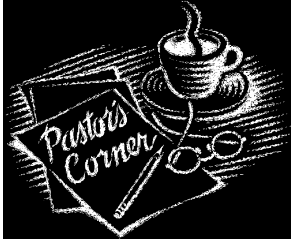




The Good News Letter

St. John's UCC, Fogelsville, PA

June 2008



From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings in the name of Christ!

This winter and spring has brought much attention to the United Church of Christ. Recently, many people within the church as well as nonmembers have been expressing many valued thoughts and feelings regarding the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, and his presentation of his theology and the experiences of his church. I want to acknowledge that there has been a diverse reactions from our members and friends. There has been pain expressed and confusion over his comments.

As I have conversations with all of you, I want to respond pastorally. I hear your sorrow and sadness. My hope is that the media attention and reports can possibly move our denomination forward into a time of honest dialogue about race, class, gender, and poverty.

One of the beauties of our denomination is its wide diversity of people. Our denomination is multiracial, our people span the generations, and we have members and friends of all social and economic classes. We pride ourselves on our rich history that is rooted in justice and peace as well as the founding principles of our nation. As such a diverse church, this comes with a diversity of theologies, which are the variety of ways we understand how God is working in the world and through the world.

I also hear your concerns. Most have asked the question, "Will all of this attention affect our local church?" To address that question, I would like to share with you a pastoral letter from our General Minister and President, Rev. John Thomas, who responded to the media attention. John Thomas wrote this letter while on a trip to South America, where he was visiting our United Church of Christ mission partners¹.

It is understandable that members of the United Church of Christ have been wrestling with the controversy surrounding the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. with the same broad set of emotions and frustrations that have been expressed nationwide in recent days and weeks.

What we've heard from many of you is concern for our denomination and the well-being of our local churches. For this I am grateful. There is also dismay and outrage that the United Church of Christ is being painted in broad, caricatured strokes that diminish and ignore the reality of our members' many viewpoints and our churches' diverse histories and perspectives.

While there is high regard for Rev. Wright's ministry and leadership at Trinity UCC in Chicago during the past thirty-six years, and for his prophetic, scriptural preaching, many of us today are troubled by some of his controversial comments and the substance and manner in which they have been communicated, both by him and as characterized by the media.

Following Rev. Wright's insightful interview with Bill Moyers on Friday, many in the UCC hopefully anticipated that the prophetic voice of the church would be more clearly understood by the public and affirmed. But, unfortunately, following widespread critique of his handling of questions and answers at the National Press Club, that deep hope has turned now to unsettling despair for many. There is a collective and abiding sadness and anger in the present moment, regardless of theological or political persuasion.

I write this while in South America where I have been visiting cherished partner churches and courageous human rights organizations in Argentina and Chile. In countries still haunted by wounds from oppressive dictatorships three decades ago, I have been struck by the depth of interest in our nation's political process, and by the deep hopes of many that the United States can be a force for economic justice, peace, human rights, and racial reconciliation in a hemisphere still afflicted by deep poverty, violence, and despair. It is time now for all of us - candidates and church members alike - to turn to these compelling moral themes.

To that end, we seek your support and active preparation as many in the UCC and beyond embark on a sacred conversation on race, beginning May 18, a time when we hope our churches will promote an honest, thoughtful and mature examination of the issue of race in this country. Your prayers are also sought

¹Retrieved from website:

<http://www.ucc.org/news/thomas-speaks-to-broad-set-of.html>

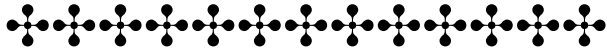
and encouraged for our nation and our church, especially for Trinity United Church of Christ as it continues to bear the weight of this highly visible, politically charged controversy.

May God bless us with the renewed courage, insight and grace that these days require.

The Rev. John H. Thomas
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ

In the days and weeks ahead, I encourage all of us to engage in this sacred conversation on race. This will not be an easy conversation to begin, but we must have hope and trust in God. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we can come together to have these difficult dialogues. And it is through our covenant as the church, our promises to love one another as God has loved each of us, that we can begin to be honest with one another and seek justice for our communities. May it be so.

