerry Vigna

March 20, 2012 7pm

"The Spirituality of Jazz" Charlie Schaffer Quartet/Dr. Harry L. Serio

April 24, 2012 7pm

"Witch One Am I" - The Wicca Way Rev. Matthew Thomas

May 22, 2012 7pm

"Bullying: Social Injustice in Action" Sally Kuykendall

Calling all Knitters and Crocheters - St. John's UCC would love to offer a hand made baby blanket to babies at the time of their baptismal service as a special remembrance of the day. If you would be willing to make a blanket, please talk to MaryAnn Serio, Pastor Sue Marie, or Jane in the office at 610-683-8531 or email stjohnssecretary@hometownnu.com. Thank you.

Inclement Weather? Wondering if there will be a church service? Stay tuned to WFMZ, Channel 69 TV News for announcements. Or if you do not have TV service, tune in to WLEV FM radio 100.7 or WLEV radio.com, keyword "Storm Center" for the latest updates.

A Great Big Thank You to all who helped with the Frank Runyeon shows, whether it was publicity, selling tickets, lighting & sound, or just coming to enjoy the shows or the service on Sunday morning.

MISSION STATEMENT

At St. John's UCC in Kutztown we seek to celebrate, explore, and grow in our love of God and one another through worship, fellowship,

**"Never place a period
where God has placed a comma."
The United Church of Christ**

Pa Southeast Conference Invites You

You are invited to join a series of Lenten studies and reflections sponsored by the Spiritual Life Mission Team of the PSEC at one of the locations below. The theme book is "Let Your Life Speak" by noted author, Parker Palmer. The cost is \$25 per person and includes the program, the book: "Let Your Life Speak" and light refreshments. To register, send an email to craner@psec.org.

Maiden creek Church, 261 Main St., Blandon, PA

4 Saturdays: Feb 25, Mar 10, 24, 31 from 9 - 10:30 am.

St. Luke's UCC, 200 W. Main St., Trappe, PA

"5 Saturdays: Feb 25, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24 from 9:30 - 11 am

St. Paul's UCC , 440 Bethlehem Pike, Ft. Washington, PA

"5 Sundays: Feb 26, Mar 4, 11, 18, 25 from 4:15 - 5:45 pm

St. Peter's of Wilshire UCC, 2901 Curtis Rd., West Lawn, PA

"5 Wednesdays: Feb 29, Mar 7, 15, 21, 28 from 6 - 7:15 pm

Friday February 10, 2012 at 8 pm "The Druckenmillers", one of the best old-time bands will be performing at St. John's UCC. There will be fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin playing and more. The concert is sponsored by the Kutztown Folk Music Society. For more information visit the website at www.kfms.org or call 484-336-9639.

Reading Choral Society Presents "I Hear America Singing" on Sunday February 19, 2012 at 4 pm in Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing, PA. Reading Choral Society invites you to enjoy works of great American composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. To order tickets please call the RCS office at 610-898-1939



February 5 Communion Sunday

Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
I Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39
God does not faint or grow weary. God will also renew our strength and lift us as we place our trust and faith center in our lives.

February 12 - Breakfast New Members Accepted

II Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30
I Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45
Naaman, commander of the Syrian army, is healed of leprosy by dipping seven times in the Jordan River at the direction of the prophet Elisha.

February 19 - Last Sunday after Epiphany

II Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6
II Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9
We read the powerful account of the prophet Elijah's ascent into heaven.

February 22 - Ash Wednesday Service Service of Ashes 7:30 pm

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17
II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26 - First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10
I Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15
Just as God saved Noah and his descendants through the ark, so God will save us through the death and resurrection of Christ.

On Sunday February 5, 2012 Cadence Christianne Roll will be baptized during the morning worship service. She is the granddaughter of Davis and Cindy Knauer, and the daughter of Christianne and Jacob Roll. God parents will be Dr. Amy DePuy and Mr. Ethan Dubow and Preston Knauer will be the Guardian. Come out and enjoy special music "You'll Never Walk Alone" by the Knauer family quartet, Davis, Cindy, Christianne, and Preston with Don Ryan accompanying them.

