

# THE TRAVELER

God  
is still  
speaking,



## AUGUST 2017

### JERUSALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



545 Church Drive, Palmerton, PA 18071 (Trachsville)  
Phone: (610) 681-4412  
Facebook: Jerusalem Trachsville UCC  
Website: [www.jerusalemucc.org](http://www.jerusalemucc.org)

**CHANGING LIVES. That's Our Church's Wider Mission.**

#### Church Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Kathryn Foster  
Office Hours: By Appointment

**Secretary:** Lyn Summers  
Office Hours: Tue. thru Fri. 9 a.m. – 1 PM  
*(hours subject to change)*

**Director of Music:** Shelba Scheffner  
**Director of Christian Ed:** Marcia Heinick  
**Treasurer:** Steph Anderson

**Financial Secretary:** Debbie Cope  
**Sexton:** Lisa George

#### Contact Information

home: (610) 261-9015  
cell: (610) 554-7364  
[juccpast@ptd.net](mailto:juccpast@ptd.net)  
(610) 681-4412  
[juccsecy@ptd.net](mailto:juccsecy@ptd.net)

[shelba.scheffner@gmail.com](mailto:shelba.scheffner@gmail.com)  
[mheinick@ptd.net](mailto:mheinick@ptd.net)  
(610) 681-3878  
[stephand@ptd.net](mailto:stephand@ptd.net)  
(610) 681-5033

#### 2017 Consistory

|                            |                |                |  |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| <b>President:</b>          | Andrea Lazicki | 610-681-3367   | <a href="mailto:andrealazicki@me.com">andrealazicki@me.com</a> |
| <b>Vice-President:</b>     | Barry George   | 610-349-9278   | <a href="mailto:BarryBus51@yahoo.com">BarryBus51@yahoo.com</a> |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          | Lyn Summers    |                |  |
| <b>Additional Members:</b> | Terry Goodhile | Paula Abel     | Matthew Binder   |
|                            | Ron Frable     | Barry George   | Kim Williams   |
|                            | Wendy Hoppel   | Andrea Lazicki | Ed Brader  |
|                            | Delbert Knecht | Beverly Waibel | Lisa Williams  |

Dear Members and Friends,

This is how I ended my last Pastor's Corner article:

*An announcement: A new and exciting thing is happening at JUCC! With the agreement of consistory, I have formed a visioning team at JUCC..... for this purpose: To envision how God might want our church congregation to work out our plan for ministry and mission for the next 5-10 years. This congregation has not done this since 2007 and so we are revisiting the process.*

*The Visioning Team members will be asking as many of you as possible how you see our church fulfilling the purposes of God moving forward at JUCC. It will include any ideas about the current building plan, posted on our back bulletin board. Please think about it, listen, and when asked, please kindly respond.*

A month has gone by since I announced this to you all. The committee has begun meeting, and minutes from those meetings are included in this newsletter. We also began to hear from many of you respond to my call to action. Keep those responses and letters coming!

We envision for the next 10 years so we can get started on doing the work to which God has called us. If we are thinking in terms of a new fellowship and ministry building addition, of course we can expect that building to last much longer! And just like our "Sunday School" wing was envisioned and built 75 years ago, with God's plan in mind, we can rest assured that it will be used for fellowship and ministry 75 years from now, as members continue to serve and glorify God in this place.

It is gratifying to think that God has given JUCC so much. God trusts all followers to witness to the gospel message of God's love for all people and share God's salvation with the world. To have the resources to do this is a great gift.

Please read the visioning team meeting minutes so you can understand all the ideas and concepts involved, think about how you might serve, and let the team know your thoughts on how to live into God's future for JUCC.

Grace and Peace to you all and a happy summer!

Pastor Kathryn

Message shared by Andrea Lazicki, Consistory President  
Taken from the booklet, "The Celebration of 150 Years  
Jerusalem Union Church – (1848-1998)

Just as our forefathers felt the Holy Spirit urging them to become involved and build a church of their dreams, so should we become involved and continue to serve God and people and continue the Church of the future.



