

St. Jacob's UCC
100 East George St, PO Box 111

the Journey



Office@stjacobsucc.org — www.stjacobsucc.org—Find us on Facebook!
Sunday School 9:15AM — Coffee/Tea Time 10:00 to 10:20AM — Worship Service 10:30AM

From the Desk of the Pastor ...

I began remembering an old English Carol—"I heard the bells on Christmas Day". As the verse moves along, we hear about peace and goodwill to all—I wish that sentiment was real. The last verse notes—"There is no peace on Earth I said." Which, unfortunately, is true. Yet, the bells will continue to ring out—Their message is not changed.

Nor should it be! Christmas is about Hope, Love, and Salvation—wrapped up in swaddling clothes—sleeping in a manger.

There was no peace when He was born. Rather—"long lay the world in sin and error pinning - until he appeared and soul felt its worth." Every think about that last phrase—"The soul felt its worth." It's powerful!

Here in Christ's birth, the incarnation, is the single event that brings life—& hope. Because of Christ, our soul—the essence of our being—is given value—positive value. This is noted by our names—God's children, Jesus' Friends, member of the Church, Christian.

And implanted within us is the Spirit—that divine force—that allows us to be at peace within ourselves because we are accepted by God, loved and saved by God—just as we are. It's the 23rd Psalm come to life—"I will fear no evil, for you are with me."

If you are somewhat like me, that verse has a lot of mileage on it. We look back and wonder—"How did I get through that part of my life?"

Blame God and thank God. That's how and why we are still here.

This is exactly the hope we have: that with God beside us, there is nothing we can not do.—nothing we need to fear nothing to keep us from being these very special persons God created us to be.

Only God provides this for us. Therefore—ring out Christmas Bells! Ring loud & Clear! The Lord of Lords and King of Kings is with us! It's Christmas!

Amen.

Shalom,

Pastor Rick

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From the Desk of Consistory President

Ezra 3:11
With praise and **thanksgiving** they sang to the LORD: "He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever." And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

The tragedies that have occurred this past month have really challenged us as Christians as we try to understand why these things have happened. How do we move forward and what do we do to protect our loved ones? We, as a church family and Christians, are challenged each day to love those that are bent on destroying the world around them. Your consistory is focused on making sure all safety precautions are taken and will keep you informed of any changes. In the meantime, we should all focus on God and ask him where we go from here and taking a moment to talk with those around us each day.

Moving on to the wonderful things that are happening in our church, our Pot Pie Dinner was a success as was the movie nights we have been able to enjoy. As always an exciting time was had at the bingo where we sit on the edge of our seats as the next number is called. There are so many things we have done this fall and there are so many things coming up.

Our December is an exciting time! The first Saturday we are having a breakfast with Santa, a small program from our Early Learning Center children during the breakfast. We also are having author Bev Stiffler Smith and Jellybean there to sign her book during this time. Then in the evening we are having dinner (**Today is the last day to purchase tickets for the dinner**) and for your enjoyment Chalk Talk will be joining us and doing a special painting for us. That Saturday we will also be working on decorating our church for the coming Christmas season so as you can see we have a very full day. Our food bank will be giving out the food boxes in the morning please remember they could use your help when giving out the boxes or even Thursday evening when they pack those boxes.

On December 10th we will also have a Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith who is the President of the Penn Central Conference. Prior to the worship service that Sunday, we will have a Coffee Social from 9:45-10:15. Also, you don't want to miss the Cantata we will be having in the morning on December 24th as well as the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service which will be held at 5:30 pm that evening.

I am looking forward to joining you in celebrating the birth of Jesus remember as Christians all are welcome in joining us in this celebration.

Heather Kuhn

Consistory President

November 21st Consistory Meeting

- Due to the events that happened in Texas this month, suggestions that were brought to Consistory Members were discussed. One suggestion was that the doors to the church be locked once service started, however, this cannot be done as it is a fire safety issue. It was stated that we all need to be observant and it is important to talk to visitors. If you see something that concerns you, please seek out the Pastor or a Consistory Member immediately.
- The grand total for the Hurricane Harvey funds is \$4,700.00 which will be presented to Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith on December 10th when she here to be our guest preacher.
- Pastor Rick will be on vacation from 12/25/2017-01/03/2018 and Roger Snyder fill in as Pastor for the Sunday Pastor Rick is away.
- There will be a Congregational Budget Meeting on 12/17/2017
- The 2018 Planning Meeting will be on 1/14/2018 after worship service & will be a potluck lunch. All are welcome and encouraged to come.
- The Pot Pie Dinner had 140 people.
- The Lutheran Church & UCC Consistory's are looking at setting up a joint consistory meeting soon.