Sunday February 12, there will be a Breakfast sponsored by Consistory at 9 am served in the social hall for all before morning worship service. There will be covered dishes, pancakes, fruit, coffee, and juice and more. Come visit with your fellow worshipers. New members will be welcomed into the church fellowship during the morning service that day.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and a Show Come out and enjoy dinner and fellowship while enjoying "Marian & Friends, Ventriloquist". **The date is Tuesday February 21, 2012 at 6:30 pm** for dinner. The show will begin at 7:15 pm and last approximately 45 minutes. Cost is \$5 per family, \$3 per couple. This meal will be sponsored and served by the Junior High Youth Group. We hope you can join us! In fact, spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to visit us here for a fun filled evening.



Wednesday February 22, there will be a Lenten Service at the church at 7:30 pm. Come out and start the Lenten season in worship with your church family. This will be a penitent service during which people will be invited to come forward for the imposition of ashes.

World of Understanding to meet 4 times a year - January, March, May, November. The World of Understanding is a reading and discussion program that enhances the understanding of world cultures in order to bring peace to the world. We study various cultures, religions and groups within society with the goal of increasing our own understanding and becoming "part of the solution" rather than "part of the problem." Every two months we will read a book representing an important world culture or social issue. We will schedule a discussion of the book, and may schedule another educational or mission project related to the topic, if possible.

I would be most interested in meeting quarterly on:
 The second Wednesday of the Month at 6 pm _____
 The third Saturday of the Month at 7 pm _____
 Other _____
 Name _____

Please return this signed form to Pastor Sue Marie in the church office by January 31, 2012.

St. John's comes alive on Wednesday evenings. The Jr. High Youth group begins at 4:30 pm, then at 5 pm there is a dinner for everyone. To continue to offer the wonderful opportunity for fellowship, we need sponsors for the dinner. Please take a moment to sign up by seeing Carol Erb or calling her at 610-683-7577. Come out and experience the Wonderful Wednesdays.

If you need to speak with Pastor Sue Marie or with Jane, please contact the church office at 610-683-8531. We are available **Mon - Thurs from 9 am and 4 pm.** If you can not reach us within this time frame, please leave a message on the church office answering machine. Or you can email the church at stjohnssecretary@hometownnu.com.

February Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2/1 - Robert Ziegenfus | 2/15 - Christopher Rothermel |
| 2/2 - Eric Erb | 2/16- Janice Eshleman |
| 2/2 - Cindy Knauer | 2/16- Sue Merkel |
| 2/3 - Mary Lou Zimmerman | 2/16 - Emilie Werner |
| 2/8 - Eleanor Angstadt | 2/19 Mackenzie Garcia |
| 2/11 - Jean McClure | 2/22 - Mary Louise Luckenbill |
| 2/13- Wyatt Laigaie | 2/27 - Emily Ebling |
| 2/13 - Harvey Schaeffer | |
| 2/14 - Jonathan Ebling | |



Spiritual Formation

Our life of faith is a journey, it grows and evolves through life. Therefore I am extending the offer of adult programs where we can come together and deepen our faith and our knowledge of God. I am proposing several options, Bible Study, Meditation and a reading and discussion program.

What I need from all of you is to have those interested in these groups to sign up and indicate your preference of a meeting time. When I have the time preferences returned to me, I will then assess which time slot is most compatible with the majority. The new schedule for these various groups will be announced and posted. Pastor Sue Marie

Bible Study to meet bi-monthly: We offer a dynamic Bible study where we learn more about the Bible and how it can enrich our spiritual lives. Through the study, we develop a deeper understanding of the important role that the Bible can play in our lives. Adult Education classes are held on (TBD) and meet approximately every other week.

I would be most interested in:

The First and Fourth Monday at 10 am _____

The First and Third Tuesday at 3 pm _____

The First and Third Wednesday at 6 pm _____

Other _____

I would be most interested in studying the Lectionary _____, a Book of the Bible in its entirety _____, or a selection of series such as Living the Questions (an exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium, featuring leading religious voices of our day)

_____.

Name _____

Meditation Group For those interested in an intentional discipline of prayer and meditation, Pastor Sue Marie offers a meditation group. The group meets periodically to experience prayer in depth and a time to encourage one another in our spiritual disciplines.