*O God, our loving  
father, we give You  
thanks for the  
pioneers who gave of  
their time, their talent  
and their sustenance*



*to build the church of their dreams, so that their  
children and their children's children could share  
this rich heritage. Grant to each of us the blessing  
of sharing in building Your kingdom on earth, in  
our day, as did our forefathers in the past. Help us  
to begin where we are as we work side by side in  
our church and in our community and in the*



*us, guiding us to do  
His will. So let us  
together labor and  
pray that THIS  
church, the church of  
our forefathers'  
dreams may continue  
to grow. Use us to  
influence future  
generations. AMEN*







*"...pray for one another, so that you may be healed." (James 5:13)  
"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing..." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17)  
As disciples of Jesus, we seek to pray daily.  
Below is a list of those who need our prayers.*

**Shorter term prayer concerns:**

Bob Buck  
Jim Hessinger  
Alverta Strohl  
Shawn Everett  
Gerald Hawk  
Sherry Bush  
Grace Rehrig  
Sherri Jacobs  
Joanne Frable

Barry Smale  
Anna Bowman  
Edward Mertz  
Lois Beer  
Donna Deihl  
Michael Addotta  
Patricia Anthony  
Megan Fredericks  
Tod Kreger

Melissa Fronheiser  
Skip Hannon  
Dolores George  
Lori George  
Dennis Smith  
Margaret Green  
Steve Yahner  
Judy Hessinger

**Longer term prayer concerns:**

Jim Behler  
Paula Gower  
Kayla Johnson  
Dalton Fredericks  
Janet Snyder

John Maliszewski  
Raymond Hawk  
Bonnie O'Brien  
Jillian Hessinger & family

Jim Buck  
Orpha Shaffer  
Leon Smale

**FIRST COMMUNION**

Calling all children going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or above! A "My First Communion" class is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday mornings – August 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11 am. Any parent who desires this spiritual step for their child should contact the Pastor. Parent, grandparent or guardian participation is recommended for this class.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Confirmation class for youth going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above will begin in September. Class is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evening of each month from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm until May of 2018. Any parent who desires this spiritual step for their child should contact the pastor for participation expectations.

# JERUSALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMMUNITY PICNIC

\*\*\*\*\* SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017 \*\*\*\*\*



MUSIC BY  
MAIN STREET CRUISERS



**COME & SEE OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW BANDSHELL**

CAKEWALK

KIDS ACTIVITIES

RAFFLE TICKETS

12:00 NOON – OPEN AND READY FOR LUNCH

1:00 P.M. – FREE KIDS GAMES & KIDDIE CAKE WALK

\*\*\*\*\* 2:00 P.M. – SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY THE HAWKS \*\*\*\*\*

3:00 P.M. – MUSIC BY MAIN STREET CRUISERS

5:00 P.M. – MUSIC BY MAIN STREET CRUISERS

6:30 P.M. – TRACHSVILLE'S LEGENDARY CAKE WALK

7:30 P.M. – MUSIC BY MAIN STREET CRUISERS

9:00 P.M. – RAFFLE TICKET DRAWING

**~~~~GREAT FOOD, GREAT FUN, GREAT ENTERTAINMENT!~~~~**

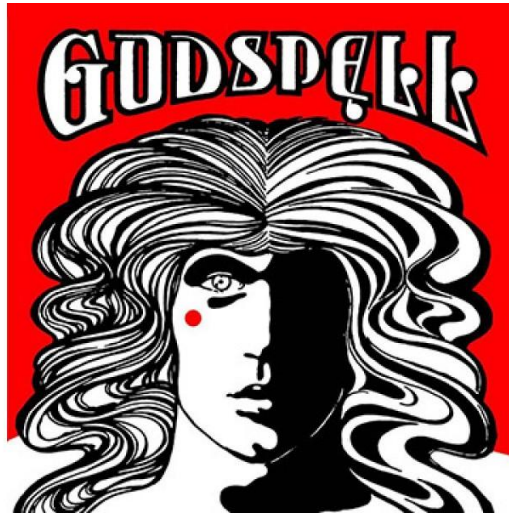
**~~~BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS AND SPEND THE DAY!~~~**