Peace,
Pastor Joanne



We Need Your Help!!

In October, St. John's is hosting the Friday event for the Penn Northeast Annual Conference Meeting. We will welcome our friends from congregations all across the Conference who will join us for an exciting evening of programs.

We need your help! As we wish to extend hospitality and share the warmth of St. John's with others, we need your help in preparing and sharing a meal for those who will be attending the meeting. A committee organized by Marilyn Roth and Janet Grim have been busy planning a PA Dutch meal including pot pie and the trimmings to be served buffet style. We need your help with serving, clean-up, and host/hostesses for the evening. If you are willing and able to help, please see either Janet or Marilyn. Thank you!

The Penn Northeast Conference Annual Meeting event will be held at St. John's on Friday, October 17, 2008.



Church Staff

Joanne Marchetto, Pastor

Office: 610-398-7015 Home: 610-530-9013

Cell: 610-703-5897

e-mail: jomarchetto@rcn.com

Office Hours

Monday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Drew Nielsen, Minister of Music

Dan Einsla, Sexton

Anna DeAngelis, Parish Coordinator

Church Hospital Code # 467

Office Phone: 610-398-7015

E-mail: stjohnsucc1@enter.net

Office Hours

Monday 10:00am -1:00pm

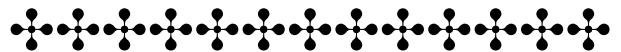
Wednesday 10:00am -1:00pm

Friday 10:am -2:00pm



Jane

Laudenslager, Isabel Henninger, Marilyn Brown, Marilyn Mohr, Kenneth Reichert, Pearl Heintzelman, Christine Dietrich, Sallie Ebert, Betty Heilman, Dorothea Noll, Arlene Coombe, Betty Wagner, Jake Kupsky, Doris Mohr, Pauline Wagner, Ray Ziegler, Bill & Jean Larison, Adele & Frank Yost, Vanessa Stauffer, Bob Kocher, Lisa Neumoyer, Bill & Lorraine Grim, Jean Mohr, Marilyn Roth.



Dutch Lunch

Pastor Joanne invites you to join her for lunch. Meet her at the **Starlite Diner** on Wednesday afternoons at 12:00 p.m. It will be Dutch Style where everyone will treat him or herself for a lunch out. We will have informal discussions of faith and life, time to share, support, break bread together, and get to know one another.

There will be **no Dutch Lunch on Wednesday, June 18th**. Pastor Joanne will be away at a meeting.

Ministry Opportunities

Assisting Ministers

- June 1 - Dick Boyer
- June 8 - Dave Roth
- June 15 - Scott Breininger
- June 22 - Janet Grim
- June 29 - Bill Grim

Flowers

- June 1 - Marge Cope
- June 8 - Dean, Donna, and Jessica Mohr
- June 15 - Sue and Ron Snyder
- June 22 - Debra Larison
- June 29 -

Bulletins

- June 1 - Peter and Jeanette Paduch
- June 8 - Dean and Donna Mohr
- June 15 - Sue and Ron Snyder
- June 22 -
- June 29 -

Greeters

- June 1 -
- June 8 -
- June 15 -
- June 22 -
- June 29 -

Coffee Hour

- June 1 -
- June 8 -
- June 15 -
- June 22 -
- June 29 -

Ushers

- June 1 - Marilyn & Warren
- June 8 - Scott & Larry
- June 15 - Jeff & Marge
- June 22 - Kay & Mark
- June 29 - Warren & Marilyn

There are many opportunities available to serve as assisting minister, greeters sponsoring coffee hour, bulletins, or flowers. (To sponsor flowers, the cost is \$30 and \$5 for bulletins). Please consider the stewardship of your time, resources, and talents by serving the congregation in these special ministries. If you would like to serve, please sign-up on the bulletin board in the church foyer. Thank you to all of our faithful servants.



Have an article you would like to submit to the July/August newsletter? Please place the article in the secretary's folder outside of Pastor Joanne's office or email it to stjohnsucc1@enter.net

The deadline for the July/August Newsletter is at noon on June 23rd.



The next Consistory meeting will be held on June 9th at 7:00 p.m.