I would be most interested in:

Periodically on the last Wednesday of the Month at 6 pm _____

Periodically on the second Monday of the Month at 10 am _____

Other _____

Name _____

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Calling ALL CANDY MAKERS! - St. John's UCC will make candy again this year beginning Monday, February 13 at 9 am. The schedule is Monday through Wednesday each week from 9 am to 3 pm through March 28th. The first week we will make peanut clusters and raisin clusters. If you have never experienced the fun of working together and the sense of accomplishment, come out and try it this year.

If you work during the day, and would like to volunteer for evenings, we are looking for a group to work Monday and/or Tuesday evenings from 6 - 8:30 pm. If you have questions or want to sign up for the evening group, please contact Lagora Oswald at 610-683-3475 or call the church office at 610-683-8531. Thank you.

Quilters - Interested in uninterrupted time to work on your projects? Sign up for a Mensch Mill Quilting Retreat, February 24 - 26, 2012. Gather at 7 pm on Friday evening to set up your work for the weekend. Persons attending for Saturday only will join the group as early as possible on Saturday. The cost for the weekend is \$160. For people coming on Saturday only, the fee is \$40. Come out and have fun with no interruptions while you work on your favorite project.

Punch Hour Sponsors are needed for Feb. 12 and 19. Please sign up for a Sunday and enjoy fellowship after the service with others.

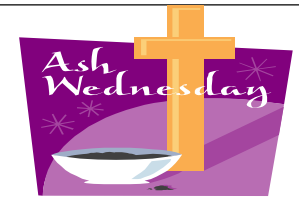
Bulletin sponsors are needed for Feb. 12 and 26 and for the month of March. Please sign the 2012 sheet, located in the narthex. Below the sign up sheet is an envelope with slips of paper you can complete with what you would like to have printed in the bulletin. Please give Jane the slip of paper or put it in the box outside the church office. If you have questions, please contact Jane at 610-683-8531 or email stjohnssecretary@hometownnu.com. Thank you.

Some Sundays are open for flower sponsors. Please email Jane at stjohnssecretary@hometownnu.com or call 610-683-8531 if you have sponsored flowers in the past and would like to again in 2012 for that same Sunday or if you would like to sponsor flowers for the first time.

2012 Offering Envelopes remaining on the table were mailed. If you did not receive envelopes for 2012, please contact the church office at 610-683-8531. Thank you.

February 2012

Every Sunday
Worship —10:15 a.m.



	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Feldenkrais 9:15 am Tai Chi - 11 a.m. Jr Hi Youth meetings 4:30 Children's Choir 6 pm Bell Choir 6 pm	2	3	4 Women's Book and Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
5 Communion Worship Service 10:15 am Baptism - Cadence Christianne Roll	6 Spiritual Council 7 pm	7	8 Feldenkrais 9:15 am Tai Chi - 11 a.m. Jr Hi Youth meetings 4:30 Children's Choir 6 pm Bell Choir 6 pm 7	9	10 Kutztown Folk Music Society 8 pm The Drucken- millers	11 Women's Book and Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
12 Church Breakfast 9 am Worship Service 10:15 am New members accepted into fellowship of church family	13 Candy making starts Consistory 7 pm	14 New Member Class 7 - 8 pm	15 Feldenkrais 9:15 am Tai Chi - 11 a.m. Jr Hi Youth meetings 4:30 Children's Choir 6 pm Bell Choir 6 pm	16 Yoga 9:30 am Yoga 7 pm	17 ASTD meeting 8 am	18 Women's Book and Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
19 Worship Service 10:15 am	20 Candy making	21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 6:30 pm, Marian& Friends Ventriloquist Show 7:15 pm	22 ASH WEDNESDAY Lenten Service 7:30 pm Feldenkrais 9:15 am Tai Chi - 11 a.m.	23 Yoga 9:30 am Yoga 7 pm PLS 5 - 9 pm	24	25 Women's Book and Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
26 Lent Worship Service 10:15 am Confirmation Class 12 - 2 pm	27 Candy making Worship committee 5:30 pm	28	29 Feldenkrais 9:15 am Tai Chi - 11 a.m. Jr Hi Youth meetings 4:30 Children's Choir 6 pm Bell Choir 6 pm			