Rain date – Sunday, August 6, 2017 – noon

Picnic grove is located off Rt. 209 in Trachsville

Behind the fire company at 545 Church Drive 610-681-4412

As always, we are accepting donations for our adult cake walk such as baked goods, gift cards or food items; for the children – please consider items such as puzzles, books, bubbles or other appropriate child-safe items.



**A Musical Theater Production**

In our church grove @ 545 Church Drive, Palmerton

**Fri. Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> & Sat. Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> ~ (Rain Date: Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup>)**

**Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> & Sat. Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> ~ (Rain Date: Sunday August 20<sup>th</sup>)**

**FREE ADMISSION!! Begins at 7pm**

*Free-will offering will be collected and refreshments sold  
to defray costs & raise funds for the church  
& the American Cancer Society*

**SOME SEATING IS AVAILABLE - BRING A CHAIR!**

Call 610-681-4412 for more info or email [juccsecy@ptd.net](mailto:juccsecy@ptd.net)

Produced by special arrangement with Theatre Maximus

We will be selling refreshments in Ryman Hall beginning at 6 PM before and during each of the *Godspell* presentations. Help is needed to work in the refreshment area. Please contact Denise Goodhile, Lana Kuehner, or Donna Mackes if you are available to help on any of the dates or look for the sign-up sheet along with the picnic sign-up sheet.

**We had our first meeting of the Visioning Team of the Evangelism and Mission Committee** formed in the JUCC Bylaws on June 14, 2017. (Meeting summaries recorded by Pastor Kathryn)

**1. We looked at what the "Plan for Ministry and Mission" has been at JUCC.** JUCC created this document in 2007, as part of a former pastor's Leadership Planning Team work with JUCC. We briefly reviewed what the mission and ministry goals were for that time - the goal of implementation being 5-10 years. I noted that our church accomplished many of the goals.

However, JUCC did not accomplish all the goals. One interesting thing noted was that within a 5-8 year time span "a Christian Community and Youth Center" building was to be completed. The "Plan for Ministry and Mission" was referenced in the JUCC Church Profile used in 2013 to call the pastor to JUCC. It was what I (Pastor Kathryn) was reading about your hopes and dreams for JUCC when I decided to become your pastor.

**2. We talked about what is a church.** Pastor shared that church comes from the Latin word, *kyrios*, and it means "Belonging to the Lord." However, the word "church" translated in scripture is actually the Greek word *ekklesia* meaning "the called out assembly." In biblical times, they used it to summon people from their daily work into the town square to hear new information from officials in government. For Christians, it means being "called out" from your daily secular activities, into a life centered around God, who is present with us while we live here on earth. We no longer live as just human people, but are more intent on the goals of God, and on our future life with God.

**3. We studied three scriptures, often used to explain God's purpose for the church:**

**Matthew 22:36-40 – The Great Commandment:** 1. Love God; 2. Love your neighbor. Who is my neighbor, you might ask? Jesus answered that in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. My neighbor is anyone in need who I find on my daily life's journey. There are two commandments but they merge into one. What is the definition of "love" in this passage? It is agape love - a sacrificial love that gives without any promise or knowledge of response or repayment. Real love is not an exchange; it is a genuine desire for the beloved to be better off. This kind of love we experience from God. **The "church" is to show the world the love of God.**

I referenced a piece of literature taken from a home/hotel wall in 1784, which gives wisdom about communication. It says, "*We will not defer to thee in opinion or ask thee to defer to us. What thou thinketh ye shall say, if ye wish, without giving offense. What we think, we also say, believing that truth hath many aspects, and that love is large enough to encompass them all.*" Love will hold us together.