Seminary Student Intern

Next fall and spring, we will welcome Mike McGowan, a student from Lancaster Theological Seminary as a student intern here at St. John's. Mike will be with us for the twelve weeks of each academic semester to help him in his ministerial studies. He will be preaching, doing visitations, helping with Christian education, and other activities. This is an exciting time for all of us, so please welcome Mike and his family!



Communion Class

In September, Pastor Joanne will be holding a communion class for the children of the church. It is a short class designed to explain communion, why we share communion, who Jesus shared communion with, and what we believe about communion. It is also an opportunity for the children to ask their questions about communion.

The Communion class will be held Monday, September 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

WORSHIP FOR: June, 2008

Week of June 1, 2008 - Third Sunday after Pentecost/Communion Sunday

Scriptures: Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19; Romans 1:16-17, 3:22b-28; Matthew 7:21-29

Sermon: The Story of Noah's Wife: A Woman Without a Name

Hymns: #441 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
#547 Amazing Grace
#439 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Week of June 8, 2008 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Genesis 12:1-9; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sermon: Sarah's Story I: A Survival Story

Hymns # 24 The God of Abraham Praise
#320 Deep In the Shadows of the Past
21 God Reigns O'er All the Earth

Week of June 15, 2008 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Genesis 18:1-15; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8

Sermon: Sarah's Story II: Life, Love and Laughter

Hymns #426 O God, Whose Steadfast Love
#468 The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young
76 Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Week of June 22, 2008 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Genesis 21:8-21; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Sermon: Hagar's Story: The Story of the Other Woman

Hymns: #475 God's Eye Is On the Sparrow
#503 O Savior, Let Me Walk With You
50 I Sing the Praise of God

Week of June 29, 2008 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Genesis 22:1-14; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Sermon: The Story of Laban the Donkey: A Donkey's Life

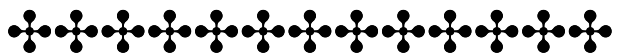
Hymns: #538 Standing at the Future's Threshold
#414 Incarnate God, Immortal Love
#381 Faith of the Martyrs

For Planning Purposes Only - subject to change as circumstance dictate.



June Anniversaries and Birthdays

2 – Tristyna Gracely
5 – Marge Cope
8 – Christine & Herman Dietrich
8 – Nancy & Ken Reichert
9 – David Wolford
11 – Jennifer Noll
12 – Mike Levan
15 – Brandon Krause
15 – Sue & Ron Snyder
15 – Tracy & John Kleinschuster
17 – Keely Lyons
19 – Avery Yellets
19 – Lisa & Alan Kriebel
21 – Minnie Breininger
22 – Cassandra & Thomas Sobczak
23 – Ali Grim
25 – Minnie & Carl Breininger
25 – Dorothea Noll
26 – Betty Wagner
26 – Russell Larison
29 – Matthew Fehnel



Our Church Website

If you have internet access, please visit our church website: www.stjohnsucc1.org

Jim Marchetto has started up and maintains the site. He is also looking for additional people to assist with this project. If you have pictures, information, articles, or are interested in learning more about developing web sites, please see Jim. One of the biggest limitations to a website is the time put into making it look great and adding content, so the more folks willing to help, the more St. John's will have to share with the world. This is also a great way to get our youth (and hopefully new youth) involved in the church.



"Happiness is not a state to arrive at, but a manner of traveling."

Confirmation Class

We will begin a new Confirmation class in the fall. If you know someone who is in beginning grade 6 and up in the fall, then they can join our Confirmation class. The Confirmation program involves meeting with a mentor, attending two lock-in retreats, and field trips. It also requires participating in church as an acolyte and church attendance. If you would like to join the Confirmation class, please see Pastor Joanne for more information.

We will have an organizational meeting in September. More information will follow!



Summer Worship

Beginning in June, our worship schedule will change. Worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. during the months of June, July, and August. Please make a note that this change will begin on Sunday, June 1, 2008.



Redner's Receipts

It's easy to participate in the Redner's Save-a-Tape Program. This program is designed to donate 1% of all you spend and donate the money to our church.