Search Committee Update



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

On October 22nd, the search committee met to review the two profiles we received. While one profile exhibited passion, experience was lacking. And the other profile had service as a church pastor, but lacked in other areas on our butterfly. So the committee agreed at this point the neither candidate would be a good fit in our congregation.

The committee continues to work on assembling questions for interviews. Each committee member was asked to bring their number one question to the table. Unanimously, we agreed our number one question to a candidate would go something like this: Our church profile was not put together by a six member search committee. Great care was taken to include our congregation. During several “brain storming” sessions, we discussed who we are and who the pastor is in the Body of Christ. Then we discussed what we need in a pastor, not what we want. After reviewing our church profile, what spoke to you?

And since we put this profile together “outside of the box” then our number two question would be: Are you the butterfly? How and why?

If you have any questions as we go through this process, please reach out to one of the Search Committee members.

Pastoral Relations Committee

A pastoral relations committee has been formed. The primary function of this committee is to be a source of support for the pastor (and family) as he/she explores his/her concerns, hopes, dreams, and personal needs in his/her role as pastor.

Additionally. This committee is to support and maintain an open relationship between the congregation and the ordained, settled pastor. The relationships between congregants and pastor enable the tasks of ministry to be carried out faithfully and joyfully, with a minimum of friction and stress.

The committee will meet on a regular monthly basis. The pastor is always included in these meetings.

Congregants are free to bring their concerns, pose questions, and express their joys concerning the work of the pastor to this committee. Any information shared with this committee is **CONFIDENTIAL**.



Christmas Gift to St. Jacob's

Last Christmas Season we had an awesome outpouring of giving totaling \$23,586 for our year-end effort to pay down our Church's mortgage balance. This year **supporters have pledged \$16,000 to match dollar for dollar offerings made by our congregation and friends.** Through Thanksgiving, offerings for our church were \$1,320, leaving \$14,680 of matching dollars still to be spoken for. Please prayerfully consider if you can help toward this year's effort. Thank you.



Poinsettias

Ready or not, the Advent season will soon be upon us. This means having the beautiful poinsettia plants in our sanctuary. In the next few weeks, order forms will be placed in the pews. Orders will be handled the same as last year—35 poinsettia plants have been ordered. Members select the color they desire (indicating a second choice). Poinsettia plants are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Any questions, contact Lynn Johnson.



Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Emily Forry. On Nov 3rd Emily was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the John C. Court Family Foundation on behalf of her mother's employer, Multi-Color Corporation. Emily is a junior at Millersville University studying Psychology. Keep up the good work Emily!



Exciting UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Dinner—Saturday, December 2nd

The annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 2nd starting at 6:00 p.m. Elva Hurst will be joining us with her Chalk Talk. Prices are \$13.00 for adults, \$6.50 for children 4-10, and children 3 and under are free. Tickets are on sale now. They will be available after church and by calling the church office. **The last day to purchase tickets is TODAY Sunday, November 26th.**



Butter Braids Fundraiser

The Early Learning Center will be having a Butter Braids Fundraiser due to popular demand! Butter Braids are about the easiest breakfast, brunch, side dish or dessert you can serve. They come ready made and assembled and are stored in the freezer. You'll pull the pastry out of the freezer just before you head to bed, let it sit out to thaw and rise overnight. When you wake up, it will be like magic—sitting there ready and waiting for you to bake the Butter Braid pastry! If you'd rather serve it as an evening dessert or side, just take a pastry out first thing in the morning and bake that evening.

The Butter Braid fundraiser will kick off on November 20th and orders are due December 8th. Orders will be available for pick up on December 18th. Order forms will be available on the Early Learning Center Bulletin board starting November 20th.

Young at Heart—Tuesday, December 5th

The Young at Heart group will be packing cookies for seniors on Tuesday, December 5th at 10:00 AM. Donations are greatly appreciated!!