**Matthew 28:18-20 – The Great Commission:** Just as Jesus Christ was leaving this earth and ascending to heaven, he gave instructions to all his followers: Go and make more followers; baptize these followers; and teach them all I have taught you about how God wants you to be in this world. Do not forget; I am with you all the time & forever. **The "church" is to go out and tell the world about God's principles and about what God has done for us.**

**John 17:15-26 – Jesus prayed to the Father for the disciples:** I am not asking you to take them right to heaven with me; I am asking you to protect them here on earth. Let them be ONE as you and I (Father and Son) are ONE. Purify them, and all those who *become followers by their message*, with God's truth. Bring them to unity in the Word. **Church members are to "know" God and are to be unified in God's truths.**

**4. We talked about what people expect from a church.** People expect followers of Christ to act like followers of Christ. When they do not act to love God and people as well; do not speak the truth; and are not unified, but instead, bickering and conflicted, people will see the hypocrisy and they will not join them. Not only that, people see this and become, "sour" about ANY church. A church congregation (not the building) needs to be acting like what they profess on Sundays; or, while people may come to their fun events, they will not join in the faith.

**5. What are we going to do to fulfil God's plan at JUCC? That is** what we will be thinking about and talking about during the next three months. I have chosen each of you to be on this committee/team for a specific reason.

The plan is two-fold:

1. Work together to form a vision and mission for JUCC (our hopes and dreams for how God will use our resources at JUCC to fulfil God's plan.)
2. Work together to form mission goals for JUCC that we will implement within the next 5-10 years.

To fulfil both of these plans, I am asking each of you making an effort during the next couple months to talk to as many people as possible in your families, on your committees, or among the members, about what they think



JUCC's vision should be, and how any mission goals will support our vision for God's plan at JUCC. Remember what you are told, and bring that information back to the meetings to discuss. This is "group brain-storming" about our hopes for the future of JUCC!

*All this, keeping in mind that we are a "church" that stands, in this world, to uphold the principles of God revealed in our scriptures, and most strongly, as Christ has revealed God's plan to us.*

---

**Second meeting of the Visioning Team meeting on June 28, 2017.**

1. **What do you like about JUCC; what is working; why do you continue to stay involved at JUCC?**
  - a. Barry Mackes offered that the warmth and friendliness of the congregation is the thing he likes best.
  - b. Jim Shafer offered that this is his family's historic church and that he would not leave it; however, he asked his friends about why they are not involved in church. The biggest issue was that the Bible was written before the scientific method came about, and that they believe much of what is in the Bible is disputed by scientific findings. Young people, he thought, primarily believe that reality is reality and what happens will happen. Thus, having God to pray to about it is not of much use for them. Others said that they have to see things to believe them. He then asked those same people what anyone could do to bring them back to going to church. The reply was three-fold: 1.) Bring realistic education into the programs, such as more knowledge about how the bible fits into the realities of the present world. Self-help education about things that they need to fix about their lives would also be a motivating factor. 2.) Be engaged in important Mission and Outreach projects to make the world a better place. 3.) Be in/a community both together at church and in the local area. (*Anybody see any similarities to our previous three scriptures?*)
  - c. Shelba offered that we have a very special program ongoing at JUCC in the Sunday worship with the band and the screens and the musicians and the pastor's teaching ministry on Sundays using varied and relatable topics and multimedia approaches.
  - d. Steph offered that she likes the 9:00 service and that the support she gets at JUCC is a valued part of her life. She has also seen her family members respond well to the church community.
  - e. Kelli and Lana also have family connections and feel the warmth and support of a faith community.
  - f. Marcia likes the "feel" of the church with this pastor's leading. She noted, however, that the "family" feel of the community is good, but can also feel hard to break into as a newcomer.
2. **The discussion gravitated to a review of what other churches are doing** to grow members. Many "independent" churches have, indeed, been growing during the past 30 years, while "mainline" church have seen less growth, or been in decline. Some ideas for this difference were:
  - a. They have "dramatic" and "upbeat" worship services
  - b. They have a large greeting area with many "booths" to interest newcomers
  - c. They have vital missions and ministries, such as a Cancer Telethon, Sponsor a Missionary, etc.
  - d. They appear to be more independent without such "oversight" as is with Penn Northeast Conference.
  - e. They have welcome gifts and enthusiastic volunteers, colorful flyers, fun events and activities.
3. **Last question: "What would make you leave this church?"** (Other than moving away or job changes)
  - a. Too stressful. Remembrances of former days at JUCC discussed in the context of conflicts, disunity and requirements of positions of leadership.
  - b. Pastor: not doing and adequate job or actual poor behavior.
  - c. Too much criticism or too high expectations of the workers paid or unpaid of the church.
  - d. Judgmental behaviors, attitudes and words among members and/or newcomers. Conflicts.

