

NEWSLETTER

St. John United Church of Christ
150 Pine Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

Sunday Worship 9:30 AM

WLSH AM 1410 11:30 AM

(570) 668-2573

www.stjohnucctamaqua.com

www.facebook.com/stjohntamaqua

stjohntamaqua@verizon.net

February / March 2018

The Journal

Living Life Together

*For where two or three
gather in my name, there
am I with them."*

Matthew 18:20

All my life I've been part of a church. I enjoy worship, praising God, being inspired to sing. While worship is great, church gets even better when I get together regularly with people and we share what's going on in life.

Jesus at times went to a place to be alone with God. He went to the temple and worshiped in the synagogue. He taught large crowds. Yet most of his time was spent in a small group.

A group of 12 disciples shared their lives together with one another and with Jesus. Three years after first being called by Jesus, these people were starting the Church, and putting

their lives on the line as Jesus had.

The book of Acts shows us how the church was structured. The Apostles sometimes taught at the temple in Jerusalem. However, most of the time Jesus followers met in peoples homes, where they worshipped, shared food, sang songs and discovered that Jesus was still working in peoples lives.

We are blessed every time we have the opportunity to meet with one another. The confirmation classes I have led and the Bible Study I am a part of have meant a lot to me. Yes we study in those groups, but we also share with one another where God is still moving in our lives. We tell one good thing and one bad thing that

has happened in our lives since we last met. We take prayer requests and we pray. We have shared meals together. Visits have been made to friends who aren't able to be with us any more. We have taken road trips and provided service to others.

I have heard from others the importance of the church group they belong to: Fellowship at the tables after worship, Choir and Bell Choir, Sunday school, committees and teams.

I encourage you to be grateful for the group you might belong to and if you don't yet have a group, let us help one another find a group.

Where two or more are gathered together, Jesus is there in a special way.

Pastor Kevin

Thank You for Your Christmas Gifts

We were provided many opportunities to give, both inside and outside the church at Christmas time. A mailing went out requesting a special financial gift to St. John. You responded in a big way. More than \$4,000.00 was donated through this special offering. Thank you!

Giving

Thank you to all our members for their generous giving in 2017. We ended the year with a deficit of approximately \$8,200.00 in income over our expenses for the year.

Annual Congregational Meeting held January 21st

We thank everyone who came to the annual meeting of our congregation. We heard highlights of our accomplishments in 2017. We also looked forward to great things in 2018. Copies of the Annual Report are available upon request.

Investment Committee

Our Investment Committee transferred \$17,000.00 from our Endowment fund to the general account in 2017.

The income from endowments helps us to pay monthly expenses and aids in keeping the church running every year.

Thank You

We would like to say a big Thank You to all our musicians who share their special talents with us. Our Senior Choir and Bell Choir are always hard at work preparing beautiful performances. Our annual Christmas cantata held on December 10th was a great success. The Bell Choir will be performing next on Sunday, March 11th.

Sponsorship Charts

The 2018 sponsorship charts are now available on the Pine St. side of the church. Openings for flowers, bulletins, fellowship, communion and radio broadcasts are listed.

Please consider choosing a date in honor or in memory of a loved one. There are many slots still available and your sponsorship helps to offset the cost of these items for the church. Thank you.

*** Remember, if you cannot make it to church to hear the cantata or any other service, tune in to WLSH AM 1410 at 11:30 AM to hear the broadcast of our worship services.

2017 Sale Totals

Kitchen Fundraisers brought in \$4391.00 in 2017. Thank you to our amazing United Citchen Crew for all of their hard work. We were able to also raise an additional \$1454.00 from our spring rummage sale and \$2374.00 from the fall rummage sale. Thank you to the tireless group of men and women who set up and execute those events.

2018 Consistory

New consistory officers were inducted on Sunday, January 28th.

The officers are as follows:

President—Ben Shafer

Vice President—Ron Sassaman

Treasurer—Bob Gill

Assistant Treasurer—Diane Johnson

Financial Secretary—Linda Musseman

Assistant Financial Sec.—Phil Houm

Secretary—Holly Lutz

Assistant Secretary—Vicki Kennedy

Welcome our new consistory members who were elected to serve. Elevated to Elder are Dodie and Ron Sassaman.

Elected for a second term are Diane Johnson as an Elder and Eleanor Gerber as a Deacon.

Thank you to Beverly and Jim Curvey and Bob Kropp who are rotating off of Consistory. We appreciate their time of service.

Consistory approved an amendment to the by-laws to reduce the size of consistory from 24 to 15. The 15 current members of consistory are Doris Kropp, Linda Musseman, Bob Gill, Holly Lutz, Vicki Kennedy, Grace Sakusky, Ben Shafer, Glenn Rarick, Jim Heffelfinger, Donna Hollywood, Phil Houm, Diane Johnson, Eleanor Gerber, Ron Sassaman, and Dorothy Sassaman.

Decorating Committee

We are so grateful to our decorating committee who continue to do a wonderful job decorating our sanctuary for all the holiday seasons.

However, they are in need of more volunteers to continue their work. If you are wanting to help, please contact Joan Hess.