Cookie Sale—Sunday, December 17th

A cookie sale to benefit the Back Bay Mission Trip will be held on Sunday Dec 17. This is a great way to have a variety of cookies on hand for holiday guests or as a treat as you travel during the Christmas season. One dozen of cookies can be selected for \$4.00. Donations of homemade cookies can be brought to the church Sunday morning beginning at 9 am and cookies can be bought in between Sunday School and church and after church. To make arrangements to drop off cookies sooner than Sunday morning, please contact Kathryn Forry.

Family Movie Night—Friday, December 8th

On Friday, December 8th we will be holding our Family Movie Night featuring Frozen. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the movie will start at 6:30 p.m. This is open to kids and adults of all ages. Refreshments that are being served are hot dogs, popcorn, snacks, and drinks.



Keep Track of Our Missions: Remember we have 2 missions ahead of us.

1. the Houston Relief. The will probably run in Jan/ Feb of 2018. This Penn Central Conference Mission Trip will be rebuilding homes.
2. Back Bay (Ms.) This is the congregation's (& friends) return mission trip scheduled for Sept of 2018. Details of what we'll do there are not yet ready.

Newsletter articles for January due no later than December 15th.

Celebrate the Holidays with St. Jacob's

St. Jacob's UCC Presents

BREAKFAST with Santa

December 2, 2017
8:30-11:00am
Breakfast Includes:
Pancakes & Sausage

prices:
adults: \$5.00
children 4-12: \$3.00
children under 4: free

St. Jacob's UCC Early Learning Center will be sponsoring a Santa's Workshop & Scholastic Book-Fair. The Early Learning Center will also have a holiday concert with the children of the Center during breakfast as well.



Join us this year as we have our first ever Gingerbread House Competition. We will have an adult division and a children division. Entries must be delivered to the church on Friday, December 1st and will remain on display from December 2nd-24th. For additional rules, entry form, and/or questions please contact Ashley Criswell.

Breakfast with Santa and SO MUCH more!

The Church & the Early Learning Center have teamed up to host a wonderful set of events on December 2nd and you don't want to miss them!!

First, St. Jacob's UCC will be having their annual "Breakfast with Santa"! It's from 8:30-11:00am. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, and a special visit from Santa!! Tickets prices are: Adults—\$5.00, Children 4-12—\$3.00 and children under 4 are FREE! **During breakfast the children from our Early Learning Center will have a holiday concert as well!**

After you enjoy your breakfast, visit with Santa, and hear Christmas jingles, the kids can visit **Santa's Workshop** where they can purchase small gifts for their parents, siblings, grandparents, etc. While the children are in the workshop, parents can shop at our **Scholastic Book Fair**...maybe Christmas presents for the kids?

At the book fair, we will also have **children's book author, Ms. Bev Stiffler Smith & Jellybean!** Jellybean is Ms. Bev's lovable, sweet puppy Jellybean in which her books are based on.

So mark your calendars and bring the whole family to St. Jacob's! It's sure to be a fun filled morning for everyone!

Special Dates

December Birthdays

December 04 Tracy Goodyear
December 06 Denise Hoffman
December 06 John Dayton Eyster
December 06 Rich Forry
December 08 Floyd Matthews
December 09 Wyatt Amspacher
December 13 Zachary Arthur Murray
December 15 Lynn Becker
December 19 Steven Forry
December 20 Deneen Harbold
December 22 Joyce Reiningger
December 23 Meghan Kuhn
December 24 Dave Wakeland
December 26 Jayson Landis
December 28 Braylee Yost
December 28 Kathaleen Reynolds
December 30 Lois Wakeland



December Anniversaries

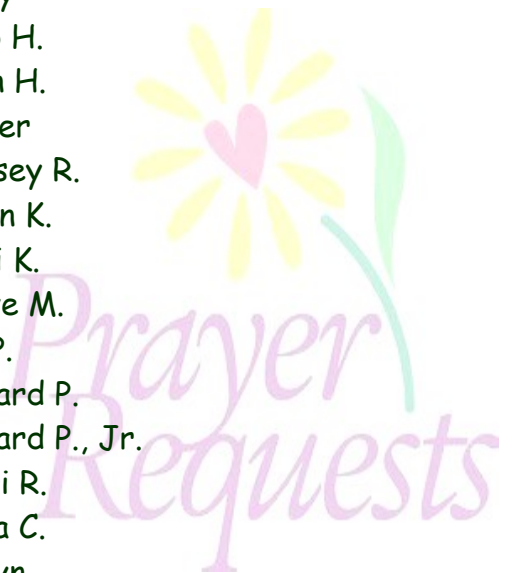
December 22 Dave & Lois Wakeland
December 31 Doug & Kathy Landis