---

**Minutes of third visioning team meeting July 9, 2017 at 10:30am**

1. **How do you feel about your church? What do you like about it? What is working? What is not working?**
  - a. Ed Brader said the church has a great feel right now. He commented that the church has not always had this atmosphere as there were some conflicted times, but since Pastor Kathryn has been at JUCC he has

found a new connection and spiritual growth with her teaching and leading and has never before been so enthusiastic about his faith.

- b. Jessie Hunt related that she had some issues with church as a younger person because she felt some members seemed hypocritical. It was hard to go back to church because of these bad feelings, but she decided to try it again. Though guarded about her participation, she has found a good family atmosphere at JUCC. She found shared values and support for her life, though, the drama is always there at church, which she is now better able to manage.

## **2. What would make you leave the church?**

- a. Ed Brader: Feeling really stymied in the attempt to continue spiritual growth here. He mentioned and appreciated a core of people who will always work hard for the success of this church. He wants to see the addition finished and used for ministry to the community. He feels strongly that the addition plans “cannot,” will not fail.
- b. Jessie Hunt: If her child could not find the support and community she needs at JUCC, she would find another church to attend for the sake of her daughter.

## **3. Pastor Kathryn noted that it is ok to receive letters from members about their answers to the same questions they are being asked. We will discuss these letters as visioning meetings progress. Some have already received such letters. Verbal responses are also ok. However, Pastor noted that when team members speak directly with their family or other members, please relate the information gathered from visioning meetings to help receive informed responses.**

## **4. What is church supposed to be?**

- a. Kelli George: to provide a place for community and getting to know people through our programs such as VBS and Godspell. People getting to know what it is all about. Support groups would be a good use of our facility.
- b. Steph Anderson: To provide for the needs of the community – to care for others. There is a clear need for senior services in our area. A senior center or adult daycare center might be a good use so that seniors can get a meal and socialization. Maybe a quilting group.
- c. Marcia Heinick: To help the community. She shared that there are two types of adult day centers: one for typical seniors and another for people with disabilities. What type we would see ourselves as developing needs clarification as we move forward in visioning for outreach.
- d. Jim Shafer: Making the choice of what church one goes to depends on how people are getting their needs met. The various needs people have can be discerned by people in the church. People looking for a church will make the choice that best suits their needs.
- e. Jessie Hunt: a place to feel better connected to God and other Christians. When pressed further on this, with this question, “How important do you think it is that a church have a specific ministry they are known for?” She said it is extremely important to differentiate from other churches, so that people know that the church proves their words by their works. Many people are very critical of churches when they do not prove they are Christians by their love, which they show by what they do. To meet the needs of the local community and to preach the gospel like the scriptures teach us.
- f. Lana Kuehner: To do ministry and mission for God, and be a safe place for people. We could have the bloodmobile to do a service project as we do other short-term ministries.

**To close the discussion about what the church is supposed to be,** Pastor Kathryn referenced the three main scriptures often used to sculpt purpose, mission and vision for churches. These scriptures, presented in our first visioning meetings, are: The Great Commandment (Love God/Love people); The Great Commission (Go and preach the Gospel, make disciples and baptize); and Christ’s Prayer for His Disciples (that we all may be One -unified for best results). She indicated the need to move forward together in completing our call from God.

