

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**s this the time to look ahead or re-count the past? Or does it need be just one?

Why not use the past as a spring board into the future? This way we can apply our learned experiences and re-envision new ways to do things.

This is not just common sense. And it's the way we grow. Our faith provides a firm foundation for us to safely look back and forward. Using it we can apprehend a new vision/dream. Using our faith along with our experiences we often can ascertain the path or goals that God sets before us.

This is important. The secular world does not use faith for guidance nor for stability. It runs from fad to fool and from one public opinion to another. It provides no guidance concerning really helping our neighbor—nor how to respect God.

We are different, by the grace of God.

Let us use that grace to form another grace and hope filled year for St. Jacob's U.C.C. May our hearts and minds be open to the Spirit as well as the needs of others. Let us be prayerful, so as to hear the voice of God.

Blessings to all,

*Pastor Rick*

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## *From the Desk of Consistory President*

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." ([NLT](#))

Hello St. Jacobs Family,

Wow a new year is right around the corner once again and I know your thinking just like I am where did the time go? Well it progressed just as it always has but have we taken the time to enjoy the moments God has given us to embrace those close to us and let them know our love for them? I would like to say yes I have but I know that I could do better and that in the coming year I plan to better. This past year our St. Jacobs family you have done so much to reach out and let others know God's love for them. From movie nights to dinners to the exciting bingo's we hold and we can't forget our church picnic which is always full of good food exciting games and wonderful conversation.

We were able to surprise our UCC council by donating over \$4000 to the hurricane relief fund in our hopes of being able to help others rebuild their lives.

So with all of the wonderful things that we have done in 2017 it sets the bar just a bit higher for us in the coming year of 2018. There are so many ideas and plans already in the works but I know there will be more to come which will open new doors and exciting times for sure.

From all of us on Consistory we wish you a wonderful and exciting New Year

*Heather Kuhn*

Consistory President

### December Consistory Meeting Notes

- Pastor Rick opened with prayer
- Pastor Rick presented the letter from Dr. Rev. Monica Dawkins-Smith (see page 9)
- Eric requested a motion for him to complete the small games of chance license for the upcoming 2018 year. Kathryn made the 1st motion and Kim 2nd the motion. All were in favor.
- Pastor Rick is requesting from our consistory and congregation a story about our church to post on our website and the PCC UCC website. If you have a picture to include, please do so as that would be fantastic. This is due by January 15th and can be turned into the church office.
- Pastor Rick put together a report on how an interim pastor should work and gave it to Betsy Bruaw and Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith per their request.
- The Spring Grove jazz band will possibility visiting our church again in April 2018
- Kim stated the Christmas party was a great success! They are looking to see if Chalk Talk will be available next year and are thinking about auctioning off this year's picture that Chalk Talk did.
- Kathryn— Cookie sale was a great success gaining \$191.00 for the Bay Back Mission Trip
- The Blood Drive had 9 people participate over the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. We were able to save 27 lives!! There is a possibility another blood drive in March and will be geared more toward evening hours
- The Grandfather clock in the church sanctuary was repaired and estimated to be over 200 years old
- Worship committee met Nov 29 and Pastor's Relations met Nov 22

## Letter from Rev. Dr. Monica

December 14, 2017

Dear Rev. Stuempfle,

Thank you for the invitation to join you and the St. Jacob's UCC congregation for worship on Sunday, December 10, 2017 (Advent 2). I enjoyed the time spent in worship and fellowship with all of you.

Per the request of your worship committee, I am happy to provide some observations about my worship experience with your congregation. I hope this is helpful!

### Pre-worship preparation

- The Advent themed bulletin cover was helpful to set the expectation for the worshipper, and might be particularly helpful for guests to your church. Additionally, it might be helpful to include the church's name, address, phone number, website address, etc. somewhere in the bulletin – this is especially helpful for visitors.