P.U.S.H

(Pray Until Something Happens)

- Robert D.
- Brandon G.
- Judy G.
- Anna G.
- Justin H.
- Dottie H.
- Barry
- Barb H.
- John H.
- Amber
- Lindsey R.
- Logan K.
- Vicki K.
- Steve M.
- Pat P.
- Richard P.
- Richard P., Jr.
- Terri R.
- Linda C.
- Evelyn
- Jason S.
- Sharon S.
- Cindy S.
- Carl H.
- Loretta L.
- Terry M.
- Joyce R.
- Eric M.
- Pat P.
- Anne H.



2017 Altar Guild

December—Tom & Heather Kuhn—Communion 24th



*With 2018 just around the corner we are updating the Altar Guild list for the New Year, if you would like to be apart of the Altar Guild, please see Heather Kuhn.

Head Ushers



December—Heather Kuhn




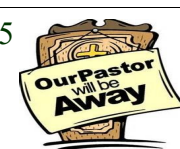


*Come join us for our
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
on Sunday, December 24th at 5:30 pm.*

Holy Communion Celebrated

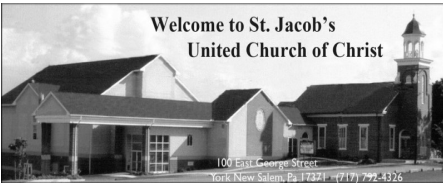


December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Food Pantry 9-11am Breakfast w/ Santa Santa's Workshop Book Fair 8:30-11:30 Christmas Party 6:00pm
3 Communion	4 CDA Class 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm	5 Young at Heart— Cookie Packing 10am	6	7 Choir 7:00 pm 	8 Family Movie Night 6 pm	9
10 Guest Preacher—Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins- Smith	11 CDA Class 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm	12	13 	14 Choir 7:00 pm 	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16
17 Congregational Budget Meeting After Service	18 CDA Class 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	19	20	21 Choir 7:00 pm	22	23
24 Cantata—AM Christmas Eve 5:30pm—Holy Com- munion	25 	26	27	28 Choir 7:00 pm	29	30
31 Newsletter Distribution	01	02	03	04		

Schedule of Events

- December 2—Food Pantry 9-11am, Breakfast w/ Santa, Santa's Workshop, Scholastic Book Fair 8:30-11:00 am, Christmas Party 6:00 pm
 - December 3—Communion
 - December 4—Early Learning Center CDA Classes 6-9pm, Bible Study 6:30 pm
 - December 5—Young at Heart: Cookie Packing 10am
 - December 7—Choir 7pm, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
 - December 8—Family Movie Night: Frozen 6:00pm
 - December 10—Guest Preacher - Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith
 - December 11—Early Learning Center CDA Classes 6-9pm, Bible Study 6:30 pm
 - December 13—Happy Hanukkah
 - December 14—Choir 7pm
 - December 15—Newsletter Articles Due
 - December 17—Congregational Budget Meeting After Service (Potluck)
 - December 18—Early Learning Center CDA Classes 6-9 pm, Consistory Meeting 7pm
 - December 21—Choir 7pm, First Day of Winter
 - December 24—Cantata AM, **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 pm (Holy Communion Celebrated)**
 - December 28—Choir 7pm
 - December 31—Newsletter Distribution
- **Pastor Rick will be on vacation from 12/25/2017-01/03/2018**



Everyone is Welcome!

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St. Jacob's Mission Statement

We, the family of St. Jacob's United Church of Christ, called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit and following the example of Jesus Christ, will strive to be ambassadors of God's will by:

- Caring for others and ourselves through love and compassion
- Teaching God's word
- Accepting and seeing all people as children of God
- Committing ourselves to these responsibilities in an ever changing society.

We're on the Web!
www.stjacobsucc.org