-----  
**Minutes of fourth visioning team meeting, July 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7:00pm**

1. **Review of last meeting minutes for any clarifications or changes.** Some changes were noted.
2. **We began by reviewing the scriptures sent out by email about: Who was Jesus? After reading and thinking about them, the team came up with a few items:**
  - a. Given to the world by God and was the same as God; to know Jesus is to know God.
  - b. Given to the world to judge the world; to show us how we will be judged by God.
  - c. Knowledge of and communion with God is to be a light burden in this world as compared with the heavy burdens of life. The “light” burden is that if we have the Spirit of God living in us we receive peace and the joy of salvation and that knowledge of God, but that leaves us with the burden of doing what Jesus did as we are his disciples. As disciples we go out and preach the Good News; we teach about God, and bring them into communion with God if we can, which will bring healing to them as Jesus did to the people in Judea and Galilee. To let all people experience the same renewal, joy and gifts of God that we have already experienced; and to bring them into God’s church.
  - d. To serve others because Jesus did not come to be served but to serve.
  - e. Kelli George offered that we are to preach and teach about God, love our neighbor and practice forgiveness while reaching out to the world to help connect them to God.
  - f. Pastor Kathryn said Matthew 18:11 says Jesus came: “To seek and save that which was lost.”
3. **What is meant by “that which was lost?”**
  - a. Those who have negative ideas about what the church is like
  - b. Those who have fallen away from their former belief in God
  - c. Those who are poor and beaten down in this world.
  - d. Those who do not know that the church is here for support for Christians as we journey together in this life. We share values; we laugh and we cry together.
4. **Jessie Hunt offered that we must be careful about judging people.”** There are many people who say they are spiritual but not religious and do not go to church. They still believe in God and do things to honor God and love people. A discussion commenced about “judging” people.
  - a. Pastor Kathryn offered that we should not be judging people in their spiritual life or about their immortal souls... i.e. as bad people.
  - b. Marcia offered that when she thinks about the word “bad” with people, God whispers to her... “But I love them.”
  - c. Pastor Kathryn said, Yes, God loves all people, even those who are against God openly and we should treat them with care and love. We must be careful not to judge others but, instead, just drop seeds of faith and acceptance, letting God work in the hearts of such persons.
  - d. Sometimes, people have to practice physical self-defense against those who would do harm, right?
  - e. Kelli George responded that whenever anyone goes on physical offense expect consequences.
  - f. Pastor Kathryn said that of course “turn the other cheek” does not mean we should let people abuse us. Jesus was not saying just to let people slap you repeatedly! He was saying that forgiveness is important and most importantly, not to take revenge. Revenge is not self-defense.
5. **What really saves people?**
  - a. Pastor Kathryn said that the theology of salvation is that we believe in God and are saved.
  - b. Ed Brader asked if just believing is enough.
  - c. Pastor Kathryn responded that it is... but there is more to it. If one is serious about repenting of their sinful tendencies and truly believes in God, (and only God and the person themselves knows if this is true) that the promise of God is that God comes and lives in us and begins to change us. We begin as immature children, maybe being very needy and not giving much back. But after a while, we begin to grow up spiritually and we realize that living with God is much more than we thought it was, and we love it so much that we begin to desire to serve God more fully. That is how we grow spiritually. We

must be careful not to judge people too harshly, because we are all on our own spiritual journey in this life. It is the Holy Spirit living in us that saves us for eternal life.