To participate, go to any Redner's market, show your card at the check-out, save your receipt, and drop your receipt into the basket. It is that easy.

Please see Jerry Roth if you have any questions about this program.



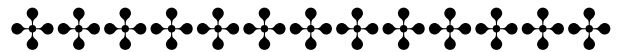
KidsPeace is holding its 11th Annual Soccer Tournament on August 23-24. This tournament is a major fund raiser for KidsPeace's Children's Fund. The tournament is open to Recreation Soccer Teams throughout the East Coast and is limited to the first 100 teams that sign-up. In the past, we have had teams from as far away as Connecticut participate in the event.

This year more than ever, we are in need of volunteers to perform such tasks as: parking attendants, field marshals, food services, merchandising (selling t-shirts, hats, etc.), and other positions to make the tournament another success.

If any students require documented volunteer hours, this event would most likely qualify due to our status as a 503(c) children's charity. Any time that can be donated is greatly appreciated by KidsPeace. (We prefer the minimum shift to be 3 hours, but we will try to accommodate everyone who is interested in helping us out.) **Volunteers will get tickets for free food at the event and many positions include a free t-shirt.**

The Special Events coordinator is Jenelle Perich and she can be contacted at: 610-799-8493 or by e-mail at: Jenelle.Perich@kidspeace.org

More information will be made available (soon) on www.kidspeace.org.



Recipe Corner

Can't Leave Alone Bars

- 1 Box White Cake Mix
- 2 Large Eggs
- 1/3 Cup Oil
- 1 Can Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 6 oz, Chocolate Chip
- 1/4 Cup Butter

Grease 9x13 pan. Beat cake mix, eggs, and oil together. Press 2/3 of the batter into pan. Microwave condensed milk, chocolate, and butter until smooth when stirred. Pour over crust. Top with reserved cake mix crumbs. Bake 20-25 minutes @ 350 degrees. Cool and cut.



Youth Group

In September, we will reorganize our youth group. Youth group will be for all people who are in 6th grade

and older. We will hold our first meeting on Sunday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m. for all youth who are interested. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend!

Children and the Church

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, 'How many women can a man marry?' 'Sixteen,' the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. 'How do you know that?' 'Easy,' the little boy said. 'All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer.'

'Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?' 'No sir,' little Johnny replies, 'I don't have to. My mom is a good cook.'

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, 'Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up.' That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?' 'Well,' said the little boy, 'I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen.'

A 6-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service, 'And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us.'

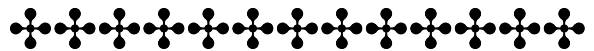
A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. 'How do you know what to say?' he asked. 'Why, God tells me. "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?'

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, 'Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?'

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible

stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. 'The Flight to Egypt,' was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, 'that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?' 'Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot!'

'A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, 'Grandpa, did God make you?'"Yes, sweetheart,' he answered, 'God made me a long time ago.' 'Oh,' she paused, 'Grandpa, did God make me too?' 'Yes, indeed, honey,' he said, 'God made you just a little while ago. 'Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, 'God's getting better at it, isn't he?'



New Members' Class

I will be offering new members classes next month on the following dates:

Thursday, September 25th and Monday, September 29th. The class will begin at 7:00 p.m. You would only need to attend ONE of the classes. If you are interested in joining the church, or if you have questions about joining the church, please see Pastor Joanne for more information.



BUS TRIP

Bus Trip: St. John's U.C.C., Emmaus is sponsoring a mission trip on September 12, 2008 to the New Windsor Conference Center in New Windsor, MD. There will be an opportunity to work for SERRV International packing/unpacking/pricing or helping to sort Church World Service kits. Bus Fare: \$26.50, Lunch \$3.50. If you wish, sign up for an afternoon tour. Shop at the SERRV International Gift Shop. Bus leaves New Windsor at 3:00p.m. with a dinner stop along the way. Bus arrives in

Emmaus 7:30-8:00p.m. August 1, 2008
deadline for sign-up and payment.