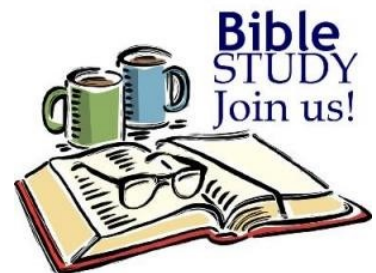
Decorating for the Easter season will begin very soon.

2018 Annual Snowball Dinner

On Saturday, January 27th, the Annual Snowball Dinner was held at the West Penn Rod and Gun Club and was a big success! Thank you to those who coordinated the event and for everyone who came to enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship.

Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study is still going on. Each Tuesday, at 6:00 PM the group meets to study God's word. Come, as we grow together in our faith and are moved more deeply to apply the Word of God to our daily living.

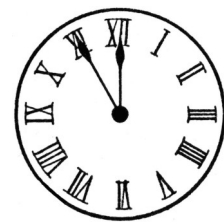


Boy Scout Troup 777

St. John is pleased to sponsor Boy Scout Troup 777. Every week the Boy Scout and Cub Scout packs meet at St. John. We are supportive of Scouting and the impact it has on people's lives.

We look forward to Troop 777 joining us in worship on February 4th for Scout Sunday. Scouts will read the Scripture, serve as greeters and take up the offering.

Spring Forward...Daylight Savings begins on Saturday, March 11th. Don't forget to change your clocks!



Giving Statements Available

2017 individual financial statements are available. If you need a statement for tax purposes, see Linda Musseman or call the church office at 570-668-2573.

Easter Lilies

The Easter season is almost upon us. We will be taking orders for lilies in the near future.



Information will be listed in the bulletin, sent via email and posted to our Facebook and web site.

Wednesday Evening Services

Evening Lenten Services are once again being shared with members of Trinity United Church of Christ. We will alternate the location of the worship services between the two churches. All worship services are at 7:00 P.M.



**February 14th: St. John UCC
(Ash Wednesday)**

February 21th: Trinity UCC

February 28th: St. John UCC

March 7th: Trinity UCC

**March 14th: St. John UCC
(Bell Choir Performs)**

March 21st: Trinity UCC

Looking Forward to Easter



**Brunch with the Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt
will be held on Palm Sunday, March 25th.**

Deadline for sign up is Sunday, March 18th.

Sign-up sheets will be located at the entrances to church or through the church office.

Prayer Vigil

Following the Maundy Thursday service, a prayer vigil is being held. From 9:00 PM to 12:00 AM on Thursday (3-29) and from 6:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Good Friday (3-30).



A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board located at the Pine St. entrance. The church will be open during the hours of the vigil.

Celebrate Easter

April 1st

6:00 A.M. , Easter Sunrise Service

9:30 A.M., Easter Worship with communion:
No fellowship



Sunday, March 25, 9:30 A.M.,

Palm Sunday Worship followed by Brunch with the
Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday, March 28, 7:00,

Preparatory Service at St. John United Church of Christ

Thursday, March 29, 7:00 PM,

Maundy Thursday Service

Prayer Vigil, 9:00 P.M. to 12:00 AM

Friday, March 30, Good Friday

Prayer Vigil, 6:00AM to Noon.

Sunday, April 1, 6:00 A.M.,

Easter Sunrise Service,

Sunday, April 1, 9:30 A.M.

Easter Worship with Communion

(no fellowship)

A Confirmation Party and Retreat

Our Confirmation Class has been meeting since September. We look forward to Confirmation on May 20, 2018. In December we went to Bethany Children's Home. We gave a Christmas party to one of the boy's cottages. We brought pizza and each resident gave a suggestion of a gift they would like for Christmas, so we brought that gift for each of them as well. After the Pizza we played games in the living room. It was great to see how alike all teenagers are.

In January we went on a retreat at Camp Hebron with about 125-150 other middle school youth. On the coldest weekend of the winter we had a great time. We worshipped together and were led by a praise band. We had small group discussions. We played in the gym and on the climbing wall. In single digit weather we also played tag and slid across the ice on a pond—we didn't even need skates!

Confirmation is a time when we learn what church means. It's a time when we prepare ourselves to say "yes" to living a Jesus led life. We discover that following God together is joyous.

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

The OGHS offering goes to directly support sources of clean water and food for impoverished communities, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is on March 11th.

Prayer Requests

Many of our members are in need of prayer for health and other various reasons. Please pray for those who we know have a need and are found on the following list:

Sylvia Arner, Glenn Rarick, Joan Hess, Susan Hunsicker, Herbert Curvey, Richard Wentz, Hannah Miller, Marion Miller, Lance Maxwell, Rusty Nelson, Danelle Kane, Ron McDowell, Matt Hope, Kim Stidham, Matt Brickler, Sandy Oster-Havron, Carol Scott, Nancy Eisley, Alma Herring, Janet Hornberger, Mary Piepmeyer, Harry Ohl, John Quinn, Julie Hill, Deborah Schuetrum, David Keip, Jr., David Keip, Sr., Mabel and Norman Schuetrumpf, Mary Shafer, Florence Fegley, and Cathy Tomchick.