6. **Jim Shafer asked about letters that people have begun to write** and submit to the visioning committee.
  - a. Ed Brader spoke about some letters he obtained from the building committee members.
  - b. Steph Anderson was asked to read her letter. She referenced a need for an air- conditioned dedicated space for the nursery, and that the Fellowship Hall in the basement has accessibility issues. She saw this problem during our last Father's Day covered dish lunch. Everyone fit in the hall, but for many, there were problems with getting downstairs. She is concerned about an elevator taking up the little space we have in the existing building. She also thought we could do outreach for seniors and for people with problems such as drug addiction, if we had a suitable space in which to do these ministries.
  - c. Marcia Heinick felt that the church basement has musty smells that may cause people to avoid it and does not look inviting.
  - d. Jessie Hunt offered that the whole issue of visioning and mission is wrapped up in the concept of "Return on Investment, whether it be physical gains, spiritual gains, or people gains." She does not ascribe to the, "build it and they will come" adage; but if we know what we are building for, "we build it and we will show you why you should come." We must know why we want to build. What is the investment needed? What is the return we seek to achieve?
  - e. Marcia Heinick said to make sure the goal is not just to gain people, but to serve God and love people.
  - f. Ed added that money is often an issue but to do any new ministries we have to have the facilities and it is best to do it right and to see if we can raise the money to do it fully.
7. **Paul Hoppel noted that some people feel that we should have 25% growth before we try to expand.** They state that, 10 years ago the church was able to manage with larger numbers and the same space. However, he also recalled that space was tight during that time. For example, the Adult Sunday school took place in the sanctuary and the Pastor's Office was not where it is now. He wondered why the congregation was approving of the earlier building project, but now many of those same people are not in support of this building project, which is the same in many respects. A discussion started about how the building fund came to be so high during that time and what stopped the project. Steph offered information about how some of that money was spent and what amount remains.
8. **What strengths can JUCC use for mission and ministry?**
  - a. Ed Brader responded, "make filling!"
  - b. A number of team members responded that this is not doing ministry; it is fund-raising.
  - c. Steph said that when PNEC asked what JUCC does as a unique ministry we could not answer.
  - d. Steph thought we could use food-making skills to have a free community dinner at some point as a ministry. Many agreed that we need to get people into church community, not just to our events.
  - e. Jessie Hunt challenged the group by saying that we need to hear those in the congregation that have different ideas about how to grow mission and ministry who may not want to expand the church building. We need to keep in mind that "this is about what we are going to do; not what we are going to build." We need to have a list of those things that we think we can do for mission and ministry for God and to love the community.
  - f. Pastor Kathryn was asked about the length of our vision term (5-10 years) as it relates to the years we use the building. A building addition would last much longer than the 10 years that we envision right now. However, we do not vision for 50 years because we don't know what the needs will be that far in the future; We also need to leave room for God's guidance. However, that does not mean that the building would not still be in use for God's glory and the call of God into ministry at JUCC.
9. **Ed Brader asked how we would move forward** with the "list" of what we think our mission should be. Pastor Kathryn said that by September we should have a solid vision and mission for JUCC and a plan for how to achieve that mission. She plans to have meetings with the congregation after mid-September to present the

vision/mission and have a conversation. She will lead those meetings as the pastor is usually responsible for discerning and communicating the vision for the church, as well as knows a lot about the intricacies of the congregation. An important part to this process is building consensus, and so it should be as transparent as possible. To that end, she would like to publish the minutes from each Visioning Team meeting in the church newsletter. All present approved this.

### **Fifth Visioning Committee Meeting Minutes – Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30am**

#### **1. How much growth do we need in order to warrant expansion? How do we measure that?**

Paul began by talking about the letters he has submitted to the visioning committee. We have not yet gotten to read these letters in the meetings. He mentioned that some people in the church want to see a 25% growth in the church before we should consider any new building.

Pastor Kathryn responded by asking how that “growth” will be measured? If we are measuring by Sunday attendance, then we have already achieved 25% growth. If we measure by envelope contributions, then we have also achieved a 25% increase. Moreover, what will be the starting point in which to measure the growth? If we are to measure it only by new members, then we must realize that this ignores the “growth” in members that had not been attending services or been active in the church and have now renewed their commitment to the church... What is an accurate way to measure growth? Shelba said that we must have data to look at all the ways that “growth” has occurred.