### Worship

- The *bulletin* was easy to follow. The announcement insert was very informative and reflected a very active congregation. The calendar ("This Week") on the back of the bulletin was also informative.
- The *Choral Call to Worship*, with lyrics on the screen, was beautifully done! The graphics were Advent themed and the words on the screen were easy to read. Good use of technology.
- Using the lectionary based psalm for the Call to Worship or *The Morning Psalm* was a great choice.
- These creative (non-traditional) elements added a nice touch:
  - *Choral Call to Worship*
  - Video – A child's view of Christmas (Suggestion: consider including it with the *Time for Young Christians* next time. It could substitute as a Christmas pageant. The children's time was well done and fully inclusive of the younger ones among us!)
  - Scripture as "*A Biblical Statement of Faith*" (this was a great way to get the congregation reading scripture together in church)
  - *The Reading of the Holy Gospel* as a responsive reading (this was another great way to invite people to read the scriptures together in church!) By the way, the lay reader did a fabulous job pronouncing the names of the kings, etc. in the gospel reading!
- The liturgy invited a lot of participation by the congregation, e.g. responsive reading for The Morning Psalm, Our Assurance of Pardon, Our Advent Candle Prayer, A Biblical Statement of Faith, The Reading of the Holy Gospel; plus, 5 congregational hymns. All of this was a wonderful approach to actively involving the congregation in worship!  
A participative approach for the worship service is always preferred, in my opinion. After all, liturgy ascribes to "the work of the people." A more passive approach, where there are only 1 or 2 people doing everything in worship, could be perceived as entertainment.
- The *music* offered a nice mix of traditional hymns and contemporary songs -- and were easy to sing. The choral anthems were primarily contemporary, yet familiar songs (nicely done, choir!). The mix of recorded and organ/piano music was well coordinated. The musician played very well and accompanied the hymns well.

*Advent Blessings to you all!*

**Monica**

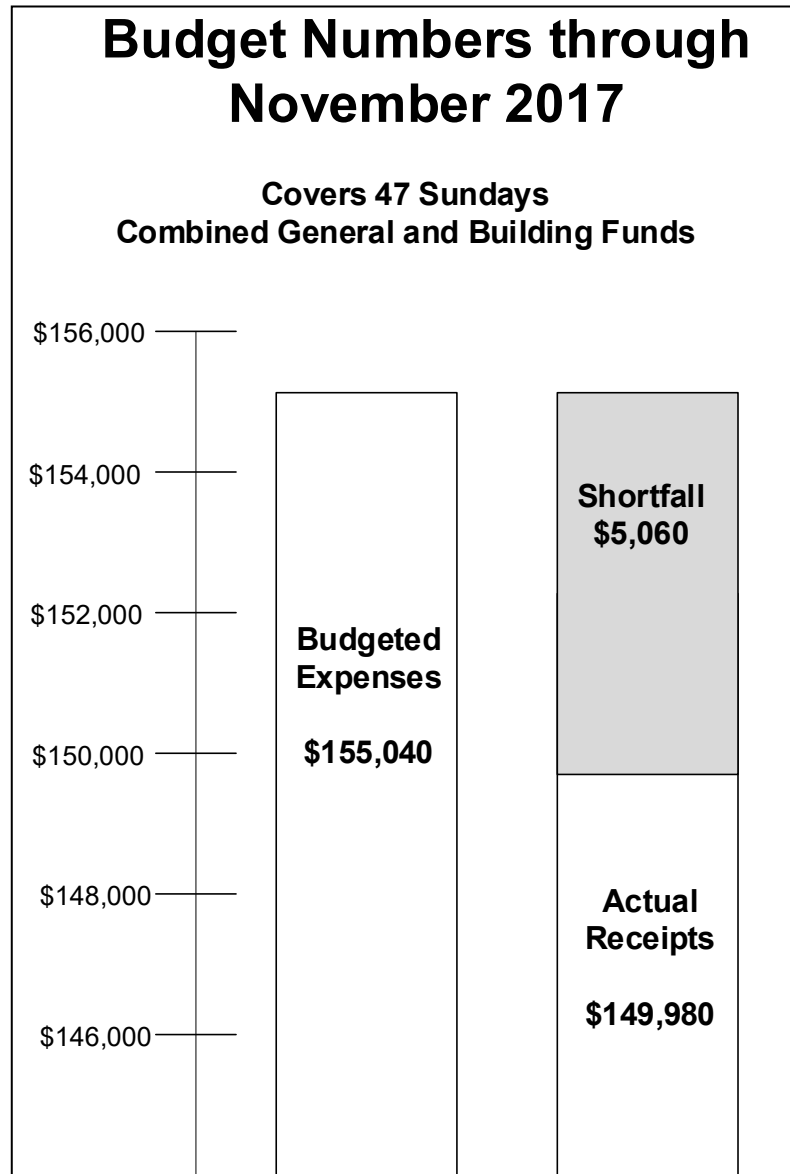
Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith  
Conference Minister and President  
Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ

## December 2017 Budget Update (Combined General and Building Funds)

The chart below shows a simplified over view of our budget numbers for the first eleven months of 2017.

The numbers through the end of November showed a combined shortfall in the General and Building Funds of \$5,060 between budgeted expenses and actual offerings. Even though we are showing a shortfall it did improve over the last two months. The child care program made it's shared expense payments of \$700 per week, which helped maintain a balance between overall cash receipts and cash disbursements.

Even with the shortfall we did not have to take anything from our building savings account to meet expenses.



## Search Committee Update

On Sunday Dec 10<sup>th</sup> the search committee met to review the third profile that we received. We begin with prayer. We are fully present with each other. We listen generously to the story being told in each profile and then we listen generously to each committee member's interpretation of what the profile said to them. After that process, all agreed that this candidate would not be a good fit for us here at St. Jacob's UCC. We are hopeful that we will receive additional profiles after the holidays and continue to pray for God's guidance through this process.



## Pancake Breakfast with Santa

At our annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, we served 214 breakfast meals—our biggest turnout! Our social hall and lobby area were filled with church members, community folks and Early Learning Center staff, parents and children. Everyone had the opportunity to see each class from our Early Learning Center perform a Christmas piece, shop for presents, purchase books, meet an author and her dog, make a craft, talk to Santa and eat a wonderful breakfast. From the breakfast portion of the event, proceeds of \$829.00 was given to the church mortgage pay down. A big thank you goes out Santa and to all of the church members and Early Learning Center staff who helped make this event a huge success. See you next year!

## Christmas Gift to St. Jacob's

Through last Sunday the Christmas Gift offering for our church totaled \$14,740, which combined with our supporters' match brings to \$29,480 the amount of additional principal that will be applied to our mortgage. Many, many thanks!!

\$1,260 of marching dollars remain. Offerings given through December 31st will be counted toward this effort.





# Exciting UPCOMING EVENTS

## Planning Meeting & Potluck—Sunday, January 14th

After worship service on Sunday, January 14th, we will be having our planning meeting & potluck. So bring your favorite dish, your ideas and let us break bread as we plan the fantastic 2018 year!!



## Family Movie Night—Friday, January 19th

On Friday, January 19th we will be holding our Family Movie Night featuring Despicable 3. 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.

# DESPICABLE ME 3



## Young at Heart—Tuesday, January 30th

The Young at Heart Group will meet at "Bob Evans" in West York on Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.—Year planning to follow. Weather Permitting.



## Sweetheart Dance—Saturday, February 3rd

Mark your calendars for February 3rd as we will be holding a Sweetheart Dance. There will be a pasta dinner and then a live band will be playing 50's & 60's music.

The pasta dinner will be prepared by the Boy Scouts and the Early Learning Center will have child care services available.

Tickets & Child Care Services will only be sold in advance.

Please stay tuned for more information such as ticket prices and how to register for child care services.

## Bingo—Saturday, February 10th

Join us on February 10th for our Basket Bingo that will benefit the Building Fund! Doors open at 4:30 pm and bingo starts at 6:00 pm. Tickets in advance are \$22.00 or \$25.00 at the door. Ticket price includes a light meal of chicken corn soup, sandwiches, salads, dessert, snacks and beverages, a chance at door prizes, and 20 games of bingo. Also, if you bring a nonperishable item, you will receive a raffle ticket for each item you bring for a chance to win a Longaberger Basket. To reserve your ticket call the church office.