The Prayer List is updated weekly in the church bulletin. If you are in need of prayer, please contact the church office at 570-668-2573 to be added to the list.



Donations to the Food Pantry

St. John has offered long standing support for the food bank housed at Trinity United Church of Christ. We are still accepting donations of non-perishable food items for Trinity UCC's food bank. Donations can be left in the back of the Pine Street side of church at any time, and we will collect them and deliver to Trinity on a monthly basis. We often remember our neighbors in need when we do our food drive in the fall, but we also strive to help throughout the year and all donations are appreciated.

Feb.: Peanut Butter & Jelly
Mar.: Pancake Mix/Syrup & Cereal.



Church Office Hours

The office is open Monday—Thursday from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is served during our 9:30 AM worship service on the first Sunday of every month. We will have communion on February 4th, March 4th and April 1st.

Shut-In Members

Each month, the church selects a member who is no longer able to attend church and highlights them.

Please consider sending that member a note or giving them call to let them know their church family is thinking of them.

February

Hazel Whitley

10 Pine Terrace
Nesquehoning, PA
18240-2417

March

Earl Boettger

40 Market Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252
570-668-4702

Sick & Shut-in



United Citchen Crew

Our “Citchen Crew” is in need of supplies. Donations of cleaning products such as bleach, Lysol, ammonia are needed as are scrubs, paper towels and magic erasers. Anything you can give will be much appreciated. Donations can be left in the kitchen of the social hall.

Boyer’s Market Cards

If you shop at Boyer’s Markets and want to help support the church, we have fundraising cards available. Boyer’s will donate a portion of your purchases to the church if you use the card at checkout. We would like to thank everyone who has been using the card. In the second half of 2017 we earned around **\$108.00** for the church. Checkout cards are available at the Pine Street entrance to the church and the church office. Pick one up today!

Rummage Sale

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be held on April 28 and 30 and May 1. Volunteers are needed to organize donations and work the sale. If you can help please see Linda Musseman.

Sponsors

Flowers

February 4—Available
February 11—In memory of loved ones by Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Quinn.
February 18—Available
February 25—Available
March 4—Available
March 11—In memory of loved ones by Josephine & David Keip
March 18—Available
March 25—Available

Radio Broadcast

February 4—In celebration of Isaac Brimmer's birthday by the Shafer family.
February 11—Available
February 18—Available
February 25—Available
March 4—Available
March 11—Available
March 18—In celebration of Lisa Shafer's birthday by the Shafer family.
March 25—Available

Bulletins

February 4 —Available.
February 11—Available
February 18—Available
February 25—Available
March 4—Available
March 11—In celebration of our grandson Liam's 5th birthday by Donna & Joe Hollywood
March 18—In loving memory of William Steele by Margaret Steele.
March 25—Available.

Communion Service

February 4 - Available
February 14- (Ash Wednesday) - In Loving Memory of Jackie Motz by her family.
March 4—In memory of William Ohl by the Quinn family
March 29—(Maundy Thursday) -Available


Fellowship

February 4— Scout Troop 777
February 11—Vicki Kennedy
February 18—Eleanor and Chad Gerber
February 25—Available
March 4—Shirly Shamonsky & Grace Sakusky
March 11—Judy & Dan Slegal.
March 18—Available.
March 25—Breakfast with the Bunny

February 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:30 Worship Communion Scout Sunday Fellowship 10:45 Choir Rehearsal | 5 Consistory 7:00 PM | 6 Hoagie Sale Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:30 Worship Fellowship 10:45 Choir Rehearsal | 12 | 13 Bible Study 6:00 PM | 14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:30 Worship Fellowship 10:45 Choir Rehearsal | 19 Presidents' Day Spiritual Council 7:00PM | 20 Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM | 21 Lenten Service 7:00 PM Trinity UCC | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:30 Worship Fellowship 10:45 Choir Rehearsal | 26 | 27 Bible Study 6:00 PM | 28 Lenten Service 7:00 PM St. John UCC | 29 | 30 | |

March 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 World Day of Prayer | 3 |
| 4 9:30 Communion Worship Fellowship 10:45 Choir Rehearsal | 5 Consistory 7:00 PM | 6 Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM | 7 Lenten Service Trinity UCC 7:00 PM | 9 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:30 Worship Bell Choir Performs Fellowship 10:45 Choir Rehearsal Daylight Savings Begins | 12 | 13 Bible Study 6:00 PM | 14 Lenten Service St. John UCC 7:00 PM Bell Choir | 15 | 16 | 17 St. Patrick's Day  |
| 18 9:30 Worship Fellowship 10:45 Choir Rehearsal | 19 | 20 Bible Study 6:00 PM First day of Spring! | 21 Lenten Service Trinity UCC 7:00 PM | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:30 Worship Palm Sunday Brunch with the Bunny | 26 | 27 Bible Study 6:00 PM | 28 Lenten Service St. John UCC 7:00 PM | 29 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00PM Prayer Vigil | 30 Good Friday Prayer Vigil | 31 Holy Saturday |