For further details contact Linda Roosa –
610-966-1459 or leroosa@ptd.net

CHURCH PICNIC

On Sunday June 22nd, **St. John's will be having a church picnic here at the church.** This will be a wonderful time for us to get together and have a great time. Weather permitting, we will have an outdoor worship service followed by a pot luck luncheon. We may even organize some games at the playground. For the picnic, we will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers. We are asking folks to bring a side dish or dessert. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board if you will be attending with what you will be bringing. You do not need to sign up to attend. Please dress casually and comfortably for the worship and picnic. We hope to see you there!



Bethany Children's Home is in need of married couple to serve as houseparents. This is a challenging and rewarding opportunity. You provide compassion, structure and daily supervision for young people. You would live on the campus in Womelsdorf.

Applications should be mature, responsible individuals with a sense of mission to guide young people through the challenges of adolescence.

If you would like more information, please call 610-589-4501 and ask for Steve Smith. You can also email him at

ssmith@bethanyhome.org.



Thank you

A big thank you to the people who helped serve at the funeral luncheon for Warren Henninger – Marilyn Roth for ordering the food, Gladys Rupp, Gloria Wolford, Kay Kleinschuster & Marjorie Cope for serving, Kenneth Snyder who is an all around helper & to Ray Ziegler for keeping the dirty dishes under control at the sink. Thank you as well to all who baked & brought desserts for the

people who attended.

Thank you to our "Phantom" Gardener, Tom Sobczak who spends hours on the garden at the street side of the church. It certainly will look great during the summer & fall season.

A wonderful thought

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, 'Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.'

The Lord led the holy man to two doors.

He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large

pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, 'You have seen Hell.'

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of

stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, 'I don't understand.'

It
si
,
the
. 'It
ire
on
ski
Yo
se
the
ha
lea
to
ea
oth
wh
the
dy
onl
the
ve
W
Je
die

the cross, he was thinking of you.

Remember that I will always share my spoon
with you.



this out!!!

is
mple
said
Lord
requ
s but
e
ll. ;
u
e
y
ve
rned
feed
ch
er,
ile
gree
think
y of
msel
s.'
hen
sus
d on

VBS Volunteers

This year's VBS is scheduled for July 14th to 18th from 9am to 12 noon. The theme for this year is Rainforest Adventure: A Tree Top Bible Blast! Every tree in the forest will sing joyful songs to the Lord. 1 Chronicles 16:33. Each day will be packed with activities designed to help children experience the importance of Stewardship. They will learn that it is fun and faithful to share the good news of Jesus' love with everyone.

Registration forms will be handed out in May. Please return as quickly as possible for planning purposes. We will be handing out music CD's again so you can learn the songs before VBS.

We are looking for adult and youth volunteers. We need activity site leaders and helpers, as well as group leaders. Anyone interested, please see Nancy Moyer or call her at 610-395-9214, Explore the Canopy!

Vacation Bible School is in need of donations of supplies. Attached is a list of items needed. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

For the science/art area

- 1 box sandwich bags with ties
- 4 rolls paper towels
- 20 plastic bowls—salad size
- 1 bottle vinegar
- 40 empty clean margarine containers
- 1 bag dried kidney beans
- pack of 50 balloons (different sizes and colors)
- 1 box Rice Krispies

1 pack food coloring
1 box raisins
1 box baking soda
3 boxes rice
175 coffee filters
colorful foam shapes from a craft store
empty coffee cans with lids.

Snacks

1 bag chocolate Twizzlers
4 boxes Quaker granola bars—chocolate chip
6 bags 10.5 oz Sun Chips—Original
4 boxes—11 ounce—Goldfish crackers
2 boxes—12.5 ounce—Goldfish pretzels
1 box Corn Chex
2 bags—14 ounce—Starburst jelly beans
10 boxes—10 count—Sunkist fruit shaped
snacks
2 cans—#10—fruit cocktail
1 can—29 ounce—fruit cocktail
Donation for Auntie Anne pretzel stix
2 bags—7.5 ounce—bugles
1 box—15 ounce—Fruit Loops
1 bag—11 ounce—little ones pretzels
2 cans Deddi Whip cool whip
250 paper plates—6 ounce
2 large containers Powdered Drink Mix
360 + count Napkins
60 bowls
1 container wet wipes