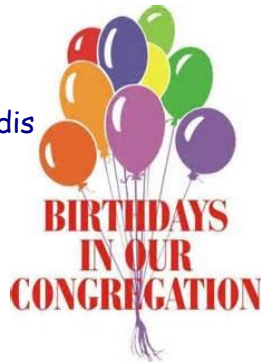


Newsletter articles for February due by January 19th.

## Special Dates

### January Birthdays

January 01	Wendy Bubb
January 04	Kathy Diehl
January 05	Earle Wolfe
January 10	John Buckheit
January 14	Lois Hoke
January 16	Jennifer Janssen
January 17	Cindy Stuempfle
January 18	Delores Leppo
January 18	Lizzy Harper
January 20	Shane Glatfelter
January 21	Addison Grace Landis
January 22	Leon Senft
January 23	Kevin Stough
January 24	Katelyn Aldinger
January 25	Jordan Hinkle
January 28	Brad Landis
January 28	Brent Landis



## P.U.S.H

### **(Pray Until Something Happens)**

- The family of Brandon G.
- Joyce R.
- Barb H.
- Corey M. & Family
- Terry M.
- Claude R. & Family
- LeAnn S.
- Cindy S.
- Denise A.W.
- Barrett George B. & Family



## 2018 Altar Guild Schedule

January – Kim and Ashley Criswell  
February – Hilary Barley & Lois Wakeland  
March – Kathryn Forry & Heather Kuhn  
April – Amy Meyer & Wendy Bubb  
May – Doris Goodling & Lou Ann Markle  
June – Mary Brungard & Janet Hengst  
July – Michele Harper & Gloria Markle  
August – Cassandra Delaronde & Velinda Johnson  
September – Deneen Harbold & Dorine Hagarman  
October – Kimberly Starner & Heather Kuhn  
November – Lynn & Scott Becker  
December – Tom & Heather Kuhn



# ALTAR GUILD

Communion Dates Will Be Provided

## Winter Worship



*Dec 31st: Roger Snyder (Pastor Rick is on Vacation Dec 25-Jan 3)*

*Jan 7th: Wise Men*

*Jan 14th - Feb 11th: Early Years of Jesus*

*Feb 18th: 1st Sunday of Lent*

*Everyone is Welcome!*

*Sunday School for Everyone at 9:15am*

*Coffee/Tea Time 10:00-10:20am*

*Sunday Worship begins at 10:30am*

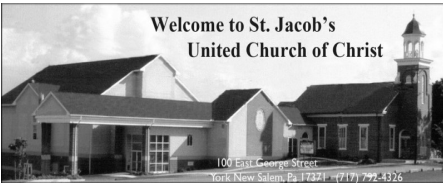


# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 	2	3	4	5	6 Food Pantry 9-11am Forry Rental
7	8 CDA Class 6:00 pm	9	10	11 Choir 7:00 pm 	12	13
14 Planning Meeting & Potluck After Service	15 CDA Class 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm 	16	17	18 Choir 7:00 pm	19 Movie Night: Despica- ble Me 3 6:30pm Newsletter Articles Due	20
21 York Association Meeting	22 CDA Class 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	23	24	25 Choir 7:00 pm	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## Schedule of Events

- January 1—HAPPY NEW YEARS!!
- January 6—Food Pantry 9-11am, Forry Rental
- January 8— Learning Center CDA Class 6:00 pm
- January 11—Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Choir 7:00 pm
- January 14—Planning Meeting & Potluck After Worship Service
- January 15—Martin Luther King Day, Learning Center CDA Class 6:00 pm, Consistory 7:00 pm
- January 18—Choir 7:00 pm
- January 19—Newsletter Articles Due, Family Movie Night: Despicable Me 3 6:30 pm
- January 21—York Association Meeting
- January 22—Learning Center CDA Class 6:00 pm
- January 25—Choir 7:00 pm



*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](http://www.stjacobsucc.org)