#### **2. If we do come up with new ministries, how will we get the “people power” to do them?**

Shelba asked “Who is going to DO the work involved in any new ministries? Pastor Kathryn stated that we might put up a list of possible future ministries that we ask people to support by signing up that they will help with the “work.” Others mentioned that in the past needs arose and the congregation took up the challenge.

#### **3. When people reference the past and how things were done, are they grieving a lost past?**

Pastor Kathryn brought up the idea, mentioned to her by Alan Miller, PNEC Conference Minister, that often when churches are in conflict, what the real problem is that they are “grieving” for a time in the church history that is gone. An example given of this is that people say, “We fit just fine in this church in years past with more members than we have today... why can’t we fit now?” Situations are different today – the past is past, expectations have changed. Shelba noted that our whole society has changed and standards are different for most things today.

#### **4. What should our goals be as a church?**

Ed stated that we get too concerned with numbers when the mission is most important. The goal is ministry to the community, and to each other, and the word will get out if we do the mission work. Meeting space is an issue for our church building and use. Pastor Kathryn offered that we must address specific ideas about ministry. Ed said we set ourselves apart with ministries. Paul noted other churches have many ministries to care for the members and the community: services, seminars. Ed said this takes effort, and we need leaders. Pastor Kathryn said that JUCC might be missing opportunities. There may be donors connected with the church that might contribute if they saw a unique project going on. Ed said this is God’s church and said we need to be asking God how God wants us to use it. Steph said we have gotten donations for the things we “need” such as grove improvements

#### **5. How are we to understand how God views money management for church? How can we begin to understand and articulate our own involvement and legacy in the church?**

Steph and Lana both said that Pastor Kathryn should preach on Legacy giving and stewardship. Pastor Kathryn stated that the Parable of the Talents (talents were a form of money) in the Bible teaches that we are supposed to be investing the Lord’s money so that we get a return... This parable is not about banking money. It is about investing it so that the yield for the Kingdom of God is accomplished. This means souls saved and people served.

Paul said that the previously planned JUCC Community Center was to be 10,000 square feet with a 2,800 square foot Social Hall. The total cost was to be around 750,000. He got this information from a family member. Jim Shafer said that perhaps some people would get up and talk about how much they would give to the project. Jessie countered that discussing amounts with people may not be the best way to make donors feel motivated.

**6. What are some ideas and needs for ministry?**

Shelba said we must know what we will be doing.... We must know what we need to do it.... We must know what the people in the community need. She remembered a “grief and loss group” that Don Kupillas tried to get started. He offered his leadership to this process. We need to know who will lead. Lana mentioned that many older people come out to help with the filling prep. Shelba said we might do AA meetings in the church but thought we need a separate entrance for that. Pastor Kathryn noted that we do not really have a confidential space, other than the Pastor’s Office, in which to do any kind of mental health support work. We need a clear vision on what we want to do.

**LARGE PRINT COPIES OF THE VISIONING TEAM MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH!**

**AUGUST FLOWERS & BULLETIN SPONSORS**

August 6 – Leonard Breiner in memory of Janet & Bruce Breiner

August 13 – Leona LaSala in honor of Charles & Leona LaSala anniversary

August 20 – Jennifer Frable in honor of Joanne Frable’s birthday August 13<sup>th</sup>  
& Josephine Hansler’s birthday August 28<sup>th</sup>

August 27 – Paul & Wendy Hoppel in honor of daughter Jillian Hessinger’s birthday on August 27<sup>th</sup>, mother Mildred Ahner’s birthday on September 10<sup>th</sup> & sister Sherry Yurko’s birthday September 27<sup>th</sup>

---

Jerusalem UCC CCLI license number 2745745



Jerusalem United Church of Christ  
545 Church Drive, Palmerton, Pennsylvania 18071  
Church office: (610) 681-4412

[www.jerusalemucc.com](http://www.jerusalemucc.com)

Facebook: Jerusalem Trachsville UCC

Rev. Kathryn Foster, Pastor

Home: (610) 261-9015 ~ cell: (610) 554-7364